



The Parochial Church Council of Horne, St Mary the Virgin

Safeguarding Annual Report to St Mary's Horne APCM April 2023

Safeguarding policy aimed at protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm and adopting best care practice during Church activities. The policy is devised by the Church of England and cascaded to the parish via the Diocese of Southwark.

The policy and associated guidance that are used at St Mary's are contained in a publication called 'A Safe Church' and this publication and related information exist both on-line on the Church of England and Diocesan websites, (for latter see <https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-procedures/>) – there is also a hard copy of 'A Safe Church' that is kept in a folder held in the Vestry at St Mary's.

For easy reference by the congregation there is a Safeguarding poster at back of church that includes:

- *A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting A Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'. This is signed on behalf of the PCC;*
- *Contact details of the Parish Safeguarding Officers and churchwardens;*
- *Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues including local authority contact details, domestic abuse and key helplines e.g. Childline, NSPCC, etc.*

Every PCC meeting at St Mary's has a standing agenda item on Safeguarding; this enables regular discussion when needed on any relevant matters arising such as updated information from the Diocese Safeguarding Team including revisions to A Safe Church, Safeguarding training opportunities, revised contact details etc.

Recently we have circulated the details of the Church of England on-line training portal <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org> and training course summaries by e-mail to PCC members, our Director of Music and Organist with a recommendation to undertake the 'Basic Awareness' module training for those roles where safeguarding awareness is needed by church officers. Principal leaders (PSOs, Churchwardens and Director of Music), completed this module in March 2023.

If anyone has any enquiries or indeed any concerns regarding Safeguarding then would they please let us or any church officer know and as mentioned above there is a contact sheet on the noticeboard at the back of the church for further assistance and relevant information.

Andrew and Helen Goudie, Parish Safeguarding Officers