

## Safeguarding Commission News

The Hallam Safeguarding Commission welcomes 2 new members:

Fr Mark McManus, who will provide canon law guidance, and

Fr Martin Clayton, who will represent the Council of Priests.

The recruitment process for new Chairs will be recommenced in 2016 as the Commission decided not to appoint from recent applications received. ***Is this something that you feel called to do?*** Further details, including a role description, can be obtained from Lisa Markham.

### Christmas

Volunteers who don Fr Christmas garb for a one off event do not need a DBS check but, hopefully, will be following good safeguarding practice guidelines. Your parish Christmas party or pantomime will of course have been risk assessed by now... **but** if you have any questions about any aspect of safeguarding for any of your Christmas activities, or want to report a concern or seek advice or just need to talk, a message on the safeguarding mobile will always get a response, no matter what time of day or what day you ring.

If things get hectic, don't forget to pray. "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world" (Karl Barth).

***Thank you for all the gifts you give. Have a good Christmas!***

---

### Contact Us

Hallam Catholic Safeguarding Commission

Hallam Pastoral Centre, St Charles Street, Sheffield, S9 3WU

Web: [www.hallam-diocese.com](http://www.hallam-diocese.com)

Lisa Markham - Safeguarding Co-ordinator

0114 256 6454 • 07909 117964 • [lmarkham@hallam-diocese.com](mailto:lmarkham@hallam-diocese.com)

Rev. Peter D. McGuire - Clergy Adviser for Safeguarding

[pdm McGuire.com](mailto:pdm McGuire.com)

Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service

[www.csas.uk.net](http://www.csas.uk.net)

## HALLAM CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION

Newsletter for our Volunteers

December 2015

# CHURCHSAFE

### Reflections on Advent - A Message for today

Advent has a twofold character. It is the season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered, but it is also the "season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time." For these two reasons, the season of Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation; a season of waiting and hoping.

Unfortunately many of us rush into Christmas rather early so that it is almost "over before it's begun"! If we give the season of Advent its full attention then, hopefully, we will appreciate Christmas and its own season more fully. And that is a season which includes the celebrations of the Birth of Christ: the Holy Family: Mary under the title of Mother of God: the Epiphany as the world greets the newborn Saviour: and finally the Baptism of the Lord. So much to celebrate and so little time to do it!

Have a happy Advent and a happy Christmas as we welcome once again the child who came to protect us all and set us all free!!

*Fr Peter McGuire,  
Clergy Adviser for Safeguarding*



## "Safeguarding and The Call for Justice - Changing Our World"

Over 100 people attended the annual Diocesan Safeguarding event at St Patrick's on the 26th September. There is a report on the newly revamped website.

Despite the subject matter, it was a morning of great joy, challenge and hope, with messages such as:

- "Safeguarding is the cornerstone of gospel, a uniqueness of being human, a responsibility for justice and the offer of hope" - Chris Pearson Acting Chair NCSC
- "It's a story for justice, right at the heart of the gospel message and affects everybody" - Liam Harron Justice and Peace
- "Safeguarding is not bolted on but is vital to the mission of the church" - Judge Michael Murphy, Chair
- "Faith communities have the largest voice, together, to engage with all, for the safety and protection of all" - Munir Hussain, Rotherham Council of Mosques
- "You should make hospitality your special care" - Bishop Ralph, St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2.9-18



### Training

There are regular meetings between Safeguarding and Diocesan Caring Services staff, who are now "singing from the same hymn sheet" in trying to promote well being and safety for everyone.

A recent training session hosted by Lisa Markham helped paid staff in the Hallam Diocese Caring Services - who work in schools and supporting families in difficulty - understand "Towards a Culture of



Safeguarding" and to place their work in the context of the Catholic Church's endeavours to make sure that safeguarding is understood as integral to all ministry.

## Useful Resources for Supporting Adults

The Care Act 2014 is a new law about care and support for adults. Over time there have been lots of different bits of legislation and guidance. This Act brings them all together, and places new duties on local authorities and other organisations to promote wellbeing and provide appropriate services as well as more robust safeguarding arrangements. If you are supporting someone who needs additional care and support, the Easy Read version from the Department of Health can be found at <https://goo.gl/KsJwNS>.

Please also look out for information sessions on Mental Capacity. There is a particular act which supports decision making for people who lack capacity, allows preparation for future decision making and covers people caring for others (**whether professionally or not**). "The Act applies to everyone who looks after, or cares for, someone who lacks capacity – this includes family carers or other carers" Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice. This is coming up more frequently for people involved in home visiting and family support. For more information about the Mental Capacity Act, see <https://goo.gl/MBocmb>.

### The Year of Mercy

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Year of Mercy will have been launched officially. A significant number of parishes in the Diocese have experience of supporting offenders through Covenant of Care arrangements. This work is proportionally the fastest growing area of safeguarding "casework". 11th October was Prisoners Sunday and many of you will have been reflecting on what this means for ministry, and our mission for social justice.

In March, there will be an open event for anyone who is interested: "Understanding Adults who Commit Sexual Offences" and further specific training for Clergy, LSRs and SVP Volunteers who are involved in managing Covenants of Care. Circles of Support, South Yorkshire are also recruiting volunteers. For details, see <http://goo.gl/53mlIc>.

