

## Safeguarding Newsletter September 2022:

Already summer seems a long time ago as we move into what is always a busy period for our team as everyone returns from their summer breaks. This newsletter marks my first year in post as Safeguarding Manager. We have achieved a lot in the last twelve months in changing the structure and staff within the team and trying to improve on how we communicate with you all. We have completed our work with PCR2 and undertaken unprecedented levels of casework and safeguarding advice as we have all left lockdown and returned to our previous lives.

Whilst I have really enjoyed my first year with you, I'm also struck by the huge amount of work that is still needed. This is especially in reviewing and improving our support for survivors and also making our website fit for purpose. When you work within a small team sometimes things can take a frustratingly long time to put into place, but rest assured we are all committed to being the best we can be to support the diocese and all of you.

## Safeguarding Sunday 2022

I joined just a few days before 2021's Safeguarding Sunday and as such we were not able to give this event as much of a push as I would have liked. This year the event will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Please see the attached link to register your church and to receive a free resource pack [Safeguarding Sunday | Thirtyone:eight \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](https://www.thirtyoneeight.org)

We would like all of our churches to reflect on safeguarding within their service on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November and in particular to give thanks to those who volunteer within the Parish to do this important work. One idea is for you to ask your Parish Safeguarding Officer to read the Safeguarding Prayer (below) and use that as an opportunity for everyone to see who they are. Perhaps you may wish to share a reflection on why safeguarding is so important to you.

Last year I reflected deeply on the impact of domestic abuse within society. This was particularly with the impact of Covid and lockdown in mind. This year I will be reflecting personally on the impact our safeguarding work has on our mental health. The vast majority of my out of hours calls relate to mental health concerns, including thoughts of causing harm to oneself. The impact that Covid, the financial crisis and just the pressures of modern life have had on all of our mental health has been really visible over the past twelve months and I feel the support provided by parishes in caring for each other is one of our key strengths as a community. Tragically I lost a friend and former colleague to suicide earlier this year who, unbeknown to most of his friends and former colleagues, had been really struggling with the competing pressures of work and family life. I will be holding onto that experience to motivate myself to do all I can to support those who are struggling with their mental health, for whatever reason.

### **Safeguarding Sunday Prayer 2022**

Dear God,

Help us to be a church that:

Loves, welcomes, protects.

Listens, learns, serves.

Repents, restores, transforms.

Values, cares, believes.

God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer.

Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.

In Jesus name.

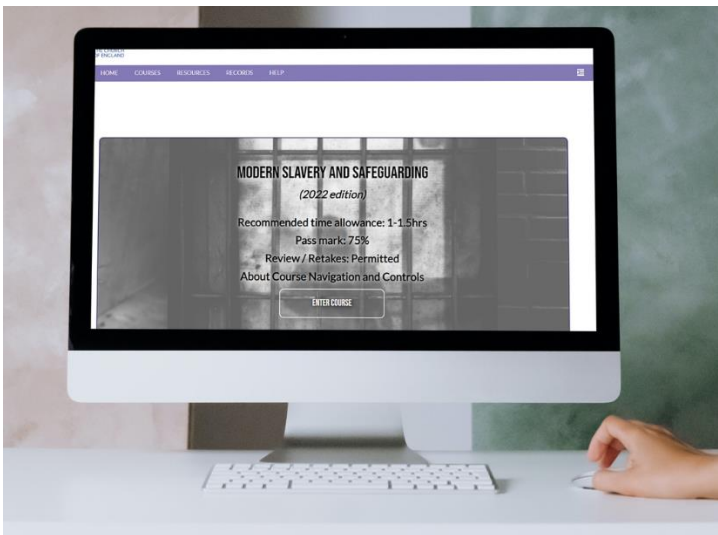
Amen.

## Training Update

We are now accepting bookings onto our relaunched Leadership Training in October and November. This is via the following link [Bath and Wells Diocese | Calendar](#). We are using Eventbrite to enable you to register for your courses yourself or amend your training dates if you need to. This service will also send out the workbooks and remind you to complete your reflections and evaluations. I have had some emails with concerns for those who can't use the internet and I wanted to reassure you that you can still email us to request bookings at [training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org). I'm sure you will make our new trainers feel very welcome and we look forward to adding further training to our calendar later this month. I do sincerely apologise for delays accessing training but I'm confident for our future delivery both in terms of quality and ability to meet demand.

### Modern Slavery Training module on safeguarding e-portal

Modern slavery is present in every single community in the UK. Last year, [12,727 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office's National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) – a 20% increase on 2020. Sadly, the real number of victims in the UK could be many times higher - the [Global Slavery Index](#) believes there are approximately 136,000 victims living in slavery in the UK. Many victims are unseen and never speak up or get discovered.



The criminal gangs or individual exploiters use a range of methods to control victims and these methods are increasingly sophisticated and always evolving. For this reason, it is essential that safeguarding officers keep their knowledge up to date.

[The Clewer Initiative](#), the Church of England's response to modern slavery, has recently revised the Modern Slavery module on the Church of England's online safeguarding portal. The new, interactive material shares insight about how modern slavery is manifesting itself within UK communities and how to recognise, respond, refer and record concerns. The module is useful to anyone with a safeguarding remit

and can be broken down into sections so participants can take a break at any point and return to complete when convenient. To find out more, visit [Safeguarding Training Portal: Log in to the site \(cofeportal.org\)](#)

### New campaign to coincide with Anti-Slavery Day: Make it Slavery Free

Awareness and action is vital. To help galvanise our communities, The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's response to modern slavery, is launching a new campaign - [Make it Slavery Free](#). The hope is that groups and individuals will work towards building slavery-free communities by pledging to carry out three anti-slavery actions this year. This could include setting up a social action project, attending a safeguarding seminar on modern slavery, making a commitment to ethical purchasing or simply using the Safe Car Wash App.



The Clewer Initiative has [lots of anti-slavery ideas](#) online and has designed easily-customisable Make It Slavery Free posters and flyers, available to order from [Christian Publishing & Outreach](#). Please spread the word about [Make it Slavery Free](#) – it is a yearlong campaign and any action, no matter how small, could change or save the life of somebody in desperate circumstances.

Best wishes,

Ben

**Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells