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Briefing 84: Wednesday 6th October, 2021.

Dear Friends,

October 10th is designated as **Safeguarding Sunday**, so we are taking this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work and time attending training or completing tasks that help to keep everyone safe. We also want to update everyone with what we do and why we do it and this should be seen in context of the national report into abuse and religious organisations which you may have seen in the news recently.

The Church of England Parish Safeguarding Handbook states: 'The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.'

The St Nicholas Safeguarding Policy outlines our approach to comply with the Church of England statement. The policy can be found on our website. Printed copies are available if required.

A key element in the statement is "... a community where ... those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy." This we achieve by undertaking DBS checks (where required) and training as specified in the Church of England Safeguarding Learning & development Framework.

We are in the process of confirming that DBS checks and training are in place and up to date. In addition, we are confirming which members of the congregation are now supporting activities as there have been numerous changes since this was assessed, before the first pandemic lockdown.

The new Safeguarding Learning & development Framework has introduced changes that are being assessed. One change has resulted in most training being available online, with a limited need to undertake face-to-face training. However, some roles require more extensive training. The training structure appears unchanged:

Basic Awareness (formerly C0)
Foundation (formerly C1)
Leadership (formerly C2)

Those requiring DBS checks or training will be advised in due course. Please respond to requests as quickly as possible or notify the contact of any problems. Training certificates need to be provided to show completion of the course. The online nature of the courses allows anyone with an interest in Safeguarding to undertake the courses, particularly the Basic Awareness course.

The DBS checks and Safeguarding training may be similar to that undertaken by people as part of their professional life. The Diocese requires separate checks and training because of particular needs with the church. In addition, the requirements apply no matter how long someone has been part of the congregation or how well known the person is within the church. A consistent approach ensures that checks and training can be easily demonstrated, ensuring compliance with Safeguarding requirements.

The Church of England are expecting churches to be compliant with the new requirements by the end of 2021. The Diocese has introduced an online dashboard for each church to provide a view of compliance and any issues that need to be addressed.

We appreciate all of your support regarding Safeguarding. Please contact the team if you have any questions.

Safeguarding Team
(Martin Bailey, Sarah Metcalfe & John Knight)

IMPORTANT STUFF – DON'T JUST GLANCE- TAKE IT ALL IN!

CONFIRMATION SERVICE: Tonight (6th Oct) at 7:30pm at Holy Trinity, Stevenage. Please do pray for Ronnie and Abi as they are confirmed - and go along and support them if you are able.

**Come +
Pray!**

TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER GATHERING: 7:00AM-8:00AM– ask **MIKE WILTON** for a Zoom link.

FRIDAY NIGHT at St Nicks Church from 7pm-9pm.

Come + join us and pray with us for our churches, parishes and God's world.

Private Prayer in St Nicholas church THIS WEEK and NEXT WEEK.

Tuesday 5th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 6th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 7th from 10am – 12 noon.
Tuesday 12th from 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 13th from 12noon-2pm, + Thursday 14th from 10am - 12noon.

ST NICHOLAS SUNDAY KID'S WORK: Whilst we are aiming to run our groups on alternate weeks, due to the availability of leaders, only S Club Max (Y6-Y9) will be running this coming Sunday (10th).

EVENTS IN THE COMING DAYS

Two musical events on Saturday 9th October:

EDEN CONSORT RECITAL: Sat 9th Oct at 3pm at Trinity Church, Park Lane, Knebworth, SG3 6PD. Andrew Lewis will be playing again and there will be a mixture of pieces of different styles, accompanied and unaccompanied together with organ solos. **Please see the flyer attached.**

PETER WARLOCK SOCIETY CONCERT: Sat 9th Oct at 7pm at St Nicholas Church. Chopcherry – a celebration of music by Peter Warlock, Elizabeth Poston and Friends. Free entry. **Please see the attached flyer,** and contact Mike Wilton if you'd like more details.

WALKING GROUP - the next walk is on Thursday 21st October, walking on Pegsdon Hills. Meet at The Raven pub at Hexton at 10.30 am. Please let Karen Cattell know (on enquiries@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk) if you wish to stop for lunch in the pub so that she can book places and use the car park. Robust footwear will definitely be required and appropriate waterproof walking clothing as the weather is changing. And bring a drink.

ST NICHOLAS DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM: The team will be going out this week. Please do pray for them. If you'd like to join the team on their visits - please contact Karen Walker or Steve Bamford.

LITTLE LAMBS: Our toddler group for preschool children and their parents, grandparents etc! Fridays in term time from 9 - 10:30am in the Parish Room. **Do come and bring your friends!**

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED: Starting Thursday 14th October, at 7:45pm. Ideal for those wanting to refresh themselves on the basic truths of the Christian faith, and for those wanting to explore the identity and mission of Jesus for the first time, CExp is a 7-week course which takes participants through Mark's Gospel answering questions about who Jesus is, why did he come, and what does it mean to follow him. **It's free, there's no singing or prayers,** and there's no need to say anything if you just want to listen. But it's a great opportunity to ask questions too! Karen and Philip Walker will be running the course - why not chat with them and go along yourself, or take a friend with you. For more details see the Christianity Explored website: Christianity Explored

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Last year our churches sent almost 100 boxes and St Nicholas was the collection point for hundreds more. This year we're doing it again! Details of how to fill a box yourself or fill one on line can be found here: [Operation Christmas Child \(samaritans-purse.org.uk\)](http://samaritans-purse.org.uk) But we need volunteers to help with receiving boxes at St Nicks from 15th-21st November from 10am-4pm each day and with wider collections the week after. Can you help? Contact Stuart Marshall on enquiries@saintnicholaschurch.org.uk

SEEKING ALLAH - FINDING JESUS: Wonderful testimony and a great way to learn more about Islam and how to share the good news of Jesus with Muslims. You can buy it here: [Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus \(Paperback\) - Nabeel Qureshi and Lee Strobel - 10ofThose.com](#)

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN WALES: I mentioned last week the sad changes that have happened in the Church in Wales. The Evangelical Fellowship in the Church in Wales issued a statement this week. You can read it here. Please do pray for them. [GB Meeting 6th Sept – Full Response – Evangelical Fellowship of the Church in Wales \(efcw.org.uk\)](#)

READINGS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS: The readings for the next 3 weeks are as follows:

10th October: 2 Timothy 1: 1-18 17th October: 2 Timothy 2: 1-13 24th October: 2 Timothy 2:4 – 3:9