Safeguarding Policy Statement on safeguarding children, young people, elderly and vulnerable people

in Wisbech Baptist Church (referred to as “The Church” in the policy statement)

The vision/purpose of the Church is, “To keep safe from harm or abuse to all children, young person, elderly or vulnerable persons attending our Church”.

In fulfilling this purpose the church:

- Has a program of activities with children and young people.
- Welcomes children and young people into the life of our Church.
- Makes the premises available to organisations working with children and young people.
- Has a program of activities for elder or vulnerable people.
- Welcomes elderly and vulnerable people into the life of our Church.
- Makes the premises available to organisations working with elderly or vulnerable people.

Our safeguarding responsibilities:

The church recognises its responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability.

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 this policy and to the development of sound procedures to ensure we implement our policy well.

- Prevention and reporting of abuse

It is the duty of each church member to help prevent the abuse of children and adults at risk, and the duty of each church member to respond to concerns about the well-being of children and adults at risk. Any abuse disclosed, discovered or suspected will be reported in accordance with our

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

- Safer recruitment, support and supervision of workers

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

- Respecting children and adults at risk

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

- Safer working practices

The church is committed to providing an environment that is as safe as possible for children and adults at risk and will adopt ways of working with them that promote their safety and well-being.

- A safer community

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

Safeguarding contact points within our church

The church has appointed Russell Wate and Lin Stanton to form the church safeguarding team:

Our church minister is also an important part of the Church Safeguarding Team. Where possible, the Church Safeguarding Team will work together

if and when issues arise. However, each person has a responsibility to report allegations of abuse as soon as they are raised.

Further definitions of these roles can be found in the BUGB publications ‘Safe to Grow’ (2011) & ‘Safe to Belong’ (2015).

Putting our policy into practice

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and is available on our church website.

- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be advised of the safeguarding policy and procedures and will be asked to sign to confirm that they will follow 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, and any necessary revisions adopted into the policy and implemented through our procedures.

- The policy statement will be reviewed bi-annually at the church AGM, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

Signed…
…… Dated…22/01/2020……

Church Secretary