

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The following is a distillation of the information sent to the Circuit from TMCP (The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes) on 23rd February 2018.

As you are all aware GDPR comes into force on 25th May 2018. It updates and consolidates existing data protection law to bring it into the 21st century. GDPR seeks to protect everybody's personal information (personal data), ensure those who hold it look after it, use it only for the purposes intended and respect and respond to the rights of those whose data is held (data subjects). This is of benefit to all those the Local Church, Circuit and District hold dear including church members, lay workers, third party users and members of your community involved in the Church. At the end of the day, the motivation should not be avoiding penalties but better protecting your members' and others' personal information.

There has been a lot of hype in the media about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) focusing on exaggerated misinterpretations of the new legislation. However, GDPR is not a revolution and 25th May 2018 is not a cliff edge. Managing Trustees do not need to worry about putting in place all the required policies, notices and records immediately nor do they need to do this by themselves. The TMCP and Connexional Data Protection Working Party ("Working Party") is putting in place the tools to assist Managing Trustees in their role as processors in time for the changes in legislation.

Although it is important to start taking steps to get ready for the arrival of GDPR on 25th May 2018, there is no need to panic. In contrast there is every reason to wait for the tool kit of guidance, templates and other resources being produced by the Working Party. This comprehensive tool kit will be targeted specifically at Methodist Managing Trustees and takes on board the most up-to-date guidance coming from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The most recent guidance being rolled out includes the [9 Steps for Methodist Managing Trustees to Take Now to Comply with GDPR](#). This is a key piece of the tool kit setting out practical steps that Managing Trustees can start taking now and highlighting some of the initial templates, policies and guidance being rolled out by the Working Party to help Managing Trustees. Even if everything is not perfect by 25th May Managing Trustees should be able to demonstrate by having taken the [9 Steps](#) that the main building blocks are in place and there are ongoing strategies and a commitment to comply with the new requirements.

Managing Trustees can rest assured that a lot of the work is already being carried out by the Working Party on their behalf. The Working Party is in the process of drafting a data protection toolkit including an overarching Data Protection Policy and the plethora of specific policies that this encompasses; the Privacy Policy, Security Policy, Subject Access Request Policy, Breach Report Policy etc. The Working Party is acutely aware of the timescales and has a comprehensive programme of guidance, policies, template document and training that is being rolled out. Details can be found at:

<https://www.tmcp.org.uk/about/data-protection/resources/guidenotes/gdpr>

Stay updated...

You can sign-up to receive notifications from TMCP to ensure that next time new or updated data protection guidance is available you do receive notice of it. Look out for the "Stay updated" banner appearing at the foot of each webpage: <https://www.tmcp.org.uk/news-hub>

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