



Safeguarding News
April 2023

The **Methodist Church**
East Anglia

This, as most of you will know, is my final monthly newsletter as District Safeguarding Officer for the Methodist Church in East Anglia. No, I am most definitely not retiring – let's clear that one up now!

We are moving on to pastures new in France; beginning with a year of full-time language study and then, God willing, to a church planting work in the east of France, close to the border with Switzerland, near Geneva. It's an exciting, and surprising, opportunity which we look ahead to with a mixture of anticipation and trepidation! Many have expressed the desire to keep in touch and hear what we are doing, just ask and I will add you to our mailing list.

I leave the Safeguarding brief here in East Anglia in the very capable hands of Neil van Holland, your new District Safeguarding Officer. Neil has a vision for the work and is an experienced practitioner in safeguarding. I trust you will give him as great a welcome as I received when I started in the role 6 years ago!

I find it hard to say goodbye, so let's stick to "À bientôt"!

With best wishes,

Jane



DBS and Training

Please keep a track of your DBS renewals (every 5 years) and training needs (every 4 years). DBS applications are processed very quickly now and should be completed before anyone takes on a new role or responsibility.

We realise that there is a smaller than usual choice of training dates advertised at the moment - there will be additional training dates available on the website at the end of the month.

Please remember that the online Advanced Module is available. It is flexible for you to dip in and out of the learning modules in your own time and yet still has the benefits of a Gathered session at the end on Zoom.

We are listening to your feedback and as a result there is a specific question on booking about any additional needs you may have, be it related to accessibility, hearing, sight, diet. Please do let us know if you have specific needs; we want our sessions to be welcoming, safe and accessible for all.

Thank you!
A massive thank you to all who are working so hard to make our churches safe spaces for everyone.
A special thank you to the trainers and Safeguarding Officers who have given so much of their own time. It has been a privilege to work with each of you.

Updated: The Policies and Guidance webpage

On the [Policies and guidance \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://methodist.org.uk) page of the Methodist Church webpage, you will now find the following updated policy documents

- Safeguarding Policy and Procedures for the Methodist Church in Britain - March 2023
- Model safeguarding policies for churches, circuits and districts - March 2023
- Role Descriptions for church and circuit safeguarding officers
- Local Ecumenical Partnership Guidance
- Procedures for Safer practice in children's activities

If your Circuit or Church Council are about to review your Safeguarding policies, please ensure you are using the new models.

See the appendices in the new document for

- Safer Working Practices When Managing Children's Activities
- External Users' Safeguarding Policy Declaration Agreement
- Safeguarding Guidance for Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs)

Don't forget to visit the [Safeguarding pages](#) of the District website for training dates and further information.