

## **Agenda for Church Members' Meeting**

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 8PM (Hybrid)**

1. Prayer and worship
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023)
3. Membership matters
4. Outreach report
5. Safeguarding Policy renewal (see Appendix One)
6. Pastoral Care Policy renewal (see Appendix Two)
7. Report from Church Treasurer
8. Report from Church Secretary including notice of a possible change of RBC legal status
9. AOB

## SECTION 1 – SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT FOR RUISLIP BAPTIST CHURCH

#### Our vision

The vision statement of Ruislip Baptist Church is:

**‘Building a vibrant, Christ-centred community with a vision for extending His Kingdom’**

In fulfilling this vision, we:

- Welcome children and adults at risk into the life of our community
- Run activities for children and adults at risk
- Make our premises available to organisations working with children and adults at risk

#### 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 the following individuals to form part of the church safeguarding team:

### **Jane Golden Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS)**

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

Phone number **01895 631239**

Email address [office@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:office@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk)

### **Nikki Latham Deputy Designated Person for Safeguarding (DDPS)**

They will assist the Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) in helping the church on any matters related to the safeguarding of children and adults at risk and take the appropriate action when abuse is disclosed, discovered or suspected.

Phone number **01895 631239**

Email address [nikki.latham@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:nikki.latham@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk)

### **Helen Yarrow, Safeguarding Trustee**

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church and oversee and monitor the implementation of the safeguarding policy and procedures on behalf of the church trustees.

Phone number **01895 631239**

Email address [helen.yarrow@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:helen.yarrow@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk)

### **Derek Page , Senior Minister**

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church. Will take responsibility for ensuring that pastoral needs are being met.

Phone number **01895 631239**

Email address [derek.page@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:derek.page@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk)

### **Barry Dore, Assistant Minister**

They will raise the profile of safeguarding within the church. Will take responsibility for ensuring that pastoral needs are being met.

Phone number **01895 631239**

Email address [barry.dore@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:barry.dore@ruislipbaptistchurch.co.uk)

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 Appendix 4 – Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities)*

### **Putting our policy into practice**

- A copy of the safeguarding policy statement will be displayed permanently on the church noticeboard and church office and is available on our church website.
- Each worker with children and/or adults at risk will be given a full copy 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 read annually at the May church members meeting, together with a report on the outcome of the annual safeguarding review.

**This Statement was agreed at the church members meeting held on ~~25 May 2022~~ [24<sup>th</sup> May 2023].**

## APPENDIX TWO

### PASTORAL CARE POLICY

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

*John 13: 34-35*

Christian pastoral care is the activity which flows from the attitude and commitment to love one another because we ourselves are first loved by God. It is concerned with developing quality relationships and helping one another to become the people that God wants us to be. It embraces a wide range of activity in support of one another, in and beyond the Church. Christian pastoral care is relational in nature and practice and is offered from the gift of God’s love for us and our love for one another. Within Ruislip Baptist Church, pastoral care is structured in the following way:

- The Ministers provide pastoral support and encouragement to individuals, being alongside them in their time of need, and encouraging and guiding them in their walk with Christ.
- Pastoral care is co-ordinated by the Pastoral Care Manager and carried out by a team of volunteer Pastoral Assistants, appointed by the Ministerial Team. Pastoral Assistants have individuals assigned to them that they care for on behalf of the church. Pastoral Assistants are supported by the Pastoral Care Manager. Pastoral care given by Pastoral Assistants includes on-going support and visiting where long term care is required.
- The Pastoral Care Manager also works with a number of pastoral volunteers from the church who are available to visit or help individuals as appropriate as needs arise on an ad hoc basis. This may include practical help e.g. cooking a meal when someone is ill, occasional shopping etc. The Pastoral Care Manager maintains a list of volunteers who may be called upon as needs arise.
- Small groups are a hub for pastoral care as small group members seek to care for one another.
- The whole church fellowship undertakes pastoral care as individuals look out for and care for one another. This care is most likely to be spontaneous and unstructured. Good Practice guidelines for carrying out pastoral care at RBC are available. Pastoral Assistants and volunteers are asked to read these and must undertake to observe them. A paper copy is available from the church office or online via the website, for reference.

If you would like to discuss a pastoral care matter, please contact Derek Page (Senior Minister), Barry Dore (Assistant Minister) or Julie Ledden (Pastoral Care Manager) via the church office (01895 631239).

Signed on behalf of the members of Ruislip Baptist Church:

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**Roy Bawden, Secretary**

**This statement was agreed at the church members meeting held on ~~25th May 2022~~ [24<sup>th</sup> May 2023]. It will be read annually at the church meeting where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.**