

Communication guidance: Past Cases Review

In order to make the Past Cases Review as comprehensive as possible, you may wish to share information about it within your parish and the helplines available, in order to allow people to contribute information if they wish.

Below is some suggested wording that you are invited to use as you wish.

- Please direct any media enquiries about the Past Cases Review to: Jennifer Ross, Communications Officer for the Diocese of Rochester on: 01634 560000 / 07526 171 583 or jennifer.ross@rochester.anglican.org

Sample message for parishes – *this could be used in newsletters, as part of a sermon/verbal notices, or in parish pew sheets.*

We are committed to making our church a safe space for all and ensuring that everyone understands that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The fact that abuse has ever happened within the Church of England is a matter of deep shame and regret.

That is why Church of England churches across Medway, north and west Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, which make up the Diocese of Rochester, and of which our church is a part, are undertaking a comprehensive safeguarding review.

This review is looking at all the information a church might hold about incidents of church related abuse by those who have held positions of responsibility in a church – both recent and non-recent.

It's important because, in order to be certain that we are fulfilling our duty of care to all those who come to our churches, we need to establish that all known past cases of concern have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

Anyone who needs to come forward with information or make any disclosures regarding church related abuse are encouraged to make direct contact with the Diocese of Rochester's Safeguarding team on: **01634 560000** or visit: www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/

Recognising that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the Church, a dedicated telephone helpline operated independently from the church, by the NSPCC, has been set up.

Calls can be made free to: **0800 80 20 20**

Anyone can use the helpline to provide information or to raise concerns regarding abuse within the Church of England context; whether they are reporting issues relating to children, adults or seeking to whistle blow about poor safeguarding practice.

Your concerns will be taken seriously.

Sometimes it takes an external prompting, like this Past Cases Review, for those things that have been hidden to be opened to the light of day and to the light of Christ.

But with such prompting may begin the path to penitence and forgiveness, the path to healing of long-hidden wounds.

Please pray for all those involved in this review process and especially for all victims and survivors of abuse.

Sample shorter notice – *could be used in a pew sheet, on the parish website or A Church Near You page*

We are committed to making our church a safe space for all.

Churches across the Diocese of Rochester are currently undertaking a comprehensive safeguarding review to establish that all known past cases of concern relating to church abuse have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

If you are concerned about something you have experienced in a church, now or in the past, or you are worried about another person - perhaps a vulnerable adult or a child – there are people you can talk to and you will be taken seriously.

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[You can also find these details on our parish website]

Thank you.

Sample text for website

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Graphic – *this could be pasted into a newsletter or included on a website. Download it [here](#)*

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More help

If you are in any doubt, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Janice Keen on: janice.keen@rochester.anglican.org

Or the Communications Officer for the Diocese, Jennifer Ross on: jennifer.ross@rochester.anglican.org