



April 2026

Welcome everybody to the latest edition of the Safeguarding Newsletter. We have lots to share with you this month, including all the latest news, changes, and developments in the Safeguarding Department.

While this does include the loss of Jacqui and Enita as our safeguarding trainers, it also brings the opportunity for new and exciting ways of working. There are also details of the changes you can expect to see within the team, and our provision for safeguarding training, throughout the year.



Ben Goodhind
Safeguarding Manager

Thank you, farewell, and welcome

After several years with the Safeguarding team Jacqui Keir-Bucknall, is retiring to focus on her ministry. Meanwhile Enita Andrews, who works with the team one day a week, will be returning to work full-time as the diocesan HR Manager.

Ben said, "Both Jacqui and Enita are well loved by their colleagues and training participants and have been a crucial part of our improvements as a team. We wish them every happiness in their future endeavours."

From 1 May, Becca Faal and Helen Styles, experienced trainers working

across the Dioceses of Gloucester and Bristol in Leadership and PTO training, will begin working with the Bath and Wells Safeguarding team.

Becca and Helen also run a safeguarding training business delivering training to dioceses in the south west. Their appointment will help ensure continuity in the training schedule, avoiding gaps that can be particularly challenging when a Bishop's License is required.

They will initially support the diocese from May to the end of July. There is no safeguarding training during August. It is hoped a decision about the future direction of safeguarding training will be made in September, following an evaluation over the next few months to discern how to provide the best quality training at an appropriate cost to the diocese.

Save the date! Annual PSO Conference – 5 Sept

Save yourself a seat and [register for the Annual PSO Celebration and Networking Day](#) taking place at 10:00 on 5 September 2026 at Flourish House, Wells - an opportunity to attend workshops, network, and be affirmed in all that you do for safeguarding where you are.

A reminder to complete pre-course work

A reminder to continue to ensure that when you sign up for Leadership or PTO training that you complete all the required pretraining work a week before your first session. This work forms the basis of the sessions you will undertake, and the trainers do read it all to help shape the sessions they deliver. Once you have finished the course please remember to complete the post course reflections and evaluation within the time frame set by the trainers.

Year of Action on Domestic Abuse

The Safeguarding team plan to offer more PSO forums in a new format. They will be a lecture-style training format on a range of contemporary safeguarding topics, followed by the opportunity to ask questions and network. This year's forums will focus on the Year of Action on Domestic Abuse.

[All dates are now available to book online via Eventbrite.](#)

- **May - Spiritual Abuse and Domestic Violence**
With Sally Hope, from Always Hopeful (online via Zoom) on Wednesday, 27 May 14:00 – 15:30
- **June - Parental Experience of Violence in The Home**
With PEGS (online via Zoom) on Thursday 11 June, 14:00 – 15:30
- **July - Supporting Male Victims**
With Mankind (online via Zoom) on Thursday 2 July, 14:00 – 15:30
- **October - Theological look at Domestic Abuse with Bishop Michael**
through the lens of a case study in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
In person at Flourish House on Thursday 15 October 13:00 – 15:00
- **November - Supporting Those Experiencing Violence in Same Sex Relationships**
With Galop (online via Zoom) on Thursday, 19 November, 14:00 – 15:30
- **December - Dementia and Domestic Abuse**
With Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager (online via Zoom) on Thursday, 3 December, 14:00 – 15:30.

New safer recruitment and people management guidance

The national Church has developed new safer recruitment and people management guidance. It is now available on their website: [Safer Recruitment and People Management Code of Practice | The Church of England](#). The content of the guidance has been updated to reflect the most up to date legislation and good practice.

It is now split into 'pathways' for different roles and includes separate pathways for Volunteers, Paid Staff Members and Elected Members (such as PCC members or Churchwardens). It aims to make the recruitment process clearer and more directly applicable to parish roles.

Please do familiarise yourself with these pathways if you are recruiting. Links to the new guidance are currently being updated on the diocesan website.

Leadership training dates

Leadership training is now available up to the end of May 2026. There are spaces still available for April 2026. There is a six week period of reflection following the training before your final course work can be submitted, so

please ensure you book a date well in advance of your current training expiring. [Visit the Safeguarding Eventbrite page](#) to book your place.

A short form of the Leadership training for Clergy and Reader PTO is available on 21 May 2026.

Please note, this course will not run again until July 2026 so please do ensure that you book your place if your Leadership is due to expire by September 2026.

Other training opportunities

An invitation from Stand Against Racism & Inequality (SARI) for their final open access training of the financial year: Hate crime awareness training with a focus on faith, religion and belief. This session will run on Thursday 9 April, 10:00 - 12:00 (via Microsoft Teams).

To sign up for the session, please fill out this [short form](#). SARI will then add you to our calendar invite.

PCC safeguarding resources

Some safeguarding scenarios (created by our trainers) along with some culture discussion worksheets from the Dashboard have been added to the [Safeguarding Resources and Policies page](#) of the diocesan website under the 'DBS and training guidance' drop-down box. These can be used with your PCC to help get people thinking about and discussing the practicalities of safeguarding and to explore the culture that you want to promote within your parish.

Safeguarding at Wells Cathedral



Did you know the Diocesan Safeguarding team also provides safeguarding services to Wells Cathedral and the Wells Cathedral School Choristers during their time at the Cathedral? We are pleased to announce that as of January the Cathedral have a new specialist Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor. Jill Edmunds will be working under my supervision as safeguarding advisor but employed directly by the Cathedral. We hope this can add to the safeguarding offer provided by the Cathedral and also form a closer link to the congregation, school and chapter.



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