

## **Safeguarding Report – 2025-2026**

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 – although we should never become complacent on this topic. 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 new Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Sarah Dale) will always advise on what is an appropriate course of action in the first instance.

In December 2025, I attended the Safeguarding Leadership Course at Diocesan House and that proved to be a highly informative and useful day – not only because of the course content but also the ability to hear direct from people in other safeguarding roles and parishes.

In March 2026, I joined a new online event explaining the necessity and requirements of the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) process. Again, a very user-friendly presentation.

The monthly online PSO ‘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! We currently stand at c66% compliance overall.

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 2026**