

2022 Safeguarding Report for APCM

Safeguarding is a crucial part of church life – it is vital that we do all we can to ensure a safe environment for everyone in our care, and that we maintain a culture of informed vigilance - so that people clearly know what to do and where to go if they have any concerns.

Everyone who works/ volunteers at our church is required to undertake (as a minimum) the Church of England's online "Basic Awareness" training module. Those with a further degree of responsibility are also expected to complete the "Foundation" module, and those in a senior leadership role must complete "Leadership" level training. Training must be renewed every 3 years at the highest level applicable to the role. Where DBS checks are required (when working directly with children or vulnerable adults or in senior leadership) these must be renewed every 5 years. Christ Church Moreton Hall also requires completion of "Confidential Declaration Forms" for those in positions of trust (such as PCC members or homegroup leaders) where a full DBS check is not required.

At the start of 2021, a new online safeguarding system, "Parish Dashboards", was introduced to Thingoe Deanery (as part of an ongoing roll-out within the diocese). This is a green-amber-red traffic light system, which highlights at a glance where action is needed, and provides advice on completing outstanding safeguarding tasks. Action Plans can be created to present to the PCC, to clearly highlight the next priority areas. Safeguarding is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.

Over the past year, your PCC has worked hard to turn many Parish Dashboard areas green, and I am really grateful to them for their hard work reading through so many documents and action plans and for completing their own safeguarding training too. Of particular note, we have:

Created a policy for the recruitment and inclusion of offenders (Aug 2021)

Created a social media safeguarding statement (Feb 2022)

Renewed our Parish Safeguarding Policy (Jan 2022)

These can all be viewed on the church website: ccmh.org.uk/docs

The PCC regularly reviews and updates a list of official church activities - these activities are then covered by our safeguarding and insurance policies. Detailed safeguarding risk assessments must now be created (in conjunction with leaders) to cover each activity, so that we keep safeguarding at the forefront of all that we do. To date, safeguarding risk assessments have been completed for Sunday School, Kids Church, Stay and Play, Homegroups and Alpha – and the others will be completed in the coming months.

As already noted, I am really grateful to the whole PCC for their support over the past year. I would also like to say a big thank you to Anna Lomas for all her help with safeguarding over the past 3 years – she has now stepped down from being assistant PSO in order to focus on other roles at church – she has been a great friend and support, thank you Anna. I am also very grateful to both Jonathan Ford and Lesley Williams for their ongoing support and advice with so many areas of safeguarding. Finally, thank you all, church family, for your kind support and patience completing safeguarding checks and training for your different roles at church – I really appreciate it, as I know it all takes a deal of time and energy. Thank you for the way you all look out for each other and help to ensure that safeguarding is an integral part of the culture at Christ Church Moreton Hall.

Heather Lovell, Parish Safeguarding Officer, 5th March 2022