



October 2025

1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you’.

Summer has been busy with General Assembly adopting the training framework for safeguarding, we have been sharing this update with all in the Church and preparing for the increase in people requiring training.

As we move to the autumn, we are keeping up the momentum with the URC Safeguarding Symposium on 15 October and Safeguarding Sunday on 16 November.



Training Update

Safeguarding Training Matrix -

General Assembly adopted an updated training framework which is now live and has been shared widely across the denomination. It provides greater



clarity around safeguarding training for roles with the use of flow charts and diagrams. It has been broken down into [England](#) and [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) for ease of reference. The new matrix now provides ideas for supplementary specialized bite-sized training options for roles.

URC Website Safeguarding - we have revamped the training area on the URC website and [here](#) you can tap into information on the training matrix, bespoke short course offerings and much more.

Bespoke bite-sized courses - these are short supplementary courses (2 hours delivered on Zoom) and we'd like to highlight the following short courses for the rest of the year:

Monday 20 October 1.00-3.00pm **Adult Safeguarding**

Monday 17 November 1.00-3.00pm **Online Safety**

Thursday 20 November 7.00-9.00pm **DBS Verifying and Safer Recruitment**

Please book via [Emma Pearce](#) stating your name, church, role and course

Our Training Coordinator is currently working on a timetable of courses for 2026 and this will be widely circulated when available.

For mandatory safeguarding courses i.e. Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced safeguarding training, please contact your [synod safeguarding team](#).

Policy Update



Our Policy Officer has uploaded a [Lone Worker Policy Template](#) to the GP6 resources section in recognition that we find ourselves working more flexibly and that can mean lone working eg. travelling and one-to-one visits. The URC is committed to the safeguarding of staff, volunteers and ministers and the policy is adaptable to your church's ministry.

Disclosure and Barring Service Applications

Due Diligence Checking (DDC) our DBS/PVG partners have been winding down paper applications for some time. They are still available but the cost in administration of paper checks has increased considerably.

We ask that you, where you can, administer online checks. DDC offer a considerable amount of help and you can call them on 0116 260 3055.

Additionally, the URC, in conjunction with DDC, offer a number of training sessions on Zoom. The next one is on 20 November 7-9pm and if you wish to sign up, please contact [Emma Pearce](#).

The URC 2025 Safeguarding Symposium

Wednesday 15 October 1.30-3.45 Zoom

We're heading super-fast to the 2025 Safeguarding Symposium. This is an online event and tickets are available on eventbrite.

Tickets are limited but there is still some availability. Zoom details will be sent out to ticket holders two days ahead of the event.

2025 Safeguarding Symposium

Wednesday 15 October

1.30-3.45pm (Zoom)



- 1.30 - 1.45pm Welcome from Sharon Barr, Designated Lead Safeguarding Officer and reflection from the Revd Roger Jones, Convenor of the Safeguarding Committee
- 1.45 - 2.30pm Presentation of the new Safeguarding training matrix from Carrie Kaunda, Training and Development Coordinator, and key DBS/PVG updates from Dr Kerry Baker, Policy Development Coordinator
- 2.30 - 2.45pm Break
- 2.45 - 3.30pm Domestic Abuse in Churches hosted by Bekah Legg, CEO of Restored UK
- 3.30 - 3.45pm Round up and thank you's

Tickets are available through eventbrite

Safeguarding Sunday 16 November 2025

This year the ThirtyOne:Eight initiative is on 16 November. You can sign up for free and access resources to inspire you.

If time is tight you can pick your own Sunday – the important thing is that we all try to re-focus on our Safeguarding. It might be a special service, it might be revitalizing your resources or reflecting on what you would like to achieve in your church and how you could go about it.

Jo Patterson, URC Church Related Community Worker has provided worship notes for Safeguarding Sunday, available [here](#).

At the same time, we'd like to thank Revd Andy Braunston, Minister for Digital Worship, for leading on [URC Worship Notes](#) which offers a broad range of content for ideas for each Sunday.



Safeguarding Staff Changes



We say goodbye to Diana Taylor of the Synod of Wales.

Diana joined in 2021 and has given 4 years of unwavering service and support to the churches in Wales and to the Safeguarding Team. She has undertaken numerous projects including leading on the changes in

safeguarding training legislation in Wales to ensure the URC training package aligns with the new statutory responsibilities.

Diana says "It has been an honour to work as a Safeguarding Officer for the United Reformed Church in Wales over the past four years. I've been supported by wonderful colleagues, both within Wales and across England and Scotland, and have had the privilege of building positive relationships with church members across Wales. The experience gained has been invaluable, and I want to thank my colleagues for sharing their expertise and professional knowledge. I'm looking forward to a creative 'next chapter', with all the joys and challenges that will bring.'

We will inform you when her successor starts in post and, in the meantime, if you have any safeguarding queries and concerns, please continue to use safeguarding.urcwailes@urc.org.uk

Bits and Bobs



Adult safeguarding week starts on the 17th October, the [Ann Craft Trust](#) offers useful information to raise awareness of issues surrounding the safeguarding of adults.