

DIOCESE OF ELY

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

Safeguarding Department

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The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter

A quarterly publication produced by the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Team 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 [Safeguarding Pages](#) of the website.

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PSO meeting 10.00 - 12.00 on 10 July 2024

The next meeting is fast approaching, and we are very pleased to announce we will have a guest speaker with us for the second half of the meeting.

Amanda Harrison is a Local Authority Designated Office (LADO) in Cambridgeshire. She is also a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel (DSAP)

Amanda will talk through her role managing allegations against adults who work or volunteer with children and how this links into the work we do in our parishes and across the diocese.

Empowering Children Resources and Video

Are you aware of the children's resources co-produced by children and young people for use with their peers? It is so important that children and young people are supported to recognise healthy behaviours, relationships and boundaries and have the confidence to speak out if something doesn't seem right.

These resources give youth workers, leaders of children's groups and Parish Safeguarding Officers an accessible and relevant way to share these important messages with young people and to open conversations. They are designed to be used across worshipping communities within the Church of England, such as churches, schools, chaplaincies and youth groups.

The resources are free to download through the [Safeguarding Training Portal](#). Here is the link to the [Empowering Children](#) video.

On-line Spaces for Victims/Survivors During General Synod

The General Synod of the Church of England starts on Thursday 4th and runs until Tuesday 9th July. As in previous Synods, the National Safeguarding Team (NST) runs online spaces for victims and survivors to share their views and discuss the proceedings with the Partnership and Engagement Lead, Mr Ioannis Athanasiou.

This [press release](#) provides an oversight of the key topics in this Synod.

The Synod can be followed online in [this link](#). The agenda, sessions and all papers can be accessed in via [this link](#).

In this Synod, there are significant safeguarding items to be discussed in different sessions and it is important that survivors' voices and reflections have their own space. Below you can find information about the days when the safeguarding items will be addressed in the Synod, their relevant papers and when there will be an open space for victims and survivors to attend:

Sunday 7 July: a private member's motion relating to the inquiry into allegations of abuse within the Soul Survivor Network (plus an item on the Clergy Conduct Measure)

Follow these links to read [Paper 1](#) and [Paper 2](#) related to this motion.

Monday 8 July: a key conversation around the future of safeguarding in the Church and its independence **between 9am and 12pm**. **At that time there will be an online space for victims and survivors** to watch the session livestreamed on Youtube and join Ioannis and others.

[The Professor Jay Response Group Report](#)

Tuesday 9 July: the legislative business of the Redress scheme will be discussed. Between **9am and 12pm** there will be a similar [online space](#) for victims and survivors.

- [The Redress Measure paper](#)
- [The Measure notes](#) and
- [Revision Committee paper](#)

Thursday 11 July: an [information session](#) is offered to victims and survivors **between 4-5pm** to provide a summary and overview of the conversations and what decisions made during this Synod.

To attend any online discussion space or the information session please email engage.safeguarding@churchofengland.com by **Friday 5th July**. The zoom links will be shared with all confirmed attendees before the end of that Friday.

Evensong and Bishop's Garden Party



A gloriously sunny evening (if a bit chilly) was enjoyed by 50 plus Parish Safeguarding Officers at the annual Bishop's Garden Party

for Parish Safeguarding Officers. The evening commenced with evensong at Ely Cathedral followed by drinks and canapes on the Bishop's lawn. Bishop Dagmar opened the Garden Party with thanks to all the Parish Safeguarding Officers for all their hard work.



What to do when a new Parish Safeguarding Officer is appointed

We have recently, by chance, become aware of new PSOs in parishes who were feeling rather unsupported and confused as to what their role involved.

Please can we add a reminder to notify the Safeguarding Team of any changes in safeguarding personnel in your parish.

This will mean we can offer support and induction to new PSOs and give them access to the Parish Dashboards and to enable them to process DBS checks.

Local Safeguarding Partnership Boards

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board is committed to providing an effective training programme to all agencies across Cambridgeshire. Research has shown that multi-agency training is highly effective in helping professionals understand their respective roles and responsibilities, the procedures of each agency involved in safeguarding children and adults at risk, and in developing a shared understanding of assessment and decision-making practices. This training is **free** to those working in parishes.

Their current training offer includes:

- Safeguarding Children Training
- Safeguarding Adults Training
- Disclosure and Barring Workshops
- Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding
- Substance Misuse and Safeguarding Training
- Other Safeguarding Training

[Cambridge and Peterborough Multi Agency Training](#)

Parish Websites

We are aware that periodically dioceses, parishes and cathedrals are approached by (we believe) a group of survivors and informed that they are not compliant with Safeguarding Practice Guidance, because they do not have a clear statement of safeguarding arrangements on the front page of their parish website. The calls state that the parish priest might be subject to a CDM complaint and insurance cover is invalidated because of this alleged non-compliance.

Just to confirm, it is not essential to have full safeguarding details on the home page of the website. Over the many years since the PSH was written, this may no longer be feasible as parish websites often contain much more information than they did only a few years ago.

It is perfectly acceptable for the word 'Safeguarding' to be a link from the homepage, either across the top or in an easily accessible drop-down menu. The link should be clearly visible on the homepage, but the whole information does not need to appear on the home page itself, as long as it is available when someone clicks on the link.

Clicking that link should take someone to a further page which contains more detailed safeguarding information, including contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officer and a clear statement of the parish's commitment to safeguarding, and if possible, a link to the Diocesan Safeguarding website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer National Group

The PSO National Group was established in July 2023 to develop and implement strategies to strengthen the learning and support offered to PSOs. It consists of parish safeguarding officers; diocesan safeguarding professionals; parish clergy and lay roles and is administered by the National Safeguarding Team.

The PSO National Group has made a video featuring PSOs, introducing the use of the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard. PCCs will find this a useful tool to support the shared responsibility for safeguarding in parishes. Full Video: [The Safeguarding Dashboard](#)

Bell Ringers - Code for Ringing

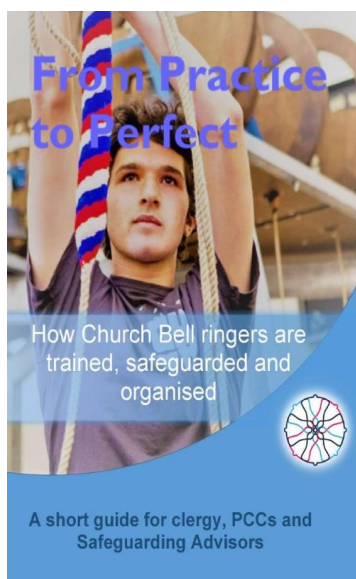
The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has developed a template code of conduct. It takes the form of a Code for Ringing that can be freely used and adapted by dioceses, parishes and ringing societies who wish to develop their own codes for bell ringing or indeed other volunteer activity.

The Code for Ringing sets out in simple language the values of the ringing community, establishing a clear position on good practice both inside and outside the tower.

["From Practice to Perfect": an informative guide](#)

This pamphlet, also produced by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, provides PSOs and DSAs with an introduction to church bell ringing, how ringing is organised and the range of activities that ringers perform. It complements guidance that the Council gives to ringing societies about the need for them to be more pro-active in the way they engage with their DSAs and PSOs.

Both documents can be found on the DSAs' page of the [Council's website](#).



Parish Safeguarding Drop-ins

Come and meet the Safeguarding Team either in person or virtually to discuss areas of Safeguarding for which you feel you need support or further information. Tea and coffee will be available if you are able to attend in person.

10.00-11.30am at Etheldreda House, 206 Lancaster Way Business Park Witchford CB6 3NX

Mon 16 September

Mon 7 October

Wed 6 November

Wed 4 December

Please book via the Training pages of the [Safeguarding pages of the Website](#)

Contact the Team

Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

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

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING TRAINING AND PARISH SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

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