

December 2024

Safeguarding Newsletter



Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager

Welcome to our Christmas 2024 safeguarding newsletter. I can't believe another year has passed us by and what a very busy year it has been for our area of work. This Christmas, I want to particularly send my best wishes to everybody who has suffered a bereavement this year or who continue to find life difficult due to people they will be missing. I wanted to most sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to safeguarding over the past year and especially in enabling us to

better understand where parishes are at with the dashboard uptake.

Ben

Maiken Report

Many of you will, like me, feel very concerned by the findings of the Maiken report. You can read both my and [Bishop Michael's statements on the publication here](#). Quite naturally, following the publication of this report the team has received incredibly high numbers of referrals, requests for contact, media enquiries and have needed to reach out and support a large number of people.

INEQE Audit Update / Training delivery for the remainder of 2024 and January

Ahead of March's Safeguarding Audit of Bath and Wells, the auditors INEQE, have now opened the survey that we are asking people across the diocese, including yourselves, to engage with. We will be sending details of the survey directly to some of those we hope will engage with it, such as survivors, and promoting it widely so we can have get as much information to support us as we seek to continued to improve safeguarding in all our settings.

[Complete the survey](#)

[Download the poster](#)

[Find out more about the safeguarding audit](#)

As well as asking for your views using the survey, before the audit there will be focus groups held with PSOs which I hope many of you will take part in.

Details of these will be shared in due course.

Please also bear in mind that the audit is a lengthy and resource-heavy process that needs to be completed by the middle of January, so please bear with the team during this period as response times may be

affected. We will also be reducing the amount of training delivered in December and January in order to divert some of our resources to this work.



Bishop Michael's video can be [viewed on YouTube](#) or can be downloaded from [Vimeo](#).

Safeguarding Dashboards

You may have recently seen Bishop Michael's bulletin which made the announcement that Dashboards were now diocesan policy and must be completed by all parishes. Those parishes not receiving dashboards have received an email from the team asking for assurance that appropriate safeguarding measures are in place. We now only have 17 parishes not signed up to using them. The team will continue to do all they can to promote dashboard use and support your use of them.

Changes to how you contact the safeguarding team

From January 2025 we will be moving towards having a central phone line for the safeguarding team rather than individual staff numbers. This is to enable us to prioritise enquiries and ensure that we can get everything done in a timely manner. We will be monitoring the new system when it is in place

to determine if it helps people get in touch and receive a timely response, and welcome your feedback.

As a very small department covering 466 parishes and a Cathedral, we have at times struggled to keep up with the growing demand on us – due to the high levels of training, engagement and proactive work by all our church communities.

You can help us help you by noting the following:

1. DBS general queries: Email:
dbs.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org
2. DBS eligibility query or DBS platform technical query: Call 31:8, who manage the system for Bath and Wells on 0303 003 1111.
3. Training queries: Email:training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org
4. Dashboard queries or general / non urgent enquiries: Email:safe.guarding@bathwells.anglican.org. Please also use this mailbox to request things such as support with a new PSO or if you need some one-to-one support so that our safeguarding coordinator can book an appointment in.
5. Safeguarding referrals or concerns: ideally these should be made online via the [Reporting concerns or abuse web page](#). This allows the team to assess the concern and respond appropriately. It also means it can be actioned by either Jo or Ben. They can also take referrals by phone and will always respond to a referral within 24 hours.
6. Out of hours emergency helpline 0303 003 1111.

PSO celebration events

In order to celebrate the contribution made by Parish Safeguarding Officers, a number of events are planned by Bishop Michael in May and June next year at the Bishop's Palace. Invitations will be sent in the new year and I hope to see as many of you there as possible so I can thank you for all you do, in person.

Christmas office closure dates

The Safeguarding office will be closed between 23 December 2024 and 3 January 2025. During this period there will be daytime and out of hours cover for safeguarding by our out of hours provider, 31:8 on 0303 003 1111.

Should any significant, urgent issues arise these be reported to your archdeacon who can escalate the concern to one of the Safeguarding team if required.

Safer recruitment and support for publicly recognised Church roles Safer recruitment and support for publicly recognised Church roles

As a diocese we are committed to supporting all those in ministry. Many people exercise an important ministry in support of pastoral care or in leading worship. There are a number of resources available to assist in the equipping of Lay Pastoral Assistants and Lay Worship Assistants. It is important that those called into these roles are safely recruited and all have undertaken the appropriate safeguarding checks and training. We track this via a registration process, renewable every three years.

For further information, a resource pack, an application pack or a renewal of ministry application please contact the Ministry Training team: [email training@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:training@bathwells.anglican.org)

Safeguarding training – Winter 2024-2025

Before taking or renewing the Leadership course, we recommend revisiting the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses for a reminder of the basics, which can be done online, through the CofE training portal: [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](https://www.cofeportal.org)

Safeguarding Leadership Courses:

The standard Safeguarding Leadership course is delivered as two sessions, one week apart. The two sessions are available either in-person at Flourish House, Wells, or online via Zoom.

Please note: The course is supported by a workbook, which contains tasks that need to be completed and submitted to the training inbox one week before the first session.

A download link for the workbook is included in the Eventbrite confirmation email.

- Wednesday 8 and Wednesday 15 January, online (Zoom) 7:00-8:30 pm
- Thursday 23 and Thursday 30 January, in-person at Flourish House 10:00-12:00 pm

Safeguarding Leadership for PTOs

- Thursday 9 January, in-person at Flourish House 10:00am-1:00pm

Courses are booked through Eventbrite and can be accessed by visiting the events calendar on the diocesan website and filtering for Safeguarding:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/calendar/>

If you have any difficulties in booking, please email:

training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org

PSO Induction

- In person at Flourish House Thursday 12th February.

Thank you

Thank you to all of those who submitted their responses to the safeguarding leadership training survey sent out last month. We had a wonderful level of engagement with more than 100 responses! We do appreciate your feedback so we can continue to improve our training and focus our resources where they are most needed. We are in the process of writing a reflection to your feedback that we hope to publish soon.

Wells Cathedral



The Diocesan Safeguarding team also provides safeguarding services at Wells Cathedral. If you are a cathedral volunteer, you can contact Safeguarding Manager, Ben Goodhind or Jo Austin, Safeguarding Caseworker with any safeguarding concerns. Jo works from Wells Cathedral one day a week.

Contacting the Safeguarding team

Our team covers 466 parishes and Wells Cathedral and since 2021 we have seen the volume of enquiries increase by 300%. In order to support you quickly and effectively please note the following:

DBS enquiries - [email dbs.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:email.dbs.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org) or if it relates to eligibility contact 31:8 directly on 0303 003111 as they manage DBS for us.

Safeguarding referrals - please use the [reporting form on the diocesan website](#). This allows the team to review and respond accordingly. Alternatively contact Ben or Jo by telephone. All referrals will be responded to within 24 hours.

Training enquiries - [email training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:email.training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org)

Out of hours emergency helpline - 0303 003 1111

For non-referral queries, the quickest way of reaching Ben and Jo is via email - this allows them to prioritise the most pressing enquiries according to need.

Meet the Safeguarding team



01749 588917

Ben.Goodhind@bathwells.anglican.org



Jo Austin, Safeguarding
Caseworker

[Jo Austin's contact information.](#)



Jake Lent, Safeguarding
Coordinator (maternity cover)

[Jake Lent's contact information.](#)



Enita Andrews, Safeguarding
Trainer

[Enita Andrews's contact
information.](#)

Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall,
Safeguarding Trainer

[Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall's contact
information.](#)



Safeguarding - Diocese of Bath and Wells

Flourish House, Wells
United Kingdom

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