

# SAFEGUARDING BRIEFING

March 2020/4

## Welcome!

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Diocese of Truro's Safeguarding Briefing. This newsletter is sent to Priests in charge, safeguarding co-ordinators, safeguarding trainers & PCC secretaries.

This briefing contains up-to-date guidance, information, dates, and events and provides you with the

opportunity to ask questions and share best practice. Please feel free to share this briefing.

## SAFEGUARDING CONTINUES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Current government guidance in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus will be causing some significant safeguarding challenges locally, and we anticipate questions arising.

This special briefing is to offer support and reassurance about how we can continue to safeguard those in our parishes and communities.

We recognise that there will be situations that are new to us all, but with guidance and advice we hope to be able to steer you



through as safely as possible.

We do not wish to bombard you, but hope that sharing some of your queries may be helpful in some way.

## DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE TRAINING

For those of you who are responsible for the DBS process in your parish (primarily DBS Recruiters and Safeguarding Officers) thirtyone:eight are offering a two-hour online training course which is designed to help

manage the criminal records check process and make decisions on whether or not a role requires disclosure.

Follow this [link](#) if you wish to book on the training.

## ADVICE & SUPPORT

The diocesan safeguarding team are still working, so it is business as usual albeit from home.

Safeguarding casework will continue, however we will be limiting face to face meetings and travel to those that are considered by us to be essential.

Other meetings will be conducted over the phone, email, virtually (webcam based media for example) or we might also use the postal service. The best way to get in touch with the Safeguarding team is via email.

### RAISING A CONCERN

If you wish to raise a safeguarding concern you should email Sarah Acraman (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor).

For out of hours and emergencies please phone the Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU) 0300 1231 116 for an urgent response from Social Care, or if you believe somebody is at immediate risk of harm please phone the police on 999.

The email address [safeguarding@truro.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@truro.anglican.org) should be used, rather than individual mailboxes, for general safeguarding queries as this mailbox is monitored daily. The exception to this is for safeguarding training.

# SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

*(When normal service is resumed!).*

Our aim is to equip everyone with the knowledge and understanding of safeguarding so they can be a part of the culture change towards shared good safeguarding practice.

As you may be aware the national safeguarding training modules have been amended. The choice of core modules have been reduced to prevent confusion, and C3 and C5 no longer exist.

Foundation (C1) and Leadership (C2) courses will be mixed groups of individuals attending training for the first time and individuals who are due to refresh their safeguarding training. This enables questions and sharing of examples from different perspectives.

Both Basic Awareness (C0) and Foundation (C1) modules are now available online. Each person, according to their role, must attend the highest level course as a face-to-face session (see below for interim

arrangements) For example: A PCC member should complete the Basic Awareness (C0) module online, and then attend the Foundation module (C1) face to face; a churchwarden can access C0 and C1 online, but must then attend the Leadership session (C2) face to face.

## INTERIM SAFEGUARDING TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS

In line with government advice we are cancelling all face to face safeguarding training until further notice.

Effective immediately all Leadership (C2) and Foundation (C1) training courses currently in the training programme have been cancelled. You do not need to cancel your place on BookWhen, this will be done for you.

If your role requires you to undertake Basic Awareness (C0) and/or Foundation (C1) training you will still be required to complete that training

in a timely manner, using the on-line modules. Information about how to access this training can be found on the diocesan website [diocesan safeguarding training](https://www.trurodiocese.org.uk)

This is for those who are required to undertake Leadership (C2) training for their roles, and for individuals who are new in post who have never done face to face. You will be our priority. We will endeavour to be flexible in our approach to training to ensure that you keep up to date with your safeguarding responsibilities.

Please contact [mandy.wells@truro.anglican.org](mailto:mandy.wells@truro.anglican.org) and she will advise you about what is available. Where we are unable to meet need, we will carefully record the 'cogent' reasons and encourage you to book on a course as soon as it becomes possible. Your ministry or job role will not be affected.

## PARISH PASTORAL SUPPORT GUIDANCE

During this difficult time, the needs of people in our communities, including our own volunteers, workers and ministers, is going to increase, and our resources to meet such a growth in need will be stretched.

Pulling together is vital, but looking after ourselves is vital too. We will not be able to meet all the need, and this will feel difficult. We must be kind to each other and offer emotional support to our frontline workers as well as those behind the scenes, as we strive to do our best and find new ways of doing things.



**The Pastoral Support in Parishes** guidance which is available on our website in this section: <https://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/>

[covid19/diocesan-guidance/](https://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/covid19/diocesan-guidance/) we hope will help you to navigate some of the issues.

Do remember that whilst it might feel tempting to reduce our safeguarding principles with the aim of 'getting on with meeting need quickly', very trying times such as these can leave us more exposed and open to being harmed.

Safeguarding must, therefore, be front and centre in all parish discussions when deciding how we work.

# SAFER RECRUITMENT & DBS CHECKS

Although the current Safer Recruitment guidance remains in effect, the Disclosure and Barring Service have recognised the difficulties in physically reviewing ID documents, with the introduction of social distances and home working.

Under the current guidance, the ID checker must be in physical possession of the original documents so they can be checked for indicators of fraud. To ensure that the necessary

DBS checks can still be carried out, the DBS ID checking guidance has been changed for a temporary period.

The changes mean that you can now either email or post scanned images, or use a video link when submitting the DBS for processing.

For Clergy, PtO and Readers, as there are no staff available at Church House, please email scanned images to

safeguarding@truro.anglican.org. If you are unable to scan images please email safeguarding@truro.anglican.org and we can make arrangements to use either a video link or post.

For parish recruitment, please get in touch with your local parish DBS Recruiter.

All applicants will still be required to present the original versions of these documents when they first attend their role.

## TRAUMA AND TRAGEDY IN CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS

**Christopher Southgate, Carla Grosch-Miller and Hilary Ison**  
**Tragedies and Christian Congregations Project**  
[www.tragedyandcongregations.org.uk](http://www.tragedyandcongregations.org.uk)

This is part of a three-year project on trauma and tragedy in Christian congregations.

### **First thought: context is everything.**

You will know better than anyone else how your particular community is likely to react.

### **Second: this is a trauma to communities, the nation, the world.**

It's not a shock-event like a fire or a terrorist attack, but slowly there has built, and is still worsening, a crisis that shatters people's assumptions that the world is generally safe and reliable, and that all that we have worked for in businesses, churches and communities will be fruitful. The loss of those assumptions, the breaking of connections between people, and the overwhelming of people's ordinary resources – all of these are characteristic of trauma.

Some of the wisdom that has been gained about trauma recently can help us:

- People's whole selves are affected – they may feel all sorts of strange symptoms because the body is reacting to the fact that they are not safe. Emotions will

be all over the place in surprising ways. Concentration may be difficult. Sharing this information – that it is normal to be up, down, energetic, exhausted, afraid – will help people to cope with it.

- People react very differently depending on different backgrounds and experiences, including past traumas.
- People respond best when they have clear, reliable information; when they have something to do – 'agency' of some sort; and when they are cared for in warm and authentic ways. Even phone calls can be reassuring.
- We make sense of things by being able to integrate the experience into an overarching story. But it is much too soon to assemble a coherent narrative out of all this. Even the process of meaningfully gathering together to lament what has been lost is very hard. The trauma is unfolding and there are many losses yet unrevealed

Community responses to disaster typically show a 'heroic phase', full of energy and self-sacrifice, which burns itself out and is followed by a 'disillusionment phase', which may contain much mutual blame and suspicion. Only as the disillusionment phase loses its force can realistic,

hopeful re-making take place.

Many of the responses in communities can be celebrated and affirmed. It is worth thinking about what, over and above the generous and heroic actions of many in the secular world, Christian story and practice can contribute. That is particularly true in this time approaching Holy Week and Easter. Public worship may be suspended, but these great transformative moments in the whole human story need some sort of marking.

### **Lastly and in a way most**

**importantly,** this is a very confusing and draining time, a time when ordinary healthy rhythms are lost. Trauma professionals are disoriented! You may be feeling in yourself and your body the impact of trauma – feeling low and anxious one day and hard to get your brain in gear, energetic the next, and all at a time when we are needing to be creative and adaptive in their approach. So self-care, attending to your own well-being, is vital. That includes the basics of good rest, eating, and exercise. It also includes having people you trust whom you can share with, and making sure you are in touch with them.

### **AVAILABLE ONLINE**

<https://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resources/covid19/diocesan-guidance/>