



Help and Advice

Northern Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JJ (0191-232 1168)

Bulletin 48: FOOD SAFETY

The Help & Advice Group was set up by Synod in 2009, to support local churches in being informed and effective in their life and mission. The group was disbanded in 2014, as part of a simplification of Synod committees, and its work continues through the Trust Officer, under the oversight of the Trust. We are willing to try to provide specific advice on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or suggestions.

This article is part of a series giving an overview of particular subjects of interest for local churches. We also circulate general updates from time to time. Bulletins will also be posted on the members' area of the website with direct links to other websites.

Where readers are directed to web-based resources, the Synod Office is willing to respond to reasonable requests for printed out information for readers without web access, although they may find it more satisfactory to follow up their interest through their local library's web access.

Food Allergy Information

The Food Information Regulations 2014 came into force on 13 December 2014. The Food Standards Agency has published guidance at:

www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/allergy-guide

Churches that are classified as food businesses should provide allergy information on food sold unpackaged. This may be provided in writing or orally. In summary, the 14 allergens on which information should be provided are:

- Cereals containing gluten
- Crustaceans
- Eggs
- Fish
- Peanuts
- Soybeans
- Milk
- Nuts
- Celery
- Mustard

- Sesame seeds
- Sulphur dioxide and sulphites
- Lupin
- Molluscs

Churches that are registered as food businesses with their local authority environmental health department ought to comply with these regulations. This would normally be because they regularly provide food that requires more complex safety control, such as cooking hot meals at least once a month, or for vulnerable customers (eg, pre-school age, elderly, ill or expecting). Those that serve food only occasionally or that provide only biscuits or packaged foods would be exempt from the regulations.

This bulletin supplements previous issues 29 and 38, which may be downloaded from <http://urc-northernsynod.org/help-advice-bulletins/>, and section 261 of the Property Handbook, which may be downloaded from <http://urc-northernsynod.org/property-handbook/>.

andrew.atkinson@urc-northernsynod.org