



LONDON CHURCHES
SOCIAL ACTION

Engaging in Resilience & Responding to Major Incidents

Guidelines for pan-London, borough-based and other church leaders

**Produced by London Churches Social Action in consultation
with the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Church
Leaders and the Faiths Forum for London**

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Latest update available on the 'Response to Major Incidents' page of the London Churches website.

Introduction

This document is intended to provide a benchmark of good practice for church leaders in London on responding to major incidents. It has been put together by London Churches Social Action following consultation with the Metropolitan Police, the London Church Leaders and the Faiths Forum for London. It is written for pan-London and borough-based church leaders but also for sharing with other partners, not least borough Emergency Planning Officers. This document replaces the previous *London Churches Major Incident Plan*.

This document assumes with all that follows that there is no replacement for good relationships at pan-London and borough-level between church, faith and civic leaders which bear fruit at times of major disaster or tension. Hence, London Church Leaders meet together and meet with other faith leaders through the Faiths Forum for London and London Churches co-ordinates the Ecumenical Borough Deans. The Ecumenical Borough Deans are borough-level denominational leaders who meet with each other and are encouraged to establish good relationships with other church, other faith, civic and other community leaders. This includes having contact with borough Emergency Planning Officers. [The final page of this document is for sharing with Borough based EPOs/Resilience Officers.]

What constitutes a major incident?

The London Emergency Services Liaison Panel describes a major incident as 'any emergency that requires the implementation of special arrangements by one or all of the emergency services and will generally include the involvement, either directly or indirectly, of large numbers of people. For example:

- the rescue and transportation of a large number of casualties;
- the large scale combined resources of the police, London Fire Brigade and London Ambulance Service;
- the mobilisation and organisation of the emergency services and support services; for example, local authority, to cater for the threat of death, serious injury or homelessness to a large number of people; and
- the handling of a large number of enquiries likely to be generated both from the public and the news media usually made to the police.'

Past, high-profile examples in London include the 7/7 bombings in 2005, the Ladbroke Grove rail crash, the sinking of the *Marchioness*, and the fire at Kings Cross underground station. Major incidents can be fairly localised but involve high levels of risk to significant numbers of people and such incidents, especially fires, occur frequently.

'Resilience'

London-wide preparation for responding to major incidents is co-ordinated under the banner of *London Resilience*. Resilience also covers a range of other scenarios which would put large numbers of people at risk, including loss of utilities, flood or other natural disaster, pandemic illnesses and so on. *London Resilience* liaise specifically with London's faith communities through the Faith Sector Resilience Forum, which forms part of the *Faiths Forum for London* and includes representatives from across London's churches. Much of what is said below about responding to major incidents, also applies to the role of the churches in other areas under the 'resilience' banner.

The London Churches Gold Group

This group comprises representative Archdeacons and Vicars General from the Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses covering the London boroughs and representatives of the Salvation Army, due to its role as a contracted provider for the London Fire Brigade in responding to major incidents. The Gold Group liaises with London Resilience and others on behalf of London Churches Social Action and the London Church Leaders Group. The Gold Group comprises:

The Archdeacon of London (Chair)
The Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley
The Archdeacon of Southwark
The Archdeacon of Barking
The Salvation Army London Emergency Response Co-ordinator
The Vicar General of Brentwood Diocese
The Vicar General of Southwark Archdiocese
The Vicar General of Westminster Archdiocese
The Executive Officer of London Churches Social Action

The role of the churches in responding to major incidents is threefold:

AT THE SCENE, AWAY FROM THE SCENE, and IN THE COMMUNITY

AT THE SCENE

- The London Churches Major Incident Plan, which this document has replaced, put a great deal of emphasis on the importance of providing ministry at the scene of the incident, in caring for the injured and all those affected by any disaster. This emphasis relates to a strong, historical tradition of providing such care. Experience - such as during the Kings Cross fire - has shown that such ministry provided on the ground is often welcomed not only by the victims of an incident but also by those attending to the incident from the various emergency services.
- Ensuring such ministry is provided is not easy and planning for it is far from straightforward. The London Churches Gold seeks to ensure that pastoral support is appropriately offered at the scene of a major incident and to do so in co-ordination with ecumenical and other faith colleagues. It is natural that church leaders already present at a scene will respond on the ground. Otherwise, church leaders should refrain from turning-up to a scene unless requested by or via the Gold Group.
- It should be noted that other faith-based organisations may be present at the scene which have not been called out as part of the London Churches response.
- This immediate stage does not normally last very long and the emphasis for most local church leaders will be with responding as indicated below.

AWAY FROM THE SCENE

- Church leaders can help provide a ministry of care and comfort, to relatives and others caught up in the disaster. This will normally be carried out away from the immediate scene of the incident.
- This may be carried out at a temporary mortuary, casualty clearing station, rest centre, friends and relatives' reception centre or similar premises established close to the incident. It may also include a longer-term ministry at a Humanitarian Assistance Centre established to support those affected by the disaster.
- Again, arrangements for this ministry will be co-ordinated at a borough level with the

London Churches Gold Group providing back-up support to ensure that such ministry is offered.

- The ministry of support at designated 'receiving hospitals' and 'support hospitals' or other receiving centres is co-ordinated by the relevant chaplains/clergy, who may appreciate offers of support from other local church leaders.

IN THE COMMUNITY Major incidents require community support at a range of levels and often for some time after the incident. Here the churches have a very significant role to play. Examples include:

- Offering support to hospital chaplains at designated 'receiving hospitals' and 'support hospitals';
- Making church halls and /or other facilities (kitchens, transport, etc) available to the local authority for emergency use;
- Contributing towards messages of re-assurance with other church, other faith and other community leaders.
- On-going assurance and support in communities by local churches, for which the Ascension Trust is offering *Response Pastors* and for which Samaritan's Purse has developed *UK Disaster Response* as resources (see useful websites below).

To repeat, with all the above there is no replacement for good relationships at local level between church, faith and civic leaders which bear fruit at times of major disaster or tension. In the event of a major incident, the Gold Group will be in touch with each other and with the Archdeacons/Vicars-General for the any area affected. Contact details for the respective Archdeacons and Vicars General are provided below.

ANOTHER CONSIDERATION: Churches as targets.

As well as being a help, churches can be potential targets. London Resilience advice on this is "Be Alert, Not Alarmed". Consider who notices people entering your building and how they might report suspicious activity. Consider having a secure place for people to Run, Hide and Tell within your building.

More advice is available here: <https://lbfm.org/2016/07/27/advice-to-places-of-worship-be-alert-but-not-alarmed/>

For more information about any of the above, please contact London Churches.

**London Churches Social Action
St Andrew by the Wardrobe, Parish Church, St Andrew's Hill & Queen Victoria
Street, London EC4V 5DE**

Tel: 020 7654 3857, londonchurches@btinternet.com

www.londonchurches.org.uk

Useful websites

Disaster Action – advice developed by survivors/families www.disasteraction.org.uk

London Church Leaders - www.londonchurches.org.uk/18.html

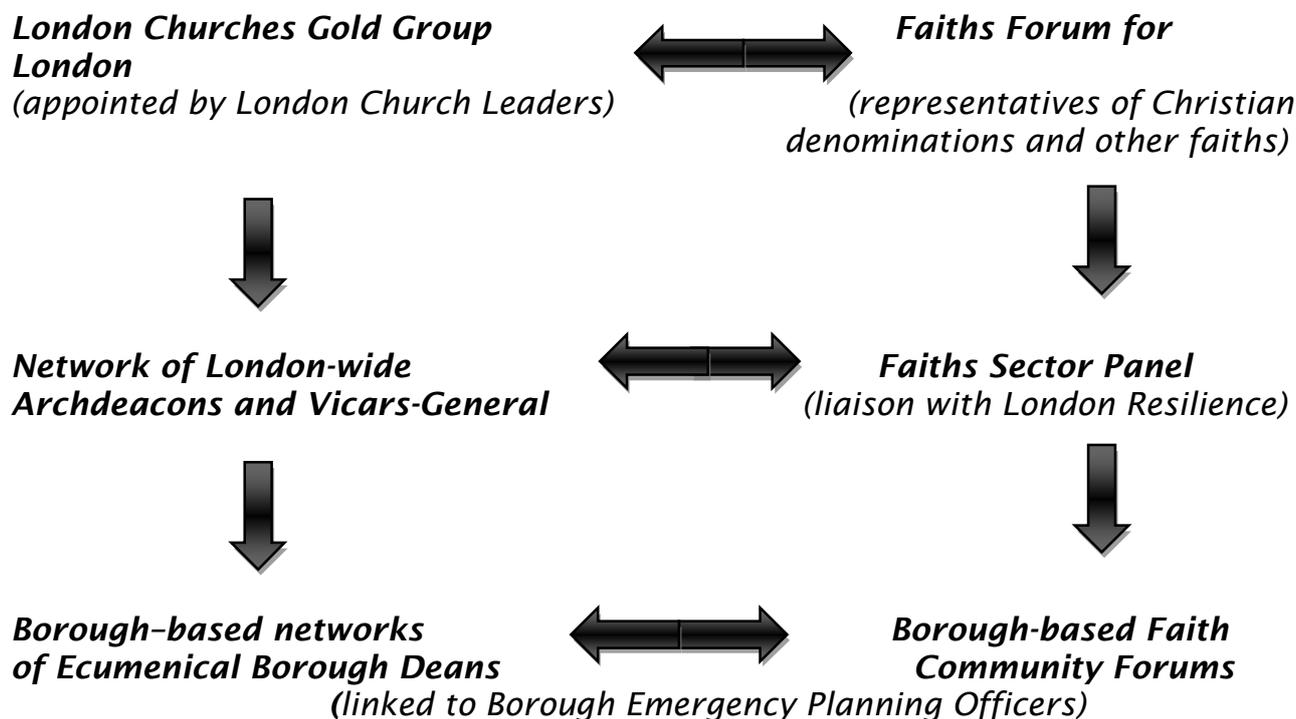
London Resilience - www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/mayor/london-resilience

Faiths Forum for London - www.faithsforum4london.org

Response Pastors - <http://www.streetpastors.org/about-us/response-pastors/>

Samaritans Purse - <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/disaster-relief/uk-disaster-response/>

Diagram showing relationships between London Churches/Other Faiths/London Resilience



Contact details for London Churches - TRY TO CONTACT THE ARCHDEACON / VICAR GENERAL OF THE AREA IN WHICH THE INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED. FAILING THAT, CONTACT A NEIGHBOURING, OR ANY OTHER, ARCHDEACON / VICAR GENERAL

BOROUGH	ARCHDEACON	VICAR GENERAL
Barking and Dagenham	of Barking	of Brentwood
Barnet	of Hampstead	of Westminster
Bexley	of Bromley & Bexley	of Southwark
Brent	of Northolt	of Westminster
Bromley	of Bromley & Bexley	of Southwark
Camden	of Hampstead	of Westminster
City of London	of London	of Westminster
Croydon	of Croydon	of Southwark
Ealing	of Northolt	of Westminster
Enfield	of Hampstead	of Westminster
Greenwich	of Lewisham	of Southwark
Hackney	of Hackney	of Westminster
Hammersmith & Fulham	of Middlesex	of Westminster
Haringey	of Hampstead	of Westminster
Harrow	of Northolt	of Westminster
Havering	of Barking	of Brentwood
Hillingdon	of Northolt	of Westminster
Hounslow	of Middlesex	of Westminster
Islington	of Hackney	of Westminster
Kensington & Chelsea	of Middlesex	of Westminster
Kingston	of Wandsworth	of Southwark
Lambeth	of Lambeth	of Southwark
Lewisham	of Lewisham	of Southwark
Merton	of Lambeth	of Southwark
Newham	of West Ham	of Brentwood
Redbridge	of West Ham	of Brentwood
Richmond -North of Thames	of Middlesex	of Westminster
Richmond -South of Thames	of Wandsworth	of Westminster
Southwark	of Southwark	of Southwark
Sutton	of Croydon	of Southwark
Tower Hamlets	of Hackney	of Westminster
Waltham Forest	of West Ham	of Brentwood
Wandsworth	of Wandsworth	of Southwark
Westminster	of London	of Westminster

Contact can also be made with Baptist, Methodist, Salvation Army and United Reformed local ministers via the regional offices listed below:

Baptist – The London Baptist Association, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8EP.
Tel: 020 7692 5592, lbaoffice@londonbaptist.org.uk

Methodist – London District Office, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster. London, SW1H 9NH.
Tel: 020 7654 3850; admin@methodistlondon.org.uk

Salvation Army – London South London Division, 1 Tiverton Street, London, SE1 6NT.
Tel: 020 3872 0080; southlondon@salvationarmy.org.uk

Salvation Army – London North London Division, 66 New North Road, London, N1 6TG.
Tel: 020 7601 7057, northlondon@salvationarmy.org.uk

United Reformed - Thames North Synod Office, St Paul's United Reformed Church, Bayswater, London, W2 5LS. Tel: 020 7799 5000, moderator@urcthamesnorth.org.uk

United Reformed – Southern Synod Office, East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, Surrey CR0 5LP. Tel: 020 8688 3730, moderator@urcsouthern.org.uk

Archdeacon of Barking (The Venerable John Perumbalath)

Tel: 01708 474951, a.barking@anglican.org.uk

Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley (The Venerable Dr Paul Wright)

Tel: 020 8467 8743 / 07985 902601, archdeacon.bromley@rochester.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Croydon (The Venerable Chris Skilton)

Tel: 020 8256 9633, 07903 704506, christopher.skilton@southwark.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Hackney (The Venerable Elizabeth Adekunle)

Tel: 020 3837 5232; archdeacon.hackney@london.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Hampstead (The Venerable John Hawkins)

Tel: 020 8202 8606, archdeacon.hampstead@london.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Middlesex (The Venerable Stephen Welch)

Tel: 020 7932 1187, archdeacon.middlesex@london.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Lambeth (The Venerable Simon Gates)

Tel: 020 8545 2440 / 07730 363267, simon.gates@southwark.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Lewisham and Greenwich (The Venerable Alastair Cutting)

Tel: 020 7939 9408 / 07736676106 / 020 8699 8207; Alastair.cutting@southwark.anglican.org

Archdeacon of London (The Venerable Luke Miller)

Tel: 020 7932 1191, Archdeacon.London@london.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Northolt (The Venerable Duncan Green)

Tel: 020 7932 1275, archdeacon.northolt@london.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Southwark (The Venerable Jane Steen)

Tel: 020 7939 9409 / 07714246887 / 020 7820 8079; jane.steen@southwark.anglican.org

Archdeacon of Wandsworth (The Venerable John Kiddle)

Tel: 020 8545 2440 / 07590 636966; John.Kiddle@southwark.anglican.org

Archdeacon of West Ham (The Venerable Elwin Cockett)

Tel: 020 8989 8557, a.westham@chelmsford.anglican.org

Vicar General of Brentwood (Monsignor Kevin Hale)

Tel: 01702 478078, priest@lourdesleigh.org

Vicar General of Southwark (Monsignor Matthew Dickens)

Tel: 020 7928 5592, vg@rcsouthwark.co.uk

Vicar General of Westminster (Monsignor Martin Hayes)

Tel: 020 8952 0663 / 020 7931 6076, martinhayes@rcdow.org.uk

Back up contacts

The auxiliary bishops -

see - www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/bishops.html.

The auxiliary bishops/episcopal vicars

<http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/>

SALVATION ARMY EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATOR

24 hours mobile number 07802796003; 07702940902 (back up)



LONDON CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION

Notes for Resilience Officers on engaging with Faith Communities

These notes are intended for Resilience Officers and others as a guide to engaging with faith communities in London.

Pan-London

London Resilience has a **Faith Sector Panel** which brings to key leaders from across the faith communities and works in close partnership with the Faiths Forum for London and other bodies. This is the principle point of contact for consultation and engagement with and from the faith communities on resilience matters. It includes representation from the **London Churches Gold Group** which produces its own Guidance for **Church Leaders on Major Incidents** - <http://www.londonchurches.org.uk/10.html>

The main contact for the Faith Sector Panel is its Chair, the Venerable Luke Millar, Archdeacon of London <archdeacon.london@london.anglican.org>.

The main contact for the London Churches Gold Group is Canon Steven Saxby, Executive Officer of London Churches Social Action <londonchurches@btinternet.com>.

Borough Level

Most, but not all Boroughs, have a borough **Faith Forum** or similar. The London Boroughs Faiths Network keeps abreast of these forums and maintains a list of contacts here - <https://lbfm.org/whos-who/>

Some boroughs have a structure of **Ecumenical Borough Deans** - senior contacts from each denomination who meet together and seek to maintain contact with statutory partners and other faith communities. To find out if there is an Ecumenical Borough Dean network in a particular borough, contact londonchurches@btinternet.com.

Where neither of the above exists, every borough has An Anglican and Roman Catholic **Area Dean or Borough Dean**. Through the pan-London Church Leaders structure, senior leaders of all denominations have agreed to utilise the hierarchies of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches to facilitate contact with local area deans, and through them leaders of all denominations and faiths. A list of Archdeacons and Vicars General who can provide contact details for deans in each borough is part of the London Churches document. See - <http://www.londonchurches.org.uk/10.html>

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