

ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

SAFEGUARDING REPORT – APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020

1. Safeguarding Assessment Audit was sent to the Diocese by the 1st May 2019 deadline, having been completed by Ronnie Todd, Rachel Wigley, Alison Bull, Daphne Harrison and Susan Allender.
2. Susan Allender was appointed Safeguarding Officer for St Mary's Church, Riverhead with Dunton Green in April 2019. Any serious incidents occurring at St Mary's will be reported to the Diocese by Susan Allender.
3. Training – Safeguarding training at an introductory level has been completed by the PCC. Those in positions of responsibility and leadership roles have either completed or are due to complete training at a higher level. Continuous assessment of safeguarding training will be monitored by Susan Allender.
4. Safeguarding relating to St Mary's premises. The Diocese has asked that all our long-term hirers of the Church Hall either show us proof that they have their own safeguarding and DBS policies and procedures in place or that they follow the St Mary's guidelines. All hirers have been contacted with a copy of St Mary's safeguarding policies and procedures. Some hirers, but not all, have confirmed that they either do not have any contact with children or vulnerable adults or that they agree to follow our safeguarding guidelines. 'One off' hirers do not have to follow our safeguarding policies as this would be too onerous to police. Assumption is made that any entertainers or caterers have the relevant DBS checks in place, which is the responsibility of the 'one off' hall hirer.
5. The House of Bishops' safeguarding guidelines ("Promoting a Safer Church") were officially adopted by St Mary's in April 2019. In February 2020 the Diocese contacted us to reiterate that all churches have a duty to "have due regard" to these safeguarding guidelines and that there was no option whatsoever to interpret the guidelines as we please. We must follow them strictly.
6. Past Cases Review. The Diocese asked us to complete an investigation into whether past occurrences of serious incidents have been reported to the Diocese and if an incident has occurred in the past and not been reported then we must do so. All relevant records were checked and relevant members of our congregation were consulted and to the best of everyone's knowledge no serious incidents have occurred. Therefore, Susan Allender returned the forms with a 'Nothing to Report' statement.
7. Pew Sheet Safeguarding Notice – a notice has been placed in the weekly pew sheet stating that St Mary's promotes a safer church and that anyone with any concerns, past or present, should approach the Safeguarding Officer or the Diocese Safeguarding staff if they wish. Notices have been put up around the church with various contact details for anyone with concerns or worries.
8. Work in Progress – Ongoing work and liaison is taking place with the Safeguarding Officers of St Mary's Kippington and St Luke's comparing various training and recruitment requirements and checklists of safeguarding procedures. Susan Allender is also checking whether all relevant leaders have the required safeguarding training.