

Safeguarding Update – December 2017

Website – Online Referral Form

We've been given a make-over! Check out our new-look safeguarding pages [here](#). Frequently used forms and documents should be easier to find and there's a page dedicated to resources for parish safeguarding co-ordinators. To make it easier for you to tell us about concerns there's now an online referral form to report:



- * concerns / allegations that occur at a church activity
- * concerns / allegations about a church officer
- * when the behaviour of someone attending a church activity may be a risk to others e.g. a convicted sex offender

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator Surgeries – Domestic Violence

Back in March The Church of England published its practice guidance on Responding Well to Domestic Abuse. A summary of what parishes must do to implement the policy is now on our website and we've also produced some small guides for you to give to your volunteers.



You can find out more and collect your small guides at one of our safeguarding surgeries:

Tuesday 23rd January 2018, 10am – 12pm at Christ Church, Sparkbrook
Thursday 25th January 2018, 6pm – 8pm at St Matthew's Perry Beeches

[Please book here](#)

Drop in for a cuppa, a safeguarding update, a chance to ask the safeguarding team questions and to network with other Co-ordinators.

Are you new in post?

The safeguarding team aim to visit all new Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators - just for a chat and so you can put a face to a name – get in touch with us to arrange a time to meet at safeguardingsupport@cofebirmingham.com

Training

Resourcing Day

The next resourcing day for parish safeguarding co-ordinators will be on **Saturday 12th May 2018**. Save the date and book your place [here](#)

C1 Foundation Safeguarding

The Church of England are still to launch their C1 e-learning module, so we'll be adding some extra face to face C1 sessions to our training programme next year. These will be for those who have contact with children, young people or vulnerable adults. Please do not send PCC members to these sessions unless they are working with these groups. We'll let you know when a session comes to your area, or have a look on our [website](#) for dates

PCC members

We're currently developing a resource for parish safeguarding co-ordinators to use with their PCCs to raise awareness of safeguarding and expect this to be available by autumn 2018. In the meantime, if you want to raise awareness of safeguarding in your church check out this two minute video from CCPAS:

[Kids Are Safe Here](#)

Church Wardens

Have your church wardens attended safeguarding training yet? We've still got lots of them to train, so encourage them to book on a C2, foundation and leadership session [here](#)

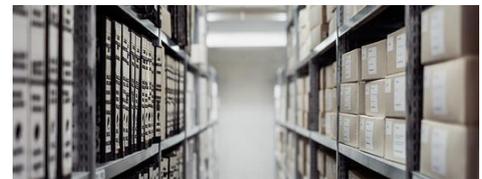
Safeguarding in a Vacancy

In September we launched our new procedures for safeguarding during a vacancy. Just before your vicar leaves for pastures new, the safeguarding team will visit you to discuss the arrangements for safeguarding in your church whilst you're in vacancy. We'll continue to support you during the vacancy and come back again when you have a new vicar to ensure a smooth handover of information. Find out more in the resources for PCCs section on the policy page of our [website](#)

Policy

In November, The Church of England published two new practice guidance documents to support its Promoting a Safer Church policy:

- Responding to, assessing and managing safeguarding concerns or allegations against church officers
- Key roles and responsibilities of church office holders and bodies



A summary of these documents for the local church and a parish checklist will be available by Summer 2018

and a theology paper for preachers and teachers from the Faith & Order Commission:

- Forgiveness and reconciliation in the aftermath of abuse

All are available on The Church of England [website](#)