



Dear Parish Safeguarding Officers and Incumbents,

Here is the latest version of the Safeguarding Newsletter. This issue contains a number of important updates for you. There is some guidance on what safeguarding information parishes should be including on their websites and some details of materials which are shortly to arrive by post including a safeguarding poster to display locally. We introduce you to some new members of the team and provide you with some details about the recently published report from the Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse. Further hearings focusing on the Church of England are due to take place in July.

We have also included some updates on A Safe Church and some information about parish safeguarding self-audits.

Our thanks go to you and your colleagues who do so much to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe in our worshipping communities.

Kind regards,

Kate and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Parish Self Audit

In September 2018, all parishes were asked to complete a self-audit of their local safeguarding arrangements. The aim was to support parishes in reviewing key aspects of their safeguarding practice and to provide a tool to identify what is working well and areas which require attention locally. Parish Safeguarding Officers and incumbents were asked to take their completed audits to their PCCs for discussion and to agree action plans.

87% (313 out of 360 churches) completed the online audit tool. The audit generated a considerable number of enquiries to the team in relation to safer recruitment matters and procedural queries. In addition, there was again demand generated for parish based training events.

We'd like to thank all those of you who took the time to respond. We hope you found it a useful exercise and we are happy to assist with any issues/queries you may have identified as a result of completing it.

We will soon be sending information for our upcoming 2019 audit which you will be able to complete. Details to follow.

Parish Websites and Displaying Safeguarding Information in your Church

Displaying safeguarding information in your church and on your church website

The National Safeguarding Team (NST) has received a number of queries about what information parishes need to display about safeguarding. They are advising as follows:

It is the House of Bishops' policy position that parishes need to display information about their safeguarding arrangements. House of Bishops' safeguarding guidance - Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies 2017, Section 3, issued in October 2017, states that the parish will display:

- *A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' 'Promoting a Safer Church; safeguarding policy statement'. This should be signed on behalf of the PCC;*
- *Contact details of the PSO, churchwarden and any other local leaders;*
- *Information about where to get help with child and adult safeguarding issues e.g. local authority contact details, domestic abuse and key helplines e.g. ChildLine*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/Key%20Roles%20and%20Responsibilities%20of%20Church%20Office%20Holders%20and%20Bodies%20Practice%20Guidance.pdf>

These requirements are also set out at pages 3-7 to 3-10 in the current version of A Safe Church (<https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>) and there are policy templates for you to use at Appendices 1 and 2 of the same document. A poster for display in church will be included in the May Diocesan mailing).

The NST has advised that a parish should also ensure that safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of the parish website. It has been left to local determination about what information to put on the website, while recognising that not all parishes have one. Please give some consideration as to how you word this information in order to make it clear to those who are looking for advice or support who they can contact.

If the parish does not have a website, the parish may want to offer some information on the national Church's [A Church Near You](#) (ACNY) website which has a 'safeguarding' tab on every page which will take the user through to a map highlighting diocesan safeguarding details.

Churches can add a page to their ACNY profile with their local Safeguarding details. A guide on how to add pages to ACNY can be found on the editor help centre:

<https://achurchnearyou.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360010073334-Add-pages-change-the-order-of-pages-and-delete-pages>

The Editor Help Centre also provides blogs on how to use ACNY more widely, including how to become an editor if your church does not yet use the site.

If you have further questions about ACNY or your local website, please contact [Daniel Stone](#) in the Diocesan Communications Team.

Welcome to new members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Last year Carol Rimmer, who many of you will now be familiar with, joined us as our safeguarding training administrator. In April, we welcomed Marie Daly who joins our team as a full time Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

Carol Rimmer, Diocesan Safeguarding Training Administrator, writes:

"I joined the safeguarding team in March 2018 and work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I joined the team from a local authority where my roles included supervising contact between looked after children and families and also managing a training programme. I have previously worked for a church, both as an administrator and a youth worker, where I was also a safeguarding trainer.

My role in this team is to administer the safeguarding training programme, which involves booking venues and trainers, managing our bookings on Eventbrite, keeping a database of course attendance, producing the course materials and handouts and advising on training queries."

Marie Daly, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, writes:

"I joined the team at the end of March 2019 and following a brief handover period with my predecessor Steve Short, I am now the second full-time ADSA in the safeguarding team working alongside Louise Vernon.

My background is in both teaching and policing. I have spent the last fifteen years working in Child Abuse Investigation Teams within Kent and Metropolitan Police areas and a Public Protection Unit (management of sexual and violent offenders) unit in a busy and diverse South London Borough. This background has provided me with a lot of experience identifying and managing risk and working with partner agencies to achieve the best possible outcome for those experiencing a wide range of both historic and recent safeguarding issues. My current role involves advising on safeguarding issues occurring within and reported to the Diocese. I also assist with risk assessments and worship agreements for those with sexual convictions who wish to attend churches within the diocese."

Mailing from National Safeguarding Team



Parishes will receive a pack of safeguarding material in the May Diocesan mailing. These include a safeguarding pocket guide, a poster for local display which includes space for the contact details for local safeguarding officers and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and a copy of a nationally produced parish safeguarding handbook. We have tried hard to ensure that our current version of *A Safe Church* is consistent with the content of this handbook. The handbook does not include the level of detail which is within *A Safe Church* but we hope that it proves to be a useful resource.

The pack includes a covering letter from the Deputy National Safeguarding Adviser with details of where to find the resources online and how to order more of these resources should you wish.

Revised Version of *A Safe Church* now online!

You should have all received emails in December and again in late March which informed you about the revisions made to *A Safe Church* (our Diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures) and pointed you to the new version available online at:

<http://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/diocesan-policies-and-procedures>

We said that we would publish a further version of *A Safe Church* online and in hard copy once we had been able to incorporate some further national guidance which we were waiting for. That guidance (on Safer Environments and Activities) is still awaited so once we receive it we will work as quickly as we can to make any relevant changes to *A Safe Church*. We will then issue hard copies of *A Safe Church* to you as well as putting the revised online version on our website. In the meantime, please continue to use the current online version of *A Safe Church* (December 2018).

The online version also has the most up to date templates you can download and use. A number of parishes have asked about the parish safeguarding policies, these are Annex 1 and 2 and can be downloaded in both Word and pdf formats.

We would also like to signpost you to the House of Bishop Guidance on *Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies Practice Guidance* -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/roles-and-responsibilities-practice-guidance.pdf>

This contains very useful descriptions of safeguarding responsibilities for parish safeguarding officers, incumbents, churchwardens, PCC trustees and other officers in the church.

New Safeguarding Training Programme

We are currently putting together our 2019/20 training programme, which will be available online by the end of next month.

We are looking to use a range of new venues in the east, the west and the south of the diocese, so that people should be able to attend a course closer to where they live. All of the courses will be revised and updated before the introduction of the new programme in line with the national guidance which has been recently reviewed.

IICSA Report

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, has now published its report into the Anglican Church based on its case studies last year of the Diocese of Chichester and the response to allegations against the former Bishop of Gloucester, Peter Ball. The 252-page report makes **5 recommendations** about a range of issues. These will now be studied in detail and a full response from the Church of England released at a later date.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/reports/anglican-chichester-peter-ball>

There are clearly marked links to the Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations sections.

The Inquiry's third and final set of hearings in the Anglican Church will start on Monday 1 July 2019 and run for two weeks. This will focus on both the Church of England and the Church in Wales in the context of responses to allegations of child sexual abuse. The Inquiry notes that further recommendations directly relating to the findings in this report will be made following the hearings in July.

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.

Our contact details are shown within this newsletter. Please remember that we are available for consultation and advice on any safeguarding matter relevant to your church. Please do be in touch with us!

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