

Below are two statements regarding the CCPAS Safeguarding Report dated 14th May 2018.

Anyone wishing to access the actual report is asked to contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer of the Parish of North Abingdon via safeguarding@cca.uk.net.

Statement from Christ Church regarding the CCPAS Safeguarding Audit



We acknowledge with thanks the work put in by Simon Plant of CCPAS and all the members of Christ Church who contributed to the Audit on 28th and 29th March 2018.

The report on the Audit was received on 4th May, but we asked for a few factual and presentational errors to be corrected, which CCPAS were happy to accommodate. Their final report was received on Monday 14th May 2018.

Keith Dunnett wrote to the staff, saying "I do hope you are encouraged by the findings! To quote the summary, "Overall, there is a commitment across the leadership team to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place, a culture of safety and safeguarding and a real drive to minimise the opportunities for abuse to occur. It was apparent throughout the audit that safer culture principles and team working were real strengths of Christ Church Abingdon. There were many examples of excellent practice seen throughout the audit."

The full report runs to 45 pages, and has 4 main sections:

- Introduction
- Survey: Detailed (tick-box) questions covering many areas under 10 CCPAS Standard Categories. Following each section there were recommendations, which were repeated at the end of the report.
- Recommendations: These were a repeat of the recommendations contained in the detail survey
- Action Plan: These follow from the recommendations

Christ Church welcomes all the recommendations and will work on implementing them as soon as practical. Some were already in progress before the audit took place. Some recommendations were directed towards the Diocese of Oxford and they have provided a response to the recommendations, which is adjacent to this statement.

For public consumption on the website, we have created an abridged summary version of the report with the detailed boxes removed from the Survey section as the recommendations are repeated elsewhere, and a few paragraphs of the final sections have been redacted upon recommendation by the Diocese as they have legal implications. The summary has 11 pages.

Christ Church believes that Safeguarding is vital in the life of our church. Everyone needs to be alert to anything that could be considered inappropriate and to have the freedom to bring it to the attention of the right person, without feeling that this is gossiping.

Please direct any questions or comments about the Audit to Keith, Kath, Heather, Bea, Ros or Roland as appropriate

Roland Knight
Parish Safeguarding Officer and Church Warden



Management response from the Diocese of Oxford to the CCPAS Safeguarding Review document dated 14 May 2018

Re: CCPAS Safeguarding Review, Christ Church Abingdon

The Diocese of Oxford welcomes the thorough work undertaken by CCPAS to audit the safeguarding culture, policies and practice in place at Christ Church Abingdon. Their report makes for encouraging reading and we note that much good work has been done in recent months to ensure the safety of all those who visit and worship at the church.

While not commissioned by the Diocese of Oxford, the CCPAS report contains recommendations for the diocese to take forward. We are fully committed to learning and improving practice across the board in relation to survivors of abuse, and to seeking justice for all those who have experienced abuse of any kind. We are grateful to CCPAS for their observations. An independent case review, commissioned by the diocese, will also review recent events and identify learning points for the diocese.

The specific recommendations made by CCPAS, relating to the Diocese of Oxford were:

- **Review and update the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook**

The Church of England National Safeguarding Team are currently developing a Parish Safeguarding Handbook which is due in draft form during this summer. The Diocese of Oxford will consider whether to adopt this or comprehensively revise local guidance.

- **A clear and unambiguous statement regarding abusive images of children to be included in the diocesan model policy on managing allegations.**

This will be implemented without delay

- **Single Point of Contact and support for those who have reported abuse**

A key learning from the incident that led to the CCPAS report was that there had been too many points of contact for those expressing concerns to deal with. This area of practice is being addressed as part of our learning review following the outcome of the tribunal, building on revised national Practice Guidance.

- **Avoidance of delays in the CDM process**

The Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) is the national Church mechanism for dealing fairly with formal complaints of serious misconduct against members of the clergy. It applies to all deacons, priests and bishops in the Church of England, even if they are not in active ministry. We acknowledge that it can take some time from when a complaint is first made for the process to conclude. The Church of England recently launched a CDM consultation and we await the outcome of that process.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) recently noted that senior staff in the Diocese of Oxford are firmly committed to safeguarding and want to see safeguarding delivered well within the diocese. One measure of our commitment to safeguarding is our learning culture. Encouragingly over 1,000 people across the diocese have completed CO safeguarding training within the first five months of 2018. We're heartened to see a similar commitment to safeguarding training and practice development so clearly modelled by the Church Wardens and leadership of Christ Church Abingdon.