

# **Pastoral Care/Ministry and Safeguarding Workshop**

**Saturday 9 May 2026**

**Facilitators:** David Treharne, Collaborative Ministry Lead: Foundational Learning and Anna Dunn, Safeguarding Support Officer: Advice & Guidance.

## **About this Workshop**

Pastoral care is a central feature of the mission and ministry of the Church. For 2000 years Christians have sought to respond to God's heart of love, revealed in Jesus Christ, by reaching out to compassionately support, care and encourage people in times of joy and sadness, crisis, challenge and change. In this workshop, members of the Collaborative Ministry Team will navigate some of the challenges we face and some the steps we can and should take in order to safely attend to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual wellbeing needs of individuals in our communities.

Specifically in this time together we will:

1. Reflect on the 'Why?' for pastoral ministry and safeguarding
2. Consider policy and procedures related to pastoral ministry and safeguarding
3. Explore the attitudes and behaviours that are both pastoral and safe
4. Reflect on record keeping and referral
5. Explore support and accountability

By the end of the workshop participants will have increased their knowledge and awareness of pastoral care and safeguarding matters through interaction, reflection and exploration.

## Workshop Overview (1 to 1 ¼ hours)

### Part 1: Introduction and Welcome: 10 mins

*What might we mean when we use the terms pastoral and safeguarding?*

### Part 2: The Why? 10 mins

*Exercise in 2s, 3s or 4s.* What are your motivations and practical reasons for engaging in pastoral ministry?

- Faith/Biblical motivations:
  
- Practical reasons (often flowing from the faith/biblical reasons)

*Recognising the vulnerability in this ministry.*

### Part 3: Attitudes and Behaviours 10 mins

*Pairs and Whole Group Exercise:* Qualities of those you think would be suited to pastoral ministry. It may be helpful to consider qualities you would want in a person visiting you.

### Part 4: Support and Accountability 15 mins

*Exercise: Take the following scenario (which is not unusual).*

Phyllis, a member of your worshipping community, is someone who is visited regularly by people from the pastoral team at church and draws great strength from these visits which end with a little time of prayer. Phyllis has recently moved into the annex of her daughter Sue's house. On a visit you make in the afternoon, Sue is present and you witness Sue shout at Phyllis and calling her 'useless'. Phyllis became tearful and was repeatedly apologising. You hear Phyllis say to Sue that she cannot remember whether or not she had breakfast and has taken her medication. Sue responded by saying she cannot babysit Phyllis and she has her own life .

- a) Noticing. What issues are at play in this scenario? What do you notice?

- b) Reflecting. What are your thoughts and questions as you reflect on what you have noticed?
- c) Discerning what next. What action(s) might need to be taken as a result?

***NOTICE, REFLECT and DISCERN***

## **Part 5: Record Keeping and Referral 10 mins**

**Group Question:** Ask the group if they can remember the 4Rs of Safeguarding?

**R**

**R**

**R**

**R**

## **Part 6: Policies and Procedures 15 mins**

Policies and procedures give us some boundaries/a container to carry out projects and actions safely and legally. They help people to clarify their roles and responsibilities and give accountability. Ultimately, they reduce risk and help us all to think through how ministry can be done well.

**HANDOUT:** Safer Recruitment steps

Other policy related matters to consider:

- Lone working
- Insurance (car/people/church)
- GDPR
- H&S

## **Conclusion 5 mins**

Briefly reflect.

1. What have you learnt or been reminded of?
2. Are there any actions to take back to your context?
3. Is there any further learning and development for you or your context that you might need?