



Welcome message from our new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

Hugh Constant



Dear Parish Safeguarding Officers, Incumbents and All who receive this newsletter,

This is the first safeguarding newsletter for some time, and I hope it finds you well. The reasons for the pause in regular service are two-fold: the pandemic, of course, with its deep and on-going impact on so many things; and the departure as Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser of Kate Singleton. I was lucky enough to work a little with Kate on audits of safeguarding in the diocese and know just how good she was as DSA; I'm sure she'll be hugely missed by many of you.

I'd like briefly to introduce myself as the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. I live in the diocese with my family, and I'm a social worker with plenty of experience in statutory and voluntary services, much of it focused on safeguarding. For the last six years, I have worked at the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), a charity focused on social care and safeguarding improvement. At SCIE, I worked as one of the team auditing the safeguarding arrangements of every diocese and cathedral in the Church of England, and in that role I visited Southwark twice - once to audit the diocese, and once - just prior to lockdown - to audit the cathedral. So I saw at first hand how well safeguarding is done, in the diocese, in the cathedral, and in the parishes, and was really excited when the opportunity came up to join as DSA, and do what I can to carry on that good work. As I write, I'm into my second week, and have been really grateful for the warm and lovely welcome from everyone.

*The safeguarding team are now back in the office, which I'm delighted about; I didn't want to start my time in the diocese meeting people via Zoom. So we're here to answer any questions or concerns you might have. On that front, my landline and mobile numbers are the same as Kate's - **020 7939 9423/07982 279713**. But we have a new number for you as well - 020 3874 6743. This is the new safeguarding duty line number, which will be available out of hours, as well as during the day, and which will be answered by me, or our two Assistant DSAs, Marie Daly and Louise Vernon, on a rota basis. The new number goes live from the 21st of September.*

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll read about plans for training, and the latest on the second Past Cases Review (PCR2). But I just wanted to end by saying that I hope each of you are doing OK with the ongoing pressures of the pandemic, and that I look forward to meeting you soon as part of our shared effort to make the diocese a safe place for everyone.

All good wishes,

*Hugh Constant
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser*

**The Out of Hours Number is changing to 020 3874 6743
on the 21st of September!**

On September 21st, our new out of hours phone number for urgent calls will be: **020 3874 6743**. Please could you update your records accordingly and change the number on any posters, notices, website and other signage you have up in your parish and churches. **Please also ensure your website and other platforms have the correct number and Hugh Constant listed as the new DSA.**

If you have immediate concerns about the safety of a child or adult, please contact the Police via 999 and your local authority Children or Adults Services Department.

Clergy, parish safeguarding officers and lay leaders are reminded to pass on any safeguarding allegations, disclosures or concerns they receive about church officers to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or one of the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers as soon as possible and within 24 hours.

Please remember that we are available for consultation and advice on any safeguarding matter relevant to your church. Please do be in touch with us!

Important information about Safeguarding Training courses

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions our face-to-face Safeguarding training is currently on hold. Those in your parishes who need to complete or renew the Basic Awareness (was C0) and the Foundation (C1) module can do this online by registering at: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>. If you make sure that participants enter the full name of their parish and choose Southwark as the diocese, we can pick up the results of anyone completing the course and add it to their training record.

The Leadership (was C2) module has been redesigned by the Church of England National Safeguarding Team to be delivered over Zoom in two sessions, two weeks apart. We will be running a pilot of this course soon to evaluate the way forward. If anyone in your parish needs to complete this course urgently, please do get in touch and Carol Rimmer, our safeguarding training administrator, will add their name to the waiting list.

For further information or any queries relating to safeguarding training, please contact :

Carol Rimmer, Safeguarding Training Administrator, tel: 020 7939 9478, e-mail: carol.rimmer@southwark.anglican.org

PCR2 Update

Southwark will be commencing the review phase of the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) from **14th September 2020**. From this date a team of Independent Reviewers will be examining the files of clergy and other church officers and considering known cases of concern relating to the behaviour of church officers towards children and vulnerable people. The purpose of this review is to ensure that appropriate actions have been taken by the Diocese and that there are no outstanding and unmanaged safeguarding risks to children, young people and vulnerable adults posed by church officers.

Individuals who wish to make representations to the PCR2 process or who wish to come forward with information or make disclosures regarding church-related abuse should contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. However, realising that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the church, a dedicated telephone helpline - **0800 80 20 20** - operated independently from the church by the NSPCC has been set up.

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted via 020 7939 9476 or pcr2@southwark.anglican.org

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

Hugh Constant
Trinity House,
4 Chapel Court, London SE1 1HW
hugh.constant@southwark.anglican.org
W 020 7939 9423
M 07982 279713

Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers:

Marie Daly
Trinity House (as above)
marie.daly@southwark.anglican.org
W 020 7939 9441
M 07946 255295

Louise Vernon
Trinity House (as above)
louise.vernon@southwark.anglican.org
W 020 7939 9462
M 07946 255622

PCR2 Project Co-ordinator

Bryan Thomas
Mon, Tues and Fri
Trinity House (as above)
bryan.thomas@southwark.anglican.org
W 020 7939 9444

PCR 2 Email:

pcr2@southwark.anglican.org

Safeguarding Administrator:

Uzma Osinibi
Trinity House (as above)
uzma.osinibi@southwark.anglican.org
W 020 7939 9476

Safeguarding Training Administrator:

Carol Rimmer
Mon, Tues and Thurs
Trinity House (as above)
carol.rimmer@southwark.anglican.org
W 020 7939 9478.