



# Help and Advice

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

## Bulletin 68: CYBER SECURITY

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's Property Subgroup. 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 website <http://urc-northernsynod.org/help-advice-bulletins>, 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.

---

### Being Safe Online

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre has published a useful guide for small charities. As churches do more work online, it is worth being aware of the risks as well as the benefits of doing so. Once we know what to look out for, we can be better ready to use the Internet safely.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/charity/cyber-security-small-charity-guide-pdf-download>

Advice includes:

- Backing up data regularly
- Using anti-virus and anti-malware software on all computers used for church business
- Keep all your software up to date by installing security updates when they come
- Use password-protection for computers, tablets and mobile phones, and encryption on mobile devices
- When you are out and about, it is safer to connect through your mobile network than using an unknown hotspot
- Exercise a healthy caution with emails "phishing" for information or asking you to click on a link

There is also a one-page summary:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/charity/cyber-security-small-charity-guide-infographic-summary>

[andrew.atkinson@urc-northernsynod.org](mailto:andrew.atkinson@urc-northernsynod.org): 29 July 2019