# Safeguarding Newsletter – April 2023

#  I would like to start by wishing everyone a happy Easter. I appreciate this is an exceptionally busy time of year as well as a happy one for you all. Easter marks a time to reflect on and renew our own faith and I was happy to be invited to the Chrism service at Wells Cathedral where we celebrated our fantastic clergy reaffirming their ordination vows. I’m struck by what a challenging role they have, and the increased pressure caused by a desire to ensure they comply with Safeguarding guidance amongst the many other things they do. I do thank them for their hard work and our PSOs for the assistance provided.

# New Diocesan Safeguarding Caseworker Appointed

I am delighted announce that Jo Austin will be joining us as Safeguarding Caseworker on Monday, 24 April. Jo comes from an established career in the Probation Service, dedicating her work to safeguarding and public protection. Please offer Jo the same level of kindness, support and prayer that you have provided me. Anyone attending the PSO forum on Wednesday, 26 April can meet Jo and introduce themselves. If anyone has any ideas or offers around Jo’s induction period, please let me know. We are aware that we have a backlog of safeguarding agreements to renew and we will do this as soon as we can based on current risk.

# Out of Hours cover

Another reminder that The Diocese of Bath & Wells partners with thirtyone:eight in relation to accessing the safeguarding Helpline on 0303 003 1111 during out of hours (which operates 5pm - midnight on Mon-Fri;  07am - 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.

# Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

**Our next forum will be on Wednesday, 26 April at 3.30pm.**

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/99472526758?pwd=S2lrS3MrMjc4QnN3eDVGWVBlV2FiZz09>

**Meeting ID: 994 7252 6758**

**Passcode: 036691**

**Training**

**We have noticed that uptake has started to tail off for leadership training however we still have huge numbers of people yet to complete it, especially those with Lay leadership roles. Please** [visit our training web page to book](https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/parish-support/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/) **on and expect some chase emails from the team. From September we will be launching a new revised Leadership Course, which will replace the current one and look quite different. As such if you are yet to complete the course I would recommend you complete the current one and then access the new one in three years’ time for your review.**

**We have recently run our first Pilot of our new PTO Leadership course which we have developed following feedback from our PTO clergy. Whilst this is our first attempt it does look very good.**

**We are still running our PSO Induction course. I would recommend this to all PSOs especially those yet to get to grip with Dashboards. Our next course will take place Thursday 18th May at Flourish House, Wells starting at 10am.** [Click here to book your place](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-safeguarding-officer-induction-18th-may-2023-tickets-574482411357)**.**

**DBS**

**Just a further reminder to ensure you let Leonie know via the DBS Mailbox when you have completed a check and include any relevant information to enable her to check it such as what the role involves. There is no automatic notification when you complete an ID check so it is important to let us know to avoid delays.**

**Website**

**Hopefully you have all now seen our new look** [Safeguarding web pages.](https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/parish-support/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/) **Leonie has added a huge number of additional resources over the Easter period including a DBS and Training Matrix and DBS eligibility flow charts. Please do take a look. We often receive requests for documents, policies or guides and we have tried to cover everything you ask us even if its not directly related to safeguarding but important to you. We will continue to add to it for as long as required.**

 **With best wishes and continuing thanks for your kind support and efforts.**

**Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells

Diocese of Bath and Wells – Safeguarding team

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| Safeguarding Caseworker – Jo Austin (starting 24 April) |