
SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN No 4 – May 2017

Thank you to Eugene, Tom, Jenna, Christine Baker and her team for their engagement with safeguarding in the three big events that we have held this year.

Creating Safer Spaces Training: The first of the Foundation and Refresher training courses have now taken place and 50 of our LMC volunteers have attended. This is a fantastic response and demonstrates how safeguarding has been adopted into our daily church life. Comments from across the circuit suggest that there is desire for us to provide something similar for children and young people in the form of ‘Keeping yourself safe’. Perhaps parents can let me know your thoughts on that. All volunteers with *children* and *adults who may be vulnerable* are required to attend this training – other church members and volunteers are warmly invited. Given the way we operate at LMC with community activities like the Holiday Club we strongly recommend everybody to attend. Feedback from those who have attended suggest it has been very worthwhile.

Future Courses: Foundation	21 st October	Afternoon 2 – 4:30	Shern Hall
Refresher	20th May	Afternoon 2 - 4:30	Leytonstone
	14th June	Evening 7:30 - 10	Shern Hall
	15th July	Afternoon 2 - 4:30	Loughton
	9th September	Afternoon 2 - 4:30	Leytonstone
	22nd November	Evening 7:30 - 10	Leytonstone
	25th November	Afternoon 2 - 4:30	Loughton

External Hire: I am pleased to report that our external hirers have also embraced our Safeguarding drive and with a couple of exceptions all have provided the documentation we have requested and meet our standards. A big thank you to Glynis and Linda for their help in achieving this.

Spiritual Abuse in Churches: In April, I attended the Methodist Church Safeguarding Conference where the keynote speaker was Dr Lisa Oakley, Lecturer in Abuse Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University. A daughter of the Manse she studied psychology and specialised in spiritual abuse and is the only lecturer running a PhD course on the subject. It was an excellent and well delivered lecture with much food for thought. At the beginning of the session the general feeling was that this was something that was not of great concern in British Methodist Churches..... by the end our minds were changed and we could all identify issues within our churches that are routinely overlooked. I have written a review in the May Grapevine with more information. I think this is something that will run for quite some time.

Safeguarding the elderly and infirm: It looks like this is going to be the next safeguarding target for LMC, driven by a number of local factors all coming together at the same time. We currently have very little focus on this area and with longer life expectancy this will become an important aspect of our work. I have attended a course at Chelmsford Cathedral (with Selma and Jane Da Silver) on “Memory and Spirituality: the role of faith/belief in promoting the wellbeing of people living with dementia and their carers”..... More about that in the next bulletin.

Grand Piano: We have recently had an accident with the grand piano and fortunately only the piano suffered harm. If you have cause to lift the lid please be very careful, it is deceptively heavy and should it come down on your hand or fingers you are unlikely to use them again! Similarly, if the piano is to be lifted onto the blocks it needs SIX people at least to ensure both ‘lifters’ and piano remain safe. Children should not be allowed to move or open the grand piano.

Together we can make LMC a safer place for all.

Malcolm Bell JP

LMC Safeguarding Officer.