

“The health of a society may be judged by its care and concern for its most vulnerable members.”

(House of Bishops’ safeguarding policy)

“We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.”

(Responsible Caring, 2016)

The Diocese of Truro recognises its need to respond sensitively and effectively to those who have come to harm within a church context.

Authorised Listeners

Listening to survivors of abuse



DIOCESE OF TRURO

DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

Authorised Listeners: Listening to you

If you have been sexually abused by anyone associated with the Church of England, we can put you in touch with an experienced 'listener' who will listen with care and help you reflect on your situation.

WHAT AUTHORISED LISTENERS DO

Listeners provide an attentive and attuned ear to assist you in talking about experiences in relation to present or past abuse.

The listener will help you to consider any next steps and support you in taking them. Next steps could include reporting abuse to a statutory agency, instigating disciplinary proceedings, or seeking counselling or pastoral support.

Where appropriate, and with your consent, the listener could enable referrals to be made to other professionals.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Client confidentiality will be protected and information will only be shared with the client's express permission*.

***Exceptions**

Information heard by a listener must be shared if:

- There is a risk of harm to the client and the client is deemed unable to protect themselves.
 - There is a risk of harm to other people (including the Authorised Listener).
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Authorised Listeners: Listening to survivors of abuse

The Diocese of Truro has commissioned this service from First Light, a registered charity which has a base in Cornwall and has expertise and experience of supporting those who have experienced sexual abuse.

SERVICES AND STAFF

First Light operates the Willow Centre, which is the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The SARC provides a range of services to people who have been affected by sexual violence and abuse, whether it happened recently or in the past.

First Light has a team of seven Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) for adults, children and young people. ISVAs offer support to victims and survivors of sexual abuse or violence from the point of first disclosure to any ensuing court case and beyond.

First Light will ensure that people understand their rights; they will accompany individuals to appointments or to court, and will help them deal with practical concerns, as well as offering emotional support.

One of the ISVAs is responsible for supporting non-police referrals. This means that the worker can engage with individuals who have so far remained undecided about whether to make a report to the police and need time, information and access to services.

website: www.firstlight.org.uk

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If you have experienced abuse (not necessarily ‘proven’ or ‘substantiated’) from within the church community, you can seek a referral.

You can do so by contacting the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) directly or indirectly through your parish priest or safeguarding co-ordinator

The DSA will speak to you to clarify the request and to attempt to ensure the best reponse it is possible for you to receive. Someone from the service will contact you within 72 hours.

The listener will inform the DSA when the service is no longer required and of any ‘next steps’ you have agreed that the diocese needs to support. You will initially be offered three sessions and if additional needs are identified, further help will be provided.

CONTACT DETAILS

**Sarah Acraman
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor
T 01872 274351
E sarah.acraman@truro.anglican.org
W www.trurodiocese.org.uk**

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

**NAPAC (National Association of People Abused in Childhood)
T 0808 801 0331 (calls will not show on your bill).**

**The Survivors Trust (a national umbrella organisation)
W thesurvivorstrust.org**

**MACSAS (Minister and Clergy Sexual Abuse Survivors)
W Macsas.org.uk
T 08088 010304 (helpline staffed Sat am and Wed from 7pm)**