

May 2025

## Safeguarding Newsletter



Dear all,

I hope you are enjoying the fantastic weather in what feels like a very early summer this year.

### **INEQE Audit Update**

I'm very happy to share again that our independent audit of safeguarding in our diocese has concluded successfully. We have today received our first draft of the audit report which we will be reviewing closely and feeding back any comments to INEQE prior to the publication of the final report later this summer.

As Bishop Michael has already shared, the feedback we received was positive and we were very proud to see the hard work recognised across the diocese and cathedral.

I wanted to put on record my thanks to all of you who have contributed to moving safeguarding forward across Bath and Wells. This report will allow us to continue to share the message that safeguarding is something we take seriously in our churches and to talk positively about our contemporary safeguarding practice which is vitally important.

As I have said throughout my time here, we are incredibly grateful for all that you do in a challenging but hopefully rewarding role.

Ben

Ben Goodhind  
Safeguarding Manager

## You are invited!

In order to recognise your contribution to safeguarding in our diocese, Bishop Michael has invited all Parish Safeguarding Officers to join him for Evensong at Wells Cathedral, followed by a reception at the Bishop's Palace.

Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Panel, David Niven, attended the first event in May. He says, "This is a lovely opportunity for Parish Safeguarding Officers to be recognised and I hope realise how vital they are to the fabric of safeguarding in the diocese. The greatest of respect should be given to these vital volunteers, we are so lucky to have so many good ones."

A number of events are planned by Bishop Michael in May, June and July. If you are PSO and have not received an invitation please contact the Bishop's Office. You should now have received your invitations to attend but if not please do contact the Palace.

## The Social World Podcast

David, like many members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel, has extensive experience of safeguarding, having worked nationally and internationally in the field of social welfare. He hosts [The Social World podcast](#), interviewing experts from the field. The latest episode features Christian Safeguarding Charity Thirtyone:eight, who provide out of hours support to our diocese. Later in the year he will be interviewing Bishop Michael.



## Church Hire agreements

All hire agreements for church premises should include a clause requiring the hirer to comply with the safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The hire agreement must also require the hirer to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, confirm all relevant staff have had appropriate DBS checks and ensure reasonable safety measures are taken to prevent injury, illness, loss or damage. They must also inform the Parish Safeguarding Officer of any safeguarding concerns relating to members of the hiring body, and provide contact details of the person managing the concern.

The template below can be added to any Hire of Church Premises Agreement to ensure the PCC has performed its due diligence when hiring out church premises to external groups. It is recommend revising all current hire agreements to include it.

Where safeguarding issues are flagged, please contact with the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for further advice.

**[Model Safeguarding Provision that can be attached to any Hire of Church Premises Agreement.](#)**

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## Safeguarding Training Update – Spring 2025

Before taking or renewing the Leadership course, it is recommended that you revisit the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses. This can be done online, through the CofE training portal: [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#).

The latest leadership, train the trainer and PSO Networking training dates can be found on the [events and training section of the Bath and Wells website](#). There are courses from June to August, but spaces are filling up fast so please ensure you book with enough time for renewing.

Please note the online training portal now sends automatic reminders when online training courses are due for renewal. Whilst only your highest level of training is required to be renewed every three years, it is best practice to update all your previously completed training.

## Domestic Abuse Training Update

The National Safeguarding Team has updated the training requirements for the Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse online course accessed via the Church of England online training portal ([Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal](#)). Previously, this course was a requirement for all Clergy and Licensed ministers, PSOs and PCC members. It has now been updated so that anyone working with children, young people or vulnerable adults will be required to undertake the online course within 6 months of beginning a new role (or within the next 3 years if previously recruited).

All Clergy, licensed ministers and PSOs are still required to complete and update this training every 3 years. It is also best practice for PCC members



and other church officers to complete the Domestic Abuse Awareness course.

From 1 May, the Safeguarding Dashboards will reflect this in the 'Church Activities' section. These will need reviewing over the next 12 months before the dashboard light turns red. There will be further updates to the Raising awareness of Domestic Abuse course in the coming months.

Please note this course may contain triggering content for some. If you or someone you know is affected, the National Domestic Abuse Helpline is available 24/7 at 08082 000247 (further helplines are also posted on the [safeguarding section of the diocesan website](#) and on the 'Promoting a Safer Church' posters). Alternatively, please do get in touch with the safeguarding team who will be able to signpost you to support.

## PSO Forums

A number of forums will be taking place throughout the summer and autumn.

- Thursday 5 June 1-2.30pm – Safeguarding Audit feedback (With Ben Goodhind) – [Please book online](#)
- Thursday 10 July – DBS Q and A (With Jake Lent) – [Please book online](#)
- Thursday 18 September 1-2.30pm – Managing individuals subject to safeguarding concerns (Jo Austin) – [Please book online](#)
- October TBC – Training pathways and Q and A (Enita and Jacqui) – more information will be available soon
- Thursday 20 November 1-2.30pm – Designing a Safeguarding strategy for 2026-2028 (Ben Goodhind) – [Please book online](#)

## Further Training for PSOs

- Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction/Network – Wednesday 23 July 10 am – 1 pm: [Please book online](#)

- Train the Trainer – Wednesday 13 August 10 am – 1 pm: [Please book online](#)

## Wells Cathedral



Did you know the diocesan Safeguarding team also provides safeguarding services to Wells Cathedral? If you are a cathedral volunteer, you can contact me or Jo with any safeguarding concerns. Jo works from Wells Cathedral one day a week.

## Meet the Safeguarding team



Ben Goodhind

## Safeguarding Manager

[Ben Goodhind's contact information](#)



Jo Austin

Safeguarding Caseworker

[Jo Austin's contact information.](#)



Jake Lent

Safeguarding Coordinator

[Jake Lent's contact information.](#)



Enita Andrews

Safeguarding Trainer

[Enita Andrews's contact information.](#)



Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall

Safeguarding Trainer

[Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall's contact information.](#)

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