

### **Safeguarding Policy Statement for Egremont Methodist Church**

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Therefore, we are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select, support and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures.

We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

The above will be broadly implemented in line with the *Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church* (2017). It can be accessed on line at: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding>.

#### **Safeguarding Forms:**

Safeguarding Form Xs are to be kept in the Circuit Safe. Safeguarding Form As/Copies of Volunteer Agreements/Job Descriptions are to be kept with the Church Council Minutes.

A list of Church key-holders, together with related Safeguarding Forms are held in a secure space in the Church foyer cupboard.

A copy of this Church policy will be displayed on our premises and one forwarded to a Circuit Safeguarding Officer, It will be reviewed annually at the Church Council following the autumn one.

#### **Responsible Persons:**

**Mrs Janet Shipley** has been appointed as a Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

The Minister in Pastoral Charge is the **Revd Dr Wendy Kilworth-Mason**.

The Local Complaints Officer is the Superintendent Minister **Revd Dr Wendy Kilworth-Mason**.

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Signed: W. Kilworth-Mason (Chair of Church Council)