

## **APCM Holy Trinity Church Meole Brace Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Parish Safeguarding**

For those who don't know I'm Andrew Prichard, one of two safeguarding officers at Holy Trinity, the other being Judith Clarkson. Firstly can I thank Judith on behalf of the PCC for all the hard work Judith does keeping our safeguarding procedures and practice up to date.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continues to be a serious and ongoing responsibility within the Parish.

Many of you will know that the IICSA (Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse) continues its work and that the Anglican Church Report has just been published (Oct 2020). Recently the national press reported on a number of high profile abuse cases involving the Church of England, the Catholic church and other denominations. Churches must be a safe place for children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is very sad that at times churches and other organisations have not got this right. In 2016 for example there were 3300 complaints to the C of E of a sexual abuse nature.

We promote safe practice in all activities at Holy Trinity and make recommendations if required. We report and seek advice from the DSA (diocesan safeguarding adviser) if needed. We also ensure that safeguarding training and DBS checking is undertaken by those on the PCC and also for wider members and volunteers as required and according to Trinity Churches Safeguarding Policy. Safeguarding is a standing agenda item each PCC meeting.

It is most important to remember that national safeguarding policies and practice guidance remain in effect in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic.

And I should finish by saying that if a child or adult is in immediate danger, medical or otherwise, to ring 999. Do not delay.

There is also a dedicated NSPCC reporting line dedicated to the C of E for children and young adults 0800 80 20 20

Church Office 01743 362399

Judith Clarkson Andrew Prichard (PSOs)