



October 2023

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**

This issue contains:

- God welcomes all
- Training information
- Useful Contacts
- Safer Recruitment
- Safeguarding Sunday

God Welcomes All: How faith informs safeguarding

The 2021 Methodist Conference adopted the report on The Theology of Safeguarding which explores issues including the abuse of power within a church context. The God Welcomes All study guide is based on this report and 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.

The study materials and further information can be found at:

[The Theology of Safeguarding and Spiritual Abuse \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

Training

Following the recent changes in the Learning Network we are starting to work more closely with the Sheffield District, Yorkshire North & East District and Yorkshire West District. This means that we are now able to access a lot more Advanced Module Training sessions online. Further details and available dates can be found on the following links:

Yorkshire West (2 1/2 hours) - [Creating Safer Space - Advanced Module | Eventbrite](#)

Sheffield and Yorkshire North & East (2 hours) - [CSS Advanced Module - On-line Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Useful Contacts

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

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

Regional Safeguarding Administrator: Jenny Prior - 07903 710759
neregsafe.office@gmail.com

Safer Recruitment Reminder

It is important that the Safer Recruitment policy is followed for both paid and volunteer roles. For employed roles you must follow the lay employment process and take advice from the Lay Employment Secretary – Izzy Milburn.

For ALL volunteer roles the safer recruitment process must be followed. Below is an example of what that would look like for most church volunteers.

1. Role Outline prepared
2. Role advertised (e.g., in the Church Notices)
3. Volunteer completes 'Safeguarding Form A – part 1'
4. Meeting with the Volunteer and role outline shared (interview)
5. Confidential Declaration Form completed
6. Reference request 1 sent
7. Name of referee:
8. Reference 1 received and satisfactory
9. Reference request 2 sent
10. Name of referee:
11. Reference 2 received and satisfactory
12. Volunteer completes on-line DBS application form
13. Verifier completes their section of the application form and submits to DDC
14. DDC email confirming clear DBS received
15. Safeguarding Form A – part 2 completed on behalf of the Church Council
16. Safeguarding Form A – part 2 signed by the volunteer
17. Appoint the Volunteer – minuted meeting
18. Volunteer handed a copy of the Pocket Card
19. Foundation Module Training arranged

The full guidance can be found at: [Safer Recruitment Policy and Practice Guidance \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk)
Example role outlines have previously been supplied to Circuits, if you would like a copy, please contact nereqsafe.office@gmail.com

Safeguarding Sunday - 19th November 2023

Safeguarding Sunday is a safeguarding awareness raising campaign for churches run by the charity Thirtyone:eight. Each November, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions across the UK come together to reflect on their own safeguarding journey, and to highlight and celebrate all the good work that is being done by so many behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people. There is more information at

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

The Southampton District Chair, Revd Andrew De Ville, has made a short video with the hope / encouragement that all churches will use it on Safeguarding Sunday:

[Short Video for Safeguarding Sunday](#)

