



## St James's Church Piccadilly

### **APCM 8<sup>h</sup> May 2022 SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

(last report was given at May 2021 APCM meeting)

The PCC and the Safeguarding Officer have particular responsibilities, but making sure everyone is safe is a commitment that all members of our community share.

As per Diocesan requirements the following documents were completed and forwarded to Diocesan of London:

- Parish Safeguarding Self Audit - July 2021
- Safeguarding Action Plan – July 2021

As previously noted with the shut down of St James's on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 due to Covid-19 and subsequent phased re-opening of the site from July onwards with Covid-19 requirements in place as per both Church of England and government requirements, and then with a further shut down from December 2020 and subsequent phased re-opening from April 2021, a further 'lock down 3' over December 2021 and subsequent phased re-opening by St James's various activities e.g Winter Shelter (WS), International Group (IG) were either suspended or 'modified' – these are particularly highlighted as safeguarding 'applications' e.g. DBS checks, face to face safeguarding training are required. Since May 2021 the following arrangements, as detailed below and as previously reported, remain in place with updates included.

The Safeguarding Action Plan was begun in 2015. The Safeguarding Officer, HR Advisor and Associate Rector review it with the PCC twice a year (due July 2022); and work to achieve it's objectives. The Self Audit is done annually and is used as the basis for the Action Plan. As reported in the last Safeguarding Report to APCM the publication of The Church of England 'Parish Safeguarding Handbook' is the basis for updating the St James's Church Safeguarding Policy and Procedures Handbook – this is the companion publication to The Church of England's handbook - refer [www.sjp.org.uk](http://www.sjp.org.uk) for both booklets as well as from Jane Gray, [hr@sjp.org.uk](mailto:hr@sjp.org.uk).

At this stage face to face safeguarding training for designated roles e.g. Vergers, PCC members, Pastoral Visitors is not taking place. Rather it is 'new' appointees for whom

online safeguarding training is currently being organised for the applicable groups/roles. Due to Covid-19, WS activities were suspended in March 2020 and these did not recommence during winter 2020/21 - these requirements will be revisited for applicable roles. Currently, Sunday Breakfast offers a hot take-away breakfast to about 65 people each Sunday, which involves handing over a breakfast-in-a-box with wooden cutlery with guests either sitting in the courtyard or moving away once they have received their parcel. With the appointment of the Food Outreach Hospitality Coordinator role in March 2021 (externally funded until end of 2022) FEAST began to serve an indoor socially-distanced meal to guests every Monday evening from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 working within strict Covid-protocols approved by Public Health England – currently 34 guests are served (maximum numbers). DBS checks that are required for certain designated roles – as listed in the handbook – are implemented.

The PCC appoints the Safeguarding Officer and the Children's Champion, with Jane Preest as the former with the latter appointed in September 2021 – David Wang, Ordinand.

In the Safeguarding Action plan one of the 'new' areas is our 'enhanced' on line presence where anyone who hosts an event of behalf of St James's Church should complete a DBS check and as good practice to complete on safeguarding training. As most of the people doing this e.g. clergy, PCC members already meet these requirements however where someone has an ongoing responsibility of hosting of online evens then these requirements need to be implemented as per guidance provided by Diocese of London – this area is still currently being worked on including a church wide review of all volunteer roles and safeguarding training requirements.

It is very important to remember that ensuring that all children and vulnerable adults in our community are safe is the responsibility of all of us. If there is any doubt regarding any issues of concern please do discuss them with the following – contact numbers detailed below:

Church Safeguarding Officer: Jane Preest 07790036786

Children's Champion: David Wang - 07947019071

Associate Rector: TBA

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 020 7932 1224

Thirty-One-Eight (previously CCPAS) 24 hour helpline: 0845 1204550

For situations of immediate risk contact the police 999

Other contacts for Westminster area:

Jane Gray and Jane Preest 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Concerning children:

- Duty Child Protection Advisor: 020 7641 7668
- [AccesstoChildrensServices@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:AccesstoChildrensServices@westminster.gov.uk) or [LADO@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@westminster.gov.uk)
- <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/information-professionals-and-volunteers/contacts-safeguarding-westminster>

Concerning adults:

- Outside normal office hours this team deals with statutory Mental Health Assessments, other emergencies concerning vulnerable adults and elderly residents, child protection emergencies and other children and family issues: 020 7641 6000
- Adult Social Care Team (supporting adults under the age of 65 with physical disabilities, older people with physical disabilities, or mental health problems, and their carers): 020 7641 1444 or 020 7641 1175; text messages: 07944 521615

Other Westminster Council contact details:

<https://www.peoplefirstinfo.org.uk/westminster-contact-details/>