

SAFEGUARDING NEWS — October 2023

WELCOME to the nineteenth issue of the newsletter which brings the latest updates from the Safeguarding Team to all churches and chaplaincies in the Diocese of St Albans.

This issue introduces:

- * Safeguarding Sunday
- * Safeguarding Hub – introducing Stage 3
- * Training



Foreword by the Bishop of Hertford

The next few months provide us with a run of opportunities to both reflect and celebrate with our communities. Many parishes will already have celebrated harvest. In November we enter into a season of Remembrance with All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday. Then, before we know it, we're into Advent and Christmas with all the opportunities to engage with schools, community groups and others. It's a busy few months, but months filled with opportunities to reach out to people with the compassionate love and care of God and with the joy of the incarnation.

As we do so, the welcome we give is so important and part of that welcome is to make sure that we are able to keep all who enter through our doors, and all who we go out to engage with, safe. So, in the midst of all the busy preparations for the remainder of the year, I would encourage you to keep a careful eye on the practicalities of what a good and safe welcome looks like.

Making sure that our welcome and our churches are safe places to be is not the glamorous, upfront side of church and ministry, but it's crucial that it underpins everything else we do. As you plan for the next few months why not take the opportunity to highlight the ministry and work of those who make sure that the welcome into our churches is good and safe by marking Safeguarding Sunday on 19th November.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make sure that our churches are safe places for all.

Safeguarding Sunday

What is it all about?

Safeguarding Sunday is a safeguarding awareness raising campaign for churches run by the charity Thirtyone:eight. Each November, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions across the UK come together to reflect on their own safeguarding journey, and to highlight and celebrate all the good work that is being done by so many behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people.

If the 19th November is not suitable it can be done on another day. The more time dedicated to focus on safeguarding in a service, the greater the impact for the church, so if it has to be on a different day, that's okay – it's celebrating it and raising the profile that's important.

Registration is open

On Sunday 19 November 2023 churches will be marking Safeguarding Sunday together. Last year thousands of churches took part in Safeguarding Sunday.

Register to get your FREE digital church resource pack at <https://thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday/>

Safeguarding Hub

St Albans Diocese were one of the first dioceses to buy into the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard in 2019 and we are still pleased that this useful tool is helping so many parishes reach the expected safeguarding standards, and giving a clear plan for PCCs to consider when actions need completing. The developers of the Dashboard have since extended this with a Safeguarding Hub, which sits alongside the Dashboard, and this was launched earlier this year in this diocese. Safeguarding Hubs help parishes with **safer recruitment and people management**.

I am pleased to say that the Recruitment Tracker is now ready! This is Stage 3 and it goes live on 3rd October.

Whether you have already started to use the Safeguarding Hub or not, please find below the links for the videos to introduce how it works and what each stage does and how to make use of it. If you haven't tried it out, please look at the videos and give it a try. For those already using it, please make good use of Stage 3.

Safeguarding Hub introduction

<https://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/hubs.php>

Stage 1

<https://www.safeguardinghubs.org.uk/stage-1.php>

Stage 2

<https://www.safeguardinghubs.org.uk/stage-2.php>

Stage 3

You can preview the new tutorial video here <https://www.safeguardinghubs.org.uk/stage-3.php>

Stage 3, the Recruitment Tracker oversees safer recruitment and creates Volunteer Agreements. It helps a parish to meet the national mandatory safeguarding requirements by:

- Keeping track of the safer recruitment process for each applicant
- Retaining evidence that each mandatory step has been completed
- Automatically creating the Volunteer Agreement, which must be signed by the volunteer and the designated Responsible Person
- Archiving a signed copy of the agreement for future reference

When you have clicked on a link and viewed a video, please sign into Parish Safeguarding Dashboard/Safeguarding Hub at <https://www.parishdashboards.org.uk/> or your usual way.

For those who have not yet registered for the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard, or the Safeguarding Hub, I would encourage you to do so to help organise and keep your safeguarding requirements and safer recruitment information together and up to date. Please email Catherine with a request to register cboon@stalbans.anglican.org

If you encounter any problems, there is a 'help' button at the bottom left-hand side of the screen that you can simply click on when you are using the application.

Help can also be sought from the Hub Support Officer for Clearly Simpler, the developers of the dashboard and the hub. Jan Pringle can be reached at jan.pringle@clearlysimply.co.uk



Training

There is some good news in regard to safeguarding training figures – they are steadily increasing!

I am pleased to share some figures with you below, to show the dire state we were in in January 2023 and the position we are in now.

Although the increases through this year are promising, this is the result of hard work collating the figures, numerous email and newsletter requests from the safeguarding team, letters from the Archdeacons, letters from the Bishop and a follow-up phone call campaign to those who hold the Bishop's licence who have not complied.

This is certainly not a time to be complacent and the upward trend needs to continue at this pace. Please don't lose sight of the fact that we are still way off where we need to be.

With this in mind, please could you take personal responsibility to log in to the portal and check that you have completed the courses mandated for your role. <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/> (Please note that the portal does not hold a record of Leadership training taken within the diocese, it only records online courses taken on the portal).

If you have not completed any of the required online courses, please do so.

The national church are responsible for the portal and this online training, and can be contacted at elarning@mail.safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org should there be any IT issues with these courses

For those who have not checked, please click on the link below which is the relevant newsletter which gives you the information you need about how to check whether your training modules are up-to-date or not.

[Safeguarding Training Newsletter November 2021](#)

Thank you to those who have checked their online training status on the national training portal and have completed any outstanding courses.

As always, many thanks to our volunteer trainers and facilitators who present the leadership courses and promote the lively theological discussion around safeguarding.

If your leadership course is due, Catherine Boon will contact you to arrange a date. Please make sure you have completed C0 (Basic Awareness) and C1 (Foundations) beforehand if you have not completed them before, as this is a requirement for the leadership course.

We are running two further **Parish Safeguarding Induction** courses in October and November. These are not just for those new to the role but are for any PSO who feels they would benefit from attending.

The course will cover:

- The PSO role
- Parish responsibilities
- Self-development in your role
- Standards required by House of Bishops Guidance and how we achieve them
- Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub
- Case studies and discussion
- Question and answer session



To book, please see the invitation email sent out to all PSOs at the beginning of September and click on the booking link within it. If you can no longer find this email, please contact Catherine at cboon@stalbans.anglican.org and she will resend it to you.

Training continued

Current training figures as of September 2023

Clergy – 407 out of 504 Clergy are all up-to-date (up from 149 out of 522 clergy in January 2023).

19% of Clergy have not yet completed their safeguarding training requirements.

This breaks down to parish clergy and clergy with PTO –

260 out of 318 **parish clergy** have completed all of the required training (up from 112 out of 330 in January 2023).

18% of parish clergy have not yet completed their safeguarding training requirements.

147 out of 186 **clergy with PtO** have completed all the required training (up from 37 out of 192 in January 2023).

21% of PtO Clergy have not yet completed their safeguarding training requirements.

Readers - 153 out of 245 Readers are all up-to-date (up from 99 out of 250 in January 2023).

38% of Readers have not yet completed their safeguarding training requirements.

Parish Safeguarding Officers – 115 out of 309 are all up-to-date (up from 79 out of 305 in January 2023).

63% of PSOs have not yet completed their safeguarding training requirements.

Important reminder

For PCCs – the diocese has also checked the insurance position with Ecclesiastical Insurance, with whom most parishes are insured. Ecclesiastical's Underwriters have confirmed that the public liability insurance provided under their parish policies will indemnify the Policyholder against their legal liabilities provided that all reasonable precautions are taken. In the safeguarding area this means adopting best practice, including being compliant and up-to-date with the relevant training. This means you would not be insured in the event of a serious safeguarding incident in your parish or chaplaincy if this is not the case.

Please see further information from our registrar on this subject at <https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/legal-advice-and-insurance-advice-regarding-training-compliance/>.

Please note that it is the responsibility of PCCs and all church leaders to pro-actively determine who still needs to complete any training, not just the responsibility of Parish Safeguarding Officers. We ask that that safeguarding training is raised as an item on the agenda at each PCC meeting.

We cannot stress enough the importance of raising awareness through training.



**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

Your Diocesan Safeguarding Team are:



Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) Jez Hirst. 01727 818107 or mobile 07867 350886
Jez works full time.



Assistant DSA Dave Adams 01727 818104 or mobile 07469 351357
Dave works full time.



Assistant DSA Mandy Davies. 01727 818117 or mobile 07771 179015
A key part of Mandy's role is the co-ordination, preparation, and delivery of safeguarding training.
Mandy works part time. Her usual workdays are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Assistant DSA Warren Lucas 01727 818106 or mobile 07311 310545
Warren is part time, and his usual workdays are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Email address for all: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org



Catherine Boon
Training and Safeguarding Administrator
01727 818103 cboon@stalbans.anglican.org
Catherine works on weekdays between 9:15am and 2.45pm.



Lesley Shrosbree, DBS and Safeguarding Administrator
01727 818101 dbs@stalbans.anglican.org
Lesley works 9:30am -2pm on Monday to Thursday and 1:30pm to 4:30pm on Fridays.

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Registered Office: **Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts. AL1 1HE**

Switchboard: 01727 854532 Web: www.stalbans.anglican.org