

## **Team Parish Safeguarding Officer Report for 2024**

As advised in last year's annual report, there is now a requirement for all Church Wardens and members of a PCC to complete the Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training courses, with the Foundation course being updated every 3 years, and also to complete the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse course. It is good to be able to report that many people around the Team completed the courses online, via the Church of England National Safeguarding Team's online learning portal, and we also held an 'in person' Basic Awareness course in October, which 8 people attended. More in person courses are planned early in 2025.

All the necessary Safeguarding checks were carried out during the year. 8 DBS checks have been completed as needed, for those new to posts, and those requiring renewal. All safeguarding information is securely stored on the Diocesan DBS Microsite. During the year, we moved from Level 1 to Level 2 on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which is an online tool that helps us keep track of safeguarding in our churches, and keeps us up-to-date with local and national changes in safeguarding requirements.

The safeguarding statement required by the Diocese is on the front page of the Team website, and gives our contact details, as well as those of the Diocesan officers. Safeguarding has been an agenda item at all PCC meetings across the Team during the year. As a Team we have complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

The events in the National church, and those more locally, that came towards the end of the year, obviously gave us all cause for concern. They also highlighted how very important it is that we have due regard for all Safeguarding requirements, and make sure that all our procedures and training are kept up to date. Whatever we are doing in our churches, we need to ensure that they truly are safe and welcoming places, for all who come into them.

There are two things that are really helpful to me that I would like to draw your attention to. Firstly, if you do any online training on the Church of England National Safeguarding Team's online learning portal (details of how to access this are on the Team website) could you please add my email in the section at the bottom of the 'New Account' page labeled 'Local Reporting', as I can then see what training courses you have completed.

Secondly, if you need a DBS for the role you hold, you will see in the email that comes to tell you that your DBS is complete that there is a section headed 'DBS Update Service'. It is very easy to register for this via the link in the email, and it means that in 3 years time, when your DBS needs to be renewed, I will not need to verify any documents again. So it saves both you and me time! You do need to let me know that you have registered with the update service, as this isn't automatically recorded on your records.

Barbara Simmonds  
Beaminster Team Parish Safeguarding Officer

### ***Training Update April 2025***

*We have held the following in person courses so far this year:*

*Basic Awareness on 11/1/25, attended by 11 people*

*Foundations course on 25/1/25 attended by 17 people*

*Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse on 26/4/25 attended by 13 people*