



Safeguarding Statement

We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and nurturing environments for all individuals, particularly children, young people, and vulnerable adults who are involved in our church community. We take our responsibility for safeguarding seriously and strive to ensure that everyone who comes into contact with our church feels safe, valued, and protected.

Our Safeguarding Commitment:

- 1. Safeguarding Policies and Procedures:** We have implemented comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures that adhere to the highest standards and comply with the relevant legislation, including the Children Act 1989, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, and the Care Act 2014. These policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in the law or best practices.
- 2. Safer Recruitment:** We are committed to recruiting and selecting staff, volunteers, and leaders who are suitable to work with children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Our rigorous recruitment process includes thorough background checks, interviews, and reference checks to ensure the suitability and integrity of all individuals who hold positions within our church.
- 3. Training and Education:** We provide ongoing training and education to our staff, volunteers, and leaders to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to identify and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns. This includes training on recognizing signs of abuse, understanding our safeguarding policies, and knowing how to report any concerns they may have.
- 4. Reporting and Responding:** We have clear reporting procedures in place, and we encourage anyone who has concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, young person, or vulnerable adult to report it to our designated safeguarding officer or a member of our leadership team. We take all reports seriously and will respond promptly, following the guidance of the local safeguarding authority.
- 5. Confidentiality and Support:** We understand the sensitive nature of safeguarding concerns and respect the confidentiality of those involved. We provide appropriate support and pastoral care to individuals who have been affected by abuse or are involved in any safeguarding process.

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Pastor: Joshua Kindness

Elders: Ian Grindell, Chris Page, Gordon Sprouse

Core Leaders: Tom Owen, Liz Gray, Jane Rubacki, Derek Seedhouse, Karen Sprouse

Trustees: Ian Grindell, Chris Page, Josh Kindness, Tom Owen, Liz Gray, Jane Rubacki, Derek Seedhouse, Gordon Sprouse, Karen Sprouse

6. Partnership and Cooperation: We work closely with statutory agencies, such as the local safeguarding authority and the police, to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals within our church community. We are committed to cooperating fully with any investigations or inquiries related to safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding is an ongoing process, and we are committed to continuously reviewing and improving our practices to ensure that we provide the highest level of protection for everyone in our care. We are dedicated to promoting a culture of openness, transparency, and accountability in all matters of safeguarding.

If you have any safeguarding concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our safeguarding team at safeguarding@bethelcoventry.org.uk. Your concerns will be treated with the utmost seriousness and addressed promptly.

Bethel is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of all individuals, and we will do everything within our power to protect and support them.

Date: May 2023