



Safeguarding Newsletter



Dear all,

Happy new year! I don't know where 2025 went. I can't believe we are already into the second week of 2026. It's going to be quite an interesting year in the world of safeguarding, and we're looking forward to continuing to develop our practice and support to you all in a range of ways.

Ben

Save the date! Annual PSO Conference – Saturday 5 September 2026

The PSO Conference is a new annual event for Parish Safeguarding Officers. It will be a chance to network, attend workshops and to celebrate the role that PSOs play in keeping local communities safe. More information about the conference and how to book your place will be sent out shortly. Please do get in touch with the Safeguarding team if there are any subject areas you would like to prioritise for the first event in 2026.

PSO forums

PSO forums for 2026 will have a new look lecture style format. They will offer training on a range of contemporary safeguarding topics throughout the year. Each of these will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions and network with other PSOs.

The first forum takes place on **Thursday 22 January 2026**. It will look at the opportunities and risks of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of safeguarding. The forum will feature a lecture by Dr Aisling Tierney from Bristol University.

These sessions are popular so will be open to PSOs in the first instance before being offered more widely. The Safeguarding team are also hoping to record each session so those who are unable to attend can view a video of the session.

Please book your place:

[Thursday 22 January 2026 Artificial Intelligence and Safeguarding.](#)

More topics for the forums are being arranged for 2026. Information about these will be shared in the Safeguarding Newsletter.



2026 year of action on domestic abuse

Church communities, chaplains and members of Wells Cathedral are invited to support the year of action on domestic abuse. Throughout 2026 the Safeguarding team will focus on domestic abuse in partnership with the Mothers Union.

There are several ways you can get involved.

- Sign up to [the Mothers Union 'Rise Up' campaign](#)
- Ask your PCC and volunteers to undertake domestic abuse awareness training. The Safeguarding team delivers in-person training for those who would rather train in this format. This is likely to take place in February / March.
- Pray for victims of domestic abuse.
- Engage with diocesan wide events.
- Show your support for victims in your parish communications.
- Visit the RISE UP exhibition taking place at Wells Cathedral in March.

National safeguarding team (NST) survey

A reminder that the Parish Safeguarding Handbook has been removed as official guidance and has been replaced with the [Online Safeguarding E-Manual](#). As part of the ongoing development of the manual, the National Safeguarding Team is developing a parish safeguarding toolkit. It will include a wide range of resources and templates for parishes.

The NST will shortly be sending a survey to parishes to take a 'temperature check' of safeguarding locally. The survey will also be used to ascertain what other resources and support can be offered as part of the toolkit.

All PSOs in Bath and Wells are encouraged to complete the survey as your voices will be important in helping to shape the resources. Links to the survey will be sent out by the Diocesan Safeguarding team.

Further training opportunities

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.

Safeguarding Leadership for PTOs

This is a one-day tailored course for those with PTO, who have only occasional ministry in church. Courses are available either in-person at Flourish House, Wells, or online via Zoom.

Train the Trainer – Wednesday 21 January 10:00 – 13:00

This course is suitable for anyone interested in supporting the Diocesan Safeguarding Team by delivering Basic Awareness and Foundation training locally.

It will equip you with the information and confidence to arrange and deliver training, as well as guidance on what to do next, and helpful hints from our trainers.

How to Book

All of the above courses [can be booked online via Eventbrite](#) where you can view full dates, details and availability.

Waiting List

We hold a waiting list for each course in case people drop out or do not submit the required pre-coursework. If you would like to be added to the waiting list for a course(s), just let the training team know. Please note however, that to take up any place offered, you would need to have completed and emailed the pre-coursework at least one week before the first training session.

If you have any difficulties in booking please email:

training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org

DBS Eligibility Workshops

The DBS Regional Safeguarding Outreach team runs monthly DBS eligibility workshops for anyone who has responsibility for the DBS process. While this is not church-specific training it does offer useful information for the DBS process and who is eligible for certain levels of check. [These can be booked online via Eventbrite](#).

Wells Cathedral

The diocesan Safeguarding team also provides safeguarding services to Wells Cathedral and Wells Cathedral School choristers.

From January specialist Cathedral Safeguarding Adviser, Jill Edmunds will be working at the Cathedral.

Jill will work under Ben's supervision but will be employed by



Wells Cathedral.



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