

Keeping us Safe

Safeguarding Update

For all Parish/ Church Safeguarding Officers, 26th January 2021



Dear Colleagues

We hope you are well and if it's not too late a belated Happy 2021 to you all! We are certainly living in difficult and uncertain times and although quite a number of churches in the Diocese have decided not to open for face-to-face worship currently, it continues to be important for Safeguarding to remain high on all our agendas, especially with the move towards online church and the additional challenges this can present in terms of safety.

We hope you will have read in the various 'in house' Diocesan circulations of the retirement of DSA Heather Bland and the arrival of Suzy Futchter as her replacement. Suzy brings with her some really useful experience, having previously worked in Safeguarding within an educational setting. She also has a particular interest in counselling. She will be an asset to the team here at Church House and Jem is delighted to be working with her. **With this change in postholders could we remind everyone to revisit their local church websites, Safeguarding policies and church posters and to amend these? Please remove Heather's details and replace them with Jem and Suzy's.**

Given our job-share arrangement we know it will be important for you all to know the hours and days that both Suzy and Jem are working. You will find these at the foot of all our emails or on the Safeguarding pages of the Diocesan website – but for ease of reference they are also listed here, along with the details of '31:8' – the external provider commissioned to provide Safeguarding advice over the weekend period.

Suzy Futchter works 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday-Thursday inclusive. Suzy is the first point of contact for urgent safeguarding advice from 9.00am-9.00pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 9.00am until 12.00 on a Wednesday (via mob 07500 664800), after which she will hand over to Jem.

Jem Carter works 9.00am-5.00pm Tuesday-Friday inclusive. One day a week is also spent providing dedicated Safeguarding support to the Cathedral. Jem is the first point of contact for urgent safeguarding advice from 12pm on Weds through until 5pm on a Friday. He is also available on an 'on call' basis until 9pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (via mobile 07469 857888).



An external Safeguarding service provider '**thirtyone: eight**' provides out of hours cover from 5pm on a Friday until 8.00am the following Monday – Tel 0303 0031111 (24/7).

If you have any more queries in respect of this do please let us know. We have also started a general Safeguarding email account safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org, so if this is easier for you, or you can't remember who is on what day, then please feel free to send an email to this account. It will ensure you get a response regardless of the day of the week or if for example one of us was on leave.



Suzy and Jem are also planning to continue the face-to-face development days for Parish Safeguarding Officers just as soon as the Covid situation permits. In the interim we intend to hold some online Zoom workshops, so that we can continue to keep in touch and keep you apprised of key Safeguarding developments. The dates of these will be circulated in the near future.

The first of these will focus on ensuring we provide a high-quality service to victims and survivors of abuse. These will be held on a variety of times and dates, so hopefully take-up will be high.

We would encourage you to join us for what we hope will be an interesting and informative session. We chose this theme due to the recent findings from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) regarding the Church of England, which clearly detailed the need for us to do more in this area. We would also encourage your Incumbents to come to one of these sessions, given the key role they have in supporting the work of their PSOs/ CSOs – please extend the invite when the dates are circulated. They will be most welcome.

We are committed to ensuring that we meet your needs and provide you with any support you might require. On this note we would ask you to email us with any subjects you would like covered in future PSO/ CSO update sessions and we will do our best to work these into the day.

Thank you for all the hard work you put into keeping our parishes and churches safe!

Kind regards,

Jem Carter and Suzy Futchter

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers