

To all Licensed Clergy, Clergy with PTO, Licensed Lay Ministers, Focal Ministers, PCC Secretaries, Churchwardens, and Safeguarding Coordinators



****This letter references safeguarding****

Corpus Christi

Date: Thursday 4th June 2026

Our ref: MJS/jrp-bp6251

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are writing to let you know that our diocesan safeguarding audit, undertaken by the independent safeguarding organisation INEQE, will begin across the Diocese this month. This is an extremely important process for us as a Diocese and each one of us has a part to play. Below we set out what is happening and what your part in it can be. Please read this letter carefully and use the links to find out more about what we are asking of you.

As the feast of Corpus Christi is upon us, we reflect on the gift of Holy Communion - communion with God and with one another. Christ's command to *"love each other, as I have loved you"* **John 13:34** lies at the heart of safeguarding. We are seeking to embody Christ's love for all. Please watch our video from last year where we speak about safeguarding in our Diocese - it can be found [here](#).

Information about the safeguarding audit and an introductory video from Bishop Martyn can be found here: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/audit>

Other resources and information which may be helpful and relevant are listed at the end of this letter.

Have Your Say – INEQE Surveys

Later this month a series of online surveys will go live and remain open until 5th August 2026. This is an opportunity for people to say what is working well, alongside what could or should improve. We encourage as many people as possible to take part in this survey. This includes those with formal roles, such as Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, Churchwardens, PCC members, lay ministers, and clergy - as well as survivors or victims of abuse (details of support are available [here](#)). We also welcome responses from anyone connected to church life, whether you attend regularly or occasionally, ring bells, help care for the churchyard, or support your church community in any way. Children and young people are also invited to complete a survey, and there will be different forms depending on your age and role. The link for these surveys will be published in Diomail and on our website – please circulate it widely and encourage people to take part. Completing a survey is entirely voluntary but the more people who take part, the better our learning will be.

Information gathering – INEQE Self-Assessment

At the same time as the survey, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and other staff will be uploading many documents to provide evidence of current safeguarding practice in relation to the five National Safeguarding Standards. We believe there is a lot of good practice in the Diocese and we are confident that the audit team will recognise this. We are also sure that there are things we could do better and the audit will, we hope, help us identify these things and give practical ideas for how we can improve.

Bishop's Lodge, 12 Springfield Road, LE2 3BD

0116 270 8985, bishop.leicester@leicestercofe.org, www.leicester.anglican.org

INEQE audit visit

The audit team will visit the Diocese and Cathedral in the second week of October. And the full report, along with recommendations, is likely to be published in January 2027. We will of course write to you again at that time to share the highlights of the report.

How you can help

As the wider body of Christ across the Diocese, we are looking for your input across these specific areas:

- Encouraging people to take part in the surveys whether they have positive or less positive views about safeguarding in the diocese.
- Assisting people who may need help with accessing an online only survey.
- Responding to any requests that you receive for information to assist with the audit process.
- Offering to take part in a focus group - more information will follow.
- Doing as much as possible to ensure that Safeguarding Dashboards, training and policies are up to date.

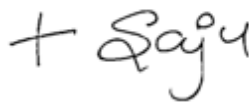
We realise that you may have questions about the audit process. Information is available, including relevant dates, on the website at: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/audit>

Please keep the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group in your prayers. This will be a very demanding time for them - yet we are confident it will be a fruitful process for us all.

With continued thanks and blessings for your ministry in Christ,



The Rt Revd Martyn Snow
Bishop of Leicester



The Rt Revd Saju Muthalaly
Bishop of Loughborough

Further resources

National Safeguarding Standards and QA Framework: [National Safeguarding Standards | The Church of England](#)

Theological paper produced by thirtyone:eight: [here](#).

Text of Bishop's Martyn's address to Diocesan Synod following the publication of the Makin review in November 2024: [here](#).