

## **The Parish of Marcham with Garford**

### **Annual Safeguarding Report for APCM, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Safeguarding is always a team effort, and as a Parish and PCC we take it very seriously. Sadly, as we all know, churches have not always been places of safety for children or vulnerable adults, and a vital part of your PCC's work is to ensure that our church does not become a place where harm or abuse can occur without being prevented, detected or stopped.

As your Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am enormously grateful for those who have supported me in so many ways over the past year, and without whose hard work and commitment we could not have achieved these aims. In particular, Shaena Porter, who maintained our required records of Safeguarding Training for PCC members and those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Similarly, we are grateful to Jill Rowe, as Families' Minister, and Rob Finch, as Youth Worker, for the consistent care and responsible oversight they both exercise, and not least in supporting our many volunteers in their roles in these crucial ministry areas.

In June 2024 the PPC approved [The Parish of Marcham with Garford Safeguarding Policy](#). The policy includes guidance on the use of social media. We advise all members of the parish to read the policy.

We have a small number of ongoing safeguarding cases, which we try to deal with carefully, confidentially, sensitively and lovingly. Those involved work and pray tremendously hard, often over long periods and under significant personal pressure. This is not easy or straightforward work, and it entails personal sacrifice, unseen by others.

We continue to work in close cooperation with the Diocese too, as we are required to. We are grateful for their support and have appreciated their advice and intervention.

We are all grateful for your support and understanding, and please, as always, do not hesitate to be in touch with me, in confidence, should you have any concerns. Thank you.

Ruth Atkins,  
PSO,  
April 2025