

Chapter News



Southwell
Minster
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Episode Nine – November 2023

A variety of jokes 😊

What do you call a chicken that crosses the road? Poultry in motion.

Why was the maths book sad? Because it had too many problems!

Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!

Chapter Agendas can be very varied and are certainly more than simply finance and money. One item that is on every agenda because of its importance is Safeguarding. On Sunday 19th November we will mark Safeguarding Sunday. This is a safeguarding awareness raising campaign for churches run by the charity *Thirtyone:eight*. Each November, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions across the UK come together to reflect on their own safeguarding journey, and to highlight and celebrate all the good work that is being done by so many behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people.

A definition of 'to safeguard' is to protect from harm or damage with an appropriate measure. This recognises that we have a responsibility to act to reduce/prevent the opportunity for harm or damage to occur. Initially this was rightly focused in looking at children but more recently now includes safeguarding other groups such as adults at risk. It is also more than simply protection, it is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the person's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Safeguarding is about protecting those exercising ministry/care as well as those receiving it. It is as one diocese puts it: *Protection for all!* As Christians we ought to be concerned about everyone's wellbeing. Jesus said "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Why are we where we are? Sadly it is because in the past we have not done this well. There have been various investigations looking for Lessons Learned. There have been two sets of Past Cases Reviews. All of this has led the church to respond better than it has done in the past. It is still far from perfect as you will have seen from various media reports.

We all have a part to play in this whatever our role or not within the Minster Community. Therefore what can we do?

Firstly the area of relationships. We can make people feel wanted and connected, that they matter. We can help them feel safe and understood by getting to know them. We are all people together. Secondly the space we find ourselves in. We work hard to make the Minster be the space that allows people to feel connected. We are mindful of noise, stimulation, personal space, touch, smells, time and pace. We need to check regularly for any subliminal messages we may be giving.

It is so important that people not only feel safe but are safe at church. This inevitably means policies and procedures. Not because they do the job but that they make us more aware, they hold us accountable and they tell others what we are about. It also means when we don't get things right that we know what to do.

You can find a link to our Safeguarding Policy on our website <https://www.southwellminster.org/> as well as how to contact some of our key people.

Key people to know about are:

Penny (Cathedral Safeguarding Officer)

Vicky (Cathedral Safeguarding Coordinator)

Paul (Canon Missioner & Safeguarding Lead)

Nicola (Dean)



Penny

Vicky

Other organisations that can help are

<https://thirtyoneeight.org/> An independent Christian Charity specialising in this area

<https://southwell.anglican.org/contact-safeguarding/> if you need to contact the Diocese Safeguarding Team

<https://southwell.anglican.org/resources/resources-safeguarding/> if you need some resources

As part of the Christian Church living in the spirit of the Gospel, Southwell Minster aims to protect and care for all those in need. It is the responsibility of everyone to Recognise, Respond, Record and Report all potential safeguarding information. There are some leaflets in the crossing if you want more information or contact details for people.

So please remember in your prayers those that help to make Southwell Minster a safer place and all those that have been affected in the past by trauma of what ever form. In our Palace Gardens we have a bench (inside the gate to the left) that is designed to allow space for just such reflection if you would find that helpful. As I said we will be making Safeguarding Sunday on the 19th November but this is an every day commitment and vigilance which is why it is on every Chapter Agenda.

Blessings

Canon Paul Rattigan

On behalf of Chapter

PS From Dean Nicola:

Thank you to those who attended the consultation on the new Constitution and Statutes on 15 October which gave an opportunity to explain the six-year journey and the context of the new Cathedrals Measure. Although the Chapter received no formal submissions during the statutory consultation period, we heard at the meeting concerns about how the views of the Minster community will be heard in the new scheme and hope we were able to offer reassurance that this will continue through the Community Forum, the new Community Roll and the community's involvement in the election of two Chapter members. We now await the certificate one on 16 November with the final certificate two expected in February 2024.

In preparation for operating under the new Measure the Chapter had an 'away day' on 19 October looking at the responsibilities of Chapter members as trustees in keeping with Charity law, which is the main distinction of the new Measure. We met at the new YMCA Community and Activity Village in Newark – well worth a visit to see this ambitious project which is providing excellent facilities in that part of town.

TUNE IN NEXT MONTH FOR THE NEXT
EPISODE OF CHAPTER NEWS!



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