

Safeguarding Report – 2024-2025

I am happy to report that during the last year there have been no safeguarding situations that have required advice from either the Diocese or local social services. As a general reminder, there is a very specific flowchart that the Diocese asks us to follow for any concerns raised. It should also be noted that any issues raised do not necessarily trigger an immediate third-party involvement – our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Caryn Weber) will always advise on what is an appropriate course of action in the first instance.

In July 2024, I attended a very pleasant social event organised by Bishop Emma's office for all Parish Safeguarding Officers in the area. This was held at St Stephen's Church, Twickenham and I found it to be highly valuable hearing direct from other PSOs and from both Bishop Emma and our own DST, Caryn Weber. The monthly online 'Safeguarding Drop In Sessions' also continue to be well attended and a good discussion forum.

We continue to work our way through the rather challenging Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. This is an online tool for tracking all our training and safeguarding procedures from which there is no hiding!

The Diocese offers many excellent online safeguarding courses. Churchwardens and PCC members need to undertake specific training but the Diocese recommends anyone who holds a role within the church are encouraged to complete at least the Basic course. The courses 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/website.

Susan Smith

Parish Safeguarding Officer

May 2025