

Child and Adult Protection Coordinators Newsletter - February 2011

The House of Bishops have just revised their National Guidelines on Safeguarding Children. 'Protecting All God's Children' (4th edition) by Church House Publishing at £6.99 can also be accessed via the internet and downloaded at

<http://www.churchofengland.org/media/37378/protectingallgodschildren.pdf>

We will be updating our own guidelines for the Canterbury Diocese over the next three months in line with the new national guidelines, but the message remains the same:

- Create a safe environment for children and their families;
- Act promptly on any complaints made;
- Care for those who have been abused in the past;
- Minister appropriately to those who have abused;
- Provide opportunities for healing and flourishing.

The Archbishop of Canterbury reminds us, *"Nothing less will do in a community called to witness to the eternal dignity of every human being, which seeks to embrace Jesus' teaching about the importance of children in his kingdom"*.

We are pleased that parishes have taken up the offer of training from our team of trainers in relation to child and vulnerable adult protection. We will do our best to meet all requests and allocate trainers as soon as we can. The online booking forms for Child and Adult Protection training requests can be found at

<http://www.canterburydiocese.org/childprotection/training/requestform.htm> and

<http://www.canterburydiocese.org/vulnerableadultprotection/training/requestform.htm>

Following the training we have already provided, a number of factors have emerged as common themes and we take this opportunity now to remind you of the following:

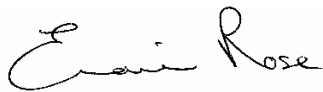
- There should be a registration list of all children and young people who attend activities in church without a parent being with them. This list should include name, address and contact details of the parent/guardian and should also include whether a child has any particular allergies.
- It is also important to remind you to always display the Childline number where it can be seen by children.

- There remains confusion about the respective roles of the Parish Child Protection Coordinator, Adult Protection Coordinator and Parish Disclosure Officer (PDO). Sometimes this is the same person but of course but the roles can be shared. The Child Protection Coordinator has a responsibility to oversee all parish activities involving children and young people with a particular focus on child protection matters. Likewise the Adult Protection Coordinator has the same role but with vulnerable adults. The PDO has an administrative role dealing with CRB applications. More details can be found on our website.

We are delighted that so many of you have already registered for our conference *Creating a Safe Environment in your Parish* on the 19th March 2011 which will be held at St Mary Bredin Church, Nunnery Fields in Canterbury. There are still places available and you can book online at

<http://www.canterburydiocese.org/booking/adultchildprotectionconfmarch2011.htm>

The conference will provide an opportunity to raise any issues particularly on your minds at this point. If you wish to email us with these in advance it would be helpful.



Elaine Rose



Simon Tapp

February 2011