Safeguarding and Past Case Review - January 2020

St Luke's takes its safeguarding responsibilities seriously and is committed to make the Church, Hall and Rooms safe places for all and to ensure that everyone understands that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns you can contact our parish Safeguarding Officer Ros Ward by email (rosalyndeward@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephone 01959 525638. If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please telephone the police on 999.

The fact that abuse has happened at all within the Church of England is a matter of deep shame and regret and this is why Church of England churches across Medway, north and west Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, which make up the Diocese of Rochester and of which St Luke's Church Sevenoaks is a part, are undertaking a comprehensive **safeguarding review**.

This **review** is looking at all the information a church might hold **about past incidents** of church related abuse by those who have held positions of responsibility in a church – both recent and non-recent. In order to be certain that we are fulfilling our duty of care to all those who come to our churches, we need to establish that all known past cases of concern have been considered and dealt with appropriately. Therefore anyone is encouraged to come forward with information or to make any disclosures regarding church related abuse and **make direct contact with the Diocese of Rochester - Safeguarding team on 01634 560000** or visit www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding

Recognising that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the Church, a dedicated free of charge telephone helpline (0800 80 20 20) has been set up and is **operated independently from the church by the NSPCC**. Anyone can use this helpline to raise specific issues relating to children or adults or to whistle blow about poor safeguarding practice. Every concern will be taken seriously.

Janet Bates and Beth Peters - Churchwardens