

SAFEGUARDING NEWS — September 2018

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

This edition contains some resources and information about reading material regarding safeguarding in a theological context which you will hopefully find helpful and of interest.

There is an update on a new course for laity on Safer Recruitment which will be delivered by our excellent volunteer trainers.

We are hugely grateful to our small group of volunteer trainers who are providing such an important service by delivering safeguarding training in parishes.



Foreword by Bishop Michael

Throughout the Gospels, it's striking to see how often Jesus meets, or tells stories about people whose difficult experience is otherwise overlooked. Often, Jesus draws attention to the way that this overlooking is undertaken particularly by those in religious leadership or authority who often see difficult experiences as matters to be ignored, or inconveniences to be brushed over. I wish we could say that times have changed, and that such practice no longer exists. But when I read the report of what survivors of abuse have said about their treatment by the Church "We asked for bread but you gave us stones" - well, as a leader in the Church, I just hang my head in shame.

How might we do better? I'd suggest three initial ways forward to think about. The first is to see safeguarding not as some kind of extra that's put upon us, but as an integral part of our faith - responding well to those whose experience has been difficult or painful is what Jesus does and so we should seek to follow him and do that too. So I'm delighted that this edition of our safeguarding newsletter points to resources that help us think about this work theologically - as part of our work and prayer, not an adjunct to it - and I commend these to you. Second we must find ways of responding better to those who have been affected by abuse. My own experience is that it is immensely challenging to do this well and to get things right - we often get things wrong - but I hope that only increases our determination to keep working on this and to find a better way. Finally, reading the stories of survivors of abuse only acts to strengthen my personal resolve to ensure that abuse doesn't happen at all, and so I'm intensely grateful to you for the work you do to make our churches safe spaces where all can be welcomed and cared for. Please may I encourage you to continue this work? It's at the heart of our faith.

Theological Thinking on Safeguarding (from the Church's Faith and Order Commission)

We are pleased to offer two book recommendations that offer an insight into safeguarding in a theological context:

Forgiveness and Reconciliation in The Aftermath Of Abuse

Published by Church House Publishing in September 2017. A companion volume to *The Gospel, Sexual Abuse and the Church*, it is particularly intended to guide all those who preach, teach and exercise pastoral ministry. In the preface Bishop Christopher Cocksworth said that this document "is, to a considerable extent, new ground:

while much has been written about each of these three things - forgiveness, reconciliation, and the aftermath of abuse - there is not a great deal that addresses them together in the way that is attempted in this document."

[Read it electronically](#) or purchase it from the Church House Publishing [website](#) and bookshop.

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The Gospel, Sexual Abuse and The Church: A Theological Resource for the Local Church

Released by Church House Publishing in June 2016. This resource was produced in response to a request from the lead bishop for safeguarding and commended for study by the House of Bishops. It includes discussion questions and Bible study materials.

[Read it electronically](#) or purchase it from the Church House Publishing [website](#).

Safer Recruitment Training

Good news. Safer Recruitment training (module S1) is now available to parishes for laity to attend. Most clergy have now completed this important module and it is now available for two or three laity from each church to attend. Please could each church nominate no more than two or three lay people who are involved in the recruitment process who would benefit most from this training. It is essential that the lead recruiter for DBS checks through CCPAS (now rebranded as thirtyone:eight), as well as the Parish Safeguarding Officer attends, although it recognised that these roles are generally done by the same person. This training is classroom based and lasts for three hours and will be presented by our volunteer trainers, having been adapted to suit the needs of parishes.

Safer Recruitment is the preventative strategy in safeguarding which is there to ensure, to the best of our ability and means available, that the staff we employ who work with children and vulnerable adults are safe to do so.

There are four courses planned from Autumn this year and they can be accessed here;

[Safer Recruitment module for laity](#)

The events are advertised as **S1 Safer Recruitment Safeguarding**.

There will be further events in 2019 which have not yet been arranged. As with the Module C2 classroom based safeguarding training, the events will be spread around the diocese.

Please note, any clergy who have so far missed this training, there is one further event provided for them by CCPAS. Please book onto this at:

[Safer Recruitment module for Clergy](#)

Module C2 Training dates

Could I ask all those who need to undertake Module C2 classroom based safeguarding training to book on one of the remaining events for 2018:

[Safeguarding Training module C2](#)

These are advertised as **C2 Deanery Safeguarding**.

For all other up to date training information, please refer to the February Safeguarding Training Newsletter 2018;

[Safeguarding Training Newsletter 2018](#)

Parish Safeguarding Officer DBS Eligibility

In the February 2018 newsletter we introduced the national document;

Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders and Bodies

And from within this we shared a link to the Parish Safeguarding Officer Role.

St Albans Diocese have amended the model Parish Safeguarding Officer Role document as we expect all PSOs to have a supervisory role over all workers with vulnerable groups, which includes workers involved in regulated activity.

[Model Parish Safeguarding Officer Role](#)

This role means that all Parish Safeguarding Officers are eligible for a DBS enhanced check including a check of the barred lists as part of safer recruitment, (unless there are no church activities involving children and vulnerable adults) and as always, if a person is eligible for a DBS check then they must have one. Please could you ensure that your PSO has an up to date DBS check.

Thirtyone:eight (formerly CCPAS) are aware of this directive and will support your applications.

Publication - Stones not Bread

Andrew Graystone, a leadership and communications consultant with extensive experience in the media, charity and faith sectors, asked abuse victims how the Church could better help them. He wanted the leaders of the Church to take on board some of the insights he has been given into the experience of victims. So he asked a number of people who have been abused within a church context to answer questions about the ways in which the Church had responded to them. Their verbatim replies are contained in a booklet, *Stones Not Bread*, which was presented to all members of the General Synod when they met earlier this year.

[Stones not Bread](#)



Sharing the Peace

Please see the guidance available on the diocesan website in regard to sharing the peace;

[Guidelines on Sharing the Peace](#)

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