

What we mean by safe

Sacred Spaces; Safe People

As followers of Jesus, we believe that every person is made in God's image. We want to create spaces where everyone knows they will be safe, especially from abuse of any kind.

In the Diocese of Wellington we have set ourselves these goals:

- No one will experience sexual, emotional or physical harm from anyone in ministry
- No one will experience predatory or grooming behaviour from anyone in ministry
- No one will be personally or financially exploited by anyone in ministry
- No one will experience spiritual abuse from anyone in ministry
- No one will suffer physical or mental health injury in the course of interacting with anyone in ministry (noting that while our Diocese's policies and procedures in relation to physical health and safety necessitate a distinct and particular set of obligations, commitments and actions arising from legislative requirements, they must also speak into our absolute commitment to ensure there is no physical or emotional abuse within our Diocese).
- No-one will have safety concerns/complaints ignored or denigrated when they raise them with anyone in ministry.

Diocesan Safety Adviser Team

The Diocesan Safety Adviser Team is led by Roger Wigglesworth. The team can be contacted at safety@anglicanmovement.nz. You can also call Roger on 021 541 618, or email roger@anglicanmovement.nz.

Our eight Diocesan safety principles

We talk about safety openly and often

This includes setting expectations around safety and holding people in ministry to account for their performance in relation to those expectations.

We recruit with safety in mind

This includes not only those in ordained or in lay leadership roles, but also our myriad of volunteers who, through the Holy Spirit, have received a ministry to proclaim Jesus and Saviour and Lord and to love and serve the people with whom they live and work (extract from ordination service). It's about how we demonstrate that we have implemented this recruitment criterion universally and seriously.

We train for safety

This encompasses more than delivering formal training courses; it includes how we demonstrate and present the central importance of safety in all aspects of our parish life; and it's about how we can know that the training and best practices are being implemented.

We empower and listen to those we serve

This is about enabling and inviting people to ask questions about safety and to raise concerns; it's also about how we know that those issues, once raised, are dealt with in line with our goals.

We inform people about safety

This is concerned with not allowing safety to degenerate into a 'tick-box' exercise that's seen as the preserve of the ardent few; it's about how we can know that a culture of safety is being embedded in our mission units.

We are visible wherever we can be as we minister

This is about creating confidence for people to feel they are safe with us and, secondly, that we are being kept safe.

We respect boundaries

Boundaries are the perimeters of the ministry relationship – they define the helping pathway for those we minister to. Clear boundaries promote trust in the minister and provide clarity about the purpose and nature of the relationship.

We respond to concerns raised

This includes not only guaranteeing that every concern is handled well but also being certain that all those in ministry know exactly what to do when a concern is raised.