

Dear all,

I am writing on behalf of the Lordsbridge Core Team to advise you of a data breach that has occurred with the third party used by the diocese to administer DBS checks, APCS Ltd. There are at least 10 dioceses affected including our diocese of Ely. The safeguarding officers (PSOs) for the affected parishes have been informed of the individuals identified to be at risk, and the individuals have also been contacted. Clergy and LLMs, whose DBS is administered by the diocese, have been contacted separately. Thank you to those of you who have written and submitted reports.

The affected parishes are Barton, Haslingfield, Hardwick, and Dry Drayton. The PCCs for these parishes will be required to add an agenda item pertaining to this data breach to their next PCC Meeting Agenda, either under Safeguarding or GDPR. The lead minister for that parish will do their best to inform the PCC with as much up to date information as is available, and answer any questions or concerns. Please be mindful that this is a third-party data breach, independent of the parishes, or the diocese, and as such, the information and resources we have are limited.

If you hold concerns for your data, advice from the diocese is that if you have not yet been contacted, it is unlikely that you are affected. They recommend, however, that you should check your emails over the coming days as the investigation continues.

More information, details on how to find support, and other advice can be found on the diocese website below:

<https://www.elydiocese.org/parish-support/privacy-and-data-protection/data-protection-and-gdpr/apcs-data-breach>

In light of this situation, the National Church has advised that all new DBS checks with APCS are paused. We are aware of which individuals require a DBS check in the coming months, and will follow the advice of the Church as and when we receive more information.

We are committed to following the guidance given, and offering support where we can as the investigation moves forward.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Emily Griffiths

Team Administrator on behalf of The Lordsbridge Core Team

Revd Clare Coates, Revd Claire Robertson, Revd Charles Fraser, Revd Barnabas Leeke, Revd Priscilla Slusar.