

## Safeguarding Training

As I have mentioned previously we have seen a Summer that sees us 4 years on from Covid lockdowns. As such training has been in low demand. I have however delivered some courses in some parts of the district, and have enjoyed meeting those people. The new Foundation Module 2024 training has recently been rolled out and the first course delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> September which was well received. There will be a new round of courses coming out in the in the next fortnight for booking which will take us up to Christmas, so make sure you check the [Safeguarding pages](#) on the website for details.

If you have a big requirement for training in the first half of 2025 in your circuits please do not hesitate to contact your Circuit Safeguarding Officer, [myself](#) or [Sarah](#) to discuss, and we will look to accommodate a session or direct you to one nearby.

## Resources for your Churches

[Model Church Safeguarding Policy](#)

[Contacts Poster](#)



A new Connexional year is upon us. Welcome to all those who are new to the district.

It has recently come to my attention that there are some companies out there; legitimate private safeguarding companies I will say, whose marketing strategy is to cold call email people potentially through having individuals emails through a separate partner company sharing an email where we have not as individuals ticked a marketing box somewhere. Any Methodist Safeguarding Training will always come directly from either myself or Sarah Young, and will always be advertised on the website. I would just be mindful of this kind of marketing in the same way we would potential scams. The world of online can at times be a scary and unregulated place where people look to take advantage of others, and use platforms to make statements, give viewpoints and cause harm. Schools include in their curriculums teaching children about online harms but we are all vulnerable to this in some way at some point, and should continue to employ a mindset of due diligence when we are online, and as our young people are told....Don't believe everything you see or hear online!!

With best wishes,

*Neil*

## New Guidance for Pastoral Visitors

The new, and long awaited, guidance documents for pastoral visitors are now on the website, in the Policies and Procedures section: [Policies and guidance - Methodist Church](#)

The materials consist of 2 downloadable documents:

- Pastoral Care Guidance for pastoral visitors: [Pastoral Care Guidance August 2024](#)
- Safeguarding and Pastoral Care for ministers and those who have a leadership role in pastoral care within the Methodist Church: [Safeguarding and Pastoral Care August 2024](#)

The 'Pastoral Care Guidance' document covers topics such as good practice, support and keeping yourself safe, confidentiality and record keeping. The 'Safeguarding and Pastoral Care' document also looks at safer recruitment and different roles which pastoral visitors may have.

Please note that these documents give general guidance; they note that '*Pastoral care is understood and expressed in different ways in different places ...*' It is therefore not possible to produce a booklet which can answer every question about the way each church arranges its pastoral support.

*Christine Kennedy, Safeguarding Casework Supervisor*