

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

JANUARY 2021



The Team

Emma Boothroyd, DSA, works 3 x days per week, Monday, Weds & Thursday.

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Margaret McCluskey is the full-time administrator.

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Both of us are at home full time now in line with the guidance, which has some commute advantages for Margaret, but also many disadvantages. The Safeguarding Officer post is currently vacant.

Clergy Training day – Saturday 27 February at 1.30PM



This was due to be held on 23/2/2021. This will not now go ahead due to Covid. In my last newsletter (December) I spoke about replacing it with deanery Training events, however this proved just too complicated and ambitious. Thus, we are going for a one-off **Safeguarding Webinar on Saturday 27th February @ 1.30pm** (2.5 hours) Apologies for the weekend date, the 2 x trainers, Scott, and Callum, both work full time in education. Margaret and I will also be present. It will be a combination of Induction Parts 1 and 2 (in a reduced form) and it allows our clergy to revisit the training that is mandatory for all the regulated volunteers (and priests). Hopefully we will have some questions, which may arise when we talk about the scenarios. **Registration details will be in the ad clerum.**

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Safeguarding Statement

Clergy in the Archdiocese are asked to make an announcement (often the PSC does this) in relation to Safeguarding on the 4th Sunday of the year. This has been postponed given the closure of churches and we shall review this once churches start to re-open

Communication with Parish Priests:

My initial newsletter went out in December via the Deans ... this is the 2nd. I will try to keep it short and relevant and to give you a flavour of what we are doing, and our priorities for the year. It is harder to achieve things in the current climate, but I do not need to tell you this. I am happy to zoom in for 10 minutes of your time at the Deanery meetings.

Day of Prayer

The first Friday of Lent marks in the Church in Scotland a Day of Prayer for those who have suffered abuse in the Church. This initiative of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland is a response to the Pope's appeal in 2016. Sadly, we won't be able to pray with others in our churches on this day.



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Parish Audits: The annual S/G audit return:

The shorter version of the annual audit is due in by end of January. We still await many of them. If you have not been able to submit, can you let me know? Sometimes it is technical reason. It is a shorter form, and I am just asking you /your PSC to do as much as you can to fill it in.

SCIE Audit: We are due a (virtual unfortunately) review with the IRG soon to consider the progress so far. The IRG welcomed my updated post SCIE action plan and we will be discussing this.

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PVGs: applications from Volunteers for PVGs: these have been slower due to the pandemic. It has, however, been a busy year for PVG renewals (5 years for us in the church). Margaret deals with these, so contact her about all things to do with PVG.

PSC recruitment: Please let Margaret and me know of any PSC issues you have for example, a PSC unable to be active if shielding, or wishing to resign. It is not a volunteer role that many feel confident to assume, but it is essential, and I am trying to link in new PSCs with other PSCs in their locality, to create hubs of support. I e-mail all the PSCs regularly to keep in touch too. I would appreciate your keeping this as a priority in your parish, thank you.

Safeguarding Page on our Website: to reiterate this is one of my priorities, to improve both the content and functionality of the Safeguarding Tab on the website, but you will appreciate that it is part of the larger site and there must be consultation with several people and organisations. There is an Information for Survivors page on the website, plus copies of the S/G Complaints and Whistleblowing processes. More is planned.

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Dramt: We continue to have regular Dramt meetings (all virtual via Microsoft Teams) Six meetings are tabled for 2021. We have been kept busy. Membership is: Monsignor Chambers, Scott Mackenzie, and Angela Hughes. Fr James Tracey, PP from St Joseph's, Burntisland is a welcome additional member since last summer. The independent Chair is Mrs Sheila Ritchie (who works for City of Edinburgh Council as a senior manager in their Criminal Justice dept)

Meetings with the VG for Safeguarding: There are times when Fr Allan Chambers and I meet to discuss if something is a matter for the DSA to take forward or rather more of a general "complaint"... there are lot of grey areas in Safeguarding. To remind you, the DSA deals with allegations & concerns which relate to a child / vulnerable adult, be they current or historic (the term for this is "non -recent")

Casework: I am increasingly involved where people with mental health problems / other health conditions, are complaining to us about all manner of things...which they badge as "safeguarding ". We seem to have noticed an increase in this over the past year and suspect that peoples' regular form of family / community support is reduced or absent, so it becomes easy to use their PC / laptop keyboard to vent feelings of frustration / anger /hurt. If you are having similar difficulties and would like to talk it over, e-mail me and we can talk on the phone. These can be quite tricky situations to resolve and may benefit from talking through.

Revision of In God's Image: Submissions for comment were asked for and widely distributed, the date for submission is passed, it was 30th November. This is happening currently and is being discussed at our DSA leads meeting with Michael McGrath and Bishop Toal.

