**Safeguarding Report – 2022-2023**

As the pandemic began to recede, St Nicholas was able to return to more normal activities during the last year and introduced several new initiatives. It is therefore gratifying to be able to report that despite widening out our church community, there have been no safeguarding incidences that required advice from either the Diocese or local social services.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team continues to implement new ways of communicating – the most recent being ‘Drop In Sessions’ for all Church Safeguarding Officers to share thoughts/concerns/questions etc via a monthly Zoom video call. Having recently joined one of these sessions (which was well attended), it would be fair to say that we all have very similar challenges with keeping across the full scope of safeguarding.

The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, which went live last year, is a very forensic record keeping process of how we doing with our compliance. Currently we are at 35% of all that we should be achieving but since only about 60% of all the churches in the Diocese are actively using the system, we are not doing too badly!

The Diocese offers several excellent online safeguarding courses. Basic Awareness, Foundation and Domestic Abuse should all be undertaken by PCC members but the Diocese recommends anyone who holds a role within the church are encouraged to complete them. They can be found at <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>.

As always, a reminder that the issue of safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. So do please raise any concerns privately with either Rev. Carole or myself – my details are available via the Parish Office.

**Susan Smith JP**

**Church Safeguarding Officer**