Scenario: The Parish of St John

The parish of St John’s is an old parish in an area that has recently been re-developed.

The church community consists of a combination of long established residents and incomers; the former have a strong sense of ownership of the church.

Revd. Anthony Smith became the incumbent two months ago after a clergy vacancy lasting just over a year.

It is his second parish, the previous incumbent had been there for 25 years and retired. There is a curate, Revd. Simon Archer who has been in post around 14 months.

Revd. Smith is married to Johanna, she works in a local nursery and they have three children. James aged 15, Harry aged 8 and Molly aged 6.

Revd. Smith is pleased to discover that there is a flourishing church choir with a good mix of young people as members. There is also a popular Sunday school, an ‘Edward Bear’ club and the bell ringers group has recently managed to attract lots of young people to join.

Johanna has already become involved in the Sunday School and has taken over from the former leader, Vera Grey, allowing her to retire. Vera has moved away to live with her son and daughter in law.

Revd. Smith finds out that Janine Williams, a qualified nurse and mother to three children runs the Edward Bear club with a team of volunteers who are mainly parents to other children in the congregation. Janine’s husband, a dentist, is the tower captain and runs the bell ringing group.

Revd. Smith also finds out that during the vacancy a youth group started up on a Friday evening in the Church hall.

It’s increased in popularity and many young people from 13 years old to 18 years old attend regularly. It’s run by a youth worker, Jimmy Pearson, who is in his late twenties. Jimmy lives locally and has been a Church attender for about six years.

When he asks the PCC about safeguarding Revd. Smith is informed that the previous incumbent used to ‘deal with all the safeguarding things’ for the parish.

- What information should Revd. Smith make sure he has about the groups and activities when he starts his new role?
- Does any of this raise any concerns about safeguarding processes in the parish?
- Any concerns about safer recruitment?
- Other concerns?

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