* As you will have read in the media recently, much attention is currently being focused on safeguarding topics in the church, so to support PCCs in ensuring they are properly covered, much effort has gone into providing improved information.
* The Diocese’s safeguarding [website](https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesan-compendium/safeguarding/safeguarding-policies/) has been revised and updated. Outdated forms and links have been removed, and the most recent policies and practice guidance have been added. More improvements are planned. Feedback is welcomed.
* The new Parish Handbook is now available on the website. Hard copies are due to be sent out by the National Team in the near future.
* There is a new Parish Safeguarding Policy statement template available on the website. We would encourage its use when your old policy is next due for review.
* There is now the opportunity to sign up to a new Safeguarding Dashboard App. Parishes may use this if they wish as an alternative to the Safeguarding Toolkit this year. Using the Dashboard, their compliance will be recorded automatically by the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser at Visitation time.
* Some guidance has also been prepared to assist you in preparing your annual PCC report for the APCM with regard to safeguarding – please see the letter in the Toolkit pack. As in previous years, the Toolkit results will form part of the Archdeacons’ Visitation reporting.
* Please note there is a requirement for the Parish Safeguarding Officer NOT to be the incumbent or their spouse. Please speak directly to the Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (Delia Stokes) as a matter of priority if this is an issue for your parish.
* The process for becoming a PSO is being made more straightforward, and letters of appointment from the Bishop of Worcester are no longer necessary. It is a PCC appointment. A revised application form and steps to complete will be on the website shortly.

**With our heartfelt thanks for all you do to maintain the profile of safeguarding in your parishes. Please contact the team for support with any of the above.**