

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

The Diocese of Rochester (which we are a part of) has been asked to conduct a review of past cases for safeguarding.

The past case review will provide the opportunity for anyone who has any safeguarding concerns that relate to church officers (either paid staff or volunteers), both past and present, to raise them in a confidential way and with the assurance they will be taken seriously.

Everyone in church will receive a letter about this in the next few days, but please read the following from the Diocese...

We are committed to making our church a safe space for all. Churches across the Diocese of Rochester are currently undertaking a comprehensive safeguarding review to establish that all known past cases of concern relating to church abuse have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

If you are concerned about something you have experienced in a church, now or in the past, or you are worried about another person - perhaps a vulnerable adult or a child – there are people you can talk to and you will be taken seriously.

Anyone who needs to come forward with information or make any disclosures regarding church related abuse are encouraged to make direct contact with the Diocese of Rochester's 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 telephone helpline, operated independently from the church, by the NSPCC, is available. Calls can be made free on **0800 80 20 20**.

All these details will also be on St. Matt's website in the next couple of days (www.stmattschurch.org.uk).