

A short service of commissioning for Parish Safeguarding Officers

The Diocese now has a short service that parishes can use to commission their PSOs.

It includes an introduction from Bishop Nicholas that says:

"From the earliest days Christians took great care of children. This was partly because of Jesus' comment, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Mt 19.14), but it was more about the value of every human life, that everyone matters. In the language of later doctrine we are made in the image of God and therefore every life is precious. The care of the sick, marginal and vulnerable was one of the ways in which Christians bore witness to the world. A great tradition of care came from it: hospitals and hospices, schools and youth and children's work, and the inclusion of the marginal and disabled.

"The Church is a major part of the social capital of this country. This is a great strength and to be celebrated as Christian service. The responsibility that goes with this is therefore very great. We need to take great care of people God loves. A series of recent scandals nationally have made it clear that every organisation has responsibilities for safeguarding but this is particularly important for us as a Church.

Download the service [here](#).