



Bishops' Conference of Scotland
Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service



Safeguarding News

Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service

Dedicated to the Protection of the Guardian Angels

On October 4th the National Parish Safeguarding Coordinators came together for the annual conference which this year was held at the Gillis Centre, in Edinburgh. During Mass, Bishop Joseph Toal blessed the new Guardian Angel Window Panel and dedicated SCSS to the protection of the Guardian Angels. A prayer card with a picture of the window and the new National Safeguarding Prayer together with a candle again replicating the image of the window was given to all delegates. SCSS also commissioned a larger candle for each Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group. At the end of the conference these candles were taken back to each Diocesan Office and have already been used at other more local safeguarding events and Safeguarding Advisory Group meetings.



Message from Bishop Toal

This is the first newsletter from Tina Campbell and the SCSS staff as she completes her first year in post. This is my first newsletter as President of SCSS and I would like to express my thanks to and appreciation for all the volunteers across Scotland who give of their time so willingly in our parishes and in our Catholic societies and organisations to help children and the vulnerable and to ensure their safety while benefitting from the Church's spiritual and pastoral ministry or while participating in its varied social activities. May the Lord bless all your efforts and keep you in his care.

With all good wishes and prayers.

God Bless

+ Joe

**Bishop Joseph Toal,
Bishop of Motherwell; President of SCSS**

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An Advent Thought from the Diocese of Galloway

Whilst arranging the Advent Candle, two of the five candles reminded me of how important Safeguarding is in our Diocese throughout the whole year.



The first purple candle is named the Prophecy Candle, which is the virtue of hope. Safeguarding vigilance is about happiness, ownership, peace and everlasting joy which we find in our ministries.

The second candle is the fourth purple candle, the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love.

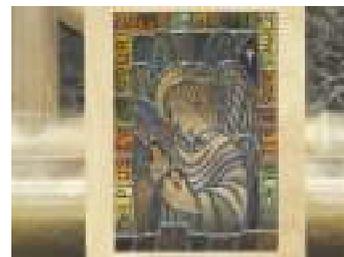
The patron of Safeguarding is the Guardian Angel sent to love and cherish us. Angels told the shepherds about a message of great joy, others sang the good news of God's love for us. As we journey through Advent, what better example of Safeguarding than that of the shepherds watching over their flocks.

With anticipation we await the lighting of the fifth candle, the white candle heralding the Light of the World.

Ann Watt, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

The Guardian Angel Window

For some time since I came into post I thought it would be appropriate for the Safeguarding Service to have a patron saint. It was a moment, I am sure, guided by the Holy Spirit when in conversation with Mgr Hugh Bradley we reached the conclusion that having the Guardian Angels as our source of protection and guidance seemed appropriate. I then spent some time discussing this with the Carmelite Sisters at Kirkintilloch but we did not find a suitable image. It was at the suggestion of Sr Johann that I meet with Shona McInnes, a graduate of Glasgow School of Art. Shona's company is 'Leadline Studio' in Halifax. The Carmelites had commissioned Shona to create the stained glass windows for their chapel. Initially Shona was tasked to create a painting of a Guardian Angel for us to use but this led to the eventual Commissioning of the Guardian Angel Window as we have it now. The window panel is framed in oak and the significance of the image is as follows: The words ***"To do your will at all times and in all places"*** are taken from the final words of the National Safeguarding Prayer. The window is framed in oak and has an oak tree in the background. The angel is holding an acorn with the idea of great things growing from small beginnings. The Celtic cross identifies this as the special image for SCSS; because this was commissioned it is now the image which we can use for our new logo and on all our training materials etc. In 2015 we will be issuing a new prayer card for distribution in parishes.



Tina Campbell, National Safeguarding Coordinator

Training update from the Diocese of Dunkeld

In March we had a very successful evening for Parish Priests and Parish Safeguarding Coordinators. During the evening Bishop Stephen Robson, thanked everyone for their work within our parishes. At the Mass he commissioned the PSCs in their role. We have also had 'Awareness Sessions' in Dunblane, Alloa, Perth, Cupar, Carnoustie and a few in Dundee. These sessions were also an opportunity for our existing volunteers with Disclosure Scotland to be updated to become PVG Scheme Members.

Maureen McKenzie, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer

My First Year as National Safeguarding Coordinator

I am delighted that this has been such a busy year for the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service. There have been some very interesting and indeed challenging developments. Just as I came into post the Bishops' Conference of Scotland announced three major initiatives:

- **Historical Review of Case Files**
- **Audit of Allegations from 2006 - 2012**
- **The McLellan Commission to review safeguarding policies and practice.**

The publication of the **Audit of Historical Allegations** was an opportunity for us to evidence how the Church has consistently responded to historical allegations. This autumn the allegations reported in 2013 will also be published. The Bishops have made the commitment to continue to do this each year.

The **Historical Review** of Case files for clergy and religious from 1947 to 2005 has been a major exercise for many of the Diocesan teams appointed to complete this task as well as for the Religious Orders. Once all the completed forms are returned there will be a statistical analysis and the results will be published.

The **McLellan Commission** has been working extensively at reviewing all policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding from SCSS right through to parishes. They are about to conclude their evidence gathering period and we await a first draft of the report in the spring.



This year has taken me all over Scotland for meetings and I have attended the respective Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group meetings in each Diocese and most have held at least four meetings this year. I have met with all the Bishops and also collectively in conference three times during the last year. I have so enjoyed visiting parts of Scotland for the first time – despite having lived here now for just over 14 years. I really value working with and alongside such a tremendously dedicated number of people both working in parishes and in a more strategic Diocesan role. This last year has not always brought the Catholic Church the most positive press coverage but there have been many extremely positive developments and events happening in safeguarding. I do want to thank everyone for the commitment and dedication to this most important work in the life of our Church.

Tina Campbell, National Safeguarding Coordinator

Diocese of Paisley Safeguarding Office

The Safeguarding Office in the Diocese of Paisley is still busy working on retrospective PVGs and Parish Safeguarding Training sessions. Parish Priests and Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators (PSCs) are working very hard to get everyone to attend and many volunteers are travelling to other parishes when they miss their own session.

A group of nine PSCs attended the National Inter Diocesan Conference for PSCs in Edinburgh in early October and the feedback was very positive from everyone concerned.

A number of Priests in the Diocese met with Dr Andrew McLellan to give them their impressions of safeguarding in the Church and to discuss the challenges facing the Church. This was, by all accounts, a full and frank exchange and the Priests were very happy to be involved in one aspect of the McLellan Commission's work.

**Christine Riddoch,
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser**

Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh

We were delighted to host the National Conference for Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators on 4th October in the Gillis Centre.

We also held an evening for trainers in August which was well attended.

The Diocesan Risk Assessment Team has been meeting regularly and we have now appointed a new Archdiocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group.

On 29th November, 80 PSCs attended a Safeguarding Update which was followed by an interactive session on creating safe parish communities. After the Vigil Mass, Archbishop Cushley commissioned everyone in their work of safeguarding.

Angela Hughes,
Archdiocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Diocese of Motherwell

A *'Commissioning Service'* for all those who work in Safeguarding was held in *'Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral'* on 2nd February 2014 during Solemn Vespers.



In advance of the legislation being introduced on 15 October 2015, and the requirement to have all retrospective PVG applications completed and submitted to SCSS by 30th June 2015, all Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators and ID Verifiers were invited to a meeting on 17th November 2014.

A *'Clergy Safeguarding Assembly'* has been arranged for 4th December. The aim of the Assembly is to provide an update on the forthcoming legislation, and to cover safeguarding issues identified by the Clergy as being of greatest importance to them.

Training has been put on hold at present, due to the small number of Trainers, while we concentrate on PVG applications. Training will be scheduled to re-start around March/April 2015.

Bill Crawford,
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Archdiocese of Glasgow

Safeguarding Training

In March 2014, we had a new addition to our Diocesan Safeguarding Office – Caterina O'Connor has joined us in the role of Deputy Safeguarding Adviser and Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer. Caterina has a background in social work, and, in particular, in child protection and training. Her role is to provide advice and support to parishes and Parish Priests on our safeguarding policies and procedures, monitor compliance with same, and to provide safeguarding training for volunteers.

We currently have a training programme set out until December 2015. Since the beginning of 2014 we have completed a new Parish Safeguarding Coordinator's course, update sessions for Parish Priests and PSCs and 19 volunteer training sessions in parishes across all Deaneries (3 cancelled by parishes).

We have reviewed the numbers of PVG applications completed and have developed an action plan to ensure that every current volunteer is given every opportunity to be PVG checked, prior to October 2015.

Sue Jardine, Archdiocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Conferences in 2014

CRS Safeguarding Link Coordinators

At the start of May the Safeguarding Link Coordinators for the Conference of Religious in Scotland attended a conference hosted by SCSS entitled '*Nourishing Beginnings*'.

Nearly 70 Members of the Religious attended alongside some of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers. During Mass we dedicated our important work to God and asked for his guidance and protection. Everyone who attended took home a bulb to plant as a sign of a new beginning.



Inter Diocesan Conference for Clergy

The Conference held on 27th May was very well attended and we had a full house as we explored the theme of listening to the voices of Survivors. The day began with Mass concelebrated by Bishop Toal, Bishop Keenan and Mgr Bradley and an invitation for everyone to come forward and light a candle and pray for a survivor known to them.

Ranald Mair and Lord Donald MacKay came from the McLellan Commission to talk about the remit of the Commission. Tina Campbell led a session to explore the role of the Support Priest/Person in relation to '*Covenants of Care for Clergy*' who have had to be placed on restricted ministry following serious allegations.



In the afternoon we welcomed the Reid Family from Northern Ireland who shared their story of familial abuse. They presented a deeply moving account and also suggested how what they had experienced might help those in ministry when they support survivors.

"We have been so overwhelmed with the response beyond words. The Bishops' Conference has been for us, the most affirming and rewarding presentation we have been involved with. The feeling of '*being held*', understood and respected whilst presenting has given us hope to carry on in the work we do, we believe this is our purpose in this life."

Mandy McDermott, the Reid Family

TRAINING

This year the National Safeguarding Coordinator provided training for the following groups:

- Parish volunteers in Barra.
- Two In Service Days for Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers: one on the **'Sexual Offences Scotland Act 2009'** and the second on **'Child Sex Exploitation'**.
- SCIAF on **'Safe use of Social Media'**.
- Seminarians from Oscott College on **'Responding to Survivors and Historical Allegations'**.
- Seminarians from Scots College Rome on
 - **Management of Sex Offenders in our Parish Communities'**
 - **'Child Sex Exploitation'**
- The Dunkeld Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group on the **'Implications of the Sex Offences Scotland Act (2009)'**.
- Galloway Council of Priests on **'What is happening in Safeguarding?'**
- Inter Diocesan Conference for Clergy on **'Looking Back and Looking Forward'**.
- PSCs in Edinburgh on **'Creating Safe Parish Communities'**.

Diocese of Aberdeen

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group continues to meet regularly.

At the start of the year Dawn Eden (author of *'My Peace I Give You'* and *'The Thrill of the Chaste'*) spoke to several groups across the Diocese about healing of sexual abuse through the intercession of the Saints.

Marjory Booth, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Training

During 2014 the Safeguarding Training Team for the Diocese of Aberdeen delivered two update sessions for Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, one in Aberdeen in late June and one in Inverness in late August.

As well as bringing PSCs up to date with developments in Safeguarding, these annual events were made even more special this year by incorporating into both days the **Blessing and Dedication Service** which was led by Bishop Hugh Gilbert, who expressed his delight at doing so.

We were privileged, once again, to be invited to address the Diocesan Assembly of Priests at their Autumn meeting in Greyfriars Convent, Elgin, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia from Nashville, Tennessee, after presenting the Assembly with updates, reminders and reassurances about current developments in Safeguarding issues.

Anne Rae, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer

DIOCESE OF ARGYLL AND THE ISLES

Peter Flanagan, Safeguarding Trainer held a training session for all our parish volunteers working with adults at risk and /or children on Sunday 30th November in St. Columba's Cathedral Hall in Oban. It was open to all but chiefly aimed at those from Oban, Taynuilt, Dalmally, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

It is anticipated that all retrospective PVG applications should be completed by Easter.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group has met regularly this year.

Kathleen McMahon
Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

Bishops' Conference of Scotland

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