

## Safeguarding Newsletter – February 2023

### Staffing Updates

As I reported last month, Andy Duncan, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, has sadly left us. Andy's last day was Thursday 23 February. We are incredibly grateful for Andy's committed endeavours for us.

I'm pleased to say we received around 30 applications for our newly advertised role of Safeguarding Caseworker which will replace the vacancy left by Andy's departure. We have sifted and shortlisted and will be interviewing on 2 March. We anticipate someone being in post by the start of May at the latest.



In the meantime, we are operating well below capacity and I really ask for patience and support during this period, especially if we take a little longer to respond. Due to the varied and busy nature of our roles we are not always at our desks and do work as fast as we can.

### Out of Hours cover

The Diocese of Bath and Wells partners with thirtyone:eight in relation to accessing the Safeguarding Helpline out of hours. It operates 5pm to midnight Monday to Friday, 7am to midnight on Saturday and Sunday, on bank holidays and other absences.

During the above-mentioned instances, you are advised to contact thirtyone:eight's Safeguarding Helpline on 0303 003 1111 for emergency safeguarding queries. An Information Sharing Agreement between the two organisations will allow for the DSA to receive a copy of the advice thirtyone:eight may offer the parish church/caller, so that appropriate follow up and support can be offered to the caller/situation, on the DSA's return to the office.

### Easter cover

Unfortunately, due to Andy's departure and my pre-planned annual leave, we will be without a Safeguarding Lead to provide referral and casework support between Thursday 6 April and Monday 17 April. Cover will be provided via the out of hours helpline mentioned above. Leonie and our trainers will be around for some of this period for support on safer recruitment and training, however referrals and safeguarding casework is not covered by those members of staff.

### Exciting dashboards update

A reminder that we have been accepted onto a pilot for Safeguarding Hubs that provide a bolt on to the dashboards to support safer recruitment. Please use the following links to find out more. These should be coming in March for existing dashboard users. This is a substantial cost to the diocese so we will be monitoring usage before committing to longer term use of them.

<https://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/hubs.php> [Safeguarding Dashboards | Safeguarding Hubs - Stage 1](#)

### Training update

Please note that we have dates available on Eventbrite until the end of March for Leadership Training both online and in person. We are also trialling a new PSO leadership course (for those who are yet to do Leadership) in April available via the same site. [Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese](#) We will add further PSO induction training, however the last course was very under subscribed. Dates for April and beyond will be released shortly.

### 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=S2lrS3MrMjc4QnN3eDVGWVBIV2FiZz09>

Meeting ID: 994 7252 6758

Passcode: 036691

### DBS Checks

As you may be aware the House of Bishop Guidance 2016 has been amended to bring the Church in line with good practice across the charity/not for profit sector. As a result of this DBS renewals should be undertaken every three years, a change from the previous five-year period.

The diocese has until the end of 2023 to come into line with this change. As such please do review your records of any individuals in your remit who hold a current DBS. To help spread workload we recommend that any disclosures issued in 2018, 2019 and 2020 are renewed in the month they are due to lapse.

Best wishes,

Ben

**Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells



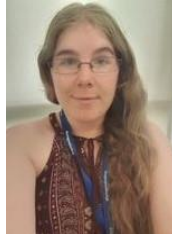
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**Bath & Wells**

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## The Diocesan Safeguarding Team



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Diocesan SafeG Manager



**Leonie Jones**  
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