

Warbleton Parish Church
Safeguarding Report for APCM 11th October 2020

2019

There were **no reported safeguarding incidents or expressions of concern** during 2019.

The year was dominated by the working up of our response to, and subsequent initiation of procedures, resulting from the demanding national church requirements set out in The Parish Safeguarding Handbook and the Diocese of Chichester in its Simple Quality Protects Programme.

We updated our “headline” safeguarding policy in July 2019 in line with Diocesan changes.

Our progress in implementing the SQP programme was due to be reviewed by the Diocesan Team in the autumn of 2019 but it was postponed until 2020.

2020

With 9 months of 2020 already gone, and with significant developments on our Safeguarding front it seems appropriate to refer to them here. In the 9 months to date there were **no safeguarding incidents or expressions of concern**.

Appointments to the roles occupied in parish churches are formally made by PCCs. We issued **12 formal letters of PCC appointment** setting out role expectations where additionally there were safeguarding responsibilities and related training requirements.

All of those currently requiring safeguarding training have now completed the required training currently available although there is a Covid backlog for those requiring the “senior” level (C2).

DBS clearances including renewals are up to date.

We have issued **letters to the parents** of our children and young people informing them of our safeguarding policies, standards, procedures, useful contacts and how to express concerns. A copy is in the Safeguarding section of the church website.

To sit alongside our Code of Behaviour for adults working with children and young people we have created and issued a set of **Guidelines for those adults in our congregation who are involved with assisting other adults who are to be regarded as vulnerable**. So far 18 such sets of guidelines have been issued and further copies are available for anyone else who would like a copy (from the Parish Safeguarding Officer).

After further postponements the review meeting took place via Zoom on 17th September. I submitted, on-line, in advance, our detailed responses to the SQP document, and a collection of our documents, schedules, and forms together with photographic evidence of where we display things. **As a result we were granted our Diocesan SQP Certificate of Completion for a church of our size, that day.**

I am very grateful for the support and **contribution of the Safeguarding Team**, (PCC sub-committee), and for the **coordinators of our groups who with their teams have such an important part to play in implementing our arrangements.**

Jonathan and Jane with Sue have produced **fresh Risk Assessments in respect of Covid 19** protection requirements for our use of the church, and the use of the Church Rooms by the Sunday Club, and similar risk assessments for TCWNN and Little Warblers will follow before they meet again.

My handover to Steve originally scheduled for April 30th continues to be delayed whilst Steve is carrying the extra implementation responsibility for Covid 19 procedures at his place of work.

Vivian Bower Parish Safeguarding Officer

6th October 2020