

Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans

St Peter & St Paul's Church

Little Gaddesden

HP4 1NZ

09 December 2024

Dear Bishop

This PCC:

1. notes with dismay the Makin Report and all it implies for the victims and survivors of the wickedness of John Smyth, both in the UK and Southern Africa;
2. believes all those, lay and ordained, who are referred to in the Report and who either covered up the criminal acts at the time or failed to act properly on formal disclosures made later, should be fully held to account;
3. contrasts the careful investment in time and resources that this PCC has made in ensuring our church is a safe place for all, and that safeguarding provision is the best that it can be, as compared with the failure of the leadership of the Church of England energetically to investigate non-recent abuse, leading to re-traumatising of victims; and
4. urges the General Synod and the National Church Institutions immediately to institute arrangements whereby all safeguarding investigations become the responsibility of a body wholly independent of the Church of England, and to which victims and survivors of abuse would have unfettered access.

Signed on behalf of the PCC

M E ADAMS

J DICKSON

Terri Adams, Churchwarden

Jane Dickson, Churchwarden

c.c. Archbishop of York,
Lead Bishop for Safeguarding,
Archdeacon of St Albans,
Rural Dean of Berkhamsted.