

SAFEGUARDING NEWS – March 2017

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

Deanery Training

As hopefully most of you are aware, Deanery Training for all parishes is underway and the plan is to deliver about one training event per week in 2017 and onwards, at venues spread throughout the Diocese. These consist of evening events in the week and some Saturdays in the day.

An updated Safeguarding Training and Development Practice Guidance was published by the House of Bishops in January 2017 with the following instruction about who should attend Deanery Training as detailed here:

Anyone with safeguarding leadership responsibilities or responsibility for leading activities involving children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable.

Including but not limited to:

Churchwardens	Pastoral / Home Visitors
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Directors of Music / Choir leaders
Safeguarding lead on the PCC	Youth and children's pastors
Bell Tower Captains and any ringers who train children and/or vulnerable adults	

Also, anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities or who has contact with children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable.

Including but not limited to:

Helpers at activities	Servers
Church administrative staff	

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

To book onto an event please follow the link:

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/deanerysafeguarding/>

More events are being added all the time.

The Diocese does not have the capacity to train everyone this year and so please prioritise who should attend in 2017 from your parish. It is suggested that those from the first list of roles take priority over those from the second list but this is left to the discretion of each parish.

Please could all those attending events arrive 15 minutes early so that the event can start and finish promptly at the advertised times.

Current Booking System

Thank you for bearing with us and identifying the minor issues that we have had with the new online booking system through Eventbrite. Hopefully those teething problems have now passed.

Please note, if you cannot book onto an event because it is full then do not just turn up. The events are booked to capacity and handouts and certificates are printed for the specified number of attendees.

Also note you may attend training events which are not in your Deanery. When all the places have been filled, no other bookings will be accepted for that event, but there are plenty of other dates and venues to choose from.

If you have booked onto an event and cannot attend then please un-enrol online in order that someone else may attend.

Other Safeguarding Qualifications

Whilst it is recognised that some people will have safeguarding experience from other roles and may have attended other courses in this subject, they are required to attend Deanery Training, regardless. The training provided is of a national standard which is specific to the context of the church which, despite the same key safeguarding principles, is significantly different to other safeguarding training.

Unfortunately, 'cascade' training within a parish where one person trains others, will not be recognised as meeting the national standard. However we encourage anyone who is interested to apply to become a volunteer Safeguarding Trainer. Further information about the role and an application form can be found on the link below under the heading Volunteer Trainer Documents.
<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-documents/>

Venues for future dates (from September 2017)

We have had several kind offers of venues to assist us in delivering Deanery Training and if you can assist then please contact Jaspreet Biring jbiring@stalbands.anglican.org who is coordinating these events. We would need capacity for 40 attendees and refreshments facilities and a volunteer/volunteers to help with opening up, chairs, refreshments and locking up etc. The diocese would cover the cost of refreshments but it is hoped that venues might be offered free of charge to avoid placing additional demands on the parish share. We do not have the capacity to offer training events for a specific parish, benefice or deanery and all events would be available to all and advertised through Eventbrite.

Diocesan Website

We recognise that we need to provide parishes with more information and are updating our website to accommodate this. All policies, practice guidance and links to useful information will all be held in one place from now on, including Personal and Activity Risk Assessment templates;

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-documents/>

If you have any good practice guidance or information that you wish to share that is not already available on the diocesan website then please send directly to the DSA, Jez Hirst at safeguarding@stalbands.anglican.org

Please note that this part of the website will evolve throughout the year and we intend to have a comprehensive and easily identifiable list of documents for your use.



DBS

Please contact our DBS umbrella body, CCPAS, for all your DBS enquires. CCPAS are the national lead on DBS eligibility in regard to jobs and roles within the church. They provide the Diocese with a service which includes advice on DBS eligibility.

Please see Appendix 5 in the CCPAS document accessed by the following link for DBS eligibility;

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/CCPAS-Recruiters-Guide.pdf>

CCPAS can be contacted on 0845 120 45 50

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The Church of England have a list of DBS frequently asked questions and answers at;

https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2552019/dbs_faq_july_16_002_.pdf

Currently, a very frequently asked question is “Do all the PCC members need to be DBS checked?”

The answer is - PCCs are charities and therefore PCC members are trustees. Where it sponsors and approves, in its own name, children’s work or work with vulnerable adults (e.g. a Youth Club, Sunday school, home visiting scheme for the housebound or a luncheon club for adults with special needs who require assistance with feeding or toileting) then this recommendation applies.

Further to this, the charity commission take the view that whenever there is a legal entitlement to obtain a DBS check in respect of such a trustee, a check should be carried out.

Looking ahead

Online safeguarding training is due to be introduced in 2017. This will not affect those identified in this document who are required to attend Deanery Training.

Specialised training on Safer Recruitment and also Domestic Abuse is expected to be delivered later this year.

There will be more information about all of these in a future edition of Safeguarding News.

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Registered Charity No 248887

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