

DIOCESE OF ELY

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

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Safeguarding Department

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The Church of England
Diocese of Ely

Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter

Welcome to the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Newsletter.

A quarterly publication produced by the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Department to help advise and guide our parishes and church leaders on a range of safeguarding related matters.

Remember, you can contact the team and find a range of supporting materials on the [Diocese of Ely Safeguarding pages of the website by clicking here.](#)

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Trevor Devamanikkam Review

The [independent lessons learnt review](#) into the Church of England's handling of allegations against the late Revd Trevor Devamanikkam was published on 11 05 2023.

Trevor Devamanikkam was due to appear in court in June 2017, charged with six counts of sexual abuse in the 1980s, against a 16-year-old. However, he did not arrive for the hearing and was found dead at his home later that day. An inquest found that he had died by suicide. In 2012 and 2013, the survivor, himself a member of clergy at the time, alleged he made a number

of disclosures of non-recent abuse to senior clergy, and they failed to act on them.

The review was commissioned by the National Safeguarding Team, NST, and carried out by Jane Humphreys, a Senior Social Care Consultant, and previous Director of Children's and Adult's Services with a career spanning more than 30 years.

Its purpose is to identify both good practice and failings in the Church of England's handling of the allegations, including its safeguarding practice, in order that the Church can take steps to enhance and improve its response to allegations of abuse and thereby ensure a safer environment for all.

Safer Spaces Resources for Churches

Safe Spaces, the free, independent national support service for victims and survivors of church-related abuse, have produced new posters for churches to signpost to their free confidential helpline. The posters include the [safe spaces email address](#), tear off strips with the helpline number or a QR code which can be scanned with a mobile phone to access the [Safe Spaces website](#).

Churches are encouraged to share the posters as widely as possible by displaying them on church notice boards and including links to the posters in e-newsletters and bulletins. Please note that the email address for Safe Spaces has recently changed and the opening hours for the helpline have been extended, so please ensure any information on church websites has been updated to reflect these changes.

Bishop Joanne Grenfell, the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop said: "Safe Spaces is a vital service for survivors and victims of abuse who want a place they can seek support and advice away from the Church. These new posters are designed for use in every parish and local church setting to signpost to the service. Please do use them and share as widely as possible."

[Click here to access and download the posters](#)

In addition to this each parish should be displaying the Safeguarding policy statement Promoting a Safer Church poster and the [Whistle Blowing policy](#) on their church notice boards. Copies of the Promoting a Safer Church poster and the Safeguarding Pocket Guides can be obtained by e-mailing a member of the [Safeguarding Team](#)



Spiritual Abuse and Healthy Cultures Training

Ely Diocese Safeguarding Team, together with Mission & Ministry and Ely Cathedral hosted two training sessions on Understanding Spiritual Abuse and Trauma, on the 5th June (in person) and on the 20th June (online). The sessions were facilitated by Simon and Caroline Plant from Replenished Life, an

independent charity which supports those who have experienced abuse and trauma within faith. Their vision is:

- That every person who has experienced abuse and trauma within faith is heard, understood, and their experience is validated.
- That every person who has experienced abuse and trauma within faith receives quality support from organisations that are well equipped to provide this support.
- That there is an awareness of what healthy faith looks like and what support is available where there are concerns.

We had approximately 80 people across the Diocese attend the two sessions, with the training looking at the definition of spiritual abuse, examples of the spectrum of behaviour ranging from healthy to spiritual abuse, as well as what a healthy culture looks like, how to respond to any disclosures and some of the challenges that we may face in identifying spiritual abuse.

If you were unable to attend one of these two sessions the National Safeguarding Team are advertising further dates for this training throughout 2023. The training will again be delivered by Replenished Life.

The training offered mirrors the content and quality of that offered through the National Safeguarding Team alongside Dr Lisa Oakley last year.

Dates available are:

- Tuesday July 18th 2023
- Friday Sept 15th 2023
- Tuesday Sept 26th 2023
- Thursday Oct 5th 2023
- Wednesday Oct 18th 2023
- Tuesday Nov 14th 2023
- Friday Nov 24th 2023

There are 30 places available for each date. All sessions run 10am to 3.30pm with breaks built in. Participants will be sent a course information pack and the joining link closer to their chosen training date.

Places are open to anyone within the church and can be booked through Eventbrite using [this link. \(click here\)](#)

Access to DBS Reports via APCS website

For a long time we know we have all had the ability to track a DBS checks progress via either the DBS or APCS's websites.

However did you know you can set up a management report with APCS which will show all DBS checks started, in progress and completed via your parishes account number. Click on the following link to set this up <https://www.onlinedbscheck.co.uk/ManagementReportsLogin.aspx>

Please note it will not show any application processed via the DBS Update Service.

Safeguarding Partnership Boards Training

The **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Board** has a full program of multi agency courses covering a wide range of safeguarding subjects. These courses are free for volunteers ([click here](#)).

Norfolk Safeguarding Boards have two websites – one for Adult Safeguarding Training <https://www.norfolksafeguardingadultsboard.info/training/> and the other for Children's Safeguarding Training. <https://s4s.norfolk.gov.uk/Training>

Parish Safeguarding Officers meeting

The date of the next meeting is 5 July. This will start at 10am and will again be held via Zoom. Please book you place to attend via this link <https://elydatabase.org/events/safeguarding>

In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing those of you can join us at the evensong service at Ely Cathedral and afterwards at the Garden party in the Bishop's Garden on 3rd July



DBS Eligibility

When processing DBS check please ensure the correct level of DBS check is being requested for the position applied for.

Although there is some guidance available, via the Safer Recruitment and People Management guidance (Section 9 - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)), eligibility is very much dependent on the type of work to be carried out, the regularity of this involvement and the level of contact with either children and/or adults. This should be clearly illustrated in a person's role description.

The Disclosure and Barring Service also provide eligibility guidance which will provide further guidance.

Please remember none of the activities undertaken within our churches are eligible for a Standard check.

Should you have any queries in relation to DBS eligibility the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer will be happy to discuss this with you.

Other Updates

All parishes are able to process DBS ID checks either digitally or face to face.

The Church of England Confidential declaration form was updated at the beginning of 2023 – please make sure you are using the [latest version of this document](#).



Contact the Team

Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Rebecca Boswell,

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Training, Criminal Record Checks (DBS) and Parish Safeguarding Officer Support

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT - DBS CHECKS

Jackie Williamson (part-time),

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