

Safeguarding Report 2019

Safeguarding is now a standing item on the PCC agenda.

St James completed the Diocesan Safeguarding Audit in July last year and the Diocesan past cases review 2. The PCC also adopted the “reporting of serious incidents to the charity commission procedure” in Jan 2019

The PCC all completed foundation level safeguarding. This can be accessed currently as an online course and all PCC members and congregation were encouraged to this. It was and is continually stressed that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone to help protect everyone of every age. The safeguarding policy at the back of church reflects this. The Warden as safeguarding officer completed leadership level.

The priest-in-charge writes... In October the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) reported on the Church of England. Its findings were predictably severe – almost 400 clergy have been convicted of sexual abuse over the past seventy years. In 2018 449 causes of concern were raised with the Church, half of which involved church officers. High profile cases in recent years have included bishops amongst others.

It is a very sad fact that the Church, like other organisations that work with the young and the vulnerable, will always attract people who are exploitative and dangerous. The great shame on the Church of England has been that in the past some of these people have been given positions of ordained responsibility and have been protected when complaints have come to light. The significant emphasis on safeguarding that every diocese has adopted over the past ten years will to some extent guard against the most egregious abuses happening in the future, but we can never be complacent.

It is for this reason that we need to take safeguarding in our church life with the utmost seriousness, and this includes DBS checks for everyone involved with or responsibility for the young and vulnerable, interviews and references for all helpers and training for everyone with responsibility for such work. The latter includes all PCC members.

Deanery Synod Report

Sadly we have to report the death of Christine Spencer after a long battle with cancer for this reason there will not be a report this year. We are incredibly grateful for all her hard work and enthusiasm and she will be greatly missed.

