



Safeguarding Newsletter

Newcastle District and Darlington District

Happy New Methodist Year! Welcome to our September Newsletter. This is the place to find the latest information about safeguarding in the region.

1. Change is afoot, but business as usual

Carolyn and Rachel have slightly new roles and email addresses, but we are still here to support the Darlington and Newcastle districts as usual!

What's Changed?

Our titles and email addresses.

In August, all District Safeguarding Officers and assistants changed from being employed by Districts to being employed by the Connexional Team. This is to help make sure safeguarding is done in the same way across the country, and to help people to work together and learn from each other.

What's not changed?

How we support you.

We are still both aligned to the Darlington and Newcastle Districts.

Contact us about safeguarding concerns or questions! We'd much rather be contacted about a worry that turns out to be nothing than not contacted about a worry that turns out to be something.

Don't forget to update the contact details on your church notice board, and in your safeguarding policies.

Carolyn Godfrey



**Regional
Officer for
Safeguarding**

GodfreyC@methodistchurch.org.uk

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Working Days - Monday to Thursday

Rachel Bourne



**Regional
Officer for
Safeguarding
in training**

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**Working Days - Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday part time**

2. Be a part of Safeguarding Sunday

On Sunday 16 November 2025 and over the following weeks, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to shout about safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people. Be a part of it!



How to get involved:

Come together As a church to reflect on your safeguarding journey and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places.

Go to safeguardingsunday.org to sign up to get free resources to help you run the event, including sermon ideas, children's talks, and intergenerational service ideas.



3. Safeguarding Webinars- dates for your diary

There are two safeguarding webinars coming up to help us to learn more. There is a Survivors Awareness session, delivered by The Methodist Survivors Advisory Group, who all have lived experience. There is also a Trauma Informed Practice session, delivered by Rev Karen Jobson, who is an NHS Chaplain and Methodist Minister.

Survivors Awareness Webinar

Tuesday 23 September, 11.00 – 12.30

Join to hear from experts to increase your awareness of survivors' issues, so we can better support victims and survivors of abuse in our churches and communities. Sign up by going on the webinars page of the safeguarding section on the Methodist Church Website.



Trauma Informed Practice

Saturday 11th October, 9.30 to 12.30

Join us to look at the different ways people can be exposed to and react to trauma and the practical ways we can best support those that have experienced trauma. Details about how to sign up and join the Zoom session will be sent around shortly- or email Rachel to be sent a link to sign up.

Need to do your safeguarding training? Look at the 'When is the next training?' page on the safeguarding section of the Darlington and Newcastle Districts websites.

Contact the Regional Safeguarding Team

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