

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS REPORT
APCM 2018/19**

Until recently the Parish Safeguarding responsibility was divided between two positions: a Safeguard Officer responsible for Children, and one for Vulnerable Adults. As from 2018 these responsibilities have been combined, and there is now one Parish Safeguarding Officer in each parish responsible for both children and adults.

There have been no actual cases to report this year in our parish, but that is not to say that we have not felt the need to review our systems, so that we can ensure that the children and vulnerable adults in our church family can be confident that they are in a safe and happy environment when they attend the church and church events. We are always striving to maintain and improve our standards.

All members of the church who work with children have for many years undergone a system of checks to ensure they are of sound character, but in addition the Diocese has instructed that all PCC Members should undertake training in Safeguarding. This is in the form of online courses at levels CO and C1, and face to face courses C2 and C3 for Clergy, Wardens and Safeguarding Officers. All our current PCC members are now qualified or undertaking training. We are also responsible for ensuring that those in positions of trust are checked regularly for their suitability, and this too is taken with care and due diligence in our Parish.

We will again be reviewing our policies regarding Safeguarding in the Parish during the coming year, so that we can continue to meet the high standards rightly demanded by the Diocese. Susan Allender has agreed to take on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer this year and we are confident that she will do a wonderful job.

Diane Williams
March 2019