



Privacy Policy

Your personal data – what is it?

“Personal data” is any information about a living individual which allows them to be identified from that data (for example a name, photographs, videos, address or email address). Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information. The processing of personal data is governed by the 2018 Data Protection Act (DPA) and amendments, including 2025 Complaints procedures.

This Privacy Notice is provided to you by Godalming Baptist Church, the Pastor, the Leadership Team and the Church Secretary who is the primary Data Officer.

Data security at GBC is made up of these data controllers working together, we may need to share personal data between us so that we can carry out our responsibilities to GBC and our community. We are all responsible to you for how we process your data.

How do we process your personal data?

We comply with our legal obligations by keeping personal data up to date; by storing and destroying it securely; by not collecting or retaining excessive amounts of data; by keeping personal data secure; by protecting personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and by ensuring that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

We use your personal data for some of or all of the following purposes:

- To deliver the Church’s mission to our community, and to carry out any other voluntary or charitable activities for the benefit of the public as specified in our constitution.
- To enable us to meet all legal and statutory obligations (which include maintaining our Membership roll in accordance with the Church requirements).
- To comply with safeguarding procedures with the aim of ensuring that all children and adults-at-risk are provided with safe environments.

- To minister to you and provide you with pastoral and spiritual care (such as visiting you when you are gravely ill or bereaved) and to organise and perform Ministerial services for you, such as dedications, weddings and funerals.
- To inform you of news, events, activities and services running at GBC, and to send you other communications which may be of interest to you. These may include information about campaigns, appeals and other fundraising activities.
- To include your details on rotas and generally in connection with any role you may perform within GBC;
- To publish selected details (with your consent) in the weekly notice sheet, The Messenger magazine or on the GBC website.
- To maintain our own accounts and to process donations, including Gift Aid applications.
- To administer our records, including storing your information on our database. We may also publish your contact details in our Church Directory, but only ever with your explicit consent;
- To manage our employees and volunteers, and to process applications for such roles;
- To fundraise and promote the interests of GBC.

What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

Some of your data is processed because it is necessary for our legitimate interests, or the legitimate interests of a third party [such as the Baptist Union of GB or the Regional Ministries Officers]. Our legitimate interests will normally be the administration of the church. We will always consider your interests, rights and freedoms.

Some of our processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation. For example, to announce forthcoming weddings publicly.

We may also process data, if it is necessary, for the performance of a contract with you, or to take steps to enter into a contract. An example of this would be

processing your data in connection with the hire of church facilities, or under a contract of employment.

Religious organisations are also permitted to process information about your religious beliefs to administer membership or contact details, provided this information is not passed to a third party without your consent.

In all other cases, the legal basis is your consent, which we will obtain prior to using your personal data.

To operate the GBC website, we use cookies on our website to improve its functional performance; you can manage these cookies by activating the setting on your Internet browser that allows you to refuse the setting of all or some cookies.

Sharing your personal data

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential. It will only be shared with third parties where it is necessary for the performance of our tasks, or where you give us your prior consent. It is likely that we will need to share your data with some or all of the following (but only where necessary):

- Our employees, volunteers and other members of GBC to carry out a service to other members or for purposes connected with GBC.
- Companies or individuals who we may ask to provide a service that we cannot, for example IT support. We will only use such third parties who fully comply with data protection legislation, and their use of your personal data will be limited to the specific purpose for which it has been shared.
- Other persons or organisations who are part of the BU of GB.

How long do we keep your personal data?

We keep data in accordance with the guidance provided by BU of GB; We will keep some records permanently if we are legally required to do so. We may keep some other records for an extended period of time. For example, we will keep financial records for a minimum period of 7 years to support HMRC audits. In general, we will endeavour to keep data only for as long as we need

it. This means that we may delete it when it is no longer needed, or if you ask us to remove your information.

Your rights and your personal data

Unless subject to an exemption under the GDPR, you have the following rights with respect to your personal data:

- The right to request a copy of the personal data which we hold about you.
- The right to request that we correct any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date.
- The right to request that your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for us to retain such data (known as “the right to be forgotten”).
- The right to withdraw your consent to processing at any time (where consent was the original basis for processing).
- The right to request that we transfer your personal data to another data controller (known as “the right to data portability”).
- The right to request a restriction is placed on further processing, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data.
- The right to object to the processing of personal data.
- The right to lodge a complaint with Godalming Baptist Church if you feel your data has not been managed properly. The Church Secretary will respond in accordance with the requirements of the 2025 Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 as follows:

We will:

- Provide a way of making data protection complaints directly to the church.
- Acknowledge receipt of complaints within 30 days of receiving them.
- Without undue delay, take appropriate steps to respond to complaints, including making appropriate enquiries, and keep you informed.

- Without undue delay, tell you the outcome of your complaint.
- The right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (contact details below). Please only contact the ICO if you are unhappy with the response received from Godalming Baptist Church. (Please note that Godalming Baptist Church is exempt from registration with the ICO.)

When exercising any of the rights listed above, to process your request, we may need to verify your identity for your security. In such cases, we will need you to respond with proof of your identity before you can exercise these rights.

Transfer of Data Abroad

Any electronic personal data transferred to IT systems outside the United Kingdom will only be placed on systems which provide the equivalent protection of personal rights as required in the United Kingdom. Our website is also accessible from overseas so on occasion some personal data (for example in a newsletter) may be accessed from abroad.

Further Processing

If we wish to use your personal data for a new purpose, not covered by this Privacy Notice, then we will provide you with a new notice explaining this new use prior to commencing the processing and setting out the relevant purposes and processing conditions. Where and whenever necessary, we will seek your prior consent to the new processing.

Changes to this notice

We keep this Privacy Notice under regular review and will place any updates on this web page. This notice was last updated on 23rd June 2026.

Contact Details:

The Church Secretary
Godalming Baptist Church
Godalming
GU7 1BA

Email Office.gbchurch@gmail.com

Or use the Contact Us form on the web site

<https://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk/contact>

You can contact the Information Commissioners Office on 0303 123 1113 or via email <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/email/> or at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.