

Holy Trinity Winchmore Hill

Annual Safeguarding Report

Prepared on behalf of the PCC by John Geers (Safeguarding Officer),
20th March 2021

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.

The past year has seen a significant shift in the emphasis of our safeguarding efforts whereby, due to the Covid pandemic, safeguarding the whole congregation has been very much in our minds rather than just the vulnerable groups who would usually be our safeguarding focus.

Covid 19 Measures

Great efforts have been made to ensure that Holy Trinity has been compliant with government regulations relating to lock-down, the gradual relaxation and then subsequent reapplication of measures over the course of the last 12 months.

Throughout the year extensive measures to prevent the spread of Covid 19 amongst the congregation have been taken, including in the following areas:

- Temporary cessation of mass
- Changes to the way that Holy Communion is given and received
- Restriction on the signing in the services by anyone other than the cantor
- Wearing of face masks and social distancing in all parts of the church
- Easy access to hand sanitisers
- No shared equipment for Junior Church
- Enhanced cleaning regime

We are pleased to report that no cases of Covid 19 transmission have been attributed to attendance at Holy Trinity throughout this period.

Children

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 (when Covid regulations permit), always with parents

in attendance. 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.

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.

Regrettably, the past year has seen the cancellation of all social events which has meant that risk assessments and measures usually associated with such have not been required.

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.

Vulnerable adults

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

Training

Notwithstanding the challenges of this year, several members of the PCC have completed the Diocese safeguarding training course.

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 hall.

John Geers 21.04.21