

## Introduction to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – Mandy McPhee

Hello, I am the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser – Your Safeguarding Adviser!



I would like to take a few moments to tell you a little bit about myself, my background and how I can help you in your various activities connected to the church.

I am married with 2 children and live in the north of the Diocese. Prior to taking up my new role, I served as a Police officer with West Midlands Police. I undertook many varied roles during my 30 year policing career including operational emergency response policing, criminal investigation, child protection, training, offender management, neighbourhood policing and laterally partnership liaison.

I am very privileged to have been selected to become your safeguarding adviser and feel my previous career equips me well to undertake the role.

Prior to my appointment, the Diocese had a Safeguarding Adviser for Children: Mrs Barbara Gratton and a Safeguarding Adviser for Adults: Rev Garry Ward. All matters relating to safeguarding, both in relation to children and adults will now be dealt with by one adviser – that's me!

Safeguarding in a church context presents a unique challenge. The church by its very nature is open all hours, accepting of everyone no matter who, believing the best in everyone no matter what. This creates an environment where vulnerability could exist. I have come from an organisation that some would say traditionally suspects the worse in everyone. It is certainly an organisation that teaches its officers to assume nothing, keep an open mind, survey an environment, gain information and assess risk before deciding on a course of action. This perspective together with my vast policing experience will assist me in surveying the church environment and its activities and building and developing strong safeguarding practices.