

I can confirm that all is in order with Old Sodbury PCC with regards to Safeguarding – DBS checks are either all up to date or in hand. There will be some training that is required to be updated / repeated later this year.

The subject of Safeguarding has been included on all PCC agenda's throughout the year – and although I have been unable to attend in person – reports have been shared with PCC members along with the Gloucester Diocese Monthly Safeguarding Newsletter.

Safeguarding Sunday was observed in November 2025 – reminding the congregation that Safeguarding was everybody's responsibility and getting them to think about what they would do if confronted with certain situations.

I must admit that I still find all the work associated with being a Safeguarding officer somewhat overwhelming. The work regarding DBS administration and evidence checking is now being undertaken by the Parish Administrator – and I am grateful for this support and assistance.

I continue to be grateful for the support that I receive from Old Sodbury PCC members.

The Diocese of Gloucester have updated the Safeguarding area of their website – and it now links into the CofE Safeguarding Site – where all the policy documents and templates are held along with information from the National Safeguarding Group.

Later this year a deanery Safeguarding Support Forum will be held (Wed 11th November – venue TBC).

In order to Promote a Safer Church – All Church Bodies should ensure that:-

- All Church Officers have access to this Policy Statement **I can confirm that all PCC members have all been given it in the past – and it is printed on next page as a reminder.*
- The Policy Statement is promoted and publicised ** Yes, can confirm this is – the poster included with this report – is one that you will be familiar with as it is displayed in porch of St John's Chipping Sodbury and on the website.*
- The Church's safeguarding message is communicated as reflected in the policy ** Yes – message is communicated – PCC are working closely with PSO / Incumbent and Diocese at all levels – and take on board / do what is required.*
- There is a 'Promoting a Safer Church' action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly. ** By way of signing up to the Parish Dashboards – the PCC has a plan in place – as the reports highlight actions that are required to be undertaken. Subject of Safeguarding is on every PCC agenda and as such is continually reviewed.*

If you want access to latest versions of Church of England's Safeguarding documents – then either Rev Chris, Richard Hore or I can share links or get printed copies for you.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND – BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The CofE, its archbishops, bishops, clergy and leaders are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church.

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused. We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

The CofE affirms the 'Whole Church' approach to Safeguarding. This approach encompasses a commitment to consistent policy and practice across all Church bodies, Church Officers and that everyone associated with the Church, who comes into contact with children, young people and adults, has a role to play.

The Church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all to practice fully and positively Christ's ministry towards children, young people and adults, to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.

As ever, if you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from:-

Parish Safeguarding Officer – Hannah Saunders

Incumbent – Rev Chris Butler

Manager & Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – Brett Riches

IF NECESSARY, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.

Thank you

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