**This policy was agreed at the Church Council meeting held on 19th November 2023.**

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God’s creation in God’s own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God’s re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Croston Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

 Croston Methodist Church recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether by disabilities or by reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and seeks to affirm the gifts and graces of all God’s people.

 This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

**Croston Methodist Church** fully agrees with the statement reiterated in Creating Safer Space 2007:

***As the people of the Methodist Church, we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God’s purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.***

**Croston Methodist Church:**

**recognises** the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and **recognises** that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media or human trafficking (slavery).

It **acknowledges** the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development.

It **accepts its responsibility** for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It **accepts its responsibility** to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. **It takes seriously** the issues of promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God’s grace.

**Croston Methodist Church commits itself to:**

 1.**RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.

 2**.Ensure the IMPLEMENTATION** of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

 3.The **PROVISION** of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

 4.**AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

5.**ENSURE** Covid-19 government safety guidelines are followed and appropriate risk assessments are carried out and shared with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

6.**COMPLY** with e safety ZOOM guidelines and the Social Media Policy.

**Croston Methodist Church appoints:**

George Lloyd as Church Safeguarding Officer (Adults and Children) and supports him in his role, which is to:

 i) support and advise the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles

ii) provide a point of reference to advise on safeguarding issues

iii) liaise with circuit and district safeguarding officers

iv) promote safeguarding best practice within the local church with the support of circuit ministers

v) ensure proper records are kept of all incidents/concerns according to Methodist policy and practice (see Safeguarding Records: Joint Practice Guidance for the Church of England and the Methodist Church - Updated Jan 2015)

vi) ensure that all safeguarding training which is required is undertaken by those in post and appropriate records kept and made available

vii) attend training and meetings organised to support the role

viii) oversee safeguarding throughout the whole life of the church (eg lettings, groups, property etc)

 ix) report to the Church Council annually

x) ensure the church completes a yearly audit/monitoring on safeguarding confirming that policies are in place for the church and all groups and lettings in the church and that these have been annually reviewed

xi) ensure the church completes a risk assessment on each area of activity in the church; that this is stored and reviewed at least annually, and that it is readily available on request

xii) ensure that the church recruits safely for all posts

xiii) ensure that the church has a safeguarding noticeboard with copy of the current, signed safeguarding policy, contact numbers for local and national helplines and other suitable information.

  **a) Purpose**

 The purposes of this safeguarding policy are to ensure procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises. It is to be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church (2021).

 **b) Good practice**

 We believe that good practice means:

 i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.

 ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written note of this will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.

iii) The church premises will be assessed by the church safeguarding officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children and vulnerable adults and the risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council in written form. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.

iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort are appropriate. An agreed record to be kept in the church file for each driver/car.

v) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God’s people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

**c) Appointment and training of workers**

 Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure and following safer recruitment procedures of the Methodist Church. Each worker will have an identified supervisor who will meet at regular intervals with the worker. A record of these meetings will be agreed and signed and the record kept. Each worker will be expected to undergo basic safeguarding training, within the first 6 months (agreed by Methodist Conference in 2011 - Creating Safer Space Report) of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (e.g., food hygiene, first aid, lifting and handling, etc).

**d) Pastoral visitors**

 In terms of safeguarding, pastoral visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of basic safeguarding training upon appointment.

 **e) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults**

 A leaflet outlining good practice and systems will be produced and given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet will be reviewed annually. Church Councils may produce their own material or use appropriate connexional leaflets (eg the Quick Reference Guide or Code of Safer Working Practice).

  **f) Ecumenical events**

 Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

 **g) Events with church groups off the premises**

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event to be given to the church safeguarding officer PRIOR to the agreement for any event or off-site activity. Notification of the event will be given to George Lloyd. The Circuit Safeguarding Office should be contacted for any activity that is unusual or high risk so that it can be ratified, or queries raised.

 **h) Other groups on church premises**

 Where the building is hired for outside use, the person signing the letting agreement (which should include Safeguarding Form E),2 will be given a copy of this policy and the appropriate leaflet3. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings. All lettings will be notified to the church safeguarding officer who will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from both the DSO and CSO.

2 To be found on the Connexional Methodist Safeguarding Forms webpage.

3 Such as the code of safer working practice leaflet or the quick reference guide.

**Complaints procedure**

 The DSO should be consulted for any complaints of a safeguarding nature. Complaints against the superintendent minister to be sent to the District Chair.

 It is hoped that complaints can generally be dealt with internally by the organisations. However, a complaint may be made to a person who will be appointed by the Church Council and who is currently Dilys Lightfoot If a complaint is made to another person, it should be passed to Barrie Beaumont who will arrange to meet with the complainant and attempt to resolve the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved, consideration will be given to invoking the complaints system of the Methodist Church which will involve initially speaking with the local complaints officer, who is the **Superintendent Minister. Rev Michael Tindsley**

**j) Review**

**This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. After the Church Council meeting on 19th November 2023 the date of the next review will be November 2024.**

**k) Key concepts and definitions**

i) Vulnerable Adults: Any adult aged 18 or over who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.

ii) Safeguarding and protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.

iii) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.

iv) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, in a community and in an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

iiV) “A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change his/her status or entitlements to services or protection.”

**ZOOM Safeguarding Policy.**

**Many of the principles for safeguarding and good practice that underpin face to face meeting remain the same in virtual spaces. For instance:**

* Ensure there are at least two leaders, who have been recruited using the Safer Recruitment processes (references and DBS checks) in each virtual meeting (and make sure the leaders ‘arrive’ before the group does).
* You will need parental consent to include their child in any virtual meeting space and, for those under 16, the parents/carers will need to be the Zoom account holders and the link for the meeting should be sent to them. We also recommend that parents/guardians are asked to supervise\* the Zoom call – [**the processes outlined here**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/the-well-learning-hub-equipping-and-supporting-workers/resources-and-help-for-lockdown-and-beyond/creating-safe-and-engaging-virtual-spaces-with-children-and-young-people/virtual-meeting-groups-a-step-by-step-guide/), if correctly followed, will include this.
* If a young person says something that causes concern and seems like it could lead to a safeguarding disclosure, then tell them you would like to talk to them about that more later – away from the wider group. Encourage them to stay online after the main meeting and ask them to tell you more. Again, you need to make sure there are two leaders present for the conversation – perhaps one asking questions and the other taking comprehensive notes. Follow safeguarding procedure as you would at any other time and contact your District Safeguarding Officer and, if appropriate and safe, the parents and carers as soon as you can.
* Consider inclusivity and accessibility – how can you make sure all your group is able to fully participate? For instance, you may want to consider: Does everyone have access to a device that will enable them to take part? Do any of your young people have additional needs that might prevent them from taking part fully? Does the time of the meeting align with the rhythms of the families you work with?
* Do not record the meeting. Most video conferencing software allows for the session host to record the goings on, but this would require separate permission for data capture and there are additional issues around storage, GDPR etc.
* In the settings for your Zoom meeting you should disable the one-to-one anonymous chat function so that participants cannot send private messages that are not seen by the wider group. You may also want to consider disabling screen share and only allowing this if needed for a particular activity.
* Use your knowledge of the young people you work with to set safe boundaries for the Zoom chat that you feel are appropriate. For instance, for some young people it may be perfectly appropriate for them to participate in the virtual meeting from their bedroom (perhaps with the door left open). However, if you have young people who have a history of struggling to set appropriate boundaries in their relationships with adults, it might be a good idea to say, as part of your ground rules for the whole group (do not single a specific young person out), that their participation in the Zoom chat should take place from a public part of the house, not their bedroom.
* Zoom collects information about its users and has its own privacy terms and conditions to which members must adhere. Please review [**Zoom’s privacy terms and conditions**](http://zoom.us/terms) carefully before registering and ask parents/carers to do so also.

**\* By supervision we mean:** The parent/carer holds the responsibility to log in to the Zoom meeting and agrees to not share the log in details. The parent/guardian is also responsible for logging out of the Zoom call at the end of a session and checking that privacy settings haven’t been changed and their passwords are not saved. The parent/carer is to manage the Zoom account and to ensure that they are at home while the child or young person is attending the session. Where possible the child/young person should be in a communal space or in a room with the doors left open when accessing the session via their laptop, computer or other device.  ***Zoom’s advice around under 16s using the platform is: “Children under 16 cannot create a Zoom account. A parent or guardian may, however, permit the child to use that parent or guardian’s account with their supervision.”***

**IMPORTANT:** Due to the increase in 'Zoombombing' it is vitally important that you only share the meeting invite link with the parents/young people in your group - and you must stress to them the importance of not sharing the link beyond the group.

**Virtual meeting groups, a step-by-step guide**

***It's important to note that Zoom’s advice around under 16s using the platform is: “Children under 16 cannot create a Zoom account. A parent or guardian may, however, permit the child to use that parent or guardian’s account with their supervision.”***

**Step 1: Contact parents and carers**

Contact the parents and carers of those under 16 via email or direct messaging, informing them of your intention to create a virtual meeting group. Seek their support and permission to do this.  Explain how, when and where the meeting will be happening so everyone is clear about how it will take place.

Encourage parents/carers to talk with their children about these new arrangements. Let them know who they can contact if they have a question or concern. It is essential that they are on board and able to set boundaries that they feel are appropriate for their children whilst they are on the Zoom chat (e.g. the parent might want the child to participate in the Zoom chat from a visible space in the house or, if the child attends the meeting from their bedroom, they might want them to leave the door open, or they might just want to check in with the child at the end of the meeting).

Ask parents/carers to complete and return [**this consent form**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/19607/parental-consent-form-zoom-1.doc) before their child participates in a Zoom gathering. You can use the following text in your email for parents/carers, to offer an explanation of the expected supervision:

"**Parents/carers** we ask that you supervise\* your child's use of the Zoom account and are aware of when, how and why they are using the account, ensuring that you keep the log in details and do not share this with your child. Each time your child wants to attend a session facilitated by your church or organisation. You should log them in for the session, do not give them the log in details. please ensure that you read and follow the Methodist Church guidelines outlined in our [**Zoom Safeguarding policy**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/the-well-learning-hub-equipping-and-supporting-workers/resources-and-help-for-lockdown-and-beyond/creating-safe-and-engaging-virtual-spaces-with-children-and-young-people/before-you-begin-some-safeguarding-pointers/) **see above**.

Zoom collects information about its users and has its own privacy terms and conditions to which members must adhere. Please review [**Zoom’s privacy terms and conditions**](http://zoom.us/terms) carefully before registering and ask parents/carers to do so also.

The session leaders will ensure that they comply with the Methodist Church Safeguarding procedures and policies in the same way that they would if meeting face to face.

In order for your child to participate in distance-based youth group experiences, you will need to provide the following:

* a computer, mobile, or tablet device with access to the Internet
* a free Zoom licence, with you as parent/carer/guardian holding the account.

It is your responsibility to log in securely each time your child attends a session and to log out when the session has ended.

**\* By supervision we mean:** The parent/carer holds the responsibility to log in to the Zoom meeting and agrees to not share the log in details. The parent/guardian is also responsible for logging out of the Zoom call at the end of a session and checking that privacy settings haven’t been changed and their passwords are not saved. The parent/carer is to manage the Zoom account and to ensure that they are at home while the child or young person is attending the session. Where possible the child/young person should be in a communal space or in a room with the doors left open when accessing the session via their laptop, computer or other device.

**Step 2: Create the group**

Shortly before it is time for everyone to join in, send the Zoom link to the parents/carers of those under 16 years and directly to those who are 16 or above.  As leader of the group you have control over when the video meeting starts and ends and no interaction can take place unless you have opened the space first or after you have closed it.

**Step 3: Group content**

The first meeting should include a discussion of the rules everyone will be expected to adhere to: many of those when meeting face to face will equally apply here.  These should be kept simple and be for the benefit of all involved with online safety as paramount. Each time you meet subsequently, remind participants of these rules.

There are many great ways to create community together such as: sharing life updates or presenting artwork, posing questions, prayer, reading scripture, offer something with an encouragement to join in and respond.

There are many resources available giving further ideas and inspiration – a selection of these can be found in the sections on [**Ideas and good practice for children**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/the-well-learning-hub-equipping-and-supporting-workers/resources-and-help-for-lockdown-and-beyond/creating-safe-and-engaging-virtual-spaces-with-children-and-young-people/virtual-meeting-groups-a-step-by-step-guide/) and [**Ideas and good practice for youth work**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/the-well-learning-hub-equipping-and-supporting-workers/resources-and-help-for-lockdown-and-beyond/creating-safe-and-engaging-virtual-spaces-with-children-and-young-people/virtual-meeting-groups-a-step-by-step-guide/).

Ideally keep these meeting times shorter than usual (half an hour to 40 minutes may be enough) so be creative in finding ways to help everyone engage.  Asking good open questions such as ‘What’s the best thing you’ve done since we last met?’ can generate interaction.

You may want to include some time when parents and carers are present (especially when meeting with under 11-year-olds) so they are actively involved for part of the time and observers during the rest if they wish.  As time goes on you may wish to consider asking your young people to take a lead and inviting them to create a space for meeting that is more peer led.  Give some consideration to how to divide the time up best for those taking part.

**Step 4: Keep a record**

It is best practice to keep a log of your Zoom meetings. Who attended? How long did it last? Also include a brief description of what was covered and if any issues arose.

**Step 5: Takeaways**

Give some thought to what you can offer the group as a takeaway from your time together.  Could you set a task or challenge?  This could be reported back on next time.  How could everyone be praying for each other in the meantime, is there a fun way to capture this?  Let everyone know that as the group leader you’ll remain in touch with parents and carers between meetings so they’re fully informed of what will be happening.

**Step 6: Further contact**

Staying in touch with parents in between meetings is important so they’re fully informed of upcoming dates and times of when the virtual group will gather. This can be done via email or direct messaging. Underline that, as the group leader, you will have no direct contact with the children themselves outside of the virtual group meeting.

# Social media usage policy

Social media, when used properly, is exciting and opens up a lot of opportunities, but at times it can seem strange and even intimidating for people who are not familiar with it. Facebook, Twitter, texting, instant messaging, online gaming and personal emails are accessible by all. By following some simple guidelines, you can avoid potential pitfalls, and these mediums can be safely used as a tool and a means of communication. Social media is great for promoting a group or event or communicating to parents, children and young people, as well as being a fun way to unwind and stay in touch with friends; it is essential to keep these two worlds separate.

In all contact and communications with members of organisations/group leaders must be seen to be open and transparent. This is the case whether communications are by traditional means or electronic means.

Leaders must not communicate with children or young people (0-18 years) via leader’s personal social networking profiles, email accounts or chat rooms. Messages must be in group format with more than one leader in the group. Young adults between 18-20 years of age should be communicated via group chat or group email.

# Social networking sites

**For an organisation/group** using or setting up a social networking site/medium that is for the purpose of running, maintaining communicating about the organisation/group the following principles should apply.

* The page profile, if possible, must be password protected (this may not always be possible) and the password held by at least three leaders of the organisation or group. E.g., if you set up an Instagram or Facebook group.
* The site should be monitored.
* Any inappropriate posts by children or young people or leaders should be removed by the admin/s of the site. Reasons should then be explained to the person who posted the content. All those who use the site should be made aware what the purpose of the site is and that any inappropriate images, content that is not in line with the values of the group/organisation is not acceptable.
* The site/ group should be kept closed i.e., only permitted/authorised members can see what is posted on the site.
* Contents of any postings should be consistent with the aims of the organisation. In cases of doubt leaders should seek advice from the Group leader and the Group leader can seek advice if needed from Minister, Senior Steward.

# Church leaders, using social network sites for communication.

1. Leaders should not friend or follow children or young people on social media. (The definition of children and young people in this context is 1-18 years of age. Young Adults between 18-20 years of age who are in the group or organisation should also be communicated with via groups, or group chat that has a minimum of two group leaders.
2. Messages left to or from children or young people on social networking sites should be written on an open page e.g. A Facebook wall and not in Private message or by using chat (one on one).
3. Communications with children and young people should be via group Chat with a minimum of three leaders on the group.
4. Any emails sent to children or young people should have a second leader copied into it.
5. Any events or activities run by the group or organisation that are organised or publicised on social media sites for group members should be set up as closed groups and membership managed by the administrators.
6. Leaders should avoid communicating with children or young people in their organisation/group after 9pm.
7. In signing off emails, messages, leaders should simply sign your name and the name of the group/organisation.
8. Parents/Guardians should be asked to give their permission for leaders to communicate with children and young people under 16 years of age via social networking sites or by any other means of internet communication e.g., email. This can be included on the annual consent forms. Parents or guardians should be the main port of contact and communication and copied into any communications to their children.
9. Parents or Guardians should be invited to be members of any group chat or social media groups (closed where possible). The parents or guardians should be informed of what the purpose of the group is and reminded to ensure that their privacy settings are suitable and that they should not accept any friend requests from children or young people.
10. Parental permission via annual consent forms is required for photographs and video footage of children and young people and the consent forms should state what the usage of the images will be for e.g., for the promotion of the organisation via social media or publications. Leaders should endeavour not to state any unnecessary personal details or information relating to the child or young person when posting images or photos online e.g., full names, addresses, schools attending. If a child or young person has received an award, then it is appropriate to use their full name.
11. Any disclosures of abuse reported through a social networking site must be dealt with in accordance with The Methodist Church Safeguarding procedures and Policy. In any doubt contact the Safeguarding Officer at Downsview Methodist Church.

# Use of mobile phones.

1. Leaders involved in children and youth ministry should only have children’s and young people’s mobile numbers if the nature of their involvement requires to phone or text them (This might include those running groups for older teenagers or young adults or volunteer young

leaders involved in coordinating children or youth ministry) As much as possible group chats should be set up with two to three other leaders are included in communication. One on one text should be avoided and where possible parents should be included in the text.

1. Parental permission should be sort if the leader in this role will be contacting children or young people via mobile phone.
2. If a leader has a young persons or young adults phone number, it should only be used for the purposes it has been given. E.g., times, dates, details of group meetings, events, planning.

# Text communication not conversation

1. Texts should be used for the purposes of reminding children and young people about meetings and events.
2. Texts can also be used as a means to encourage children or young people if it is appropriate.

e.g., Hope your exams go ok. If it turns into conversation, communication should be ended. A leader can suggest discussing the subject further at the next session. Be mindful of child protection usual parameters.

# Camera phones

Pictures can be very powerful; camera phone users should ask permission to take a photo or video and explain what the purpose of the photo or video is for.

* Leaders and children and young people should not send pictures that are obscene, indecent, or menacing.
* It is a criminal offence to take, make, permit to be taken, distribute, show or possess an indecent or sexually explicit image of a child under 18.
* When posting photographs or video on social media settings should be set up so that individual children and young people cannot be tagged.
* Images should be stored safely in an electronic file on devices that have security passwords.
* If any electronic device/memory that contains video or images is disposed of the images and video should be wiped from the memory in such a way that it cannot be recovered on that device.

# Use of mobile phones on activities.

Children and Young people, parents and guardians should be informed about safe usage of mobile phones and devices and the policy for the usage during the event or session.

* Confirmation that when on activities a named leader is the primary point of communication and is to be contacted if there is an emergency or change to previously agreed arrangements.
* That the usage of mobile phones or devices including text messaging, games or music cannot be allowed to be a distraction from a safe awareness of the environment.
* That mobile phones or device usage should not interfere with the full participation of activities.
* That when on camps or overnight activities that there is a stated preferred time period when parents may contact if they wish. This is to minimise and alleviate homesickness and to avoid the disturbance of other children and young people after lights out.

# Use of computers/tablets/web enabled games consoles/Smart TVs.

If devices are used as part of activities within the organisation or group. They should be used within the following guidelines.

* All games, videos, films should be age appropriate for the group.
* Internet searching should be monitored and age appropriate.
* Children and young people should be supervised during the activity.
* Parental settings where possible should be used on all devices.
* Permission should be asked before videoing or recording other members of the group.
* Nothing should be posted without the leaders’ knowledge or agreement.
* The group should be informed of the parameters and guidelines for the activity.

# Safeguarding and the Internet.

Always conduct yourself on the internet as you would face-to-face and be aware of what you say and how you say it. If you would not say or do something in the “real” world, then don’t do it online. Never provide personal details about young people or volunteers and always ensure you have parental permission to use any photos of young people. Only ever use the first names of young people on any photo or video caption and only share appropriate photos, the sort that you would be happy putting on a public notice board. Remember that, potentially, anyone can view content on the internet.

If you sign yourself up to social networking platforms you need to be aware that content is speedily updated, and security settings can change. Whatever site you choose to join, make sure you regularly check your privacy and security settings and have a browse of their privacy policy. Most content can be tagged and posted on your account and comments will be made that you cannot always control. It is a network rather than a broadcasting channel so people will share opinions (good and bad).

Only set up pages for events, activities, or groups for which you are responsible. Once a site has been set up it needs to be checked regularly to ensure that information changes when appropriate and that members are interested and come back.

Please note that posts on social media are widely accessible and can easily be passed on; always be sure that any information or comments made are appropriate and in keeping with the ethos and values of the Methodist Church. Do not use your personal social networking account to communicate directly, on a one-to-one basis with children or young people. Be aware of the age limits on social media sites and purpose of usage.

# Chair of Church Council

**Rev. Sue Guenault**

**19th November 2023**

# Methodist Church safeguarding and GDPR and other links.

[https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding**/**](https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding/)

[https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/the-well-for-workers/wellhttps://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/the-well-for-workers/well-resources/social-media-guidelines/resources/social-media-guidelines/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/the-well-for-workers/well-resources/social-media-guidelines/)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/guidance-for-churches/data-protection/>

[https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/the-well-for-workers/wellhttps://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/the-well-for-workers/well-resources/organising-events/resources/organising-events/](https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/the-well-for-workers/well-resources/organising-events/)

# Other Information and sources on E-Safety

The following websites provide information for leaders, parents, guardians, and carers about e-safety.

* Childnet [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com/)
* Anti-Bullying Alliance [www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/)
* NSPCC/02 Helpline [www.02.co.uk/help/nspcc/child-protection](http://www.02.co.uk/help/nspcc/child-protection)
* CEOP Think you know [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/)
* UK safer internet Centre [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/)