

# SAFEGUARDING POLICY AT CHRIST CHURCH IPSWICH

## POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH

### VISION STATEMENT

*The Church Family at Christ Church is a worshipping, welcoming community in which all can come to experience the love of God. We seek to share this love, to care for each other, to challenge injustice and to meet need.*

*We seek:*

- *To be focussed on God in worship together and in our daily lives, through prayer and Bible study, and open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*
- *To be open, friendly and approachable so that all who come feel welcome.*
- *To care for and support each other, learning and growing in faith and fellowship.*
- *To engage with the local and wider community from our existing town centre buildings in Tacket Street.*

In fulfilment of this vision:

- We welcome children into the life of our community
- Have a programme of events for children
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children

The church recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of all young people under the age of 18 (regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability) as set out in *The Children Act 1989 and 2004, Safe from Harm* (HM Government 1994) and *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government 2018).

As members of this church we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all associated with the church and will pray for them regularly.

In pursuit of this we commit ourselves to the following policies and to the development of procedures to ensure their implementation.

### 1. Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to prevent the physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of children, and the duty of each church member to respond to any concerns about the well-being of children and to report any child abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected.

The church will fully co-operate with any statutory investigation into any suspected abuse linked with this church.

### 2. Respecting children

The church will adopt a code of behaviour for all who are appointed to work with children so that all children are shown the respect that is due to them.

### 3. Safe recruitment, support and supervision of workers

The church will exercise proper care in the selection and appointment of those working with children, whether paid or volunteer. All workers will be provided with appropriate training, support and supervision to promote the safekeeping of children.

#### 4. Safe Working Practices

The church is committed to providing a safe environment for activities with children and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

#### 5. A Safe Community

The church is committed to the prevention of bullying of children. The church will seek to ensure that the behaviour of any who may pose a risk to children and young people in the community of the church is managed appropriately.

The church has appointed:

a) As Designated Persons for Safeguarding

Mrs Janet Austin (01473 251656)

Mr Andrew Osborne (01473 843713)

They will advise the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed discovered or suspected

b) As Safeguarding Trustee

Mr Robert King (01473 413424)

He will oversee and monitor the implementation and procedures on behalf of the church's charity trustees. When possible the Safeguarding Team will work together if and when issues arise.

#### POLICY AND PROCEDURES

A copy of the policy statement will be displayed permanently on the notice board in the entrance of the schoolroom buildings and the back of the church.

Each worker with children will be given a copy of the policy and procedures and will be asked to sign them.

A full copy of the policy and procedures will be made available on request to any member of, or other person associated with the church.

The policy and procedures will be monitored and reviewed annually in early autumn.

The policy statement will be read annually at the Annual General Meeting together with a report of the annual review.

## PROTECTION OF ADULTS AT RISK

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of adults at risk and ensuring their wellbeing in the life of this church.
2. It is the responsibility of each of us to do our best to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial and spiritual abuse of adults at risk and to report any such abuse that we discover or suspect.
3. We are dedicated to providing pastoral care and support to those who have experienced abuse.
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with adults at risk.
5. The church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
6. The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in "Safe to Belong".
7. Each person who works with adults at risk will agree to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.

Designated Person for The Safeguarding of Adults At Risk (contact them if you have any concerns)

Mrs June Thornton (01473 724793)

Safeguarding Trustee (who oversees and monitors the implementation of this policy)

Mr Robert King (01472 413424)

These policies were adopted at Church Meeting/AGM on

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and the names updated by Deacon's Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

They will be presented each year to the Church Meeting/AGM in October

Signed:.....