

Our regular round up of news and forthcoming events from our diocese [View this email in your browser](#)

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RECENT UPDATES  
**November 2023**

### **A message from Bishop Martin**

*I want to offer my sincere thanks for the dedication and hard work done by so many safeguarding officers across each of the parishes in the diocese. Safeguarding is so much more than following policies and procedures. It's about creating and promoting a culture where the church is a safe place to welcome all people and so the work undertaken by each of you is vital to our mission and care for one another. I realise that lots of what you do goes on behind the scenes, but it does not go unnoticed. Once again, thank you for all you do for your church communities, and I wish you a blessed advent.*



### **Thank you**

Welcome to our Christmas edition of Safeguarding eNews, where we take an opportunity to review what's been happening in 2023, give you a glimpse of things to come, and remind you of the importance of good safeguarding practice whilst our Christmas activities ramp up.

As always, we have valued the support of our Safeguarding officers and Clergy and would like to thank you all for the work that you do to promote and support safeguarding in the parishes.

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## National Safeguarding

### National Safeguarding Standards

The Church of England has published a set of national standards - an essential benchmark to understand the quality and the impact of its safeguarding activity, at a local and national level. Please visit their website [here](#) where you can find information and posters relating to the five standards.

### Safeguarding Audits

INEQE Safeguarding Group (a leading independent safeguarding organisation) has been appointed by the Archbishops' Council to carry out the next round of independent external audits of Church of England dioceses and cathedrals, starting in January 2024. The audit for the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich is scheduled for October 2025. As part of their audit, INEQE will be requesting to speak with children and vulnerable adults in each diocese (including victims and survivors of abuse). Please keep an eye out for updates.

## DBS

### DBS 3-year Renewal

Thank you to everyone who continues to review the DBS checks for their parish in the move from the five-year to three-year renewal. A reminder that we have until January 2024 to ensure that everyone whose role requires them to have a DBS certificate has one which conforms with the three-year renewal cycle.

If you are unsure whether a role in your church/benefice requires a check, you may find the information in the following link useful [here](#).

If you would like a refresher on how to complete a DBS check, here is a quick guide produced by Due Diligence Checking – the company through which we process our DBS checks - available [here](#).

Alison Baalham is happy to answer any queries that you may have please email: [alison.baalham@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:alison.baalham@cofesuffolk.org).

Father Christmas is not eligible for an enhanced DBS check. However, we request that you process a basic application under the role 'Father Christmas'. Please ensure children **do not** have opportunity to sit on Father Christmas' lap.

### **An updated CDF**

The Confidential Declaration form (CDF) and Privacy Notice have been updated. This must be sent to all people requiring or renewing a DBS, whether via DDC or the Update Service. You can find the new forms on our website, and we ask that you use these forms from now on [here](#).

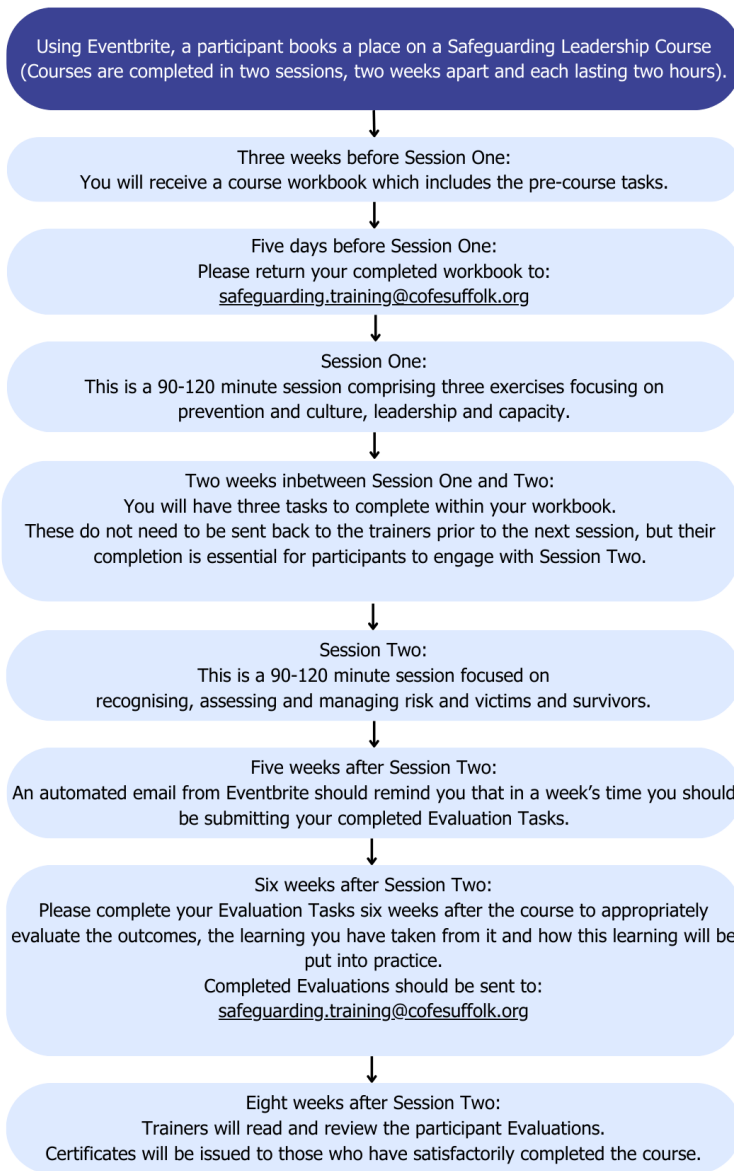
## **Training**

All dates for 2024 training will be available via Eventbrite for the following courses: in person Basic Awareness, Foundation, and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse. Zoom and in-person courses for Leadership can also be accessed via Eventbrite.

The materials for the Leadership training have been updated and we wish to draw your attention to the fact that completion of the course from start to finish will take 13 weeks overall. It is imperative that you complete the leadership course before your previous training runs out to continue your role seamlessly. The flow chart below outlines the various stages.



## Safeguarding Training Flow Chart for Parishes



13 weeks in total

Thank you for all you have done to encourage people to do the Safeguarding courses. Below is a table that shows you the number of people who have attended core

training events.

Jan 2023- Nov 2023	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Leadership	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
Number of attendees completed via the Portal	988	614	Not available through the Portal	121
Number of attendees completed with the trainers	178	124	384	16

(zoom and face-to-face)				
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A gentle reminder to check your emails before leaving for a safeguarding training session in order to check that the event has not been affected by adverse weather conditions or illness, etc. and that it is still going ahead.

In order for our records to be kept up to date, please inform us of any changes of PSO or BSO roles as soon as possible.

## Events

### **Safeguarding Sunday**

You may be aware that the church marked Safeguarding Sunday on 19 November this year. It is an annual event which is organised by the organisation ThirtyOne:Eight, which provides many useful safeguarding resources for churches. You can sign up for updates and free downloadable materials on the following link: <https://thirtyoneeight.org>. Safeguarding Sunday can be observed any Sunday and not just in November!

### **Christmas events**

During the Advent and Christmas period we will have more people visiting our churches. Please make sure Safeguarding posters and contact information are properly displayed. We also request that all your leaders and volunteers have their relevant Safeguarding checks and training.

Christmas, whilst so joyous, can also be incredibly stressful. Families may be spending more time together which can increase tensions. We also need to be mindful that people may feel or be alone at this time of year. Safeguarding is all about keeping people safe and supporting them through difficult times, for this reason we ask that you keep safeguarding in mind at all times.

**We wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas and look forward to working with you all in 2024.**

**Dear God we pray**

*For all those who serve in a safeguarding role within our Church.*

*Thank you for their willingness and time they give to fulfil this important task.*

*Give them your wisdom, discernment, and strength.*

*Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and respond to their requests and advice so that we might be a safer place for everyone.*

*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**Amen**

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