



Dear sisters and brothers,

I'm writing to you in advance of Safeguarding Sunday on 19th November to thank you for all your work in ensuring that our churches are safe places, preventing abuse from happening and protecting those at risk from being abused.

In Manchester Diocese we have made good progress with safeguarding in recent years. But no one who works in safeguarding, in whatever role or setting, should ever be complacent. It's now a year since we published the [findings](#) from the second independent review of past safeguarding cases (PCR2) which took place in our diocese and every other diocese in the Church of England in 2021 and 2022. PCR2 was a review of all known safeguarding cases and proved to be a robust health check for the living body that is our safeguarding work. Like all health checks, it identified both what is good and provided recommendations for improvement. While it found nothing in our diocese that might represent a major failure, it made a number of recommendations which we will continue to work on and which are set out in our [Development Plan](#) which was published in June 2023.

Above all else, the PCR2 report reminds us all of the need to make prompt referrals to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, that is as soon as we become aware of any safeguarding issue. This might include concerns about people in our congregations who have criminal convictions for sexual offences or other forms of abuse or who pose a risk for other reasons. Their position will need to be carefully and sensitively assessed and arrangements put in place to ensure that any risks are mitigated. We need to be alert to incidents of domestic abuse, which can often take place behind closed doors, and which may be impacting on members of our congregations. It is important also that we are active in supervising those about whom concerns have been raised by carrying out risk assessments where appropriate and ensuring that any risk management plans are followed.

Safeguarding development and training gives us the opportunity not just to learn about our policies and processes, but to engage at a deeper level and examine our beliefs and values. It also provides the space to hear the voices of victims and survivors and reflect on their experiences. The Basic Awareness and the Foundation modules are required for most roles, including anyone working with children, young people, or vulnerable adults, Churchwardens and PCC Members. The Safeguarding Leadership Training module is for those who play a lead role in shaping the culture of the Church body. This will always include clergy, Readers and Parish Safeguarding Officers. These modules are all available online. If you have not yet done so, I would encourage you to complete these courses as soon as possible. If you have any queries or concerns please contact safeguardingtraining@manchester.anglican.org

Once again, I want to thank you for all your work on safeguarding. I hope that all of you who share with me the responsibility for safeguarding in our diocese, will recognise that we hold a special privilege in being those who help make our church life safer. May we never see it as a mere chore or duty, but always as something that lies at the very heart of living the life of the Gospel and proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ David Manchester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+ David Manchester

13th November 2023