

Cumbria District Data Protection Bulletin 1

New Champion and the Privacy Notice

I first met James our District Chair over 30 years ago in the Wesley Manse in Cambridge. We both enjoyed being part of the student Methodist Society (MethSoc), and we have kept in touch ever since. So when James asked me a few months ago to be District Data Champion, I said Yes, without really knowing what is involved, and even now I'm still not sure!

There was an immediate task to address, namely that the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) had asked Districts to send out an Annual Checklist to all circuits, and via circuits to all churches. The checklist is all to do with how well we are complying with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

James, Carolyn Dickinson and I worked together to amend the TMCP Annual Checklist so that we could determine how well the District is doing with implementation of GDPR, knowing that demonstration of compliance is patchy throughout the District. We would very much like to **thank** all those people who have already completed the Annual Checklist.

We have reviewed the completed checklists received so far, and we have found that the most popular check to complete is **Check 3**, which is about the Privacy Notice. That may be because it's the easiest one. If you've already done this, you can stop reading now! While the Privacy Notice itself is 15 pages long, you don't need to print it all off. You can use the following template for a Fair Processing Statement for your noticeboard or website, like this:

[NAME OF CHURCH/ CIRCUIT] cares about your privacy and your trust is important to us. Our Privacy Notice explains how Local Churches, Circuits and Districts within the Methodist Church in Great Britain collect, use and protect your personal information. It also provides information about your rights (paragraph 9 of the Privacy Notice) and who to contact (paragraph 1 of the Privacy Notice) if you have any questions about how we use your information. You can find our Privacy Notice online (www.tmcp.org.uk/about/data-protection/managing-trustees-privacy-notice).

[NAME] will try to deal with any questions as a local point of contact.

The last sentence can be deleted if no-one is confident to be named. For websites etc., there is an electronic form of the Fair Processing Statement available [here](#).

I think that **every** church and circuit in the Cumbria District can amend a template and publicise it. In the Birmingham District, Revd Stephen Froggatt has recorded a video about this Check 3, available [here](#). When he says, 'Ask me if you get stuck', you should instead ask me (Alec).

I know that data protection isn't always easy and can take time, but our data protection work is done because we **care** for the privacy of members and of those outside the church.

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