

To clergy, Readers, lay leaders, school headteachers, churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, PCC Secretaries, and Church House Staff.

Sent on behalf of the Bishop's Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Truro, following its meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**Over the last three weeks the safeguarding failures of the Church of England have been laid bare yet again.**

**We are hearing clearly from survivors and victims of abuse in this diocese and beyond that the national church response is causing intense pain. It has deeply and repeatedly hurt the people we are here to serve, and has demoralised those who are trying to do the right thing in parishes, schools, and chaplaincies across Cornwall.**

**As the Bishop's Council, we join our voice to Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley's prophetic call for us to be a different sort of church. A church that does not seek first to protect itself, but which champions those who are most vulnerable. A church where people with power are clearly and consistently held accountable.**

**Fundamental changes to the way the church works have been recommended and accepted again and again, but too often real change has been delayed or denied. The House of Bishops and Archbishops' Council appear to have failed to implement the recommendations made in numerous reports and reviews, and we call for urgent change and action to show that national leadership is ready and able to lead the changes required.**

The Diocese of Truro is committed to a trauma-informed response. If you have been affected by this information, need support or wish to make a disclosure, we are here and we are listening. You can speak to the Diocesan Safeguarding team directly [here](#) or to the independent and confidential support service [First Light](#). You can also contact the Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel [here](#).

Bishop Hugh Nelson (Acting Bishop of Truro)  
Archdeacon Kelly Betteridge (Archdeacon of Bodmin)  
Archdeacon Clive Hogger (Archdeacon of Cornwall)  
Dean Simon Robinson (Dean of Truro)  
Justin Day (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance)  
Roger Smith (Chair of the House of Laity)  
Rev Paul Zaphiriou (Chair of the House of Clergy)  
on behalf of every member of the Bishop's Diocesan Council

The Revd Canon Simon Cade Diocesan Secretary