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**SAFEGUARDING MATTERS**

**Introduction**

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Welcome to our summer newsletter we hope that you have all had the opportunity to have a break. This issue includes various updates, a focus on scams and a new slot on good practice. We very much enjoyed welcoming you to our PSO event at St Alkmund’s Church, Derby in June – thank you very much for all the positive feedback we have received. For those of you who could not attend, we are running the session again over zoom, 1.30-4.30pm on Tuesday 20 September. Booking is via Eventbrite – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parish-safeguarding-officer-event-tickets-402383268187>. Finally, we were very sorry to hear that Jane Terry, PSO at St Giles, Matlock, has passed away and we would like to send our condolences to all who knew and loved her

**Spotlight …. Scams**

Scams can affect anyone and becoming a victim can have a serious effect on someone’s physical and mental health, as well as their finances. Millions of people in the UK are scammed every year losing hundreds, sometimes thousands, of pounds with the total annual loss estimated at around £5 billion.

Research shows 48% of the population has been targeted by a scam – and around half of the victims have reported suffering ill health as a result, with older and vulnerable residents being most at risk. In Derbyshire the average age of a mail scam victim is 77 and 90% have recently been widowed or live alone. Bereavement, isolation and loneliness are common factors.

There are four main types of scam – telephone, online, mail and doorstep. Trading Standards work with other agencies to provide support, advice and information. Carers, families and friends are urged to be on the lookout for signs that elderly or vulnerable people are being scammed, such as unplanned work being carried out around the house or unusual financial activity.

Trading Standards have teamed up with Age UK Derby and Derbyshire and the Citizens Advice Bureau to set up a new consumer protection scheme. Scam Watch offers victims of scams one-to-one support and provides direct help and advice as well as raising awareness about scams. More information can be found [here](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/consumer-advice/scams/fighting-back-against-scams.aspx). Age UK also have some excellent information in relation to scams ([here](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/)) and run a helpline on 0800 678 1602, 8am-7pm 365 days a year.

**Sharing good practice**

We are keen to highlight and share good practice from across the diocese and would invite you to contact [Sue Griffin](mailto:sue.griffin@derby.anglican.org) if you have any handy tips or a new process which has made life easier so that we can share these with PSO colleagues. This time we hear from Don Spencer, PSO at Ashover …

An approach to Safeguarding Training:

Ashover All Saints is an inclusive benefice of four churches. As such, it is important that safeguarding provisions are consistent across and between churches. The PSO works closely with three safeguarding leads in communicating and addressing all key safeguarding issues, including training and DBS certification. Ashover PCC minutes and progress against the parish/diocesan safeguarding dashboard are usually communicated bimonthly together with miscellaneous diocesan safeguarding information. Safeguarding training and DBS certification is monitored regularly and provision is made for online safeguarding group (as well as independent) training for PCC members and volunteers, at an agreed venue. Over the past year more than 150 Church of England safeguarding courses have been completed and more than 30 DBS certificates have been updated. This approach is helping to develop a stronger safeguarding culture by supporting and engaging members of our church family directly – through training and discussion on

safeguarding issues. Close links with Nick Harding and Judie Fogarty of the diocese, ensure that unusual safeguarding issues that occasionally emerge are addressed appropriately.

**Reflection … a social media experience**

Many of our parishes use social media to stay in touch with people and to advertise events. One of our PSOs has kindly agreed for us to share their experience on an anonymous basis. The events relate to their son who has Downs Syndrome and have nothing to do with church:

*My son lives alone but [lives nearby] and despite daily contact with us and his work, he is lonely. There are no people of his own age at church. He loves TV and gets very involved in looking up film stars and personalities, especially beautiful females.*

*About a month ago, he looked up someone on Facebook and ticked ‘like’. From there he started to receive messages supposedly from that person and about 4 other “stars” got involved. He told her that he had Downs and that he was a Christian so she realised that he was not only vulnerable but also a kind person. To cut a long story short, they fell in love and she was going to come over to meet him. He was asked to send not money but vouchers and in the end we were told about this by a work colleague who had spotted the signs. At that stage he was suicidal and very difficult to cope with.*

*Fortunately we got support and all is well.*

We would like to thank the person who shared their story. Many of our congregations include vulnerable people and we ask you to be alert to the signs of online exploitation and abuse.

**PSO support update**

We have now launched our monthly drop-ins for PSOs. There is no agenda for these sessions – they are driven by you! Subjects discussed so far include training, risk assessments and the parish dashboard and Judie is always on hand to answer any DBS queries. The next drop-in session takes place at 3pm on 5 September and can be joined using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85354834600?pwd=MSY-5hVtnP1UAbkscpv7FzqUeilgV4.1>

Please feel free to use these sessions – the hope is to build a supportive community of PSOs and to provide easy to access advice and support on general issues.

Over the coming months we hope to be visiting each Deanery to provide an opportunity for training on the parish dashboard and answering queries/resolving problems. Please look out for an email giving further details.

**Safeguarding training**

We are pleased to inform you that the Clewer Institute are running 1½ hour online awareness raising sessions on modern slavery and safeguarding specifically for PSOs over the autumn. You can book using this [link](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/modern-slavery-and-safeguarding-training-for-parish-safeguarding-officers-tickets-377883237937?aff=odeimcmailchimp&utm_source=Safeguarding+newsletter&utm_campaign=0983f273d4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_10_08_10_43_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7fd532e97d-0983f273d4-249651648&mc_cid=0983f273d4&mc_eid=defaa7b22f).

The safeguarding training programme for the run up to Christmas is now available for booking via the diocesan safeguarding pages: <https://derby.anglican.org/en/who-needs-safeguarding-training.html> and Eventbrite. There are a number of courses available and those roles for which attendance is required are detailed on the [Training Matrix](https://derby.anglican.org/en/who-needs-safeguarding-training.html).

For more information, please check our [website safeguarding pages](https://derby.anglican.org/en/who-needs-safeguarding-training.html), or email:

[Nick.harding@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Nick.harding@derby.anglican.org) - safeguarding training requirements and content

[Judie.fogarty@derby.anglican.org](mailto:Judie.fogarty@derby.anglican.org) – safeguarding training bookings, DBS, and certificates

**Bank Holiday cover**

We continue to partner with Thirtyone:eight to enable you to access safeguarding advice for Bank Holiday periods throughout the year via their helpline. If you require emergency safeguarding advice over bank holiday weekends, please contact the helpline on 0303 003 1111. Further details will be available [here](https://derby.anglican.org/en/safeguarding.html).

**Safeguarding Sunday**

Safeguarding Sunday is on 20 November 2022. You can register your church on the website and request free resources to help you focus on safeguarding in your church community. More information is available [here](https://thirtyoneeight.org/get-involved/safeguarding-sunday/).

**And finally….** Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults board have produced an excellent podcast, chatting to two unpaid carers about their experience and highlighting the support available. Please click [here](https://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk/site-elements/audio-files/carers-podcast-2022-07-22.mp4) to watch.