

St Thomas Home Group

21st November 2023

Safeguarding

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

The Study

- Q1 In what ways does the image of the body help us understand what it means to be part of a church together?
- Q2 In verses 22–23 Paul talks about how we treat the parts of the body that are 'weaker' and 'less honourable'. What might this mean in the context of our church community?
- Q3 In verse 25 we read about the need to have equal 'concern' or 'care' for one another. How might we relate this to safeguarding and the church?

Read the Safeguarding Study scenario opposite and consider the following:

- Q4 What are your thoughts on the scenario? Do you think this could potentially be a safeguarding issue and if so why?
- Q5 What do you think would be the most appropriate action for you take, if any, and why?
- Q6 Read Proverbs 11:13. Is there a difference between 'gossip', and a 'legitimate sharing of concern'? How might these be distinctive in a church safeguarding context?

How do I relate to the topic of Safeguarding?

- Q7 Has your understanding of Safeguarding changed over recent months? If so, how?
- Q8 How might Jesus meet with us in the context of safeguarding? Are there any appropriate passages of scripture that come to your mind?



What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused.

Safeguarding Policy.
The Church of England. Archbishops Council 2017.

A Safeguarding Consideration

Scenario

There is a girl who attends your church's children's Sunday club who has autism and lacks awareness of physical space. She regularly goes to sit on laps and cuddle adults in the church who are not part of her family. You've noticed that one of the Sunday Club volunteer helpers seems to give more attention to this child than to other children, often giving her gifts, and appears to have a closer relationship with the girl's family than others in the church. You've heard that the helper regularly babysits and helps out when the family needs it.