

KEEPING OUR CHURCHES AS SAFE SPACES

We want our church buildings and church communities to be places where everyone feels welcomed and also feels safe. In order to achieve this, we follow the Church of England guidance on safeguarding.

The word *safeguarding* has come to be associated with a lot of rules and regulations. These are not as complicated as they might seem, and they are there to help us to ensure that our churches remain safe places.

Each parish has a designated Parish Safeguarding Officer. These PSOs work with the diocese, through a dashboard system, to ensure that the Church of England guidance is being followed. Along with the Parish Priest, they are able to help if there is a safeguarding issue. They also ensure that church officers and others associated with activities in the church have been safely recruited, undertaken a DBS check, and have received the relevant training.

Safeguarding training is very important. Without it, we may not recognise issues of abuse or bullying in our church communities; and we will not know how to respond in an effective way. All church officers are invited to undertake safeguarding training at the appropriate level; and no minister, lay or ordained, exercises ministry in our churches without the relevant training. However, training is not exclusive and anyone in our congregations who would like to undertake foundation training is very welcome to do so. Please contact your PSO, and their details are below.

Diocesan Safeguarding Team:

Safeguarding Concerns - Safeguarding@lincoln.anglican.org or Telephone: 01522 504070

For general enquiries - safeguarding.admin@lincoln.anglican.org or 01522 504068