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The Benefice of
St Nicholas, Wilden
St Denys, Colmworth
All Saints, Ravensden
St Dunstan, Bolnhurst
St Marys, Keysoe



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11th April 2020

SAFEGUARDING: Report 4 CONFIDENTIAL

St Denys Church

This report prepared by:

Doug McWilliam

Parish Safeguarding Advisor

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding continues as priority within the Church of England. There are regular newsletters and update that confirm the need to be vigilant on all matters concerning Safeguarding.

This is equally true at a local level.

We have recently been notified of a male person who has become known in the Sharnbrook Deanery and is trying to impose themselves into church life. There is a very clear Red Flag against this individual; we must remain alert.

To this end St Denys church has a number of people that are currently DBS Checked or need to make their formal application.

There are 11 people who make up the 'Team' at St Denys. Of which the following applies:
5 vacancies: 3 DBS cleared: 3 required to make their DBS Application.

There are three types of DBS Application that St Denys can apply when conducting DBS Applications.

1st: Basic disclosure: this is a standard check on those that may be seen as informal church helpers, e.g. volunteers, social events, caretaking. St Denys can ask all volunteers to make this application.

2nd: Enhanced DBS check: Church Wardens and PCC members are required to have a complete Enhanced DBS check. Those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

3rd: Advanced DBS: for those working in care situation. E.g. Home visits, those at risk in the community,

It is the responsibility of Church Wardens and PCC members to monitor the role of those who support the range of activities within the church. It is not okay to know someone and think they are okay. Safeguarding means that there has to be checks and balances, even if it makes some volunteers withdraw from volunteering. With a 'red flag' person currently seeking to gain access to the church within the larger community of Sharnbrook Deanery knowing someone is not an acceptable formula for accepting their desire to be a volunteer. We need to challenge and be alert to all volunteering situations.

Of the five churches St Denys is the weakest church in coming forward to complete DBS Applications.

Training

1. St Deny, with the help and support of the Diocese of St Albans, committed to providing a C2 training morning in June 2020. The Aim was to catch up all those within our community have not attended C2 Training. This training day would have been extended to all who wish to book and attend within the Diocese. Due to current circumstances with the Coronavirus C2 Training at St Denys has been cancelled and will at some time in the future be rescheduled.
2. Online Training: An email has been sent to all those who currently have not taken their on-line C0 and C1 Training. C0 and C1 is training that all Wardens and PCC members should have undertaken prior to participating on C2 training. The take up of training in many cases is woeful!

Across the Parish,

St Nicholas Wilden, St Mary Keysoe, St Dunstan Bolnhurst, All Saints Ravensden. St Denys:

Safeguarding:-

Currently 59 people are eligible for making DBS Application

DBS complete: 48%

Awaiting DBS: 19%

Vacancies N/A; 33%

Completed:

Bolnhurst: 90%

Keysoe: 90%

Ravensden: 90%

Wilden: 100%

Colmworth: 50%

I would like to extend to the Safeguarding Advisors of the following churches my thanks and blessing for their valued help and support.

St Nicholas Wilden, St Mary Keysoe, St Dunstan Bolnhurst, All Saints Ravensden.

Conclusion

Considering our position in April 2019 we can with confidence say that we have made great progress in making sure our churches are aware of the reality of Safeguarding; and through the take up people (48%) who have completed their DBS Applications we are a safer group of churches. We are aware of the need to have a work force, both paid and volunteers who undertaken appropriate training, But, we must not be complacent. Confirming the take up training, encouraging those yet to make their Applications, recruiting new people to help serve within the church, and to question those who wish to volunteer remains the duty of the church both today, and as we move forward into a Godly future.

Doug McWilliam

Parish Safeguarding Advisor

11th April 2020