

## **Methodist Guidance on Church Photography, the Internet and Publicity**

### **Safeguarding and the Internet**

**Methodist churches and organisations creating their own website are encouraged to observe these safeguarding guidelines and to regularly review the pages of their site so that it remains up to date, effective and safe.**

Anyone designing a website for a Methodist church, circuit or district will want to ensure that it promotes opportunities for all ages – including children and young people - to get involved in the life of the church. While it is important to reflect the full mix of participation in church worship and other activities, care should be taken to ensure the safety of children and young people. Website builders are encouraged to follow these guidelines:

- Photographs are ‘personal data’ as far as data protection legislation is concerned and must be used responsibly.
- Obtain written and specific consent from parents or carers before using photographs of anyone under 18 on a website.
- Children and young people under the age of 18 should not be identified by name or other personal details. These details include e-mail or postal addresses and telephone numbers.
- When using photographs of children and young people, it is preferable to use group pictures. When a photograph of an individual child or young person is used, names or other personal details should not be used in any caption.
- Care must be taken when advertising special events for children and young people.
- Ensure that the image files are appropriately named – do not use names in image filenames or Alt tags.
- Only use images of children in suitable dress to reduce the risk of inappropriate use.
- Create a recognised procedure for reporting the use of inappropriate images to reduce the risks to children.
- Consider advertising events simply by giving contact details of the adults responsible.
- When posting activity ideas for children or young people ensure they comply with good safeguarding practice.

*Agreed January 2007*

*Pearl Luxon and Steve Pearce*

## Methodist Guidance on Church Photography, the Internet and Publicity

### Consent Form

At Uppermill Methodist Church we take the issue of child safety very seriously, and this includes the use of images of children. We occasionally include images of children in publications, notice boards and on our website and social media pages, but we have a duty of care which means that children must remain unidentifiable, reducing the risk of inappropriate contact, if images are use in this way.

We ask that parents consent to the church taking and using photographs and images of their children. Any use of images at Uppermill Methodist Church is underpinned by our Safeguarding policy. We will never include the full name of a child alongside an image. The only time we will pass on photos to other agencies will be in press. There is an additional consent below for that.

Please complete, sign and return this form to  
**Rachel Coates or Joyce Wardle.**

I do/do not consent to photographs and digital images of the child named below, appearing in Uppermill Methodist Church printed publications, notice boards or websites including social media pages. I understand that the images will be used only for church purposes and that the identity of my child will be protected. I also acknowledge that the images may also be used in and distributed using other media, such as CD-ROM.

I also do/do not consent to photographs of my child to be used in the press.

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Queries regarding this form should be addressed to  
**Rachel Coates.**