

SAFEGUARDING NEWS – December 2016

WELCOME to the first issue of the Newsletter which aims to connect all churches in the Diocese with the latest news from the Safeguarding Team, and to welcome our new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Jeremy Hirst.

Introduction by Bishop Alan



Dear Colleagues

You will be aware that issues around safeguarding continue to develop. Please would you read the following newsletter which explains the important changes and new requirements which we need to implement. In October our Diocesan Synod passed the following, which underlines our shared responsibility for adopting and implementing the new practice guidance.

“This Synod affirms its commitment to safeguarding all God’s people; adopts the national policies and Practice Guidance for Safeguarding within the Church of England available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults/national-policy-practice-guidance.aspx> and commends them to the deaneries and parishes for adoption and implementation.”

The web location referred to, which is repeated in section 4 below, contains the current national guideline documents. Everyone with a responsibility for safeguarding, ordained and lay, should be familiar with this material. Please acquire and read the current documentation and make it available to the relevant persons in your parishes, schools and chaplaincies. Most importantly, I ask that you act now to ensure that your policies and practice comply with the latest guidelines.

Please be assured of my prayers as we work together in this most important area,

+ Alan

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER – JEREMY HIRST

The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser deals not only with children and young persons, but also vulnerable adult issues and is available, at any reasonable time, for guidance and advice.

Jeremy is responsible for supporting the diocese in regard to policy, good practice and training. He is there for you, to assist with allegations of abuse and the appropriate referrals. He will ensure that survivors and victims of abuse are supported and that those who present a risk at church are managed safely.

Telephone: 01727 818107

Mobile: 07867 350886

email: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org



Jeremy Hirst, who worked as a Police Officer for 30 years

Those who require safeguarding training

Deanery training is an essential module for;

- Parish Safeguarding Officers/Representatives
- Churchwardens
- Leaders and helpers of children and adult activities
- PCC or Board of Trustee members

Please note that Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers are not required to complete Deanery Training as they will have separate events.

Do you want to be a Safeguarding Trainer?

Your Diocese needs You!

Raising awareness through training is an essential part of becoming a safer Church. We are actively looking for volunteers to assist in delivering Deanery Training. There is an expectation that suitable applicants would deliver a minimum of four events per year. This can be a very rewarding role.

Further information about the role and an application form can be found at <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/safeguarding-documents/> under the heading Volunteer Trainer Documents

Deanery Training Events:

For 2017, safeguarding training for those in parishes will be provided at Deanery Training events. There will be up to fifty training events in 2017, each for up to forty people. There will generally be one event per week.

Each Deanery has kindly supplied a venue for at least one event. There are different days and times available throughout the year.

To book onto an event please follow the link <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org/deanerysafeguarding/>

Please note you may attend training events which are not in your Deanery.

When the first forty places have been booked for an event, no other bookings will be accepted for that event, but there are plenty of other dates to choose from.

Only some dates for the first quarter of 2017 are advertised at the moment but more will be added soon. However please do not delay and if you require Deanery Training then book on to the first available date! Events will last no longer than three hours and refreshments will be provided.

Safeguarding refresher training is expected to be completed every three years.

<u>Training Dates in 2017</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Saturday 14 th January	10.00 – 1.00 pm	Christ Church, New Road, Ware
Wednesday 18 th January	7.00 – 10.00 pm	St Paul's Church, Gillison Close, Letchworth Garden City
Tuesday 24 th January	7.00 – 10.00 pm	St Thomas of Canterbury, Clapham, Bedford
Monday 30 th January	7.00 – 10.00 pm	St Mary the Virgin, Church Road, Maulden, Bedford
Monday 6 th February	7.15 – 10.15 pm	St Hugh's Church, Leagrave High Street, Luton
Saturday 18 th February	10.00 – 1.00 pm	St Andrew's Church, Plough Hill, Cuffley
Monday 27 th February	7.00 – 10.00 pm	St Mark's Church, Calder Rise, Bedford
Thursday 9 th March	7.00 – 10.00 pm	St Luke's Church, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans
Wednesday 29 th March	7.00 – 10.00 pm	Linslade Church Hall, Vicarage Road, Leighton Buzzard

**SAFEGUARDING AND CLERGY DISCIPLINE MEASURE 2016
UPDATE AND NOTES FOR PARISHES**

Matthew Chinery, the Diocesan Registrar has issued the following guidance on safeguarding matters:-

1. The *Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016*, passed earlier in the year by General Synod and Parliament, is coming into force in various stages between now and Spring 2017.
2. This note focusses on the changes which have already come into effect. The changes are relevant to all Clergy, Readers, Churchwardens and PCCs.

DUTY TO HAVE REGARD TO HOUSE OF BISHOPS' GUIDANCE

3. All persons noted in paragraph 2 above are now (as of 1 October 2016) under a statutory legal duty to pay “*due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.*”
4. This national guidance is contained within several documents. These are catalogued and listed on the following website page <https://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/safeguarding-children-vulnerable-adults/national-policy-practice-guidance.aspx>
5. However, all persons noted above should be familiar with the key documents, “Protecting all God’s Children” and “Promoting a Safe Church”. Other documents will be particularly relevant to some office-holders (e.g. those involved in recruitment should be familiar with and consult the document “Safer Recruitment Policy”). Other documents will need to be consulted in certain specific situations (e.g. the document “Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations”).
6. Not every one of the documents will be relevant in every parish. For example, there is a specific document on Safeguarding within the context of a single-congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership. This guidance will not be relevant to (for example) a Churchwarden of a Parish unless that Parish is involved in an LEP.
7. For all members of the Clergy, failure to have due regard to these policies is a specific, standalone matter of misconduct in accordance with the provisions of the *Clergy Discipline Measure 2003*.
8. A requirement to have “due regard” was defined by the House of Lords in the case of *R v Mumtaz* as a requirement to consider with great care, and to depart from [the guidance] only if [one] has cogent reasons for doing so.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING: PCC REPORT

9. It is now a formal legal obligation for the PCC, in its report to the APCM, to state whether or not the PCC: “*has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).*”
10. An explicit statement to this effect is required, starting from the next APCM in each parish (Spring 2017 in most cases).
11. PCCs therefore need to be thinking, at an early stage, what they corporately need to do to be able to state, in good conscience, that they have complied with this legal duty.
12. The statement made at the APCM is, effectively, a public statement. The PCC’s report to the APCM is often published, whether on a parish website or as part of a PCC’s annual return to the Charity Commission.
13. Failure to have due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance also has the potential to jeopardise a parish’s insurance cover, because the Trustees (PCC Members) will have failed to comply with their legal duties.

/continued overleaf

OTHER CHANGES NOW IN FORCE

14. Clergy are now required to actively check whether occasional or visiting clergy are “in good standing” before permitting them to minister on an occasional basis.
15. All clergy who are prohibited or suspended under the *Clergy Discipline Measure* are now banned from robing during divine service.
16. All authorised clergy (including those with PTO) are obliged to undertake safeguarding training.

FUTURE CHANGES

Further provisions of the *Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016* are due to come into force in January and April 2017 and will be subject to further written advice as necessary in due course.

Queries on this guidance or the new legislation may be directed to the Archdeacons, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or the Registry.

M. J. Chinery
Diocesan Registrar
November 2016



Where to go if you have any Safeguarding concerns:

In an emergency, call emergency services 999

Otherwise, speak to the person to whom you are responsible and consider contacting the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA)

Your DSA will make any appropriate referrals. You can also make referrals but if you do then please inform your DSA.

Remember confidentiality – only tell others who need to know.

Doing nothing is not an option!

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