

OUR APPROACH

We are called as Christians to care for those in need. Some respond to this call by visiting older people or adults of any age who have physical or mental health needs, at home or in hospital. This work is supported in Mottram Parish by the Pastoral Visiting Co-ordinators (contacts on the back of this leaflet), who meet regularly to pray and to channel requests for this work.

Does this leaflet apply to me?

If you visit someone in the name of the church, not just as a personal friend, this leaflet is for you. Please do let one of the Co-ordinators know who you are visiting, for support and to prevent duplication.

KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE

For your own **safety**, you should ensure that someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return each time you visit. It is also helpful for the Co-ordinators to know briefly how you got on, so that this work can be better supported prayerfully, though you should also remember the need for confidentiality: the Co-ordinators do not need every detail.

It is inevitable that if you visit someone over a period of time, you may feel that you have become **friends** – this line is not cut and dried – but you can use the Co-ordinators for support in deciding whether you are visiting as a friend or in the name of the church.

KEEPING OTHER PEOPLE SAFE

Neighbours or family can sometimes be concerned about a church visitor, especially if they themselves have negative views about church. They may be suspicious that we have other reasons for visiting than sharing God's love.



Wherever you can, make sure that **family** know that you are visiting. If you do not meet them personally, encourage the person you are visiting to tell them about your visits. Many people like to talk about their family, so it is likely that you will be able to pick up warning signs of negative attitudes in the course of conversation. You can talk to one of the Co-ordinators about this if you are concerned.

If the person you are visiting insists on giving you **money** – for example, their envelope or a donation for church – make sure that you pass this to the Treasurer (see back of leaflet) together with the person's name and address, so that a receipt can be sent. You will never need to ask for money directly.

There is advice about **lone working** in the parish safeguarding policy (see the link on the back of this leaflet, or ask Claire for a printed copy). If you are worried about aspects of your work, talk to one of the Co-ordinators or to Claire without delay.

PREVENTING ABUSE

Some of the people who we visit may be vulnerable to abuse because of their isolation, age or infirmity:

- Even within a loving family context, frustration may express itself in physical or emotional abuse.
- Behavioural outbursts can be punished by withdrawing food or drink, which constitutes neglect.
- Other visitors to the house may take advantage of a person's infirmity to steal jewellery or other valuables.
- Those you visit may be vulnerable to financial abuse – for example people persuading them to give money or gifts, or confusing them about the amount they need to provide for shopping or other bills.

You will be in a good position to spot signs of abuse if you visit a person regularly. You can:

- listen to what they say about their other visitors and those with whom they live;
- watch out for changes in behaviour, attitude, standards of cleanliness or dress.

If you are worried, talk to one of the Co-ordinators or to Claire. Follow the process on page 10 of the policy and use the contacts there if you believe that the person you are visiting is in immediate danger. Don't investigate or accuse anyone of wrongdoing, but do follow it up and keep a dated note of your concerns in case it is needed in the future.

Do I need a police check?

Only people who are in “Regulated Activity” need a check from the Disclosure and Barring Service, but you can expect that if you are undertaking visiting on behalf of the church, we will make sure that you are suitable for this work before you begin. We will also provide you with ongoing support and prayer in your work.

What is “Regulated Activity”?

Anyone who provides assistance to an adult because of their age, illness or disability is in regulated activity if they:

- manage the person’s cash - eg paying bills or shopping on their behalf;
- take the person to appointments for health or social care – eg hospital or doctor’s appointments or daycare;
- provide personal care other than hairdressing.

It does not matter how many times this happens or how frequently: *any* time a person engages in one of these activities, this is regulated activity.



Can I give people a lift to a church activity?

If you provide lifts periodically, for example to the Place of Welcome, in the name of the church and not just as a friend, this is not regulated activity, but you should check that you have the right car insurance.



USEFUL CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

Pastoral Visiting Co-ordinators:

Christine Brandreth: 01457 238268

Chris Kershaw: 01457 765350

pastoral@mottramparish.org.uk

Vicar:

01457 762268

vicar@mottramparish.org.uk

Church Treasurer:

Juliet Edwards:

julietedwards@mottramparish.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Lead:

Claire Bibby: 01457 763758

safemottram@gmail.com

The Parish Safeguarding Policy may be downloaded from the church website at:

www.mottramparish.org.uk/joinin/safeguarding

And don’t forget: sometimes all we need is a hug.

MOTTRAM PARISH CHURCH



SAFEGUARDING ADVICE FOR PEOPLE WORKING WITH ADULTS*

This leaflet is intended to help people from Mottram Parish Church who work with adults in the name of the church to be aware of relevant safeguarding matters. Keep this leaflet handy so that:

- you will be safe;
- the people you visit will be safe;
- you will be able to prevent abuse.

* “Adults” are people over the age of 18.