

Stephen Sackur

Let me ask you about something for which you very much have an inside perspective, and that is the workings of the Church of England itself. Does the Church of England when it comes to safeguarding when it comes to dealing with a legacy of accusations of sexual abuse by people inside the Church of England? Does it have a real problem with accountability with confronting its own past?

+Rose

I'm going to say no to this. And the reason I'm going to say no, is I've been a bishop since 2019. And so in by virtue of being a bishop since 2019, I have sat in on the House of Bishops meetings and College of Bishops meeting. And what I see what I genuinely see, is a real deep commitment to ensure that the the church is a safe space, and a safe place.

Stephen Sackur

If there commitment is that deep, how come the church hierarchy has just fired two members of a three person independent safeguarding board which was set up after an inquiry into child sex abuse inside the church, an inquiry which concluded that the church had to a certain extent offered safe haven to abusers. This safeguarding board, which was to work with families to ensure that we would never happen again, has now been disbanded. People around the country cannot understand why. Even bishops, your colleagues are saying that it represents a church which seems less safe. This is the Bishop of Birkenhead Julie Conalty. A church which is less accountable. I don't, says Bishop Conalty, entirely trust the church today.

+Rose

I do not agree with Bishop Julie, I really do not agree with her. Because what I see from experience here we have a data centre advisor, advisors, safeguarding advisors who are independent, they do not pull any punches, what they say, what I see now is a commitment to make the church a safer place.

Stephen Sackur

But it must worry you then that one of the key advocates for survivors who talks to the families of survivors of sex abuse every day, Andrew Graystone, he has just said this, 'the Church of England safeguarding function is deeply unsafe at this moment'.

+Rose

I don't agree. I really do not agree. And I don't think I'm living in a pie in the sky world. What I can see with some with actually with great certainty, is that I see a church that is appalled at what is has gone on in the past. And the church right now, that if you sneezed, and it looks like a safeguarding problem, you are out. You know, that's what I see. So I don't agree with Bishop Julie. I'm sorry.