

Allegations: Is it Safeguarding?

This is using the presentation notes that the woman used in early September 2019 for 3 separate sessions with Canon Vasey-Sanders, Mark Watkins and the formal interview with specialist Police Officers at Normanton Police Station on 13th September 2019.

The woman introduced herself as a divorced, unpartnered, quinquagenarian under attack. She began each meeting with an "overture" of being bullied, intimidated, disparaged, allegations of harassment and stalking.

Then she continues in great detail.

Red text is the woman's original handwritten document text, as in a blue spiral A6 notebook.

Green text. My annotations, commentary and mitigations.

Blue text. Questions, that you the reader might ask.

The PickPick Story

The September 2018 plan was to develop a team of ringers at All Saints Pontefract, where the woman would become Tower Captain. My relationship was that of "Tutor" to the "Trainee". The woman would be developing her leadership skills, influenced by hints, tips, advice and demonstrations from myself, other experienced leaders and training courses available.

The woman tells the listeners **"pick pick started after Easter."**

We were aware that the woman had recently been involved in an altercation at another tower.

The woman continues **"Wife starts telling me when I can & cant be at ponty"**

Total distortion, we are retired and had trips abroad envisaged, hence simply diary organisations.

The woman continues **"got to be everything I did or said, no, you're doing it wrong, too soon, too late, cant talk to people, like sheit, belittling me in front of everyone"**

Building the drama, these were occasional tips and hints, in the moment. Everyone knew this was intended as developing the woman's skills.

Onwards **"going round the learners telling them I'm nasty cos I'm in pain."**

Drama, that never actually happened. Notice how the woman uses "in pain" to gain the reader's sympathy. A regular occurrence.

And more **"Tell me people hate me or I've upset someone, or someone very angry about something I did/said."**

Well actually she had caused serious trouble at 3 other towers around the area, but that was kept confidential from the Pontefract people. The woman was not welcome to ring at most towers around Wakefield.

The woman continues **"when I ask them they've no idea what I'm talking about."**

True, it was all in the woman's imagination.

Now the woman makes a serious allegation **"nicey nicey emails, but too personal, from secret email address that his wife doesn't know about."**

Phrased to stir up sympathetic emotions.

The woman told me that she did not like my wife reading our correspondence and requested a confidential, one-to-one route.

I admit it was my mistake to accept the woman's request.

I tried to be positive and encouraging emails from myself.

The woman continues **"I was upset one evening about being undermined/belittled in front of everyone. email asking to not do it. if they have to say anything its not in front of the team."**

We took that on board, tried to comply with her wish.

But we noticed the other ringer, Simon, continued to bounce around interrupting. The woman had not spoken to him.

Introducing "Simon" = a divorce male of similar age to the woman. She had said to me that "she was trying to build a relationship with Simon".

Onwards **"Also pointed out he'd missed an important bit of handling teaching out."**

Perhaps I had decided to concentrate on another aspect first.

Now she changes tack **"Emails accusing me of bullying him and Andrew."**

True, but the woman could not see my view, the woman's behaviour was treating Andrew like a misbehaving child, disparaging, very demeaning.

"Andrew", who is "Andrew"? She would probably add details here.

Introducing "Andrew" = a vulnerable adult living in care at managed local authority accommodation.

Now another serious allegation **"8th Aug - he had to pick all saints key up from mine. Starts telling me about how dangerous I am due to previous stallions incident which I've never discussed with him or his wife, but hearsays he and his wife and friend are telling everyone about it."**

"mine" = her flat in Altofts.

Oh yes, the woman had told me lots about previous relationship failures. Both face to face and in emails. Many "damsel in distress" tales. I have never passed on such stories as I know they are probably inaccurate.

Thursday 8th August 2019 around 4pm, The woman was not going to be at All Saints, The woman told me to come to her flat to get the key. Me and the woman sat outside the flat on the tail of my car. A discussion took place where I told her I was aware our friendship was not going well, things were getting strained and I was finding it hard to be in her presence. The woman asked me to explain, and I said that before that I needed to know some things from her. I asked The woman if she has had suicidal tendencies, to which the woman clearly says "Ah well, that's another story". Then I said that I was aware that she had taken disagreements to the Clergy, making formal reports about other ringers. Her response was that she would never do that to me, I was a lovely person. I said that I was going to be direct, open and honest towards her that if I was exceeding her limits, then she was to contact Ronald, Katherine, Julie or other ringers first, not the Clergy. The woman said that was OK. I also said that if I was not welcome, she was to tell me. She said that I was welcome there anytime. Taking all that as a promise and consent, I told her that her "damsel in distress" tales were getting boring and repetitive.

She continues in the same conversation **"I'd just had nerve root inj in pain so I was sleepy, but told him it's none of his business and should be left alone"**

More "pain" sympathy.

Later onto a new point "I received an email from him saying that he was fed up with me talking about my "enemies" and I should stop telling him about it - I reminded him ME tonight I up."
More drama, for sympathy.

Another allegation "He somehow took over my facebook group which I reported to fb as hacked. They removed it. D said I had ordered him to remove it so he had."
Total exaggeration. The Facebook page was a shared group page.

And yet more "He has taken pictures from my fb, altered them, altered them, arrows to where he's waiting for me by the canal & sent to my messenger."
Misleading, biased to give a negative impression of me.
The woman asked to meet privately with me. I was suggesting a public open space.

Now she starts on the "stalking" allegations.

She says ""bumped" into me in Normanton centre, had a chat, then followed me around until I got back to my car & drove off."
Deliberately talking untruths.

I came out of the Bank and there the woman was, standing right in front of me. The woman invited me to sit down on a nearby seat, and talked to me for over half an hour. I was told many "damsel in distress" tales. I had to go shopping and for flowers for our wedding anniversary into Lidl, the woman said that she needed some things and we walked there together. At the checkout the woman had no bags for her purchases and I gave her one of mine. As we walked towards our cars she said the she had enjoyed shopping with me.

Back to harassment allegations.

She says "Emails - nice then nasty all from "secret" email address."
As previously, the woman had requested communications the my wife did not see.
I cannot find any "nasty" emails, certainly no nastiness intended.
Phrased for drama.

She continues "Verbally abusive just before wedding ringing."
More drama, I don't know what she means.

More "I'd given him the tower key, suspecting he wanted to take over. I'd've been happy to walk away if it meant him leaving me alone."
Our agreed aim was for the woman to run ringing at All Saints. Everyone knew that. We have done over 30 years running ringing, and it is time to retire.

And still more "Set up a meeting for after practice, but got nasty w me & Andrew cos Andrew wouldn't leave my side."
The woman requested a confidential discussion, Andrew being there would be inappropriate, not allowing openness and honesty.

Now allegations of disparagement.

She says "He keeps telling Andrew to tell me he hates me & to say I'm bullying him."
More drama, I have never expressed hatred. The woman was mistreating Andrew.
Andrew did not comprehend that he was being abused.

And another point. She says "Saturday last week he posts on fb that I am bullying him (Derek), one of his friends comments, coming to sort me out."

More drama, She had posted about "blowing his head off", that I found very upsetting. Perhaps the woman might have thought that the banter on Facebook was getting out of hand.

A friend contacts me directly about another incident involving the woman being aggressive to another ringer.

Friday 30th August. The Funeral for June Jordan at Campsall.

The woman is there to ring the bells. What I say next is what I've been told from another ringer. "The woman gives another ringer a tongue lashing. She really lays into him." There were many witnesses to this incident.

Now she adds another point.

She says "Sunday morning I'm told I can't continue to run eve ringing at cathedral "because of Derek & facebook"."

Totally untrue, I have no notes on what the woman was told, but certainly not because of me.

She says "Monday am = appointment with cathedral clergy."

Breaking the promise the woman gave me 4 weeks earlier.

And another appointment "Sunday pm vicar ponty."

Breaking the promise the woman gave me 4 weeks earlier.

She says "Been advised to stay away from both churches. Derek continues to ring I stay home."

Mark Watkins has cancelled practices at All Saints, without any explanation.

Now the final events, only told to The Police.

She says "Tues pm D turns up at my flat with flowers, to apologize,"

This 10am meeting had been agreed the previous Thursday, and confirmed on Sunday afternoon.

Drama in the phrasing.

The aim was mediation, to obtain a truce, wash away misunderstandings.

She says "scares the neighbours with his aggressive way of talking to me."

Outside the woman's flat, certainly not aggressive, reconciliation was the objective. I have no record of anyone else being there. No one is heard.

She continues "WDH Survey bloke comes in D follows him in."

The woman clearly says "You had better come in". I preferred to wait outside, but was signalled in.

She continues "D tells me that he is going to say on fb + to people that he's sorry and he will put everything right."

I never said any of this. The woman is delusional. The woman did 90% of the talking. I did apologise about several misunderstandings, but never anything to do with contacting The Clergy. As per the promise 4 weeks earlier. She did listen to my points about another friend of hers who was bouncing around the tower interrupting and interfering.

She continues "Thurs pm late, he messages me to say he hadn't spoken to Julie (T.C. Wakefield) and had been talking to Simon, trying to play us against each other."

This is a random statement. I don't understand what the woman means. I had not had anything other than trivial conversations with Simon.

Here comes another harassment allegation.

Now; I must add important details here that the woman did not include in her note or presentations to The Authorities.

Here is a threatening email she sent to myself on Wednesday afternoon.

From: The woman

Sent: 04 September 2019 14:07

To: Me

Subject: Re: Extremely secret

I have emailed Leah and Father Mark as you obviously haven't upheld your promise to me. I have also 2 emails on draft which I will send at 9pm if you haven't acted on what you said yesterday.

Back to the allegation.

She says "Wed afternoon he set "up camp" in my car-park. Lifts boot up, deckchairs out - upset the neighbours."

Following the very threatening email she has sent me mid afternoon, as at the top of this letter, I had tried to contact the woman, I had diverted my journey to York via her flat, but was never going in there.

She continues "Sits 40 min, texting for me to go out there URGENTLY & now as it's something important I need to know."

A massive lie here. Actually my phone and carcam shows no more than 16 minutes.

I text invited the woman to explain the promises I am supposed to have made.

I had time tabled tasks to complete that evening, and could spend no more time there.

She continues "Windows of van are black - couldn't see if anyone else in van. I messaged to say his behaviour was intimidating. He said sorry - but see texts."

Phrased for drama.

She continues "I said I was contacting police + had taken pictures. Ten mins later he left + Simon came."

Reporting facts accurately for a change.

She adds more "Late that night received weird email about my mental health. See email. Reads like he wants me to commit suicide."

Yes, I was truly concerned about the woman's mental health, particularly regarding the previous statement on suicide, where the woman had clearly said "Ah well, that's another story".

She says "Blocked him on FB, he still messaged me though a page."

Blocked, yes, but any messages would have just been regarding events details.

The woman is clearly unreliable.

More allegations of disparagement.

She says "He's now telling everyone I'm suicidal."

Untrue, I only mentioned that to one person who professionally needed to know.

She says "Wakefield Cathedral treating it as safeguarding."

But they are not following the Bishop's Guidance by setting up proper inquiry.

She says "Ponty All Saints working with Wakefield."

Working ???

Early September, as I go about my ringing, people I meet tell me they have heard wild stories about me, but find it hard to believe. One common expression is that they tell me they know "I am not a monster". So I assume The woman has been spreading words that I am a monster.

November 2019 and February 2020.

I contact The Police.

I am told, and in writing, that there is nothing on my record of concern. The Police cannot understand the attitude of The Diocese. The case is completely closed, though I am entitled to victim support should I need support.

Of course there is much more, this is just the story that the woman was telling before mid September 2019. There is much she has omitted.

Conclusions

Is this a Safeguarding case?

Is she a vulnerable adult?

Am I, as a bellringing Tower Captain, a "Church Officer" ?

Should a proper "Safeguarding" case be opened and proper investigations take place?