

30 April 2021

Dear friends and colleagues,

### **Safeguarding: Past Cases Review 2**

You will be well aware of the recent reports that John Moore, formerly Vicar of St Stephen's church, was convicted on 23 April 2021 of an indecent assault on an eighteen year old man. As soon as Mr Moore was arrested, the Bishop suspended him from all duties. Mr Moore resigned from his post with effect from 31 January 2021 and left the Island.

The news has made very difficult reading and will have caused some people significant distress.

I am very sorry and saddened by John Moore's actions and, most of all, for the significant impact this will undoubtedly have had on the victim and his family. Once more, I extend my deepest sympathies to all who have been affected by this unacceptable behaviour.

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate to you how seriously the Church of England takes safeguarding. I want to ensure that the churches across the Deanery of Guernsey and any activities undertaken within them are as safe as possible. I am concerned particularly to protect and care for all those who are vulnerable.

You may be aware that the Church of England is currently undertaking an important new process to review all past safeguarding cases. This follows a previous large-scale review, between 2007-2009, of the handling by the Church of its child protection caseload over many years. This specifically involved the scrutiny of personal files of all clergy and others who held roles within our churches, to identify persons who may still present a risk to children and cases which may not have been appropriately managed.

However, it was later established by an Independent Review Board that there were gaps in this initial process. As a result, the Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) was initiated. In the Channel Islands, this activity commenced in December 2020. PCR2 has a much wider remit than the original review, in that its timeframe has been extended and, perhaps more significantly, that survivors of Church-related abuse have been asked to contribute and form an integral part of this process. This latest review will involve examining all safeguarding case papers (both those involving children and vulnerable adults) and will ensure that the voices of survivors are heard.

The Diocese of Salisbury has appointed an Independent Reviewer, Ms Tracy Hawkings, a former senior police officer, to conduct the Review into the Channel Islands Past Cases. The Diocese has also established a PCR2 Reference Group, which provides independent oversight of this work and includes the Island Deans and a variety of representatives from organisations outside of the Church – both from the Channel Islands and beyond. This includes a representative from a survivors' organisation, to ensure the interests of survivors and victims sit at the heart of this important work.

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I encourage anyone with any information regarding church-related abuse to be part of this process. No matter when an incident took place or whether it has been previously reported, you can make direct contact with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Jem Carter, by emailing [jem.carter@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:jem.carter@salisbury.anglican.org)

I recognise that abuse has a life-long impact on victims and that some people may not yet feel safe or able to speak to the Church directly. As a result, a dedicated telephone helpline has been set up: 0800 80 20 20. This is run independently from the Church by the NSPCC. It can be used to access support, but also to provide information and raise concerns about abuse within the Church of England.

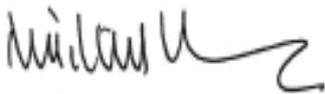
Alternative independent support can also be found at SafeSpaces, a dedicated scheme set up to assist those subject to abuse within faith settings. They have recently extended their remit to incorporate the Channel Islands. The address is <https://www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk/>

At the end of this process, we will be able to say:

- That all known safeguarding cases across the Channel Islands have been appropriately managed and reported to statutory agencies or the police where appropriate.
- That the needs of any known victims have been considered and that sources of support have been identified and offered where this is appropriate.
- That all identified risks have been assessed and mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.

Mike Keirle, the Dean of Jersey, and I would be very happy to speak to you, should you have any concerns or questions about this process.

Yours sincerely



**The Very Reverend Tim Barker**  
Dean of Guernsey