# Safeguarding Newsletter – September

Alzheimer’s Awareness Day 21 September 2023

Sadly, as I sit down to pen this month’s newsletter, World Alzheimer’s Day has, by a sad coincidence, coincided with the death from Dementia of my dear uncle. Dementia touches all families. It’s a tragic and often slow loss of a dear family member or partner. Today my team and I are thinking of everyone we have lost or are slowly losing today, and everyone who provides care and support for people with dementia. I especially think of our Chaplains and Clergy providing end of life care to people and their loved ones and what a fantastic job they all do.

I wanted to also mention a campaign today by the Lewy Body Dementia Society <https://www.lewybody.org/> to raise awareness of other forms of dementia that go unmentioned, which includes Lewy Bodies Dementia which is the second most common type of neurodegenerative dementia in older people. At least 10-15% of all people who live with dementia have Lewy Body Dementia. It often is a much more aggressive form of dementia that can impact mood, behaviour and have parkinsonian symptoms. Sadly, my Dad was diagnosed with this illness last year and has since suffered a rapid decline and I have been campaigning in a personal capacity for faster screening and a wider awareness. For me this serves as a further reminder that any one of us can become vulnerable and that safeguarding truly does touch all lives.

For anyone who would like to have a greater understanding of Lewy Body Dementia, I would recommend the Spark, a documentary about the late Comedian Robin Williams’ experience of the illness. I have attached a link to watch it for free below.

 [SPARK | Mediflix](https://www.mediflix.com/video/parkinsons-lbda-spark)

Safeguarding Sunday – 19 November 2023

It is almost that time of year again folks. After a very successful event in 2022 we are looking to do even better this year. It really is a chance to celebrate all that your parish does to protect children and vulnerable adults. To register click the following link. [Safeguarding Sunday | Thirtyone:eight (thirtyoneeight.org)](https://thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday/) I’m also asking for volunteers who can promote the event on your websites and social media streams. Perhaps you could include a short video, or photo of your church, alongside a description of what it is to be a part of a faithful and safe church community. Please see my launch video [Safeguarding Sunday 19 November 2023 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdMK1rpGJrg)

Find out more about how you can get involved on our diocesan website: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/safeguarding-sunday-2023.php>

# New Provider for DBS checks FAQ’s

A reminder that accounts are now being set up for our new DBS system administered in partnership with Thirtyone:eight. If you have not yet received the registration form please contact DBS.Safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org as soon as possible.

There are some important differences between our old and new system which have been raised as we onboard Safeguarding Officers:

Q - The application form refers to ‘Recruiters’. Should my vicar be the Lead Recruiter? Does this mean I have to be more involved with recruitment?

A -No.Throughout their materials 31:8 refers to PSOs and DBS Admins as ‘recruiters’. The ‘Lead Recruiter’ is whoever in your parish or deanery administers the DBS process and completes ID checks most often. Anyone else who needs access to the system are ‘Additional Recruiters’. This does not mean that you are taking on any additional Safer Recruitment responsibilities beyond what you already do.

Q - Is there a charge forDigital ID checks?

A -Digital ID checks are now available for an additional charge however for Clergy and unpaid volunteers this will be covered by the Diocese. As usual charges for any paid non-clergy will be chargeable to the parish. Payment will be requested via invoice once the DBS check is completed.

Q - I cannot complete the paperwork right away - can I still register?

A -Yes! You can register for the new system any time.

Q - Is the old system still accessible?

A -In a slight change to original timescales individuals will be able to access the system to apply for a DBS until 16th October, after which general logins will be disabled. PSOs with account details to the old system will be able to continue accessing the site to complete ID checks until the beginning of November.

Q - Isn’t the new system creating more work for PSOs?

A -There is a misconception that by giving PSOs access to complete the Section Y (this is where you select the workforce being applied for, whether a barred list check is required and whether the role is paid or voluntary) we are pushing additional work on to Parishes. However, this is all information that you would have needed to supply us with anyway to complete the check on the old system. This cuts out the Safeguarding Team as the middle man and allows you to complete the application without delays. 31:8 have an interactive DBS eligibility guide and are the first point of contact for any queries, often responding within hours.

Training

Please note we are running a PSO induction training course on 19 October here in Wells. You can book onto this via the events calendar on the Diocesan website or the link below -

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-safeguarding-officer-induction-19th-october-2023-tickets-696038829877](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-safeguarding-officer-induction-19th-october-2023-tickets-696038829877)

Dates are now live for registering for Leadership Training in September and beyond with new dates being added very shortly. We will also be running a chaplaincy safeguarding event later this year and a spiritual direction safeguarding event in the new year.

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 myself or Jo with any safeguarding concerns. Jo works from Wells Cathedral one day a week.

# Out of hours cover

Another reminder that the Diocese of Bath & Wells partners with 31:8 in relation to accessing the safeguarding Helpline on 0303 003 1111 during out of hours (It operates 5pm - midnight on Mon-Fri;  7am - midnight on Sat and Sun), on bank holidays and other absences. This service is being chronically under used in comparison to the high volume of out of hours calls I used to receive. I want to reassure you that 31:8 are a Christian safeguarding organisation and work closely with many dioceses. They offer the same advice that we would give and should be your first point of contact out of hours.

# Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

**Our next forum will be on Wednesday, 11 October at 3pm Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/98926030439?pwd=OGx5N051OVErSzZwVUFwQjhtZGFKZz09>

**Meeting ID: 989 2603 0439**

**Passcode: 646722**

**Safeguarding posters**

**We have a number of safeguarding posters and dashboard leaflets left over from the last Clergy Day. If you would like one, please drop into the safeguarding office in Flourish House.**

With warm wishes

**Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells

Diocese of Bath and Wells – Safeguarding team

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