

Safeguarding Training

Sue Beale and I Zoomed a training session with the Diocesan Training Department.

It concerned the leadership of teams within the church with regard to safeguarding all members of the congregation but particularly those who are young, vulnerable or disabled.

There were suitable case studies showing how easy it is to disregard things going on when one feels uncomfortable about a situation. As a welcoming church it is easy to be so glad to see someone new that one pushes aside the little doubts and uncomfortable feelings one may have about them. People may not be honest about themselves or may wish to push to one side the darker things in their lives. So it's all about being aware that sometimes all is not what it seems, and care is needed particularly with regard to children and very old or vulnerable people.

Other useful items included the need for risk assessments for church based outings. For example, a visit to another church on a bus with elderly folk or children being taken to a venue. If these are undertaken on behalf of the church, there are risks which must be discussed beforehand.

If we are needing new members of staff we need to think of our safe recruitment policy.

It was suggested that the clergy might help highlight safeguarding during an appropriate time perhaps Mental Health week by including our Safeguarding Leader and the policies we adhere to in intercessions and by using Gospel links to highlight how important our church takes the safeguarding of our congregation.

Really the most important lesson from the morning was to know who in our church to report to in confidence if one has qualms about safeguarding issues.

We were given an assessment form to fill in of how we think our church is managing safeguarding.

I'm delighted to say the thanks to Catherine Makepeace we do well and tick most of the boxes.

Mary Seaton