



The
United
Reformed
Church

Help and Advice Group

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Bulletin 1: GENERAL UPDATE

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 is made up of five members of local churches, together with administrative support from the Trust Officer. We are willing to try to provide specific advice or organise training days on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or wish to suggest a training or discussion event.

This is the first bulletin in a planned series of general updates for local churches. We also intend to circulate articles giving an overview of particular subjects of interest. 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.

Holiday Clubs

The Churches' Legislation Advisory Service (CLAS) has pointed out that most childcare providers are required to register with Ofsted. There are exemptions which would cover most church activities, for example where no children under 8 are in childcare for more than 2 hours. However, in the case of holiday clubs for up to 14 days a year, the exemption is only available if the organiser notifies Ofsted at least 14 days beforehand. The notification form can be downloaded from: www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Exemption-notification-form-for-childcare-that-is-exempt-from-compulsory-registration

Burial Grounds

CLAS has also pointed to guidelines issued but not adopted by the Ministry of Justice for dealing with unstable memorials and gravestones. This will be of interest only to those churches with graveyards. The document may be viewed at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/safety-burial-grounds.pdf>

Employment

CLAS recommends the Government website www.businesslink.gov.uk as a useful resource for information on employment and other "small business" matters.

Gas Safe Register

Please note: this new accreditation scheme for gas contractors has replaced CORGI. Further details are given overleaf.

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WHAT IS GAS SAFE REGISTER?

Gas Safe Register replaced the CORGI gas register in Great Britain and the Isle of Man on 1 April 2009

There is only one gas safety register that you need to use. Look for the yellow Gas Safe Register triangle not the orange CORGI registration badge.

Anyone carrying out work on gas must be registered with Gas Safe Register. If not, they are breaking the law and putting you and your family at risk.

Only a Gas Safe registered engineer is legally allowed to install gas appliances, boilers, hobs, ovens or fires in your home or workplace.

You must only use a Gas Safe registered engineer for any type of gas work, including installation, maintenance and servicing.



What is Gas Safe Register?

Gas Safe Register exists to protect you, your family, and your property from dangerous gas work.

Incorrectly fitted, badly repaired or poorly maintained gas appliances are a major cause of lethal carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and can also lead to gas leaks and explosions.

To carry out work on gas installations and appliances safely and legally, engineers in Great Britain and the Isle of Man must be on the Gas Safe Register. We make sure the 120,000 engineers on the register are safe by inspecting the gas work they have carried out.

We are interested in the experiences you have had, when using gas engineers. You can report good or bad gas work to us using our 'nominate gas work for inspection' service.

Who runs Gas Safe Register?

Gas Safe Register is run by Capita Gas Registration and Ancillary Services Limited, a division of Capita Group Plc.

Gas Safe Register is the official gas registration body for Great Britain (GB) and Isle of Man, appointed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for Great Britain and HSWI for Isle of Man.

Gas Safe Register replaced CORGI as the gas registration body in GB on 1 April 2009. The HSE carried out a review of gas safety in 2006 which, after consultation with the gas industry, engineers and the public, led to the decision to change to a new gas registration scheme. The contract to run the new scheme was awarded to Capita and we launched Gas Safe Register. The sole focus of the register is on improving gas safety.

What about CORGI?

The CORGI gas registration scheme in Great Britain and the Isle of Man ended on 31 March 2009. It is no longer recognised by law as the gas safety register.

We asked all CORGI gas engineers to transfer over to Gas Safe Register. Check and see if your gas engineer is now a Gas Safe registered engineer. You should also ask to see your engineer's Gas Safe Register ID card.

www.gassaferegister.co.uk