

Parish Safeguarding Representative

I would like to introduce myself as the newly appointed safeguarding representative for the parish. If you currently volunteer within the parish I would like to say an enormous thank you for all you do. Your willingness to give of your time and your dedication and commitment greatly enriches our parish community and is an important witness within our church.

As a parish we are hoping that many activities which have not been able to continue over the last 18 months will start again in the near future, once we have received clear guidance from the diocese. Those of you who have had voluntary roles which involved you having direct contact with young people or children, or visiting adults within their home, will have had an enhanced DBS check in order to carry these out. DBS certificates are valid for three years, after which they need renewing. I have an up to date list of those DBS certificates which are still valid and those which need renewal. I am sure you will appreciate that in order to keep everyone safe you will not be able to start volunteering again unless you have a valid DBS certificate. If you plan to continue with your voluntary role/s and you know your certificate needs renewing please contact me either via e-mail at safeguarding-lexden@dioceseofbrentwood.org or by phone on 07305 102566. I will arrange for your DBS to be updated online via the diocesan office. It is a relatively quick process. All I require is your name, your e-mail address and the role(s) for which you volunteer. That way, once the activity you are engaged in resumes, you will be ready to help.

Some of you may have subscribed to the DBS update service which is free for volunteers in which case you will manage your own account. When your DBS is renewed you will need to sign a form to allow us to check your status as we will not be automatically notified. If you have subscribed to this service would you let me know so that I am aware and can contact you in the appropriate way at the appropriate time.

If you have decided that you no longer wish to continue volunteering, many thanks for your help in the past, but it would be helpful if you would just let me know so I can keep our records up to date.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to working with you.

Take care and God bless Mary Johnson