



Safeguarding (Child and Adult Protection)

Issue 27: Advent 2020

Message from the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser: Hugh Constant



Dear Parish Safeguarding Officers, Incumbents and All who receive this newsletter,

Welcome to the Advent Safeguarding Newsletter - I hope you are well. In a world still dominated by the pandemic, many of you will nonetheless have seen extensive coverage of the report into safeguarding in the Anglican Church by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The report details many failures, and describes a culture which has often put reputational considerations ahead of pastoral care and best practice. While the report sets out many improvements in safeguarding funding, structures, policies and training, we all still have a role to play in learning the lessons of the past. To that end, if you have not already done so, I would encourage people to read the summary of the report—<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/investigation/anglican-church/executive-summary> and discuss locally what can be done to keep on making the Church a safer place.

At Bishop Christopher's request, the Diocese has put together a working party, involving the Safeguarding Team, clergy, the Cathedral, the Board of Education, and the Diocesan Secretary to look at how the diocese can best respond. A summary of the group's response, and plans for the future, is now on our website - <https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/>. Personally, I think the report gives us an opportunity to reflect, learn and improve, and that can only be a good thing. Some tough questions are yet to be answered by IICSA - notably around making the reporting of safeguarding concerns mandatory - but for now they have given us plenty to think about, and to do.

*Last time I wrote, I said how pleased I was, especially as a new starter, that the safeguarding team was back in the office. Now we are only sometimes back in the office, so if you can't get hold of us there, please call me, Louise or Marie on our mobiles, or in the evenings or weekends, on the new out of hours number - **020 3874 6743**. And don't worry about which of the three of us you contact - we all work closely together to respond quickly and effectively.*

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll read about training opportunities, DBS checks for PPC members, the latest on PCR2, and why it's important in some roles to have a confidential email address. But can I end by thanking you for all your hard work in support of the safeguarding team throughout a decidedly odd and difficult year, and to wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

All good wishes,

Hugh Constant
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Safeguarding Training—Update

As all our parishes come under the COVID-19 Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions, we are not offering face-to-face training courses until at least the Spring. In the meantime, could Parish Safeguarding Officers please remind those who need to renew either the Basic Awareness (C0) or Foundation (C1) training that they can do this individually online at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Training should be renewed every three years. Please remind your church members to choose the Diocese of Southwark from the drop-down menu and give **the full name and location of your church** e.g. St Mary's, Brixton. That way I will be able to record this training against the correct church and send you a report from time to time, if you ask for one.

Leadership (C2) courses are now being delivered over two sessions on Zoom. Anyone who needs to attend or renew this training, can book at: <http://dioceseofsouthwarksafeguarding.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Do get in touch with me by e-mail: carol.rimmer@southwark.anglican.org, if you have any queries.

PCR2 Update

The review phase of the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) is now being undertaken in the diocese, with four Independent Reviewers examining personnel records and Diocesan Safeguarding Team records to ensure that safeguarding concerns, both current and historic, have been identified and dealt with appropriately. Reviewers will continue to visit Trinity House and our area offices through to Christmas and into 2021 to complete their work. The aim is to complete the Review by Spring, allowing the diocese to draw lessons from the final report produced and seek recommendations on how to improve its safeguarding practices for the future.

A range of contact options are available for those who wish to make representations to the PCR2 process or who wish to come forward with information, make disclosures regarding church-related abuse or report concerns relating to how current or historic safeguarding concerns have been dealt with. More information and contact details can be found at <https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/pcr2>

Survivor Representatives

The National Safeguarding Panel are recruiting for two Survivor Representatives. The panel provides expertise and challenge to the Church on its safeguarding work. Applicants must be survivors of abuse within a church context. This does not need to be within the Church of England and can be within any denomination. Applicants must also be a member of a survivor organisation.

More information can be found on the Church of England website:

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/job/pathways/2087/survivor-group-representative>

PCC members and DBS checks

We receive a number of queries in the team around DBS checks for PCC members - are they required and if so what level of check is appropriate? **The short answer is Yes, in the majority of cases PCC members require an enhanced DBS check.**

The guidance below is taken from page 5-19, Section 5 of A Safe Church:

“The Charity Commission recommends that **trustees always obtain a criminal record check when eligible to do so** as it is an important tool in ensuring that the person is suitable to act. **If a governing body is registered as a charity and provided it sponsors and approves, in its own name, children’s work or work with adults experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect then the members of the governing body will be eligible for an enhanced criminal record check without barring information.** This may relate to PCCs, Cathedral Chapters, religious communities, National Church Institution (NCI) Pension Board etc. In such cases all members of the governing body will be eligible. For example: A PCC is a charity and provided it sponsors and approves, in its own name, children’s work or work with vulnerable adults (for example, a Youth Club, Sunday School, home visiting scheme for the house-bound or a luncheon club for adults with special needs who require assistance with feeding or toilet-ing) then this recommendation applies. It does not apply to all PCCs, only those that sponsor and approve children’s work and work with vulnerable adults.”

The **safeguarding training** expectation is that PCC members will undertake the Basic and Foundation Safeguarding training.

Use of shared email address

If you are a church officer/volunteer/ordained, lay minister or otherwise involved with sensitive or confidential communications with the DST then **please ensure you have an email address which is in your name only and not shared with or accessible to other members of your family. If you have an email address provided by your church, please ensure that it is not a generic email account that can be accessed by other members of the church team.** This is important in terms of retaining confidentiality and respecting data protection guidelines.

Many parishes have started using official church email accounts as it can help guarantee additional security, and maintain appropriate confidentiality. If you have a church email address then please ensure that the permission settings for who is able to read emails sent to a parish email address are appropriate.

Emails regarding safeguarding matters form part of the safeguarding record. Further guidance on this area can be found in section 4 of A Safe Church (4-46 record retention and security).

https://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/asafechurch/2020_ASC_Section_4_Keeping_safe_2020.pdf

In a world where we are increasingly reliant on electronic communication, please be mindful of who has sight of your emails, correspondence and social media.

Pass It On



Clergy, parish safeguarding officers and lay leaders are reminded to pass on any safeguarding allegations, disclosures or concerns they receive about church officers to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or one of the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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The Diocesan Safeguarding Team wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful holiday season and all good wishes for a safe and happy New Year

From Wednesday 23rd December 2020 to Sunday 3rd January 2021 a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team will still be contactable via the Safeguarding Out of Hours number on

020 3874 6743 for urgent consultations.

All team members are taking some time off work over the Christmas period so we would be grateful if non-urgent matters could wait until January