Eastcote Methodist Church
October 2026

Social media guidelines
for Eastcote Methodist Church
(adapted from London District Methodist Church)

For full guidelines on online safeguarding, see the Methodist website https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wSCesQf2rlvy74M0WR82x7Ypv44k4LYzhG4nfp9Xs0g/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.be19usuaep3n

These guidelines were agreed at a Church Council held on **15th October 2026**

A healthy Christian community is a safe place of mutual care, where all people feel valued, loved and respected.

These guidelines for engaging on social media reflect those values. These guidelines apply to all content and comments posted to Eastcote Methodist Church social media channels. **Social Media will include details of worship and prayer meetings. All other content would be agreed with the Minister.**

Why use social media?

Eastcote Methodist Church encourages the use of social media tools as a means of extending our engagement with people inside and outside the church. This includes:

- Sharing our stories
- Engaging in conversations 'where people are'
- Sharing, learning and encouraging
- Reaching those who cannot physically attend church
- Forming and deepening relationships locally and globally

Zoom meetings

Call Set-Up & Admin - Plan activities, meetings and calls, ensure the organiser has the ability and knowledge of how to mute/block/remove participants in the event they are displaying or sharing anything unsuitable or illegal, spend time getting to know the platform and its privacy settings.

Always use a secure, encrypted connection and password protect meetings and online activities to prevent unwarranted access. Zoom for example has the option to require a password to enter the meeting. Think about the background of your video calls, is there anything that would give away personal details. Consider sanctions for those breaching online etiquette or acceptable use guidelines.

Consider whether participants can control their environment i.e. switch off cameras and microphones. If using online video clips, workers must ensure the video is clear of any unsuitable content (including links and adverts). Check you have the required consent and copyright permissions before publishing work publicly.

Ensure participants know what to do, what is expected of them and who to speak to in the event of inappropriate contact or have concerns over content, if applicable; ensure parents have this information too.

Consider the safety of yourself and others

It is important that the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults especially, must be maintained. Please read the guidelines “Children and Youth social media and communications guidance for Eastcote Methodist Church”

If you have a safeguarding concern, please inform your Safeguarding Officer-Church (Jill Wells safeguardingemc@gmail.com) or Safeguarding Officer-Lettings (Jo Holt eastcotemethodistchurch@btconnect.com) or, if necessary, the Connexion Safeguarding Officer, Claire De Stefano, email safeguarding@methodistchurch.org.uk

Conversation on social media can sometimes develop into heated and pointless argument. Be aware of the effect on yourself, and don’t feel you always need to engage. You can always ‘sign off’ from a heated conversation calmly, with something like ‘I think we’ll have to agree to disagree. Peace.’

Respect

Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful. Try to think of the effect on others who may see what you post.

Be transparent

Don’t mislead people about who you are, or use pseudonyms.

Be relevant

Don't add comments to a social media post that are irrelevant to the topic. Engage in the conversation rather than broadcasting opinions

Disagree with love

If you have a criticism you need to make, consider carefully the tone of what you write. If you are personally attacked, do not respond in kind. Being a Christian means that sometimes we must speak out and challenge injustice. But remember when you need to point out something you think is wrong, that there is a real, and possibly vulnerable, person at the receiving end of what you say.

Be careful when sharing content

Don’t share in haste. Read linked content thoroughly, or watch a video to the end so you know exactly what you are sharing, before you judge whether it is suitable to share.

Maintain confidentiality

If telling a story about someone else, ask yourself first ‘**Is this my story to tell**?**’** Don’t reveal personal details about others without their explicit permission.

Our responsibilities

If we deem comments (or other content) that are posted to the Eastcote Methodist Church social media accounts or pages to be unsuitable or offensive, we will take action that may include hiding, deleting or reporting comments, or blocking users.

These guidelines will be reviewed regularly and updated in light of feedback and experience. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact the Minister in the first instance (Lynita.conradie@methodist.org.uk)

Review

These guidelines will be reviewed annually by the Church Council.

Next review date: **June 2027**



Signed ..... Chair of Church Council

Dated **15th October 2026**