

## Holy Trinity Tewkesbury Annual Parochial Church Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Safeguarding Report

Author Julie Northcott, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Safeguarding is a key priority in the life of Holy Trinity Tewkesbury. We recognise that we collectively have a responsibility to keep people safe, protect them from harm and support them in leading a full life both physically, mentally and spiritually. Many people at some point in life are vulnerable this may be due to age, socio-economic factors, ill-health or trauma. By recognising vulnerability and intervening early, either directly or through partnership working, we are better able to reduce risk and improve the physical, mental and spiritual outcomes of those we serve.

Gloucester Diocese is also fully committed to safeguarding and provides training and support to local parishes to equip and enable them to meet the needs of the congregation and community it serves. Over the last 12 months this has included the following;

- 1 safeguarding training sessions held at Trinity plus other venues in the Diocese attended by some HT team where dates were more convenient.
- 1 safer recruitment training session which the PSO, Vicar, Churchwardens and staffing committee representative attended.
- Telephone advice to the PSO where concerns have been identified to enable appropriate response
- Setting up of [Safeguarding@trinitytewkesbury.org.uk](mailto:Safeguarding@trinitytewkesbury.org.uk) email address to ensure all concerns were raised through a single point
- Agreement to have a named Safeguarding Officer on duty each Sunday to enable prompt response to safeguarding or welfare needs

Holy Trinity continues to have 4 Safeguarding Officers

- Julie Northcott, Parish Safeguarding Officer – Adults and Children
- Liz Williams – Safeguarding Officer – Children
- Liz Walker – Safeguarding Officer – Adults and Children
- Rob Burcombe – Safeguarding Officer – Adults

Work undertaken in the last year includes

- Review and ratification by PCC of our Children and Young Peoples Safeguarding Policy
- Completion of annual Safeguarding Audit and submission to Gloucester Diocese, this showed that Trinity is well positioned in its safeguarding practice. The area for development is in regard to safer recruitment policy and procedure of volunteers
- Delivery of sessions to our CYP teams on the new policy to ensure understanding of not only the subject but also importantly process for raising concerns

- Maintenance of the DBS database, Rachael Hargreave has worked proactively and tirelessly to get renewals done and ensured DBS's are completed for those requiring one
- PSO regular attendance at PCC as a co-opted member to support safeguarding being embedded into wider Church work.

#### Next 12 months

- Work to develop safer recruitment of volunteers policy and practice in line with the Diocese Safeguarding handbook expectations ( Diocese to support this work)
- Additional safeguarding training offer at Trinity via the Diocese
- Review Adult at Risk Policy's to ensure compliance with Diocese Safeguarding Handbook and then issue to all church volunteers and seek confirmation of understanding
- Continued management of DBS process