

March 2025

## Safeguarding Newsletter



### **Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager**

Dear all,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we approach Easter. Firstly, I want to apologise for the lack of updates since Christmas. Unfortunately, I was very unwell over the Christmas holidays and needed some time away from work. I am pleased to let you know I am now back at work.

For the time being, I am on a phased return, working 9-1pm, Monday to Friday, until the week of the Audit at the

end of March. I would like to express my gratitude to my team and everyone who has supported them during this difficult time. I'm incredibly lucky to have such a talented and dedicated staff team and colleagues.

Ben

## Changes to how you contact the Safeguarding team

Please note that, as outlined in the Christmas newsletter, we will shortly be moving to a centralised telephone system. This change will help ensure that all calls are answered quickly, and enquiries are directed to the right person.

Our roles are complex and busy, and we are often away from the phone. This system will ensure you get a faster response and if you need urgent support it can be facilitated better.

We also kindly ask that email enquiries be sent to the team mailbox so that whoever is on duty at the time can access them. This will help prevent delays due to staff absence, training or other commitments.

- DBS/recruitment enquiries - [dbb.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:dbb.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org)
- Training enquiries - [training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:training.safeguarding@bathwells.anglican.org)
- Anything else [Safe.Guarding@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:Safe.Guarding@bathwells.anglican.org)

## INEQE Audit Update

As you will be aware, our Independent Audit is taking place over two weeks from 24 March. Week 1 will be largely virtual, with a range of meetings to discuss historic audits. Some online focus groups will also be undertaken. The audit team will also visit Wells Cathedral School.

From the week beginning 31 March, the audit team will be in Wells undertaking a full audit of the Diocesan Board of Finance and Wells

Cathedral. A huge amount of work has gone into trying to make this a worthwhile and successful process and I would like to thank everyone who has helped or who is helping with this process.

It was fantastic to learn about the huge number of surveys completed by staff, volunteers, parishioners, children who use our youth groups and clergy. Whether people responded to challenge our practice or praise it, this shows that we have managed to achieve a very high level of engagement which will help shape our work to come.

The audit will identify both areas of good practice and areas for improvement or further development. I'm really proud of how far we have come during the last four years, and we can't forget that when I joined in 2021, we were still in lockdown. We are now in the final 9 months of our 3-year Safeguarding Strategy 2023-2025. The audit will provide an opportunity to shape the work that will be delivered and developed for the next 3-year plan 2026-2028. We anticipate that we will receive the first draft of our report towards the end of April and we will then have some time to challenge the findings before it is published hopefully in May/June 2025.

## PSO Celebration events

In order to celebrate the contribution made by Parish Safeguarding Officers a number of events are planned by Bishop Michael in May, June and July at Wells Cathedral and the Bishops Palace. These evenings begin with an invitation to Evensong at the Cathedral at 17:15pm followed by a drinks reception at the Palace ending no later than 19:15pm.

You should now have received your invitations to attend but if not please do contact the Palace. You can sign up to attend one of these events through the link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/vhTMW5wuXB> and they will be taking place on these dates:

- Tuesday 13 May
- Monday 9 June
- Tuesday 17 June

- Tuesday 24 June
- Tuesday 8 July

As I have said over my time here, we are incredibly grateful for all that you do in a challenging but hopefully rewarding role.

## Bath and Wells Safeguarding Training – Spring 2025

Before taking or renewing the Leadership course, we recommend revisiting the Basic Awareness and Foundation courses for a reminder of the basics, which can be done online, through the CofE training portal: [Home | Safeguarding: Training Portal \(cofeportal.org\)](#)

Our next available dates for Leadership training are:

- Wed 2 and Wed 9 Apr **Online** (Zoom) 10:00 - 11:30 **or** 19:00 – 20:30
- Wed 7 and Wed 14 May **Online** (Zoom) 13:00 - 14:30 **or** 19:00 – 20:30
- Thur 8 and Thur 15 May **In person** – Flourish house 10:00 - 11:30
- Wed 21 and Wed 28 May **Online** (Zoom) 19:00 – 20:30
- Thur 22 and Thur 29 May **Online** (Zoom) 10:00 – 11:30
- Wed 4 and Wed 11 June **Online** (Zoom) 19:00 pm – 20:30

### **Other courses**

Train the Trainer Thurs 5 June 10:00 – 12:00

These courses can be booked online through the diocesan Events Calendar [Events & training - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)

## Team Updates

In light of the huge resource challenges that we faced following several high-profile national media cases, we have been able to utilise some temporary additional casework support. Richard Brown and Julie Davies are both experienced safeguarding professionals from a policing background. They have hit the ground running very quickly. I'm sure you join me in welcoming them to the diocese.

## Wells Cathedral



Did you know the diocesan Safeguarding team also provides safeguarding services to Wells Cathedral? If you are a cathedral volunteer, you can contact me or Jo with any safeguarding concerns. Jo works from Wells Cathedral one day a week.

## Meet the Safeguarding team



**Ben Goodhind**

**Safeguarding Manager**

[Ben Goodhind's contact information](#)



Jo Austin

Safeguarding Caseworker

[Jo Austin's contact information.](#)



Jake Lent

Safeguarding Coordinator

[Jake Lent's contact information.](#)



Enita Andrews

Safeguarding Trainer

[Enita Andrews's contact information.](#)



Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall

Safeguarding Trainer

[Jacqueline Keir-Bucknall's contact information.](#)



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### **Safeguarding - Diocese of Bath and Wells**

Flourish House, Wells  
United Kingdom

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