

SAFEGUARDING NEWS – April 2017

WELCOME to the third issue of the newsletter which brings the latest news from the Safeguarding Team to all churches in the Diocese of St Albans.

This month I would like to draw your attention to two new Church of England documents;

- An overarching Safeguarding Policy Statement
- A Policy and Practice Guidance for Responding Well to Domestic Abuse

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, Peter Hancock, lead Bishop on safeguarding, said:

"The Church remains committed to those who have been survivors/victims and to addressing processes that lead to domestic abuse. In all its forms domestic abuse is contrary to the will of God and an affront to human dignity. All need to play their part in preventing or halting it. This is underlined by the commitments in the House of Bishops' policy statement, part of the 'whole Church' approach to safeguarding providing consistent policy and practice.

[Promoting a Safer Church 2017](#) [Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England](#)

Every Parish should currently have two policies;

1. Policy for Safeguarding Children
2. Policy for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Or, one policy for safeguarding both children and vulnerable adults.

The National Safeguarding Team has published a new policy statement, "Promoting a Safer Church", which sets out the Church's commitment for making the church a safer place for all. This is a standalone policy statement, which was previously part of a wider document. Uploaded practical guidance to support this will be published later this year.

The document can be found on the following link:

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/Promoting-a-Safer-Church-100217.pdf>

All parts of the Church of England must adopt or take account of this Policy Statement within their own safeguarding policy. The Policy Statement must actively underpin all safeguarding work within the Church and the drive to improve safeguarding practice.

All Church bodies (this term includes PCCs as well as others) should ensure that:

- all Church Officers have access to this Policy Statement;
- the Policy Statement is promoted and publicised;
- the Church's safeguarding message is communicated as reflected in the policy;
- they have a "Promoting a Safer Church" action plan in place that sets out, in line with national and local priorities, how the policy is being put into action and is reviewed regularly. **(We have no further guidance on this action plan at present and will update you when we know more)**

Responding Well to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Practice Guidance 2017

The revised Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Guidance replaces the 'Responding to Domestic Abuse Guidelines for those with pastoral responsibilities 2006'

The document can be found on the following link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3896806/responding-well-to-domestic-abuse-2017.pdf>

Page 10 relates specifically to Parishes under the heading 'What do you need to do in a Parish?' This section gives guidance and recommended good practice.

Also, on page 46, Appendix 5 is a parish template for a Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse which should be adopted by all Parishes.

For your ease, there is a word document of that parish template which can be found on our website on the following link, under the heading 'Parish Policies':

<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding-documents/>



What you need to do

- Please read and adopt the Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement of the Church of England. I advise that you replace your current policy statements with this new document. A shortened 'at a glance' version will be available in hard copy to display on noticeboards in the coming weeks.
- As a PCC, please pay due regard to the Policy and Practice Guidance 'Responding Well to Domestic Abuse 2017', and adopt and implement the available parish template as a Parish Policy.

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