



If you don't know what this is – here's a very brief explanation:

**“GDPR is a regulation that requires businesses to protect the personal data and privacy of EU citizens for transactions that occur within EU member states”.**

This is being introduced on **25 May 2018** and it will, unfortunately, affect all our congregations. However, you do not need to panic, although there will be some key changes you will need to make, in the way you obtain, use and hold the personal details of the members of your congregation. It is purely an update of the 1998 Data Protection Act, and tightens up the principles of that Act.

The date is fixed, but the Information Commissioner's Office has said they *“expect organisations to work toward compliance”*. If you are not fully compliant by the date above, they *“expect to see a plan for how it will be achieved within a reasonable time frame after May”*.

The General Synod Office has now sent out guidelines to all vestries, direct. If you have not received the email, please contact them on 0131 225 6357. You may also like to have a look at the guidance produced by:

- **The Church of England** - <http://www.parishresources.org.uk/gdpr/>
- **The Baptist Church** - [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/302154/Data\\_Protection\\_and.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/302154/Data_Protection_and.aspx)
- **The Information Commissioner's Office** - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

We are also putting all this information on the “Vestries” page of the diocesan website:

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/resources/diocesan-vestry-resources/diocesan-office-resources-vestries/>

We hope that helps.

*Edinburgh Diocesan Office*