

Safeguarding Report for St Luke's Grayshott APCM April 2024

St Luke's Grayshott has appointed two safeguarding officers who have been in place since April 2023. Hilary Loder and Penny Thomas have both completed training in the use of the Parish dashboard and have both attended a half day safeguarding training course organised by the Guildford Diocese. Both have also completed the on line training required for safeguarding officers.

Safeguarding officers are appointed by the PCC to act on behalf of the PCC to ensure that there are safeguarding policies in place at church which are followed to ensure that the Church and its activities are safe places for everyone. The PCC has adopted the Church of England 'Promoting a safer Church' as its policy and will in due course approve an action plan which will be reviewed annually. Our church wardens recognise their responsibilities as far as safeguarding is concerned and ensure that safeguarding is discussed at every PCC meeting. Hilary and Penny are the DBS Validators appointed by the PCC.. All church volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults are required to have a check before they take up their role. This protects those that participate in the activities of the church, those that volunteer to help and the Church. The DBS check is quick and is free for the volunteer and it is very important.

There is on line safeguarding training available and everyone who is a PCC member or a church officer is expected to do all or some of this training. It is there to raise awareness and to provide simple guidelines. Many of the church leaders and volunteers have done this training and found it useful. Hilary and Penny are exploring ways to offer the training to the PCC as a group and to encourage other church officers to make use of it. All the leaders of church activities are being contacted to discuss what training would be helpful to them and what steps they have taken to ensure safeguarding procedures are considered and followed.

There are posters around the church and the church rooms which provide information about safeguarding and who to contact with any concerns.

Safeguarding sounds serious and daunting which it can be but the policies that are put in place and followed through are there to ensure that we can all come together to worship and to enjoy the activities and facilities at St Luke's knowing that we have done what we should to make this place safe for everyone. The church is open to everyone and we want to be as welcoming and encouraging to all those who come.

If you have any concerns please talk to Hilary or Penny, the Vicar or the Churchwardens. You can contact us by email at safeguarding@stlukes-grayshott.org or by phone 01428 606703. If you need to give information or want to make a disclosure about church-related abuse you can contact Penny, Hilary or the Vicar or the Diocese Safeguarding Advisor Jackie Broadfoot. (jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk. 07918 559387)

