

Safeguarding Report 2022-2023

The Church of England is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within the church community. The Benefice Safeguarding Officer is Joan Reading and she is responsible to the PCCs of Broadway with St Eadburgha's, St John's, St Mary's Childswickham and the Bishop of Worcester.

St Michael's with St Eadburgha's PCC, and the PCCs of St John's Wickhamford and St Mary's Childswickham are committed to the Church of England's House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and the relevant statutory legislation and guidance "Working together" to ensure the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount. The diocese has noted the need to change the structure of safeguarding within the Church of England in order to create a Safer Church and the PCCs have embraced the Church of England's new Safeguarding guidance for Safer Recruitment and People Management. This includes ensuring that all newly elected PCC members sign an agreement to undertake a DBS check and Safeguarding Foundation training prior to taking up their appointment.

As required by the diocese, St Michael and All Angels with St Eadburgha's, St John's and St Mary's have adopted and implemented a safeguarding policy and safeguarding procedures which follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice. This policy, together with Diocesan policies on Recruitment of Ex-offenders and Safer Recruitment was reviewed by the PCC at its July meeting and accepted unanimously.

Whilst St Michael's with St Eadburgha's does not have approved work with children and vulnerable adults, we do have children attending church with parents and home visits to adults considered as vulnerable. Any pastoral volunteers must be approved (have an enhanced criminal record (DBS) check) and undergo safeguarding training. All members of the PCC have already completed the basic safeguarding programme and our churchwardens, ALMS and the Safeguarding Lead have completed a Safeguarding Leadership course.

All PCCs are required to report any Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission in accordance with the new arrangements set out in 'Guidance for PCCs and Religious Communities : Identifying and Reporting Safeguarding Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission'. The PCC has passed a resolution to delegate the responsibility for preparing and submitting Safeguarding Serious Incident reports and non-safeguarding Serious Incident reports to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) and for submitting them to the Diocesan Secretary, in line with advice from the above document.

A log of appointments to posts within the parish and DBS applications for disclosure is currently up to date.

Joan M Reading