



# SAFEGUARDING NEWS

✓ **FOR CLERGY**

*Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh*



## YOUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

### **Emma Boothroyd, DSA**

Works Monday, Wednesday & Thursday and is working from Gillis.

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### **Margaret McCluskey**

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**The Safeguarding Officer post is currently vacant.**

## A LETTER TO YOU

### **Emma Boothroyd, DSA**



THIS newsletter is in a slightly different format as it is now a year since I have been in the post as the DSA for the Archdiocese, so I thought I would write a short letter to you.

Easter Sunday has brought renewal and spring has arrived, though with a cold blast of winter in its wake, however, it does feel better, having these long days of light. When I took on the DSA post further to Angela Hughes's retirement, it felt a bit like a perfect storm. It was just a couple months after the SCIE Audit report publication, and I recognised that there was so much to do in terms of its recommendations & reflections. Principally I needed to start on an action plan which was meaningful to all of us and, over time, achievable.

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And then the pandemic hit us, with a force. We locked down. There was a clear message to stay at home, go out only for essential shopping and exercise. It was like living in a shadow world. Whilst we reeled from what had hit us, those of us not directly affected by Covid 19 were perhaps naïve enough to think that it might all be over by the summer, or even earlier. How wrong we were.

This year has changed everything. Granted, there have been benefits (the necessary use of technology has

allowed us to keep in touch in other ways and this has been an opportunity for some creative ideas in how we reach out to others) but there have been multiple challenges too. How this year will affect us all in the long term, psychologically, is yet to be understood. But it will affect us, and in different ways.

I know that some of you have been directly touched by this virus, its impact felt very close to home. It has been hard.

- Emma



## OUR SAFEGUARDING PRIORITIES FOR 2021

**1. Improve the direct communication with clergy of the Archdiocese,** to let you know what is going on in the team. I had hoped to do this in person, it was not to be. Hence the Zoom appearance at the Deans' meetings and these newsletters. We aim to establish a loop of communication, so that you feel able to contact us at any time. One of you suggested that the newsletter can be in two formats, one for clergy and another briefer version for inclusion in your parish newsletter. This is a good idea.

**2. Continue and improve the good communication already established with your PSCs** in the parishes, they are the most important volunteers from a Safeguarding perspective, and I hope you all see it that way too. Those of you with no PSC, please talk to me - let's see how we can work out what can be done about it.

**3. Improve the safeguarding page on the Archdiocesan website,** so that it is the go-to place for all manner of things, from safeguarding forms to complete, to finding out about training events and how to book to resources for support, information for survivors, as well as items of interest which reflect our work in safeguarding.

**4. Safeguarding forums such as ASAG and DRAMT,** how these are working in light of the comments from the SCIE report? What changes might be needed? Independent chairs, for example?

**5. In God's Image,** Revision for Version 2. This submission has now been sent to BCOS. The draft second version was sent to our members of the DRAMT and ASAG for their active contributions and comments. The editorial group are now considering all the feedback from every diocese. The National Safeguarding Office is also under review and there is a consultation and dedicated group looking at this. It will be called the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency.

**6. Safe Recruitment:** Adapt to changes with PVG and Disclosure Scotland and address the needs of Safeguarding Training: establish rolling training programme, both online as well as face to face when allowed, to allow all our regulated work role volunteers to be trained according to their level. Also a bespoke, rolling programme of S/G training for our clergy and religious new to the archdiocese. Margaret, our Safeguarding Administrator talks about this in more detail on page 4.

- Emma

*"Committed people: Where Safeguarding flourishes it is less likely that abuse will take place and it is more likely that a good response of offered when an allegation of abuse is made. In other words, where a concern for Safeguarding flourishes, the church is a safer place."*

# CLERGY ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

ONLINE TRAINING EVENT - SAT 27TH FEB 2021

A total of 75 priests attended this training event, an impressive number. It was held online due to Covid restrictions, and the session re-visiting the mandatory Safeguarding training (Parts 1 and 2) which all clergy and volunteers must do. Three experienced volunteers delivered the training, Scott, Callum, and Joanne (a big thank you to them!). Emma Boothroyd said: "An online training event is not ideal, and a few of you fed this back to me in advance

saying that understanding how to use Zoom was beyond your IT skill level. I understand that and as you were not allowed, due to Covid, to meet up with other clergy outwith your household, it meant that some of you did not take part, which was a shame. We decided not to record it in the hope that as many of you would attend, but on reflection, it may have been better to record the whole event and send it to those of you unable to Zoom in.

"I have the slides, but without the chat that went with it, they are rather anodyne.

"Some of you enquired why I had not referenced the pandemic in my introduction, and the frank answer is I have no idea... It has affected everything, and mostly not in a good way. I suspect I was so determined to try to be upbeat, that I omitted the most important thing of all this past year which has affected every single one of us. I apologise for this."

## Feedback



Of 75 clergy who attended, we got 29 responses. Of these responses, the majority by far ( 90% ) were positive and said that the event was helpful, interesting, thought provoking and that the online delivery format worked well and the time was just about right (2.5 hours) .

A couple of comments about a Saturday afternoon not being ideal, which I appreciate ... but you also understood that it was due to our trainers who both work in teaching and are thus unable to deliver training outside of a weekend.

Some of you were not so keen on the event and thought it boring. What I have done here is to include a slice of the comments we received, which I anticipate you will

find interesting to read, we certainly did. Following on from your **feedback below**, input on specific themes would clearly be welcome, outside speakers perhaps, this is something which I must consider for the future. I shall raise this at the next ASAG. I intend also to send you occasional links to articles for your own reading & reflection, updates on legislative changes, Safeguarding Commissions, Reviews etc. I can do this via the newsletter and the Deans for onward transmission. It is important however, not to overburden you with Safeguarding material and I promise not to do this.

- Emma

**It was well organised and interesting and the scenarios and discussions about how to respond were very helpful. Thank you.**

More information about survivors, trauma, and life difficulties. How do we care for survivors? Follow up on last years session on trauma which was very helpful.

The difference between the pastoral and the personal relationship? Process of pastoral supervision. The importance of supervision in ministry.

**More on Cultural differences please, especially for the non-incardinated priests, let us learn about differences in culture and different approaches to safeguarding.**

We need case discussions, a well led, real group discussion of cases would be helpful, allow for in depth discussion, it would bring variety and a better appreciation of the serious nature of the problem. Real cases should surely not be hard to come by?

What about boundaries, what about situations to avoid, what are appropriate physical and psychological boundaries? How to maintain appropriate boundaries. What about transference and counter transference?

**Give us something that is intellectually stimulating, input on things that are important, new research and other changes in safeguarding internationally. Content too basic.**

Talk about how to build a culture that is conducive to effective safeguarding and does not simply focus on procedures.



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### Conclusion

If you were to ask me if safeguarding is a basic or a more sophisticated enterprise, I would probably respond by using a metaphor, that safeguarding is your familiar, old coat, worn all the time, comfortable, and fits easily. Not the special white coat, which looks smart and gets

taken out at times of challenge. When it becomes second nature to view things through a prism of safeguarding, we all become more confident. 😊

I am taking note of all the above feedback, it was illuminating and helpful, not all of it an easy read, but that is how we learn and adapt.

- Emma

Here is the link to the trauma video from the Clergy 2020 training:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-tcKYx24aA>



## Changes to PVG applications

As of 1 March 2021, the process has changed to make it mainly online, although paper applications are still acceptable for those who do not have an email address.

All applicants (both new and existing) now complete a 'PVG Application Information Form' and the usual 'Identification Form' is completed by the PSC. Both forms are emailed to me and I input the information to begin the PVG Application process. The applicant will then receive an email from Disclosure Scotland requesting further information.

They have 7 days to reply. Any payment due (for priests or employees) will be requested at this stage. A paper PVG Certificate is sent out by post to the applicant as before. Further changes to the process are expected by year end and once confirmed, I will update you.

- Margaret



## Safeguarding training

Due to very little training being able to go ahead last year, there is a bit of a backlog of volunteers who need to do Induction Part 2 training and some who still need to complete Induction Part 1 training.

For the foreseeable future, training will be done online via Zoom. We already have four Induction Part 1 sessions and four Induction Part 2 sessions arranged and more will be following shortly. Details have and will be posted on the Archdiocesan website and all PSCs are emailed with details of the training courses available. We would be grateful if you could assist the PSCs by advertising training in your parishes and encouraging volunteers to attend.

Thank you for your help and support, it is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or if I can be of any help, please get in touch. See contact details on page 1.

- Margaret 😊