



The Methodist Church

Safeguarding in Lincolnshire District

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District Safeguarding Newsletter

No 1 23/24

Welcome to the new Connexional year and a very warm welcome and rich blessings to our new colleagues, Rev Richard (Lincoln), Deacon Helen (Lincoln) and Rev Margaret (East Lincs). Blessings also to our colleagues who are now some of our Superintendents and for Rev Angie as our new District Chair.

Congratulations to our new Youth President, Tom Hart, from the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Circuit who will serve for this coming 23/24 Connexional year.

The work for safeguarding continues by so very many people, especially our volunteers and a very heartfelt thank you for all that you do.

This newsletter has a lot of local and Connexional information in it:

Page 2 – Some seminars;

Page 3 – District training and Policy update;

Page 4 – Safeguarding Sunday – November 2023;

Page 4 – DBS exemption revised form;

Page 5 – Safeguarding sessions 23/24;

Page 5 – UNLOCK – filtering DBS offences – help on hand;

Page 6 – Reflect and Respond – using the survivors guide and resources;

Page 7 – IICSA news;

Page 8 – Gaslighting – an emerging safeguarding issue;

Page 8 – Rev Michael Hall – independent report into C of E clergy;

Page 9 – Theology of Safeguarding Resources;

Page 10 – Supporting survivors of trafficking;

Page 10 – NSPCC Podcast – living with Domestic Abuse;

Page 11 – Blessing and contact details.

Seminars

Trauma and the Impact on Survivors' Webinar with Caterina O'Connor – 14 September 2023

We (the Connexion) are hosting a webinar on 14 September, with Caterina O'Connor from the Archdiocese of Glasgow, to explore the definition of trauma and how it is experienced by individuals. The webinar will also cover societal attitudes to trauma and responses to victims and survivors. The content also considers the different manifestations of trauma e.g. physical, emotional and psychological and how practitioners can support themselves when working with victims and survivors of trauma.

Date: **Thursday 14 September**

Time: **11.00 am – 12.30 pm**

The Zoom webinar is aimed at anyone who has contact in a supportive capacity with worshippers who have experienced abuse and advanced booking is essential:

[Zoom registration](#)

Basic Domestic Abuse Awareness Session

The basic level Domestic Abuse Awareness Session led by Brec Seaton is on 21 September from 10.00am – 12.30pm. Please contact Karen Allen to book your place. The course is aimed at DSO's and those who work in safeguarding. The aims of the session are to raise awareness of domestic abuse; increase understanding around coercive and controlling behaviour, including what it feels like to be in an abusive relationship; consider the challenges around leaving an abusive relationship and increase understanding about theology and domestic abuse.

Karen Allen, Safeguarding lead on domestic abuse ([email Karen](#))

Say maaate to a mate next time their behaviour towards women goes too far.

District Foundation and Advanced Training 23/24

Foundation - There is now a new revised course which is being rolled out. Your local Circuit training people will receive the materials over the next few days and therefore will be able to begin training to it.

Advanced - Alison and I have now identified a number of dates and we are currently sorting venues. This is especially important for local preachers and worship leaders but a lot of people will now be due for their refresher given 4 years will have passed from the previous training.

If you are due, please be assured that dates will be issued very soon for both face to face and on-line sessions but should you need any further information for now, or would wish to offer a hosting venue, then do let us know.

District Policies and Procedures

Alison has sent out the up to date CHURCH AND CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING POLICY templates ready for approval at your appropriate meetings.

Revisions are currently underway to ensure you have everything else soon:

[District Safeguarding Policy;](#)

[District Safeguarding Policy- summary for display](#)

[Responding well flowchart](#)

[Responding well recording form](#)

[Safer recruitment Policy](#)

[Safer Recruitment Policy –summary for display](#)

[Pastoral Visitors guidance – some significant changes included](#)

It is hoped that the District tool kit to assist the safer recruitment process can be re-introduced due to popular demand, which will include bringing back the variety of role outlines we have had before the pandemic.

Safeguarding Sunday 2023



Sunday 19th November 2023 will see the annual recognition of safeguarding in our churches across the country.

Please know that there is an abundance of excellent resources to ensure our churches have safeguarding in a prominent position. This is a link to the Methodist church website where you will find safeguarding posters and stickers to either download or order:

[Posters and Stickers \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)

Our friends at *Thirtyone:eight* have put together a pack for Safeguarding Sunday. This is the link for you to register and download your pack:

[Safeguarding Sunday | Thirtyone:eight \(thirtyoneeight.org\)](https://thirtyoneeight.org)

Ministerial DBS Exemption form updated

[The ministerial DBS Exemption from DBS information sheet and form](#) have been updated to authorize superintendents approving the request if the District Chair is not available, and to clarify the process where a person can act as proxy for the minister. The new form is available on the Safeguarding website on the forms page of the Safer Recruitment section: [DBS Exemption forms for ministers and local preachers \(methodist.org.uk\)](#)

Safeguarding session 23/24

Our model of holding a 2 week run of themed safeguarding sessions has been in place since the pandemic. We have a dedicated 2-week period when we run sessions throughout each day, looking at an appropriate theme for the year:

Back to basics – we looked at every day practice issues that affect our safeguarding work;

Responding well to.... – looking at a variety of situations like rough sleepers, addiction, domestic abuse, victims and survivors, trauma, modern slavery etc;

Theology of safeguarding – breaking down the Methodist report into individual sessions;

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as part of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy of the Methodist church.

Our next sessions will be in February/March 2024 and will be about reminding ourselves of the key things that need to be in place for us to be defensible, bringing you new themes, research and practice on the latest emerging safeguarding practices.

Many have asked for an opportunity also to go over again some of the day to day practice issues we need to have in place and we can also incorporate these in these sessions too, so something like:

“What we need to remember again and What to need to know afresh”

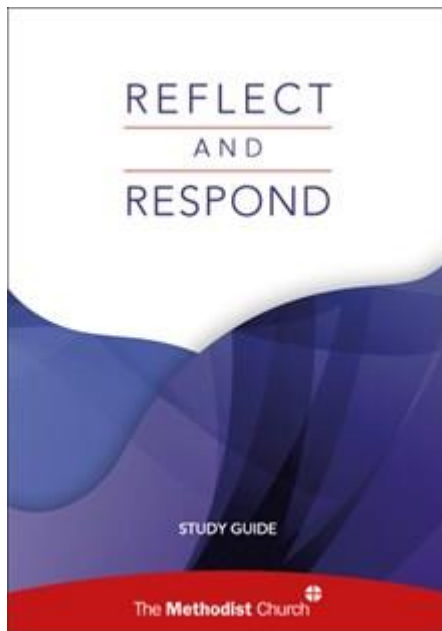
More to come.



Filtered Offences Flowchart

DBS applicants are sometimes surprised that an offence shows up on their Enhanced DBS certificate. Unlock work to help people with criminal convictions to have better opportunities and to know their rights about employment etc. This can be useful in advising applicants, DSOs or ministers as to when certain offences will be filtered and how many years until this occurs, and which offences will never be filtered, such as offences which led to a prison or suspended sentence.

[Filtered Offences Flowchart](#)



During one of our 2-week safeguarding sessions, we introduced the survivor materials to churches and we gave a lot of feedback to the Methodist church about some of the challenges of using the materials in a sensitive yet pro-active way.

We are going to be holding a series of short sessions, separate to anything else, for us to ensure once again that we are able to use the materials which are now fully on line and which as a District we gave our commitment to using and promoting, especially the survivors charter contained in the resources.

More to come but please contact me for further help if needed or see the link below.

[Survivor Resources \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Say maaate to a mate next time their behaviour towards women goes too far.

IICSA News



The Guardian view on the child sexual abuse inquiry – survivors deserve better

[The Guardian view on the child sexual abuse inquiry: survivors deserve better | Editorial | The Guardian](#)

Date: **28 May 2023**

Source: **The Guardian**

‘The government’s response to Alexis Jay’s report is inadequate. Ministers must step up and show victims the effort was worthwhile’. The Guardian article notes the following:

- Professor Jay described the proposals in the Government response as “vague, unspecific, without a timeline”. The response took 7 years and 6,000 victims took part. 20 specific recommendations were made in the final report, and they should be implemented.
- There is lack of urgency in the response: The Prime Minister was not in the chamber for the announcement.
- There is anger that there is proposal for years of further consultation before a compensation scheme is implemented.
- ‘There should be no need for delay in the registration of staff working in children’s homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions’
- There is criticism of the proposal that the Secretary of State for Education can fulfil the role proposed in the report of a cabinet minister for Children.
- There is criticism that the government will not ban the use of pain-inducing restraint techniques in children’s prisons.
- ‘The expansion of specialist support services for survivors cannot wait’

- There is criticism that the Government is only consulting on mandatory reporting, when the case for this was so strong.

[Government response to the final report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Gaslighting (by Neil Van Holland – DSO East Anglia)

I have this month found myself on more than one occasion discussing the relatively new safeguarding term “Gaslighting”. So what does it mean? The definition in the Oxford dictionary is “To manipulate someone using psychological methods into questioning their own sanity or powers of reason” more simply, to manipulate another person into doubting their own perceptions, experiences or understanding of events.

We owe the term somewhat to a 1938 play “Gaslight” which tells the tale of a man who attempts to trick his new wife into thinking she is losing her mind, by telling her that the gaslights in their home, which dim when he is down in the attic up to no good, are not fading at all.

But the act of Gaslighting was evident in time as early as Adam and Eve, when in Genesis 3, the serpent approaches Eve and says “Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden””. It is very clear that this is an attempt to manipulate Eve and make her doubt what she knows and believes.

Part of positive safeguarding is empowering people with knowledge to protect both themselves and other people from being abused psychologically as well as in those many other areas and it is important for us all to recognise this as an area of safeguarding, both for ourselves but also others which leads me to end with another verse I have been drawn to this month below (from Philippians) which I will leave us all to ponder.

Lessons Learned Review – Revd Michael Hall, Tylers Green

This new independent report for the Church of England makes interesting reading with implications for policy, spiritual abuse training, clergy discipline and managing complaints as well as dealing with allegations of ‘historic abuse’:

Read the report: [Lessons learnt from the historic events in the parish of St Margaret's Tylers Green](#)

Read an article about the report:

[C of E vicar 'spiritually abused' parishioners for 20 years, report finds | Anglicanism | The Guardian](#)

'Rev Michael Hall, who died in 2021, belittled and humiliated members of his Buckinghamshire congregation'.

While the report is for the Church of England, there may also be lessons that can be learned by the Methodist Church.

Theology of Safeguarding – God Welcomes All: How faith informs safeguarding



Coming autumn 2023!

GOD WELCOMES ALL

How faith informs safeguarding

An opportunity to explore why and how safeguarding matters for everyone.

This new study guide encourages all members of the Methodist Church to look at our Christian calling that offers a welcome to all, whilst ensuring that our worship and wider church life is safe for everyone.

- User-friendly study materials
- Accessible series of short films
- Versatile for use by individuals or groups

God Welcomes All is a four-session study guide containing new short films with activities and questions for discussion and reflection. It is based on the Methodist Church's report on the Theology of Safeguarding 2021.

Free

Available from methodistpublishing.org.uk

The **Methodist Church**

The above study guide is now in its final stages and publishing is still scheduled for publication for September 2023.

It includes a study guide, a reader's guide (produced by Revd Dr Nicola Price Tebbutt) and a guide for facilitators. Please find the promotional poster and film clip below.

The study guide consists of four sessions which all feature an introductory film with the Revd Dr Nicola Price Tebbutt, alongside additional films, which help to compliment the sessions.

You may recall that the study guide was mandated by Conference in 2021, to help enable the Theology of Safeguarding Report to be accessible, clear and easier to understand.

To ensure that you have an awareness of the study guide, you may find it helpful to be given a brief overview. Arrangements are currently underway for this to take place.

[Poster](#)

[Film](#) Hear from our pilot group as they discuss what the 'God Welcomes All' study guide is all about.

Supporting survivors of trafficking

You may be interested to read this blogpost about a project set up by Deacon Kerry Scarlett and Revd Stephen Willey as a project of the Birmingham Methodist District to help people who had been trafficked into the United Kingdom.

[Adavu: supporting survivors of trafficking in the West Midlands \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/adavu/supporting-survivors-of-trafficking-in-the-west-midlands)



Podcast: Domestic abuse support in the workplace

Source: **NSPCC Learning**

Date: **July 2023**

Domestic abuse experts from the NSPCC Helpline discuss what workplaces can do to provide support to parents and children experiencing domestic abuse.

(Highly recommended) [Read more and listen to the podcast](#)



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