

AGM 2009 Report - Safe from Harm

We are a very busy church with many children and young people passing through 'our hands' not only on Sundays but also during the week. Praise God for all HE is doing in their lives. In the busyness it is easy to forget why we have Child Protection procedures in place, so I want to thank you for your cooperation and remind everyone (not only those who work with the children) that we all have a responsibility to make sure we are caring for them in such a way that honours God.

I have met with the Walsall Safe Guarding Team and they have attended our 'in house' child protection training morning. Jenny Hopley and I have been through a massive checklist provided by Churches Child Protection Advisory Service to ensure we have the right procedures in place. This year there are some changes to the Criminal Record Bureau procedures but I am confident that CCPAS will guide us through the changes, one of them being that CRB's are no longer transferable and therefore each person working with children must have a CRB for that position.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that child protection is embedded in all the planning of events and activities. Working together we can ensure that we provide the best environment for children and young people to be nurtured and cared for so that they learn about Jesus and how He wants to part of their lives.

The training morning usually happens twice a year and everyone is welcome to attend, it provides a basic knowledge of what to do if you are ever concerned about a child. It also reminds us that the church is and must be open to anyone who wants to find a living faith in Jesus. Following our procedures will ensure we provide a place of safety for everyone.

Final thought, the hardest part of applying for a CRB is finding those important documents that prove you are who you say you are and then getting them back to me so I can complete the documents and send them off. If you have an uncompleted CRB document at home, (you know who you are!!!) please get it back to me as soon as possible.

Lynne Trew
Child Protection Coordinator