

## Short Service for PSO

### Introduction

From the earliest days Christians took great care of children. This was partly because of Jesus' comment, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs" (Mt 19.14), but it was more about the value of every human life, that everyone matters. In the language of later doctrine we are made in the image of God and therefore every life is precious. The care of the sick, marginal and vulnerable was one of the ways in which Christians bore witness to the world. A great tradition of care came from it: hospitals and hospices, schools and youth and children's work, and the inclusion of the marginal and disabled.

The Church is a major part of the social capital of this country. This is a great strength and to be celebrated as Christian service. The responsibility that goes with this is therefore very great. We need to take great care of people God loves. A series of recent scandals nationally have made it clear that every organisation has responsibilities for safeguarding but this is particularly important for us as a Church.

**The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam  
The Bishop of Salisbury**

We need to ensure the safeguarding of everyone but especially of children and vulnerable adults. It is an area that is in particular focus for the Church at the moment and there are likely to be continuing changes. It is vital that we keep to the highest standards and with that in mind, we cannot stress enough the value in which we hold our Parish/Benefice Safeguarding Officers.

Today we are anointing the hands of (N) and asking God for his blessing and strength for her/him in taking on this important role.

Will (N) please step forward.

(N) are you willing to take on the role of Parish/Benefice Safeguarding Officer?  
**With the help of God, I am.**

Will you work closely with the incumbent, ministry team and churchwardens to ensure the integrity and confidentiality pertaining to this role?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you the people of this parish/benefice pray for and uphold (N) in this important ministry?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

(N) I anoint your hands with Holy oil. May God's blessing be upon you, the love of Christ guide you and the strength of the Holy Spirit fill you.  
**Amen.**