

Safeguarding News

September 2016

We are often asked “what is new in safeguarding?” Our response is, “nothing new” but that the best safeguarding of children and adults who are vulnerable happens when we are vigilant, informed by training, make careful recordings of what we've seen and ask advice from the professionals.

One thing, however, which moves apace is technology, especially how individuals contact one another. Children and young people know more about this than many adults and, understandably, this makes adults feel uncomfortable and wary.

To that end, our lead trainer Lesley Weaver will be running a workshop for us all at the conference entitled “Think U Know.” For our colleagues in the Channel Islands, Lesley is currently working on training for youth workers to enable them to train others on the islands; she will be in touch soon about this with dates.

Dementia training is also now available.

One of the important things, which can be used everywhere, is a button which links straight to the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and we recommend that this is integrated into all communications with young people from churches and (into) parishes. Click [here](#) to find out more.



The Diocese of
Canterbury

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

YOU ARE INVITED

We know that doing the right thing in safeguarding can be difficult, that's why our annual conference will focus on exactly that issue.

We invite you all - especially our colleagues in the Channel Islands - to join us at the Annual Safeguarding Conference which will be held at St Mary Bredin Church in Canterbury on **Saturday 26th November 2016.**

The conference will start with registration at 10.15am (please try not to come too early as there is an event running before 10am). It will end by 2pm with a great lunch for everyone.

There will be lots of time for networking and we are fortunate in having a guest speaker from Young Minds, a leading Mental Health Charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

Online booking is available [here](#).

Compulsory Training

The National Church has devised a new and compulsory framework for safeguarding training modules for all; this includes Bishops, senior diocesan clergy and parish clergy - including those with PTO as well as Readers.

This **Foundation and Leadership module** (a 6hr session) will be delivered throughout the Diocese over a three year period. Some clergy will already been trained or have a date in their diary to attend.

Lesley will be rolling this out, but due to the number of people who will need to access it in parishes, we have recruited some new trainers to assist with the training of volunteers. All new trainers have specific qualifications or relevant experience in social work, counselling etc. The training module for parishes, volunteers and those in leadership roles including Church Wardens will be a 3 hr session.

For those parishes who have already requested a session someone will be in touch very soon. However, if your parish or benefice wishes to request training, please contact Shelia Rooke as soon as possible via srooke@diocant.org.

Online DBS Checking

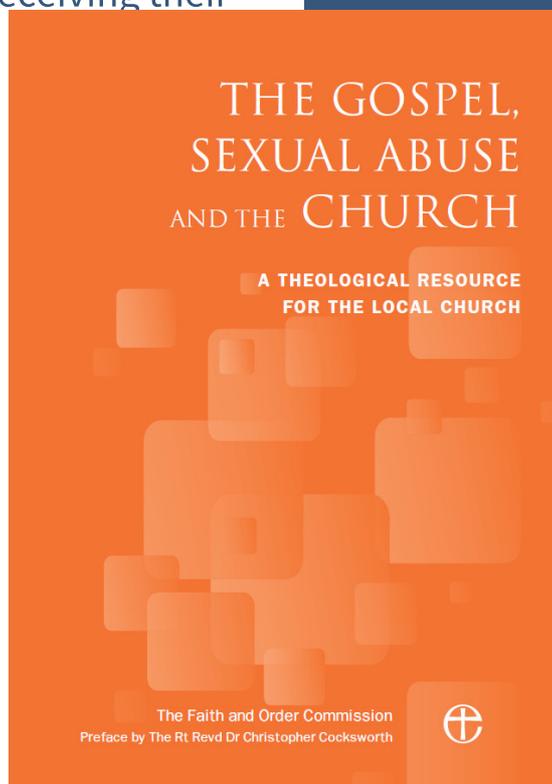
We can now process DBS applications online. This means that most checks will be processed faster and the results will come direct to the Diocese, as well as the individual receiving their paper certificate as they do now.

The new system will be rolled out this Autumn by deanery and we hope to have everyone using it by the New Year. Training and advice will be given to disclosure officers to ensure the eligibility of DBS checks, as this will now become the parish's responsibility. The Safeguarding team at Diocesan House will be on hand to help, as always.

Theological Resource

A copy of the recent publication by the Faith and Order Commission 'The Gospel,

Sexual Abuse and the Church' is being sent to all licenced clergy with a request from Bishop Trevor that this should form the basis of a conversation with the parish safeguarding team and the PCC.



Pokemon Go

Pokémon GO is a mobile and tablet app game which lets players find Pokémon (animated creatures, which players have to catch, train and do battle with). The game takes place in augmented reality, meaning it combines real life action with virtual gaming by using GPS as people walk around towns, cities and other locations using their smartphones to find and catch the Pokémon. Churches have been urged to welcome players of Pokémon Go who use their premises as 'PokéStops,' which players visit to collect items or do battle with Pokémon.

A number of churches are registering as PokéStops and guidance has been issued by the Church of England's media office [here](#) and by the NSPCC for parents [here](#).

- The game is fun and popular but there are a number of safeguarding risks:
- Players can end up in areas that are isolated, very busy or dangerous
- They might be encouraged to speak to other players they don't know
- They might be encouraged to share personal information
- The game can end up costing a lot of money to play due to 'in-app purchases'
- Some young children might play without seeking parental approval
- If phone batteries become drained, players may not be able to use their phones to call for help

Watch this Space

Paul Brightwell has been busy since he joined, especially with our Community Hubs, which provide a range of services, such as advice, practical support and learning. They help improve the lives of vulnerable people and encourage communities and local organisations to work together. To that end he has been working alongside a team within Canterbury Christ Church University to develop a DVD of safeguarding training which could be used both for the Community Hubs and those working with Urban Estates.

Stay in touch

Please share your concerns with us so we can assist you - even anonymised questions are fine. Both Paul and Elaine carry mobile phones that are never switched off. Please also share Paul and Elaine's details on church noticeboards.

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