

St. Paul and St. Agatha, Woldingham Parish Safeguarding Report for the APCM 2017

“A Safe Church” is a set of policies, procedures and guidelines produced by the Diocese of Southwark for safeguarding children, safeguarding adults who may be vulnerable and responding to domestic abuse. The aim is to provide a safe environment, where both young and old are able to pursue their faith journey with encouragement and to act promptly if concerns are raised.

The Parish Safeguarding Policies, based on “A Safe Church”, are displayed on the notice board at the back of the church. There is a copy of “A Safe Church” in the vestry and a link will be placed on the churches’ website. These policies were reviewed and re-adopted by the PCC at the meeting held on 1st February 2017. Regular users of the church room are required to comply with these policies and sign an agreement to that effect. Following some safety issues, a new code for use of the Church room has been drawn up and is on the notice board.

The Parish Safeguarding Officers are Alison Mead (652580) and Maureen Westmarland (345868) assisted by Rev. Catherine. There is a regular program of training/updating arranged by the Diocese. Alison Mead, who was an experienced professional in this field, is herself a voluntary trainer for the diocese. If you ever have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the above. We are hoping to arrange a Team Training event in the next few months for all who need updating as well as new holders of office where this training is required.

In 2013 and 2014 all churches in the Diocese were required to carry out a safeguarding self audit and to prepare an action plan based on this. Our last self-audit showed that we were complying with “A Safe Church” as far as possible at that time and we are currently in the process of conducting a further self-audit as requested by the Diocese. However, if the Footsteps group expands and develops, we will have to take further steps to recruit and train additional leaders and helpers, if the children are without an accompanying adult. We will also need to formally risk assess all the separate activities when the children divide into groups.

A copy of “A Safe Church” is available in the vestry. It can also be accessed via the Diocesan website at www.southwark.anglican.org.

A Mead

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