

# Holy Trinity Winchmore Hill

## Annual Safeguarding Report

Prepared on behalf of the PCC by John Geers (Safeguarding Officer),  
20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

At Holy Trinity we understand the importance of safeguarding vulnerable groups in our congregation and are fortunate enough to have significant professional experience in the form of Safeguarding Officer, John Geers and Children's Champion, Andrew Mayer, both of whom own and run businesses which care for and teach young children. Therefore we are confident that safeguarding practice at Holy Trinity is robust.

Safeguarding can be an extremely controversial issue, particularly in relation to children, therefore we adopt a strategy whereby it is the parents themselves who take much of the responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of their children whilst at Church. Our thriving Junior Church takes place each Sunday, always with parents in attendance and on any trips arranged by the church, parents accompany their children. In this way we do not have adults (other than the children's own parents) who are placed in positions of responsibility for the children.

Both John Geers and Andrew Mayer have enhanced DBS Certificates as do those members of the congregation who might have cause to find themselves alone with or in potentially "high risk" locations/situations with children, notably the Clergy and Servers and PCC members.

Notwithstanding, it is not simply a case of our abdicating the Church's responsibility and placing it all on the shoulders of parents. We ensure that the environment and the kind of activities in which the children participate whilst at Church do not place them at risk:

Signs are clearly displayed informing that children are not permitted in the kitchen area.

Signs have also been added warning parents not to allow children to play on the trolleys used to stack tables in the downstairs hall.

During "social time" after the Sunday service, with the permission of their parents, children are permitted to go to the upper hall to play. To avoid them being able to leave the church un-noticed and to avoid intruders being able to enter the premises un-noticed, the double entrance doors are locked, allowing access only via the choir gantry.

During events such as the annual Kirchentag, where games and attractions are brought in for the children, they are risk-assessed and where necessary supervised eg: the numbers allowed on the bouncy castle are kept within the manufacturers specified limits and an adult is always in close attendance.

In this way we are happy to report that there have been no incidents whereby the safeguarding of our children has been brought into question and we are confident, though not complacent, moving forward.

At Holy Trinity we currently have no vulnerable adults in the congregation although certain individuals do receive the support and assistance of fellow worshippers. As such we have no concerns in this area of safeguarding.

Should any member of the congregation have any concerns with regard to safeguarding, the contact details of John Geers are on display on the notice board in the lower and upper halls.

Safeguarding information is also featured prominently on the Holy Trinity website, including contacts for individuals and organisations to whom reports should be made or advice sought.

### Training

For 2020, all members of the PCC will be undertaking Basic on-line safeguarding training with Churchwardens, Clergy, Safeguarding Lead and Children's Champion undertaking both Basic and Foundation courses.

John Geers

Safeguarding Officer, 20 Feb 2020