

Charitable status and safeguarding issues

Brief comments from Steve Adam, Secretary of Derby Bible Week, and Trustee, Keswick Ministries

With regards to Derby Bible Week, we discussed becoming a charity a few years ago and decided it wasn't necessary for us, and that the costs and resources required in doing so (and in maintaining it) would be greater than any benefit resulting.

The main benefit is being able to receive gift-aid on donations. However, as the average donation per head for Derby Bible Week is less than £5, and there will be very few greater than £20, we felt that very few would fill in the necessary forms and so any gift-aid received would be minimal.

With regards to safeguarding, public liability insurance etc, as we use member churches both morning and evening, we simply adhere to whatever their own policies are. The main one is probably safeguarding, as we run a creche in the mornings at Christchurch. We adopt their policy and their safeguarding officer oversees it. All volunteers have to be DBS checked, approved by their church leadership and have to read and accept the Christchurch policy.

If a local Keswick Fellowship event is significantly bigger than ours (c400 attendees), or they use a neutral venue like a public hall or a marquee, then they may feel that becoming a charity might be helpful. Safeguarding issues would also need to be looked at more carefully, specially if they are running children's and youth programmes.