

# Parish Safeguarding Update

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018

*Dear Parishioners,*

I just wanted to use this opportunity to keep you updated as to what has been happening in the area of Safeguarding in the parish.

First of all, I want to thank **Maura Lyons** who has been our Parish Safeguarding Representative for the last 15 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her tireless work and dedication in not only processing the detailed paperwork and references of the many parishioners who have volunteered in and for the parish in so many different roles but also for the advice and support she has given. I would also like to thank her for her presence in the Parish to ensure that Children and adults that are at risk and vulnerable are kept safe in the both the Church, Parish Centre and wherever volunteers are representing Ealing Abbey Parish.

Maura has decided to step down from the role. The Parish has been extremely privileged and fortunate to have received the benefits of Maura's experience as a Family Therapist, Chair of the Board of Governors of our local Catholic school as well as being a Parishioner for so many years, a mother and grandmother, not to mention her generous contribution to the spiritual life of the parish. It is with great thanks and appreciation that we acknowledge the role she has played as our Parish Safeguarding Representative. I hope that she will continue to support the Parish in this vital area of Parish life.

We have been very fortunate to have found a successor for Maura who is also a parishioner of many years. And I would like to welcome and thank very much, Jim Welsh, for agreeing to take on the role as our new Parish Safeguarding Representative. Jim is a former Head Teacher, Ofsted Inspector and Diocesan Schools Inspector. We wish him well in this role and the responsibility that it entails. I would ask you to give him as much support as you can in continuing to ensure that the Abbey Church and Parish Centre are environments where all our parishioners but most especially our children and adults that are at risk and vulnerable feel safe and welcome.

As you know Parish Safeguarding practices and policies are being audited by Janice Haynes, an Independent Consultant with Wandsworth and Croydon Boroughs. She has already met with Maura Lyons as part of this audit.

Janice has already attended one of our Confirmation preparation sessions and will be observing other Parish activities where children are involved. I will keep you posted as to where and when this happens.

As advertised, there was a Focus Group of young people from the parish. This group met on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Parish House and went very well. Feedback from this session will be presented in the Audit. But the initial feedback has been very positive, and the children involved feel safe at the Abbey. This is very encouraging!

I will keep you posted as and when more feedback comes. If there are any issues that you are concerned about please do not hesitate to contact Jim Welsh by email at [ealingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:ealingsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk) or contact the parish Office on 020 88622160.

May I also take this opportunity to wish a very spiritual and meaningful Advent. May I recommend that you take some time to just press pause a few times and reflect over the great mystery that is the Incarnation, God taking on our human flesh and reaching out to show a new way of living and being alive! Fr. Ambrose, *parish priest*