

## SW Synod Safeguarding Committee Report

The Safeguarding Committee meets quarterly and reports to the Synod Executive. The committee comprises lay and ordained representatives as well as an external independent member with specialist expertise. In September 2023 we welcomed Claire Partridge as the Safeguarding Officer for the Synod. Claire has settled successfully into the team and has completed her initial trial period.

In 2023 the Synod restructured the handling of Safeguarding in the light of national URC changes in Safeguarding.

- The Synod Safeguarding Officer is now a part-time post.
- Safeguarding training is now online for the majority of training.
- Publication of Good Practice 6 URC handbook

The Committee performs the following functions:-

- Develops policy and practice in line with URC and external advice
- Supports the Safeguarding Officer with casework
- Develops and monitors the Synod Safeguarding Action Plan
- Reports to the Synod Executive through the Committee chairperson
- Links with other Synod Committees through committee members

We are very grateful to committee members who give freely of their time to support this important work on behalf of the Synod.

Janet Raven

Safeguarding Committee Chair

26.2.2024