



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey

Safeguarding Officer's Report

The PCC of the Parish of St Matthew with St Paul has complied with the requirements imposed by the code under section 5A of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. It complies with all policies and procedures both required and recommended by the Church of England and regularly audits itself against these through the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. During this last year the dashboard was updated in response to national issues and new requirements introduced which the parish has responded to.

The Safeguarding Committee meets twice a year. In the first meeting of the year it reviews all safeguarding policies and in the second meeting it focuses on people and the monitoring of compliance with safeguarding training and DBS requirements. Each meeting is also informed of the number of safeguarding referrals and casework undertaken.

The parish Safeguarding Action Plan is received and noted at each meeting of the PCC and a report is given by the Safeguarding Officer. All safeguarding policies and procedures were updated and reviewed by the Safeguarding Committee of the PCC and approved by the PCC at its February 2026 meeting. The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is continued to be used to ensure that all policies and procedures remain up to date.

There is a live safeguarding training spreadsheet which details what safeguarding training has been undertaken and when renewal is due. The parish follows the Diocesan Safeguarding Training Matrix in determining the roles requiring safeguarding training and the level(s) required. The Safeguarding Officer has provided four bespoke sessions to enable those without computers or those less confident in accessing the training to undertake the training with her assistance. It is intended to move all safeguarding and DBS records on to the new Safeguarding Hub in the course of the next year. This will provide a single source of information and provide automatic reminders of when training or DBS checks need to be renewed.

A review has been conducted of our safer recruitment practices. All volunteers will have a role description indicating the levels of safeguarding training and DBS required (if appropriate). Any role requiring an enhanced DBS will also need external references.

During the last year, nine referrals have been made to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team following safeguarding disclosures made to the clergy or parish visitors.

We are proud to be a parish which takes safeguarding very seriously as a key means by which we demonstrate our love to each other and to those who come to us as strangers. We are never complacent and strive constantly to enhance our safeguarding practices and policies.

The Revd Canon Professor Liz Stuart MBE
Safeguarding Officer

