# Safeguarding Newsletter October 2022:

I know a lot of you, like me, would have been dismayed to read the recent National Publication of the Past Case Reviews 2 (PCR2). As we state in [our executive summary](https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/news/pcr2-published.php), which was also published on 5 October, we remain completely determined as Safeguarding Team and as a Diocese to learn the lessons of both this and the [recent Independent Investigation into Child Sexual Abuse](https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/response-publication-final-report-independent-inquiry-child-sexual) (IICSA), which also reported back recently.

I have read with great interest and sadness the response to this publication by survivors, survivor groups and academics. There is a need to give survivors more confidence that we are not just listening to their concerns and the concerns raised within PCR2 and ICCSA but also are taking action to change the culture and systems that have led to abuse within our church. I personally pledge to do all I can to prevent future victims and support survivors of past abuse

As those who are committed to safeguarding, it is easy during these periods of time to feel deflated. What we must remember, as hard as it is to hear these stories of failures, we should also recognise that in Bath and Wells there are a huge number of people doing a huge amount to keep our community safe. It is not always easy to create a space to raise public awareness of this but in the last 12 months, as well as meeting many of our wonderful and dedicated Parish Safeguarding Officers, I have witnessed many examples of positive safeguarding practice:

* Support for Ukrainian Refugees.
* Churches providing Warm Spaces for those who can’t afford to heat their own homes.
* Food banks for those struggling to buy food for their families.
* Chaplaincy in a range of settings from Courts to hospitals and workplaces.
* Parishes reducing re-offending by engaging with people within the criminal justice system.
* Pastoral support for those going through difficult times.
* Youth drop in for children which is providing a safe space for children after school.

# 

# Safeguarding Sunday 2022

A reminder that this year the event will be held on Sunday 20th November. Go to the [Safeguarding Sunday page on the Thirtyone:eight website](https://thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday/) to register your church and to receive a free resource pack.

We would like all our churches to reflect on safeguarding within their service on the 20th of November and to give thanks to those who volunteer within the Parish to do this important work. One idea is for you to ask your Parish Safeguarding Officer to read the Safeguarding Prayer (below) and use that as an opportunity for everyone to see who they are. Perhaps you may wish to share a reflection on why safeguarding is so important.

**Safeguarding Sunday Prayer 2022**

Dear God,

Help us to be a church that:

Loves, welcomes, protects.

Listens, learns, serves.

Repents, restores, transforms.

Values, cares, believes.

God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer.

Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

# Training Update

We are now accepting bookings onto our relaunched Leadership Training and have availability until the end of January 2023. All our training courses can be found on the [calendar](https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/calendar/?month=10&year=2022&monthly_view=grid&calendar_category_id=3) on the Bath and Wells website. From there you will be able to register via Eventbrite yourself or amend your training dates if you need to.

We are pleased to announce that we have two dates available for the Parish Safeguarding Officers Induction available to book. These take place in person at Flourish House, Wells and are suitable for both new and existing PSOs

Thursday 15th December 10am – 1pm – [Click here to book](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-safeguarding-officer-induction-15th-december-2022-tickets-453814761167)

or

Thursday 05th January 2 – 5pm – [Click here to book](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-safeguarding-officer-induction-05th-january-2023-tickets-453833537327)

Thank you for your patience around this training but we have had quite a transition of staff and a need to ensure we get our approach to training right. All our courses since our relaunch have been very well attended and we have received some fantastic feedback. A large reason for this is the engagement of those undertaking the course and we are very thankful to you.

# Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum

**Our next forum will be on January 11th at 3.30pm via the attached link.** [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NmIwYzE5NzItMTRkYy00NzZiLTllZTUtMDJiZDQ1NzQ5ZDAx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227f1b6aa6-9100-4d04-b439-e1873b6a5c0b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228d1aa867-262c-4841-8c09-839fd0febabb%22%7d) Please keep an eye on the upcoming newsletters as we may seek to move the forums from Teams to Zoom based on recent feedback.

For those who have yet to attend, the format is that I provide updates on our safeguarding work and then we have plenty of time for questions and answers. This is a new addition, and we will evolve it over time to meet need and suggested ideas.

# Website

We are now making excellent progress on improving the safeguarding section of the diocesan website and hope to have this live before we break for Christmas. This is a huge piece of work and I do thank our Communications Team and my own staff for their support with this. The new section will contain six sections and as well as looking better and easier to navigate, it will also include templates and resources for you to be able to download.

1. Meet or contact the team.
2. Report a Safeguarding Concern.
3. Safeguarding Training.
4. Safer Recruitment.
5. Resources, Policy, and Templates.
6. News and Communications.

We hope to continue to develop the site to meet your needs, so do continue to let us know what you need.

Wishing you all a happy autumn

Best wishes,

Ben

**Ben Goodhind**

Diocesan Safeguarding Manager

Diocese of Bath and Wells