

# DIOCESE OF ELY

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## SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

### Safeguarding Department

Barton Road  
Ely, CB7 4DX

Duty Phone: 01353 652747  
[www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding](http://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding)



The Church of England  
Diocese of Ely

# Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter

## Welcome to the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter.

A quarterly publication produced by the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Department to help advise and guide our parishes and church leaders on a range of safeguarding related matters.

Remember, you can contact the team and find a range of supporting materials on the [Diocese of Ely Safeguarding pages of the website by clicking here.](#)

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### Safeguarding Season November 2022 and Safeguarding Webinars



During November 2022 the Diocese of Ely and Ely Cathedral launched Safeguarding Season.

During this week there was a

Loudfence event at the Cathedral, which was

very well supported and provided an opportunity for those attending the Cathedral or virtually, to attach a ribbon and a message of support for victims and survivors of all forms of abuse.

There were also a series of webinars that focussed on, and raised awareness of, a wide-ranging number of safeguarding issues that affect all our communities.

These included the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Service, Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA), Survivors Voices, Hate Crime Awareness and the Clewer Initiative.

In addition, The Ven Richard Harlow, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, gave a webinar on A Theology of Safeguarding. All of the webinars received excellent feedback and proved to be a real success.

We are mindful that many people were unable to attend some of the webinars and as such some of the video recordings have now been made available on the Diocesan Safeguarding page for those wishing to see them. Please use this link to access the webinars <https://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding-season-2022-webinars.php>

### Safeguarding Sunday 2023

SAVE THE DATE for next year: **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**



## PSO Networking Meetings

The Safeguarding Team are always looking for ways to best support the Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) across the diocese. We will be running the PSO Networking meetings quarterly, rather than just twice a year. The Safeguarding Newsletter will be published prior to this meeting and will form part of the meeting's agenda

For the meeting on 26 January we are very pleased to have Georgina Mitchell from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) joining us. Georgina is the Regional Outreach Adviser (East Anglia)

The DBS Outreach Advisers will be working with organisations and networks within their region in several ways, including:

- answering DBS-related queries and providing advice via phone/email
- attending meetings, training and conferences, or visiting your organisation to have a face-to-face discussion (in line with pandemic restrictions)
- developing and delivering presentations, workshops, webinars or discussions to provide an overview of DBS
- collating feedback, suggestions or comments and feeding this back into DBS
- helping organisations/networks to understand what level of DBS check can be applied for, and what information these checks will provide
- informing organisations and employers of their duty or power to refer

Georgina will run a short presentation and be available to answer questions. As this is an extended agenda the meeting will start at 10am and finish at 12pm.

## Scam Warning

The Safeguarding team received some upsetting information regarding one person's experience at the hands of a would-be scammer. We have been given permission to share their account of events to highlight a time

of vulnerability and how some people can use this for financial or other forms of exploitation.

*I feel the need to highlight a situation that happened to me personally last year, which in hindsight I believe is relevant. This is an opportunity for me to mention another form of abuse to which I was subjected. Whilst we might think of abuse as a coercive, bullying, or sexual act, the abuse I experienced was equally damaging. At the time I could not talk about it because of the mental trauma it caused. However, because it followed the sudden death of my husband, my story might help other ministers in their work with bereaved families.*

*To highlight this is still quite painful, but I feel I should speak to those who deal regularly with families after the death of a loved one. My experience was of abuse when I was at my lowest ebb, and it took a long time to come to terms with. I was completely unaware of this form of abuse and how damaging it is.*

*Soon after my husband's death I started to receive hundreds of phone calls, even during the night. After the first few, I did not answer the calls, but wrote down the time and numbers: they were all different, and the original callers had foreign accents. The calls carried on relentlessly day after day, night after night. I became more withdrawn and anxious, and totally unable to speak about it. I was given a book by my bank with a number for Victims' Support, and I subsequently spoke to a mentor, who contacted the police. They interviewed me and took away my long lists of phone numbers, and even spoke to my doctor. They agreed that the abuse constituted severe harassment and following their visit my phone number was changed and the calls stopped.*

*This abuse caused me serious anxiety. I was scared to go out at night for fear of being watched and was completely unable to speak about it even to my friends at church or to the kind Dean at Ely, who recognised something was wrong. I was certainly badly affected because of my inability to talk about it at the time. But because it happened to me it probably happens to many others. I am hoping that my*

*experience will be a warning to others who might be able to recognise distress in bereaved people if it goes on for a long time.*

*Incidentally, apparently putting a notice of death in a paper is thought to be one of the ways these people get hold of information, and then the torment begins.*

*The Covid pandemic was indirectly part of the cause of my beloved husband's death, and the deaths of many others who were unable to get the treatment they required in time. He did not have Covid but died of a ruptured bowel and sepsis. It developed rapidly, but in spite of his condition I was unable to get anyone to listen to me. It left me feeling that I had let him down. I still need to come to terms with a situation that I had no control in.*

*I hope it is considered appropriate that I have shared my story at this time. It felt right for me to do so, and I'm hoping that by doing so I will feel less guilty for not having managed to get anyone to listen to me at the time of my husband's greatest need.*

*I am also hoping that my having spoken about the relentless abuse of the phone calls, which caused me so much distress, will be a reminder to all my colleagues that this could happen to anyone. It could happen to a member of your congregation, and perhaps, like me, they will not be in a position to explain what is wrong.*

*I have received such kindness from everyone at my church, and the Cathedral too, and I hope my experience will be a warning that, if it seems something is wrong with one of your parishioners, perhaps they too feel unable to talk about it.*

## Multi Agency Training



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board continues to provide a programme of high quality courses that include basic

awareness courses through to in depth courses and specific subject matter (e.g. Criminal Exploitation, Self-Neglect and Hoarding), providing an excellent opportunity to learn together with the overall aim that working together effectively leads to better improved outcomes for children, young people and adults by:

- A shared understanding of the principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance and local arrangements for safeguarding children, young people, and adults.
- More effective and integrated services at both the strategic and individual case level.
- Improved communication and information sharing between professionals, including a common understanding of key terms, definitions and thresholds for action.
- Effective working relationships, including an ability to work in multi-disciplinary groups or teams.
- Learning from both local and national case review processes.

Below are the dates of some of the upcoming safeguarding training provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board.

| Date                          | Course  | Time          |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 | Early Help – Back to Basics                   | 16:00 – 19:00 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 | Working Together to Safeguard Adults          | 10:30 – 12:30 |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 | Introduction to the Effects of Domestic Abuse | 09:30 – 11:30 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 | Working Together to Safeguard Children        | 10:30 – 12:30 |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 | Self-Neglect and Safeguarding Adults at Risk  | 10:30 – 12:30 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023 | Hoarding and Safeguarding Adults at Risk      | 10:30 – 12:30 |



|                                |  |                     |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023  | An Introduction to Child Criminal Exploitation           | 10:30<br>–<br>12:30 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023  | Safeguarding Adults and the Mental Capacity Act          | 10:30<br>–<br>12:30 |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 | Domestic Abuse – Using DASH to Risk Assess the Situation | 09:30<br>–<br>11:30 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 | Early Help – Back to Basics                              | 13:00<br>–<br>16:00 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023 | Introduction to Child Neglect                            | 10:30<br>–<br>12:30 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 | Impact of Parental Substance Misuse                      | 10:00<br>–<br>15:00 |

For more details about the courses and to book a place on any of our training, please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Confidential Declaration Form Update

The National Safeguarding Team have released the updated Confidential Declaration form for use for all those required to complete a DBS check. You can find the updated version [here](#)

## The Clewer Initiative – Modern Day Slavery Training

**Modern Slavery and Safeguarding Training for Parish Safeguarding Officers:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/474705225107>

This training will cover:

1. What is modern slavery?
2. How do you recognise, respond, record and refer concerns about modern slavery and exploitation?
3. What do I need to know about safeguarding when working with potential victims?
4. Where can I get further information and training from?

The training will take place via zoom on the two dates listed below, please sign up for one of the sessions:

1. 11th January 19:00-20:30
2. 13th February 10:00-11:30
3. 8th March 19:00-20:30
4. 24th March 13:00-14:30

## Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces ([click here to visit their website](#)) is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church in England and Wales or the Church in Wales.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can provide you with support. You do not have to have told the police or the church authorities, and you do not have to still be involved with the church. Your information will not be shared without your consent unless you or someone else is in immediate danger.

You can [contact the Safe Spaces team by visiting their website here](#) and via the opening details and means below.

- Telephoning them on 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times)
- Emailing them at [safespaces@firstlight.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@firstlight.org.uk)
- The dedicated Safe Spaces team are available through the helpline during the following hours:
  - 09:00-21:00 Monday to Friday
  - 09:00-13:00 Saturdays
  - 13:00-17:00 Sundays
- A member of the Safe Spaces team will make contact within 48 hours of making a contact request or referral.



## Evensong and Bishop's Garden Party

Evensong and Bishop's Garden Party for Parish Safeguarding Officers.



The Bishop will be inviting Parish Safeguarding Officers, and a guest, to a Garden Party in his garden following the Evensong

service on 3 July 2023. Please put this date in your diaries now. Invitations will follow closer to the date.

## Contact the Team

### Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

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SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE  
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### In this Edition

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### Trevor Devamanikkam Review

The [independent lessons learnt review](#) into the Church of England's handling of allegations against the late Revd Trevor Devamanikkam was published on 11 05 2023.

Trevor Devamanikkam was due to appear in court in June 2017, charged with six counts of sexual abuse in the 1980s, against a 16-year-old. However, he did not arrive for the hearing and was found dead at his home later that day. An inquest found that he had died by suicide. In 2012 and 2013, the survivor, himself a member of clergy at the time, alleged he made a number

of disclosures of non-recent abuse to senior clergy, and they failed to act on them.

The review was commissioned by the National Safeguarding Team, NST, and carried out by Jane Humphreys, a Senior Social Care Consultant, and previous Director of Children's and Adult's Services with a career spanning more than 30 years.

Its purpose is to identify both good practice and failings in the Church of England's handling of the allegations, including its safeguarding practice, in order that the Church can take steps to enhance and improve its response to allegations of abuse and thereby ensure a safer environment for all.

### Safer Spaces Resources for Churches

Safe Spaces, the free, independent national support service for victims and survivors of church-related abuse, have produced new posters for churches to signpost to their free confidential helpline. The posters include the [safe spaces email address](#), tear off strips with the helpline number or a QR code which can be scanned with a mobile phone to access the [Safe Spaces website](#).



Churches are encouraged to share the posters as widely as possible by displaying them on church notice boards and including links to the posters in e-newsletters and bulletins. Please note that the email address for Safe Spaces has recently changed and the opening hours for the helpline have been extended, so please ensure any information on church websites has been updated to reflect these changes.

Bishop Joanne Grenfell, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop said: "Safe Spaces is a vital service for survivors and victims of abuse who want a place they can seek support and advice away from the Church. These new posters are designed for use in every parish and local church setting to signpost to the service. Please do use them and share as widely as possible."

[Click here to access and download the posters](#)

In addition to this each parish should be displaying the Safeguarding policy statement Promoting a Safer Church poster and the [Whistle Blowing policy](#) on their church notice boards. Copies of the Promoting a Safer Church poster and the Safeguarding Pocket Guides can be obtained by e-mailing a member of the [Safeguarding Team](#)



## Spiritual Abuse and Healthy Cultures Training

Ely Diocese Safeguarding Team, together with Mission & Ministry and Ely Cathedral hosted two training sessions on Understanding Spiritual Abuse and Trauma, on the 5<sup>th</sup> June (in person) and on the 20<sup>th</sup> June (online). The sessions were facilitated by Simon and Caroline Plant from Replenished Life, an

independent charity which supports those who have experienced abuse and trauma within faith. Their vision is:

- That every person who has experienced abuse and trauma within faith is heard, understood, and their experience is validated.
- That every person who has experienced abuse and trauma within faith receives quality support from organisations that are well equipped to provide this support.
- That there is an awareness of what healthy faith looks like and what support is available where there are concerns.

We had approximately 80 people across the Diocese attend the two sessions, with the training looking at the definition of spiritual abuse, examples of the spectrum of behaviour ranging from healthy to spiritual abuse, as well as what a healthy culture looks like, how to respond to any disclosures and some of the challenges that we may face in identifying spiritual abuse.

If you were unable to attend one of these two sessions the National Safeguarding Team are advertising further dates for this training throughout 2023. The training will again be delivered by Replenished Life.

The training offered mirrors the content and quality of that offered through the National Safeguarding Team alongside Dr Lisa Oakley last year.

### Dates available are:

- Tuesday July 18<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Friday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Tuesday Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Thursday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Wednesday Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Tuesday Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Friday Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

There are 30 places available for each date. All sessions run 10am to 3.30pm with breaks built in. Participants will be sent a course information pack and the joining link closer to their chosen training date.

Places are open to anyone within the church and can be booked through Eventbrite using [this link. \(click here\)](#)

## Access to DBS Reports via APCS website

For a long time we know we have all had the ability to track a DBS checks progress via either the DBS or APCS's websites.

However did you know you can set up a management report with APCS which will show all DBS checks started, in progress and completed via your parishes account number. Click on the following link to set this up <https://www.onlinedbscheck.co.uk/ManagementReportsLogin.aspx>

Please note it will not show any application processed via the DBS Update Service.

## Safeguarding Partnership Boards Training

The **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Board** has a full program of multi agency courses covering a wide range of safeguarding subjects. These courses are free for volunteers ([click here](#)).

**Norfolk Safeguarding Boards** have two websites – one for Adult Safeguarding Training <https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/training/> and the other for Children's Safeguarding Training. <https://s4s.norfolk.gov.uk/Training>

## Parish Safeguarding Officers meeting

The date of the next meeting is 5 July. This will start at 10am and will again be held via Zoom. Please book you place to attend via this link <https://elydatabase.org/events/safeguarding>

In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing those of you can join us at the evensong service at Ely Cathedral and afterwards at the Garden party in the Bishop's Garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> July



## DBS Eligibility

When processing DBS check please ensure the correct level of DBS check is being requested for the position applied for.

Although there is some guidance available, via the [Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance](#) (Section 9 - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)), eligibility is very much dependent on the type of work to be carried out, the regularity of this involvement and the level of contact with either children and/or adults. This should be clearly illustrated in a person's role description.

The Disclosure and Barring Service also provide [eligibility guidance](#) which will provide further guidance.

Please remember none of the activities undertaken within our churches are eligible for a Standard check.

Should you have any queries in relation to DBS eligibility the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer will be happy to discuss this with you.

## Other Updates

All parishes are able to process DBS ID checks either digitally or face to face.

The Church of England Confidential declaration form was updated at the beginning of 2023 – please make sure you are using the [latest version of this document](#).



## Contact the Team

### Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

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#### ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

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### Training, Criminal Record Checks (DBS) and Parish Safeguarding Officer Support

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AUTUMN 2023

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- [Updates to the Safeguarding web pages](#)
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### Training Requirements

The core safeguarding framework has been developed as a modular programme which builds learning according to role.

There are three core modules: Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership.

These modules should be completed in consecutive order until the individual has reached the required level of learning for their role. Only the highest module is then refreshed after three years.

So, if your role requires you to complete;

- Basic Awareness only - then you repeat this module every 3 years
- Basic Awareness and Foundation - then you only need to repeat the Foundation module every 3 years

- Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership then you only need to repeat the Leadership module every 3 years.

Additional 'Specialist' modules are also a requirement for some roles. These are:

- Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
- Safer Recruitment and People Management.

These modules are always repeated every 3 years.

To find out what training course is required for each role holder and to book a place on a training course, [please visit the Diocesan website here.](#)

### Safeguarding Sunday

On **Sunday 19 November 2023** churches will be marking Safeguarding Sunday together. But don't panic if you can't do this date. The more time you can dedicate to focus on safeguarding in a service, the greater the impact for your church, so if it has to be on a different day, that's okay too.

#### 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.

### Churches who took part in Safeguarding Sunday last year saw:

- **Greater positive awareness** and understanding of safeguarding among church members.
- An increase in the number of **people feeling able to talk about their abuse** for the first time.
- **More volunteers** coming forward for safeguarding roles and to help with children's and youth work.
- An increased number of people **completing safeguarding training** and criminal record checks.
- Bigger numbers of **Safeguarding Leads feeling supported** in their role by their church



[Download resources](#) for Safeguarding Sunday including a [Checklist for planning](#), [Children's talk notes](#), [Communications Pack](#), [Group Discussion Guide](#), [Discussion Questions](#), [Hymns & Song suggestions](#), an [Order of service](#), [Prayers for Safeguarding Sunday](#) and [A Theology Of Safeguarding](#).

## Safer Recruitment and People Management National Survey

The Safer Recruitment and People Management Practice Guidance was published in January 2022 The National Safeguarding Team are carrying out an online survey to get feedback on the guidance. **They are specifically enquiring about posts that are safely recruited. This means any post, ordained or lay, employee or volunteer, that involves substantial contact with children or vulnerable adults.**

The survey is for **parishes, cathedrals and Bishops' offices**. The relevant person to complete it could be the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Cathedral Safeguarding Leads, Human Resources leads and Bishop's staff. If you haven't yet completed it, please click on [this link](#) and complete the survey – it only takes 10 minutes and will make a real contribution to developing safeguarding recruitment practice in the Church.

We really hope this team effort between the NST, dioceses and local Church bodies can help us find out more about embedding good safer recruitment practice at all levels in the Church.

The survey will be live until 31 October 2023

## Updates to the Safeguarding web pages

We have updated the following documents:

- [Diocese of Ely - Confidential Declaration Form June 2023](#)

and added the following items;

- [Whistle Blowing Advice Poster](#)
- [Safe Spaces Poster 1 \(male, with tear off strips\)](#)
- [Safe Spaces Poster 2 \(female, with tear off strips\)](#)
- [Safe Spaces Poster 3 \(with QR code\)](#)

- [Parish Violence and Aggression Policy Mar 2023 v1](#)
- [Annual Report 2022](#)

## Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub

Clearly Simpler, the creators of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub have their own website that provide information, tutorials, and support in relation to completing and working with your;

### [Dashboard](#) or [Hub](#)

Please do have a look and contact Clearly Simpler if you need any support.

## Parish Safeguarding Officers meeting

The next meeting is on 18 October from 10-12. The meeting will be held via Zoom so please [book your place](#) to receive the Zoom link.

If you have any questions, please do bring them to this meeting or send them in to the team beforehand.



## Contact the Team

**For all New Referrals please contact the Duty Telephone Number (including out of hours service) - 01353 652747**

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ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER  
 Sharon Gage (part-time),  
 Email [sharon.gage@elydiocese.org](mailto:sharon.gage@elydiocese.org), Telephone number: 01353 652706, Mobile Number: 07507 741295, Hours of work 9.30am -2.30pm Monday to Thursday

ASSISTANT DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER  
 Lisa Pearson (part-time),  
 Email: [lisa.pearson@elydiocese.org](mailto:lisa.pearson@elydiocese.org), Telephone number: 01353 652738, Mobile Number: 07990 581267, Hours of work 9am-5pm Monday to Thursday

## Training, Criminal Record Checks (DBS) and Parish Safeguarding Officer Support

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND PARISH SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR  
 Sarah King, E-mail: [sarah.king@elydiocese.org](mailto:sarah.king@elydiocese.org), Telephone number: 01353 652735, Mobile Number: 0777 666 1798, Hours of work 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT - DBS CHECKS  
 Jackie Williamson (part-time), E-mail: [safeguardadmin@elydiocese.org](mailto:safeguardadmin@elydiocese.org), Telephone number: 01353 652721, Hours of work 9am-5pm Tuesday and Wednesday

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT - TRAINING  
 Kelly Nott (part-time), E-mail: [safeguarding.training@elydiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding.training@elydiocese.org), Telephone number: 01353 652744, Hours of work 10am-2pm Monday to Friday