

DIOCESE OF ELY

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

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.

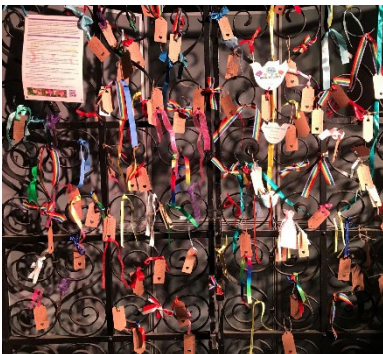
A quarterly publication produced by the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding Department to help advise and guide our parishes and church leaders on a range of safeguarding related matters.

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.](#)

In this Edition

- [Safeguarding Season November 2022](#)
- [Safeguarding Sunday 2023](#)
- [PSO Networking Meetings](#)
- [Scam Highlight](#)
- [Multi Agency Training](#)
- [Confidential Declaration Form Update](#)
- [The Clewer Initiative- Modern Day slavery training](#)
- [Safe Spaces](#)
- [Resources and Organisations for Care and Support](#)
- [Contact the Team](#)

Safeguarding Season November 2022 and Safeguarding Webinars



During November 2022 the Diocese of Ely and Ely Cathedral launched Safeguarding Season.

During this week there was a

Loudfence event at the Cathedral, which was

very well supported and provided an opportunity for those attending the Cathedral or virtually, to attach a ribbon and a message of support for victims and survivors of all forms of abuse.

There were also a series of webinars that focussed on, and raised awareness of, a wide-ranging number of safeguarding issues that affect all our communities.

These included the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Service, Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVA), Survivors Voices, Hate Crime Awareness and the Clewer Initiative.

In addition, The Ven Richard Harlow, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech, gave a webinar on A Theology of Safeguarding. All of the webinars received excellent feedback and proved to be a real success.

We are mindful that many people were unable to attend some of the webinars and as such some of the video recordings have now been made available on the Diocesan Safeguarding page for those wishing to see them. Please use this link to access the webinars <https://www.elydiocese.org/safeguarding-season-2022-webinars.php>

Safeguarding Sunday 2023

SAVE THE DATE for next year: **Sunday 19th November 2023.**



PSO Networking Meetings

The Safeguarding Team are always looking for ways to best support the Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) across the diocese. We will be running the PSO Networking meetings quarterly, rather than just twice a year. The Safeguarding Newsletter will be published prior to this meeting and will form part of the meeting's agenda

For the meeting on 26 January we are very pleased to have Georgina Mitchell from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) joining us. Georgina is the Regional Outreach Adviser (East Anglia)

The DBS Outreach Advisers will be working with organisations and networks within their region in several ways, including:

- answering DBS-related queries and providing advice via phone/email
- attending meetings, training and conferences, or visiting your organisation to have a face-to-face discussion (in line with pandemic restrictions)
- developing and delivering presentations, workshops, webinars or discussions to provide an overview of DBS
- collating feedback, suggestions or comments and feeding this back into DBS
- helping organisations/networks to understand what level of DBS check can be applied for, and what information these checks will provide
- informing organisations and employers of their duty or power to refer

Georgina will run a short presentation and be available to answer questions. As this is an extended agenda the meeting will start at 10am and finish at 12pm.

Scam Warning

The Safeguarding team received some upsetting information regarding one person's experience at the hands of a would-be scammer. We have been given permission to share their account of events to highlight a time

of vulnerability and how some people can use this for financial or other forms of exploitation.

I feel the need to highlight a situation that happened to me personally last year, which in hindsight I believe is relevant. This is an opportunity for me to mention another form of abuse to which I was subjected. Whilst we might think of abuse as a coercive, bullying, or sexual act, the abuse I experienced was equally damaging. At the time I could not talk about it because of the mental trauma it caused. However, because it followed the sudden death of my husband, my story might help other ministers in their work with bereaved families.

To highlight this is still quite painful, but I feel I should speak to those who deal regularly with families after the death of a loved one. My experience was of abuse when I was at my lowest ebb, and it took a long time to come to terms with. I was completely unaware of this form of abuse and how damaging it is.

Soon after my husband's death I started to receive hundreds of phone calls, even during the night. After the first few, I did not answer the calls, but wrote down the time and numbers: they were all different, and the original callers had foreign accents. The calls carried on relentlessly day after day, night after night. I became more withdrawn and anxious, and totally unable to speak about it. I was given a book by my bank with a number for Victims' Support, and I subsequently spoke to a mentor, who contacted the police. They interviewed me and took away my long lists of phone numbers, and even spoke to my doctor. They agreed that the abuse constituted severe harassment and following their visit my phone number was changed and the calls stopped.

This abuse caused me serious anxiety. I was scared to go out at night for fear of being watched and was completely unable to speak about it even to my friends at church or to the kind Dean at Ely, who recognised something was wrong. I was certainly badly affected because of my inability to talk about it at the time. But because it happened to me it probably happens to many others. I am hoping that my



experience will be a warning to others who might be able to recognise distress in bereaved people if it goes on for a long time.

Incidentally, apparently putting a notice of death in a paper is thought to be one of the ways these people get hold of information, and then the torment begins.

The Covid pandemic was indirectly part of the cause of my beloved husband's death, and the deaths of many others who were unable to get the treatment they required in time. He did not have Covid but died of a ruptured bowel and sepsis. It developed rapidly, but in spite of his condition I was unable to get anyone to listen to me. It left me feeling that I had let him down. I still need to come to terms with a situation that I had no control in.

I hope it is considered appropriate that I have shared my story at this time. It felt right for me to do so, and I'm hoping that by doing so I will feel less guilty for not having managed to get anyone to listen to me at the time of my husband's greatest need.

I am also hoping that my having spoken about the relentless abuse of the phone calls, which caused me so much distress, will be a reminder to all my colleagues that this could happen to anyone. It could happen to a member of your congregation, and perhaps, like me, they will not be in a position to explain what is wrong.

I have received such kindness from everyone at my church, and the Cathedral too, and I hope my experience will be a warning that, if it seems something is wrong with one of your parishioners, perhaps they too feel unable to talk about it.

Multi Agency Training



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board continues to provide a programme of high quality courses that include basic

awareness courses through to in depth courses and specific subject matter (e.g. Criminal Exploitation, Self-Neglect and Hoarding), providing an excellent opportunity to learn together with the overall aim that working together effectively leads to better improved outcomes for children, young people and adults by:

- A shared understanding of the principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance and local arrangements for safeguarding children, young people, and adults.
- More effective and integrated services at both the strategic and individual case level.
- Improved communication and information sharing between professionals, including a common understanding of key terms, definitions and thresholds for action.
- Effective working relationships, including an ability to work in multi-disciplinary groups or teams.
- Learning from both local and national case review processes.

Below are the dates of some of the upcoming safeguarding training provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board.

Date	Course	Time
17 th January 2023	Early Help – Back to Basics	16:00 – 19:00
18 th January 2023	Working Together to Safeguard Adults	10:30 – 12:30
20 th January 2023	Introduction to the Effects of Domestic Abuse	09:30 – 11:30
24 th January 2023	Working Together to Safeguard Children	10:30 – 12:30
31 st January 2023	Self-Neglect and Safeguarding Adults at Risk	10:30 – 12:30
2 nd February 2023	Hoarding and Safeguarding Adults at Risk	10:30 – 12:30

6 th February 2023	An Introduction to Child Criminal Exploitation	10:30 – 12:30
7 th February 2023	Safeguarding Adults and the Mental Capacity Act	10:30 – 12:30
14 th February 2023	Domestic Abuse – Using DASH to Risk Assess the Situation	09:30 – 11:30
16 th February 2023	Early Help – Back to Basics	13:00 – 16:00
21 st February 2023	Introduction to Child Neglect	10:30 – 12:30
27 th February 2023	Impact of Parental Substance Misuse	10:00 – 15:00

For more details about the courses and to book a place on any of our training, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Confidential Declaration Form Update

The National Safeguarding Team have released the updated Confidential Declaration form for use for all those required to complete a DBS check. You can find the updated version [here](#)

The Clewer Initiative – Modern Day Slavery Training

Modern Slavery and Safeguarding Training for Parish Safeguarding Officers:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/474705225107>

This training will cover:

1. What is modern slavery?
2. How do you recognise, respond, record and refer concerns about modern slavery and exploitation?
3. What do I need to know about safeguarding when working with potential victims?
4. Where can I get further information and training from?

The training will take place via zoom on the two dates listed below, please sign up for one of the sessions:

1. 11th January 19:00-20:30
2. 13th February 10:00-11:30
3. 8th March 19:00-20:30
4. 24th March 13:00-14:30

Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces ([click here to visit their website](#)) is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone in the Church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church in England and Wales or the Church in Wales.

If you have been affected, however long ago, Safe Spaces can provide you with support. You do not have to have told the police or the church authorities, and you do not have to still be involved with the church. Your information will not be shared without your consent unless you or someone else is in immediate danger.

You can [contact the Safe Spaces team by visiting their website here](#) and via the opening details and means below.

- Telephoning them on 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available outside of opening times)
- Emailing them at safespaces@firstlight.org.uk
- The dedicated Safe Spaces team are available through the helpline during the following hours:
 - 09:00-21:00 Monday to Friday
 - 09:00-13:00 Saturdays
 - 13:00-17:00 Sundays
- A member of the Safe Spaces team will make contact within 48 hours of making a contact request or referral.



Evensong and Bishop's Garden Party

Evensong and Bishop's Garden Party for Parish Safeguarding Officers.



The Bishop will be inviting Parish Safeguarding Officers, and a guest, to a Garden Party in his garden following the Evensong

service on 3 July 2023. Please put this date in your diaries now. Invitations will follow closer to the date.

Contact the Team

Safeguarding Cases and Incidents

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISER
Rebecca Boswell,
Email: rebecca.boswell@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652731,
Mobile Number: 07904 487912,
Hours of work 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

ASSISTANT DIOCESAN
SAFEGUARDING ADVISER
Sharon Gage (part-time),
Email sharon.gage@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652706,
Mobile Number: 07507 741295,
Hours of work 9.30am -2.30pm Monday to Thursday

ASSISTANT DIOCESAN
SAFEGUARDING ADVISER
Lisa Pearson (part-time),
Email: lisa.pearson@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652738,
Mobile Number: 07990 581267,
Hours of work 9am-5pm Monday to Thursday

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

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Sarah King, E-mail: sarah.king@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652735,
Mobile Number: 0777 666 1798,
Hours of work 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT - DBS CHECKS
Jackie Williamson (part-time),
E-mail: safeguardadmin@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652721,
Hours of work 9am-5pm Tuesday and Wednesday

SAFEGUARDING ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT - TRAINING
Kelly Nott (part-time),
E-mail: safeguarding.training@elydiocese.org,
Telephone number: 01353 652744,
Hours of work 10am-2pm Monday to Friday

