

SAFEGUARDING NEWS – February 2018

WELCOME to the fifth issue of the newsletter which brings the latest news from the Safeguarding Team to all churches in the Diocese of St Albans.

Introduction by Bishop Alan

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work in 2017 in promoting the welfare of the vulnerable and helping to keep them safe.



The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is an absolute priority in our diocese. In 2017 the safeguarding audit showed that this diocese deals with safeguarding effectively and recognised that we are determined to work together to make our churches and chaplaincies safer places. We are committed to ensuring that anyone who has suffered abuse is properly heard, properly cared for and is entitled to justice. We cannot do this alone. It is the responsibility of everyone to create a culture in which abuse simply will not happen, by showing the care and the responsibility that is our duty as members of the communities in which we live and work. Evidence shows that a strong community is a significant factor in preventing harm. Abuse of any kind is contrary to the will of God, and is an affront to human dignity. We must all work together to ensure our churches, our chaplaincies and our communities are as safe as they can possibly be.

Safeguarding Audit

In September 2017, St Albans Diocese were subject to a national independent safeguarding audit, commissioned by the national Church of England. The resulting report was positive but will not lead to complacency. The appointment of an Assistant DSA will provide scope to build on this good work as well as respond more effectively to increasing ongoing demands.

The audit has now been published on the diocesan website and is available to read on the following link:-

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/safeguarding-audit-published/>

Two new national practice guidelines were introduced in October 2017:

Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Key-Roles-and-Responsibilities-of-Church-Office-Holders-and-Bodies-Practice-Guidance-2017.pdf>

This replaces and updates the 'Responsibilities of Church Organisations' section in 'Protecting all God's Children 2010'. It is supported by the revised Glossary reference document.

Some appendices that may be of particular use to you are:

[Appendix 5: Safeguarding in your parish – who's who?](#)

/continued



For all national policies and practice guidance, CCPAS guidance and other useful safeguarding documents and links, please visit <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-documents/>

The documents and appendices in this newsletter can also be found under the link above.

[Appendix 6: Model Safeguarding Provision that can be attached to any Hire of Church Premises Agreement](#)

Appendix 6 goes hand in hand with another current document, 'What to consider when letting church halls' below;

[What to consider when letting church halls](#)

[Appendix 7: Model Parish Safeguarding Checklist](#)

[Appendix 8: Model Parish Safeguarding Officer Role](#)

Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Responding-to-assessing-and-managing-Safeguarding-concerns-or-allegations-against-church-officers-2017.pdf>

This updates and replaces the following:

- 'Responding to Serious Safeguarding Situations relating to Church Officers' Practice Guidance (June 2015)
- 'Risk Assessment for Individuals who may Pose Risk to Children and Adults' Practice Guidance (June 2015)
- 'Protecting All God's Children 2010' - Chapter 7 'Managing Allegations against Church Officers', Chapter 8 'Suspected abusers and known offenders' and 'the model agreement with offender'
- 'Promoting a Safe Church 2006' (that relates to concerns or allegations against church officers)

The guidance is for use by diocesan and provincial safeguarding advisers and is drawn to your attention for information only. It offers the Church an integrated approach and procedure, brought together in one place, to respond to, assess and manage safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers who have a role with children, young people and /or vulnerable adults.

Can you help others?

Do you have any safeguarding documents that you are willing to share that we could make available to all on our website?

If so then please send them to

safeguarding@stalbens.anglican.org

Deanery Safeguarding Training Reminder

Thank you all for your attendance. Please remember, do not attend without booking.

To book a place on the training please follow <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/deanerysafeguarding/>

More dates will be added soon.

Your Safeguarding Advisers are:

DSA Jez Hirst. 01727 818107 or mobile 07867 305886
Assistant DSA Martyn Hedley 01727 818106 or mobile 07391 010033
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Introducing Martyn Hedley, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Martyn is a retired Police Inspector and has spent several years involved in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. He started his current role in October 2017. Martyn works part time, generally on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but can be contacted at any reasonable time.

Martyn Hedley



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