



# SOUTHWARK DIOCESE SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

## NEWSLETTER



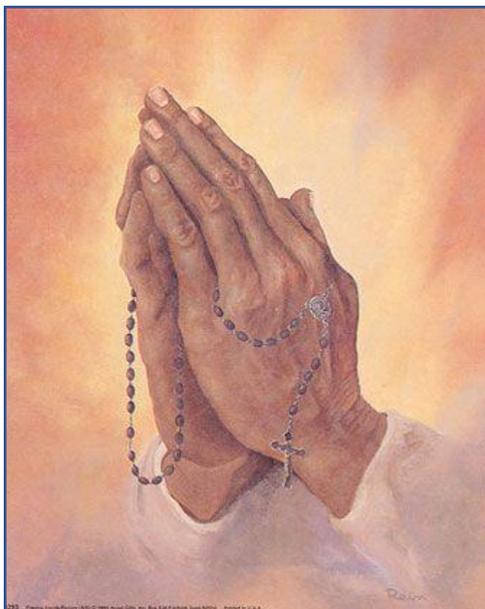
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Email: [safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk) | Website: [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) | Tel: 020 7261 1606

### Welcome

In this newsletter, we introduce two new Safeguarding Office staff members and bid farewell to Safeguarding Coordinator, Helen Sheppard.

Please read on for some very useful safeguarding resources, and as always we thank you all for your efforts in promoting and maintaining safeguarding throughout the diocese, especially as we continue to adapt to a "new normal".



### New Safeguarding Officer Christine Acons

Christine has over 30 years of experience in the field of safeguarding, working for both statutory agencies and the charity sector. She has extensive experience of complex safeguarding investigations with both children and adults at risk. She is a Parishioner at St. Thomas' of Canterbury Parish in the Diocese of Brentwood.

### New Reviewing Officer Allison Hamer

Allison has over 30 years' experience working in the field of safeguarding. She has worked on complex child protection enquiries and was the safeguarding lead on a Serious Case Review team, managing reviews regarding Adults Safeguarding, Domestic Homicide and Serious Cases. Most recently she worked within the field of Catholic Education within the Diocese of Brentwood. Both Christine & Allison are really looking forward to working for the Archdiocese of Southwark Safeguarding Team.

### Farewell to Helen Sheppard

In September we said a fond farewell to Helen Sheppard, who had overseen Safeguarding in the diocese for many years. We are very grateful for her hard work, devotion and duty to the Diocese. We are sure you will join us in wishing her the very best in the future.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, the church's Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, has released a moving, engaging and illuminating video podcast called '**Into The Refugee Journey**' to mark this year's World Day of Migrants. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM6AXpNesdo>

A useful resource pack compiled by The National Board of Catholic Women on **Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse** is available on their website can be downloaded from the PSR resource centre here <https://safeguarding.rcaos.org.uk/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse/>

Victim Support have introduced a free and independent support service called **Safe Spaces**, a joint Anglican and Catholic Church project to provide a vital specialist support service for survivors of church-related abuse in England and Wales.

Tel: 0300 303 1056

Email: [safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

LiveChat: [www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk](http://www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk)



### Educare

Please be reminded to complete the four Educare courses: Child Exploitation, Child Protection, Online safety and Safeguarding Adults. We also recommend completing the Mental Capacity course.

Please email the safeguarding office if you need to be re-registered.