

*Below are the questions that were discussed during the Responding to the Storm webinar. The questions under each broad question are those submitted by attendees (and others) in advance of the webinar. Please feel free to use these questions to:*

- *Guide your individual reflection and learning.*
- *As subjects for group study with others; in person, via Zoom/Teams groups or WhatsApp groups.*
- *Guide your organisational and/or leadership work in building safer and healthier cultures.*
- *Some other way that is useful to you.*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is spiritual abuse?
2. Should I report abuse?
  - Is it still worth reporting abuse of any kind in a church / Christian organisation context, even if you have no evidence other than your own word?
  - Where can I go to (a) raise Safeguarding issue (b) be assured this is safe as I am LGBT (c) find peer support around this issue?
3. If I report abuse, how do I ensure I'm supported with it?
  - What should we do when the National Safeguarding Team suddenly stops communicating with us?
  - Tailored responses to disabled, neurodivergent victims.
4. What about if abuse is reported in my church?
  - How can we best support people who have been victims in this and other situations?
  - If the media become involved, how do we support those hurt, support the investigation and avoid a trial by media?
  - How to liaise appropriately with church members during a live investigation into an alleged incident?
5. How do we support young people?
  - What support can be put in place young people that have been to Soul Survivor but are no longer part of faith communities and may no longer have a faith?
  - How can we help to build trust in festivals again with young people and parents?
  - How can we be vigilant and protect our young people in church environments?
6. How does someone find resolution to questions about whether spiritual experiences were real or not, when the main leader has been credibly accused?
  - Was none of it real? Is everything ruined?
  - How do we trust our experiences of God through an orchestrated event?
  - For leaders whose faith was founded in one of those places?
  - How to navigate bewilderment or feelings of being crazy?

7. How can people deal with their own feelings and struggles?
  - How do you keep things in proportion when the online space is full of speculation - to the extent it's negatively impacting my mental health?
  - How to deal with feelings of betrayal & anger relating to this?
  - Can we create a space for youth workers to support one another and unpack this burden we are carrying?
  - What are your practical suggestions for people to process what is going on for them?
  
8. How can those who are supporting people who are struggling?
  - How to support those in our congregation who are confused by what has happened?
  - How to provide open support to those who are hurt (survivors or those who are reeling from the current situation)?
  - Is the church doing enough to accommodate messiness that needs to be acknowledged, before attempting to bring healing from an informed place?
  - Can we create a space for youth workers to support one another and unpack this burden we are carrying?
  
9. How do we talk about these sorts of situations?
  - How do we respond to the view that we should not be talking about this?
  - How can we openly and honestly talk about this issue without it stepping into gossip?
  - Why talking about harm/triggers of any investigation is not the same as speculation on a case?
  - Responding effectively to the "innocent until proven otherwise" statements and how unintentionally re-triggering this can be.
  - Dealing with people using King David as an example of God working through sinful people.
  - How do we answer hard/tough questions with grace?
  - Help with putting into words why "we're praying for the person under investigation" is not a helpful phrase to say to people.
  
10. How do we deal with the issues within Christian culture?
  - How can the church have a wider discussion regarding the dangerous theology of evangelicalism and young people?
  - What about purity culture and it's lasting/ongoing damage?
  - What is the churches response to the gross toxic white male power imbalance?
  - How do we ensure that the most vulnerable (disabled, neurodivergent, Black people, children) have a voice and space in this process?
  - What is the relationship between celebrity culture and some of these abuse cases?
  
11. How do we change the culture so that people feel able to call out this behaviour more?

- How to stay accountable in leadership? How to keep leaders accountable?
- How can the church talk about sex safely?
- How do we work in a way that creates a culture of openness and feedback where people can be challenged and we can reflect and learn together, and things do not happen in a hidden way?
- How do we get rid of deference and replace with all round respect?

12. How should we be responding?

- How do we convince more evangelical traditions that safeguarding is not a secular imposition on the Gospel?
- How can we best witness to those who do not follow Christianity when such a storm as these are given media attention?
- Do prominent Christian leaders have a duty to make a statement about a situation if they have in the past lauded an individual?
- What role should the Christian media be playing?
- What is the role of Christian counsellors versus other types of counselling?

13. How do we change things?

- How do we helpfully use our voices to speak up against injustice? How can we work to change the system?
- How do we shed light on other places in Church where abuse is still happening?
- How can we change CofE rules so that safeguarding investigations are conducted by a third party organisation?
- Is there a way of connecting those invested in this, but perhaps feeling somewhat isolated as they try to further the work, with each other? Could we build a network of support for one another in some way?