

You may be someone or know someone who has been strongly impacted by the devastating John Smyth news and is trying to navigate this new media chapter in your or their intensely personal story. We share the anger and distress felt by abused people and those who walk with them in any capacity. We lament the failures within the Church of England which prevented the victims of John Smyth from accessing justice and appropriate help and which allowed his appalling abuse to continue for so long.

As a Minister within the Church of England, I express my profound abhorrence and sorrow to those who have suffered and who continue to suffer and we commit ourselves to addressing these issues. If you have been impacted in any way by this story, you are very welcome to come and talk with us, if you want to.

We will listen and help if we can.

True healing for those damaged by this and other instances of abuse, and complete safety for those in our care, is our earnest desire. We work towards this. We are very grateful for all those who help to strengthen safeguarding in our parishes.

In all of this, we affirm the truth and beauty of Christ who, in all of His interactions with men and women, boys and girls, healed, cherished and protected. The vulnerable were safe with Him.

We declare again our faith in Him and our attachment to His Way of being and doing.

Reverend Bob Molton

(Ashley, Charlton, Crudwell, Hankerton, Minety & Oaksey)

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Link To Bishop Viv Faull's Statement on The Makin Report and subsequent events:  
<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/news/bishop-viv-statement-archbishop-of-canterbury-resignation.php>

Finding support:

The Bristol Diocese takes all allegations of abuse, in any form, extremely seriously. If you have been affected by this news or wish to discuss something confidentially, please know that support is available.

To report a safeguarding issue, please contact the National Safeguarding Team at [safeguarding@churchofengland.org](mailto:safeguarding@churchofengland.org) or our safeguarding team at [safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:safeguarding@bristoldiocese.org).

Additional support services are available on the [National Church website](#) and the [Diocese of Bristol's Safeguarding page](#).