



Safeguarding Newsletter

Newcastle District and Darlington District

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! This is the place to find the latest information about safeguarding in the region.

1. Every Story Matters-Regional Safeguarding Conference

You are all invited to our online safeguarding conference on Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th February. We will be exploring the Methodist Justice, Dignity, and Solidarity strategy through the lens of safeguarding. Click [here](#), scan the QR code, or contact Rachel to book.



The North East, Yorkshire, and Scotland Districts have come together to run four events on Zoom across the week, each last 1.5 hours. Each session will cover a different topic:

- **Stories of Journeys** - 3 Feb at 1:30pm, with Revd Helen Cameron
- **Stories of Justice** - 4 Feb at 7:30pm with young people from our districts
- **Stories of Dignity** - 5 Feb at 10am, with Pauline Jackson
- **Stories of Solidarity** - 6 Feb at 1:30pm, with Rev Dr Mark Rowland

2. Risk Assessments demystified: a brief overview.

There are two types of risk assessments that churches, projects, and Circuits need to do; one for buildings, one for activities. There is a third type of risk assessment, to do with people. These are not carried out locally. Contact Carolyn if you have questions about this type.



Buildings

Building Risk Assessments need to be done for all Methodist Church premises out by the Church Safeguarding Officer and the property steward annually. There is a [template](#) on the Methodist Church website which you can adapt.

Activities

Activity Risk Assessments should be done for all church, project, and circuit activities. These should be shared with those involved in the activity, and reviewed regularly. There is a [template](#) on the Methodist Church website which you can adapt.

3. Resources for your safeguarding notice board

Independent Age supports the 2 million people in the UK living in poverty in later life. They have some helpful posters and guides that you can order or print out. For support, contact their helpline on 0800 319 6789.



The guides cover topics such as money and benefits, housing options, staying safe, planning for the future wellbeing, including coping with bereavement and loneliness, getting the care you need and how to pay for it.

You can download the guides or posters [here](#), or scan the QR code above. Or order copies by visiting: www.independentage.org/order-independent-age-guides.

4. Safeguarding in the News

There has been lots about safeguarding and church in the news. Here is a prayer and some resources that you may find helpful. If you would like support, contact Carolyn Godfrey. For details of organisations you can contact, visit the [‘Contacts for Survivors Organisations’](#) page of the Methodist Church website, or scan the QR code. Two key organisations to contact are: The Survivors Trust- 0808 801 0818, and the National Association of People Abused in Childhood-0808 801 0331.



Loving God, we ask your forgiveness for the times when in your Church we have failed to protect vulnerable people.

We pray for your healing for those who have been hurt and for those who live with guilt and regret.

We ask for your wisdom and direction as we seek to keep safe all your children, in the name of Christ.

Amen.

God Welcomes All

There are two four-session study guides for small groups to use to explore safeguarding and church. You can find these on the Methodist Church Website.

[God Welcomes All](#) explores the Theology of Safeguarding.

[Reflect and Respond](#) explores how we can respond well to the Past Cases Review.



Who you gonna call?

If you have a safeguarding concerns, contact:

Regional Safeguarding Officer: **Carolyn Godfrey** - 07534 346374 - newcastle.darlington@dso.methodist.org.uk

If you have queries about DBs or Safeguarding Trainings, contact:

Assistant Regional Safeguarding Officer: **Rachel Bourne** - 07903710759 - neregsafe.office@gmail.com

Chair of Regional Safeguarding Group: **Mark Braithwaite** - 07771 771360 - markbraithwaite@btinternet.com



Newcastle District