

**To:**  
**ALL INCUMBENT AND LICENSED CLERGY**  
**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

February 2020

Dear colleagues

**Past Cases Review 2020**

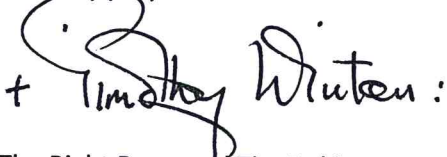
Please would you give the most careful attention to the attached letter from Jackie Rowlands, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.

It is good to have reached a point in our life as a Church where it is no longer necessary to underline the importance of safeguarding. However, the important work of safeguarding professionals continues to uncover issues of concern which were not dealt with adequately at the time. The most appalling cases which we have heard and read about offer a glimpse of the damage which can be done when known concerns are ignored or even concealed.

This is the purpose of a Past Cases Review: to ensure, by the most thorough enquiries, that we have identified all instances of concern about risk to a child or vulnerable adult about which we might be aware, and to record and respond to those concerns accordingly. We have engaged an independent reviewer to review cases and office files, but the step which now requires your help is the thorough search of parish files for issues of concern which may have gone unnoticed.

I know that you share my concern to ensure that trust in our churches as places of safety for the vulnerable is restored, and this is an opportunity for each of us to demonstrate that commitment. Thank you for attending to this with diligence and urgency, and please do not hesitate to seek the advice of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team if you have any doubts or questions.

With my prayers and best wishes



+ Timothy Dakin:

The Right Reverend Tim Dakin  
The Bishop of Winchester