# Safeguarding Newsletter – Christmas 2022

# Christmas

I would like to start by thanking everyone who has supported myself and the team over the last 12 months. I have been with you for over a year now and have really appreciated the warm welcome, prayers for my work and welfare as well as the efforts many of you have put into safeguarding volunteering. I’m sure you will have noticed a few changes over the past year, and I will continue to do all I can to improve safeguarding within our church whilst also celebrating the excellent work that you all do.

Christmas is often a mixed blessing. For those of us with young families or a deep faith it is joyous and a time for peace, love, and reflection. For many people it can also be a very traumatic time of year where we grieve for those we have loved and lost, feel lonely or struggle financially. Please do look out for each other this Christmas and do all you can to think of those who are finding life a struggle during a turbulent economic time. Let’s all make this Christmas to remember and value all that makes us the community we are.

# Change of contact details for Ben Goodhind Safeguarding Manager

Please note that I no longer use my work mobile so please contact me via 01749 588917. I now have an app so that this number will reach me wherever Iam. The poor quality of the mobile audio has led me to seek new technology that will both save the Diocese money on a phone contract and make your calls to myself cheaper. I would appreciate you making changes on any local communication to reflect this.

# Exciting Dashboards Update

I have this morning received the news that we have been accepted onto a pilot for the new Safeguarding Hubs. This is a dashboard add on specifically to help with safer recruitment. It will generate job descriptions for you and also provide a tool for assessing the DBS and training requirements for your volunteer roles. Furthermore, you can use it to record the DBS and training of your volunteers and it will send out automated reminders for people that need to renew their checks or training.

This will offer us all significant benefits and I urge you to make use of this new functionality. If it is well used we will be able to roll it out permanently at the end of the 12 month trial. This will only be available to those who have signed up for the Dashboards so please do ensure you are set up in time to go live in February/March. Further information to follow but please see the video below for a more detailed look.

[Safeguarding Dashboards | Safeguarding Hubs - Overview](https://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/hubs.php)

# Leadership Training

Please note I have recently had a number of emails expressing concern about the new Leadership training being too onerous. The training hasn’t changed in any way, and it has always been a requirement to do a small piece of pre-course work as well as reflections afterwards. This isn’t a pass / fail process just a process to ensure you are ready to go on day 1 and also that you have reflected on what you have taken from the course. I’m proud to say our training is receiving excellent feedback even from people who may have been reluctant to attend. I have put a significant resource from our departmental budget into getting our training to this standard and I’m sure you will enjoy it.

# Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

**Our next forum will be on 11 January at 3.30pm. Please note following your feedback it will take place on Zoom not Teams as previously.**

<https://zoom.us/j/98086931865?pwd=eHFTMDhuWmJGZmFON2FBQW9IaFdqQT09>

# DBS ID Checks

For those of you who complete ID checks please remember to email [DBS.Safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:DBS.Safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org) once completed to make us aware. The system does not automatically notify us so it may sit unnoticed for some time if we are not alerted. When emailing it is helpful to know the level of check required, whether a barred list check is needed and whether the post is paid or voluntary.

# Christmas cover

Please note that Flourish House will be closed after 23 December and the Safeguarding Team will be on leave between then and January 3rd, 2023. There will not be access to DBS support or non-emergency safeguarding work during that period and as such please factor this into any plans you may have for your parishes. Please report any safeguarding concerns that require 24-hour notification to the diocese via [Ben.Goodhind@BathWells.Anglican.Org](mailto:Ben.Goodhind@BathWells.Anglican.Org). If you need urgent support, please leave a voicemail and I will try and respond when I can. I have attached some useful contact details on the following pages.

Best wishes,

Ben

**Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells