

## Safeguarding Policy Statement

The following statement was adopted at a church meeting held on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

This church is committed to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and to ensure their wellbeing.

It will be presented each year to a church meeting held in the month of November when progress in carrying it out will be monitored.

1. As members of this church we commit ourselves to the safeguarding of all children and adults at risk ensuring their well-being in the life of this church.
2. We respect the personal dignity and rights of children and adults at risk and will ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this.
3. We are dedicated in the pastoral care and support of those who have experienced abuse.
4. We recognise that safeguarding is a whole church responsibility
5. We are committed to ensuring that the children and adults we have contact with know they are valued and feel completely free to tell us if they are suffering harm.
6. The church adopts the guidelines of the Baptist Union of Great Britain published in *Safe to Belong 2015*
7. Westerham Hill Baptist Church commits itself to respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
8. We are committed to supporting the Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy in their work and in any action they may need to take in order to protect children and adults at risk.

The purpose of this Safeguarding Policy is to ensure the procedures are in place and people are clear about roles and responsibilities for children and vulnerable adults in our care and using our premises.