

## **A reminder about Safeguarding Training from Janine Edwards, the Benefice Safeguarding Officer**

### **Safeguarding Training**

As all the churches will have completed their annual meetings by the end of this month, it is timely to look again at our safeguarding responsibilities to the vulnerable in our parishes. Jesus looked out for the vulnerable like the woman at the well. He also said “suffer the little children to come unto me”. If we are truly trying to be more Christ like in lives, then safeguarding our vulnerable brothers and sisters is an obvious choice.

### **Why do we need to do Safeguarding Training?**

We all encounter vulnerable people at times, whether children or vulnerable adults. The Church of England’s Safeguarding team has worked hard in recent years to learn from the Church’s recent history, showing how vital it is to get safeguarding right at every level in our own churches. We need to understand how survivors of abuse feel in a church environment and ensure our churches and community events are welcoming to everyone we meet. As more adults become vulnerable as people live longer, we as Christians must safeguard them and show God’s love to them, as well as to the children and young people we welcome to our churches and events.

### **Who is responsible for Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, but certain roles carry specific legal duties. The Incumbent holds lead responsibility. The PCC of each church is responsible for ensuring Safeguarding policy and procedures are in place and followed. Each PCC appoints a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to focus on safeguarding.

### **What training is available?**

There is a national Safeguarding Learning and Development framework which provides training for all of us involved with church life. There are 2 core courses plus some additional topic based courses available to us. These are all explained on the Gloucester Diocesan website – <https://gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/safeguarding/training/>

### **Who needs to do Safeguarding Training?**

- Church Wardens
- PCC members
- Parish Safeguarding Officers
- Bell Tower Captains/ringers
- Flower arrangers
- Leaders and helpers at children’s/adult’s activities
- Organists/musicians
- Pastoral visitors
- Vergers

### **How can I access the training?**

The Basic and Foundation training courses are available online for anyone to access, but we are putting on a face to face **Foundation course** on 2 dates in July at Hartpury Old Chapel.

- Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup> - 7.00p.m. – 9.30 p.m.
- Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> – 10.00a.m – 12.30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend, just let us know which date, and ensure you have completed the basic course online beforehand. Contact [Janine.eob@gmail.com](mailto:Janine.eob@gmail.com). Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer with any queries and to let us know if you wish to attend.