

Annual Report of Parish Safeguarding Officer

Parish of Rushmere St Andrew

2022

I am pleased to present this my second annual report in the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of Rushmere St Andrew. The year was a considerable improvement on the previous year with covid restrictions now beginning to fade away, and life returning to some sort of normality.

I can report that there were only three occasions during the year where my services were required. On each occasion the concerns of those affected were quickly resolved, without reference or assistance to/from the Diocese.

The Church now has a complete list of all persons requiring to have a Disclosure and Barring check. {DBS}. This numbered some twenty- six persons. This was quite hectic mid-year, with the full list completed by years end.

From January 1st 2023 the duration of the certificate has now been reduced to three years from a previous five. This of course means there is no further requirements from existing church members until early 2025.

An area of more concern is the lack of face-to-face Safeguarding training. Whilst "On Line" Training is still available, there is a reluctance to participate. Most members prefer face-to-face tuition where interaction can be more lively, and thoughts and opinions can be expressed.

Training requests have been submitted to the Diocese indicating our needs for the current year, 2023. There are currently only two trainers within the County both involved in a part-time capacity. It follows therefore that training may be difficult to complete.

You will be aware that there are three levels of Safeguarding skills: Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership. Everyone having a role within the Church, should have completed Basic awareness training, and dependent on their specific role, should aim to complete the Foundation course. The PCC as a whole should aim to complete the foundation course. The first two levels are completed by a face-to-face group discussion, or online. The training time for online completion is approximately two hours. There is not now a need for Church Wardens to complete leadership training. This is only applicable if there is not an incumbent. Having now appointed Rev. Alan the need does not now arise.

Safeguarding is the concern of everyone, and an enquiring mind, and observation are essential. If you see something that is not quite right, or is of concern to you then please contact either the incumbent, or the PSO. You should avoid becoming personally involved. Once reported, the incumbent or the PSO will lead any investigation. In conclusion, stay safe and aim to complete the relevant courses to ensure that we all look after one another.

If you require any help or support with "on line " training then please speak to me.

Thank you for your continued support. I will continue to give support and guidance in my role as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

R.Batchelor
Parish Safeguarding Officer
January 2023