**Holy Trinity Tewkesbury Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Safeguarding Report (April 2023)**

Author: Duncan de Gruchy, Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Safeguarding continues to be a key priority in the life of Holy Trinity Tewkesbury. Together with Gloucester Diocese, we are committed to providing training, advice, guidance and support to reduce risk and improve the physical, mental and spiritual outcomes of those we serve.

Holy Trinity continues to have 4 Safeguarding Officers as follows:

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| ***Name*** | ***Role*** | ***Responsible for*** |
| Duncan de Gruchy | PSO | Adults, Children & Young People |
| Liz Williams | Safeguarding Officer | Children |
| Liz Walker | Safeguarding Officer | Adults, Children & Young People |
| Rob Burcombe | Safeguarding Officer | Adults |

Key points to note since the last ACPCM Safeguarding Report (April 2022) include:

* Updating training and managing DBS applications continues to be a key focus and a considerable challenge keeping it up-to-date. Thank you to Helen for her commitment to this – particularly in developing the church’s record management system. Also, thank you too for the additional help she receives in handling some of the administration of DBSs. However, despite our best efforts we currently have approximately 60% of volunteers needing to complete safeguarding training, and 16% to complete their required DBS checks. Ensuring all adults (staff and volunteers) are adequately trained not only helps to support them in their roles, but is key to helping to reduce the risk of harm to the children, young people and vulnerable adults we serve. This needs to become a key action to address in the coming year.
* All previous safeguarding concerns reported have been successfully resolved.
* There are no current safeguarding concerns that PSO is aware of.
* An audit (through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard) of Holy Trinity’s safeguarding practice and processes has been completed. It identifies we have made 66% progress against recommendations for best practice and Diocesan and Church of England policy requirements.
* Safeguarding Policy (for children) has no updates, so propose it is agreed at the APCM in April 2023.
* PSO has completed Diocesan training that now enables us to deliver our own training with a more flexible model. We are aiming to tackle the bulk of the backlog within the next few months.

Actions moving forward:

* Complete Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and create an action plan from any issues identified – especially relevant training for all groups and developing a list of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults.
* In line with the Safeguarding Policy, ensure all staff and volunteers who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults have completed the necessary training within the last 3 years.
* Review Adult at Risk Policy to ensure compliance with Diocese Safeguarding Handbook. Then issue this to all church staff and volunteers and seek confirmation of understanding
* Continue management of DBS process
* Develop online safeguarding reporting form and/or make electronic version of form available from church website.