



# SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

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## We are pleased to welcome the new Episcopal Vicar for Safeguarding - Fr Stephen Wymer.



Hello Everyone.

I was ordained in July 2001. After my last parish at St Simon Stock, Walderslade, where I was parish priest for 8 ½ years I took a 6 month sabbatical. I travelled to Canada, Rome, Como and then finally North Wales, where at St.Beinos I managed

to survive a 30 day retreat!

Since September of last year I have been in my new parish of St. Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham. As with all my previous parishes I am sure I will enjoy this new appointment.

On my day off I love to get away into the more rural spots of Kent and Sussex and revisit or discover for the first time a quiet village with a bit of character. If it has a homely old pub or a friendly café, with decent coffee, all well and good. If I can have the company of a good friend who will help me with The Times 2 crossword, all the better. I'm also an armchair sports fan - football (Leeds United), athletics and tennis (and occasional player). I enjoy reading and films with fine acting and original storylines.

Thank you to all those who dedicate their talents and time to the important work of safeguarding.

Also a big thank you to the team who have welcomed me and who I know will give me every support and encouragement as I will you.

God bless,

Fr. Steve

## SVP Recruitment

There can sometimes be confusion about who does what when it comes to the recruitment of new SVP members. The rule of thumb is for the local SVP Conference to interview and obtain references for any new members wishing to join. Afterwards, if the Conference is satisfied the candidate is suitable, it should approach the parish safeguarding representative and ask for a Disclosure check to be done.

## Scanned Proof of Identity Documents

In instances where we request additional identity documents to help progress a Disclosure application, then we are happy to accept either copies sent to us in the post or scanned versions sent to us by email, but in all cases you must still see the original hardcopy beforehand.

## Photocopying Proofs of Identity

Recently we have received some unreadable photocopies of volunteer's documents. This can make things difficult when checking the form so please ensure you send clear copies where dates and names can be properly seen.

## **DBS Disclosure Certificates**

There is no reason for parish volunteers to show reps their Enhanced Disclosure certificate. If you are presented with a volunteer's certificate it's important you explain that it's a confidential document and that all concerns should be discussed with the Safeguarding office. Enhanced Disclosures are not accepted as valid ID's.

## **Parish Posters**

We will shortly be issuing new Parish Safeguarding Posters for all Parishes. There are four different posters to choose from with each containing the Safeguarding Reps name and contact details. The posters will be streamlined across England and Wales as a further step in promoting and developing a One Church Approach to Safeguarding. We will contact all parish safeguarding reps but ask that you nominate one person to respond with your poster preference and contact details. More to follow...

## **Deanery Meetings/Pastoral Councils**

Helen Sheppard is always happy to be invited to attend these meetings in order to provide a presentation and/or updates, and to answer any questions relating to safeguarding. Please do consider inviting her to your next meeting.

## **National Office**

The CSAS National Office relocated to London from Birmingham in September 2014. All post sent to the Birmingham office had been redirected to London during this transition. This arrangement will now cease. The address for CSAS is:

39 Eccleston Square  
London  
SW1V 1BX

## **Reps Gathering Day**

Our next Gathering Day for Safeguarding Representatives will take place in St George's Cathedral and Amigo Hall on **Saturday 1 October 2016**. Invitations will be sent to reps nearer the time so please put this date in your diary.

## **Training**

The Adult Safeguarding Awareness training in Bromley on the 23 January was well attended and received positive feedback. The day covered how safeguarding fits into the church, key elements of safer recruitment, recognising the signs and indicators of abuse and the procedures for reporting abuse. The training is available for anyone involved with children and vulnerable adults in church ministry. If you would like to attend there are still 2 more dates planned so far:

**27 February – Ashford Parish**

**12 March – Morden Parish**

It is essential to book so please contact the office on **020 7261 1606** or **office@sgo-rcdsouthwark.org** for more details or to reserve your place.

## **Online Training**

If you've not yet registered for the online safeguarding training (supported by EduCare) please email the safeguarding office with your full name, email address and parish role for your own personal log in details. EduCare is great resource for those who live busy lives and are unable to attend face to face training. The training is available to anyone within the Catholic Church or Catholic Schools.

There are various modules available in:

- Child Protection
- Child Exploitation and Online Safety
- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Capacity

## **Don't forget we're here to help!**

Please don't forget that if you or any applicants require any advice about Disclosure applications (e.g. how to fill in a form, what documents are acceptable, etc.) or safeguarding issues in general we are always happy to receive phone calls & emails – every type of question is valid so don't hesitate.

If you are no longer a Parish Safeguarding Rep please do let us know by contacting us on either: [office@sgo-rcdsouthwark.org](mailto:office@sgo-rcdsouthwark.org) or 020 7261 1606