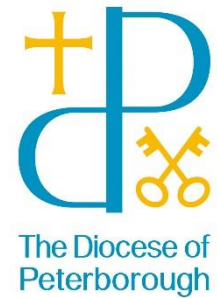


BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 24

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

5 October 2020



Dear friends

Warm greetings, as autumn makes its presence felt, and the coronavirus continues to dominate so much of life.

As we discover workable ways to be and to do church for our present context, I am greatly encouraged. In particular, those who are managing to combine some online presence with some use of our church buildings seem to be able to have fruitful and valued ministries.

This continues to be hard work, often not appreciated or understood. At the risk of repeating myself: please try to take some extra time off this month, and don't worry about counting the days or the hours. And, at the risk of being patronising, make sure that your own walk with the Lord is healthy: wherever and whenever your praying and Bible reading happen, and however you access "the means of grace", stick close with Jesus.

Children and Young People

One area of church life which may have suffered during lockdown, and which may still not be fully re-emerging, is our ministry to children and young people. As I write that, I see again the danger of being patronising: it is not ministry TO THEM which counts, but allowing, encouraging, enabling them to be fully part of the life of the church.

Canon Pete White and our Children and Youth Team are ready and willing to support you in this. Get yourself to our website for more details on [children](#) or on [youth](#), or email Pete [here](#).

IICSA Report

The Independent Inquiry into Child Safeguarding Abuse will be publishing its full report on the Church of England at 12 noon tomorrow. Below are extracts from an open letter from our Archbishops and national safeguarding leads.

For survivors, this will remind them of the abuse they suffered and of our failure to respond well; it will be a very harrowing time for them.

For others this report will be a reminder of the abuse they have never talked openly about.

We are truly sorry for the shameful way the Church has acted and we state our commitment to listen, to learn and to act in response to the report's findings. We cannot and will not make excuses and can again offer our sincere and heartfelt apologies to those who have been abused, and to their families, friends and colleagues.

We, as the Church of England, are ready to support anyone who comes forward. We must honour our commitment to change.

Please pray for all those who will be affected by the publication of the report on Tuesday and that as a Church we are able to respond with humility and a shared determination to change.

The report will identify failings that we are already working to change, and failings that we will need to work harder to change. There will no doubt be strong recommendations and we welcome that. We make an absolute commitment to taking action to make the Church a safe place for everyone, as well as to respond to the needs of survivors for support and redress.

Safeguarding is valuing every person as one who is made in God's image. It is the prevention of harm, and the promotion of well-being.

Safeguarding is fundamental to our faith. [It] is the responsibility of each one of us, guided and advised by our safeguarding professionals. Church leaders have a particular responsibility to work together to bring about the change in culture and practice that we need to see and has simply been too slow.

If you or anyone you are in contact with are affected by the publication of this report and want to talk to someone independently please call the [Safe Spaces](#) helpline on 0300 303 1056 or email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk. There are also other [support services available](#).

Alternatively feel free to contact the [diocesan safeguarding team](#) in your area.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell
Lead safeguarding bishop, Jonathan Gibbs
National Director of Safeguarding, Melissa Caslake

With love in Christ

+ Donald