

Safeguarding to the glory of God.

As Christians we believe that Bible truth underpins all that we do as a church. The Bible is very clear about how we should treat each other and why we should act in this way. Therefore our Christian approach to safeguarding is shaped by our biblical beliefs.

We believe that:

- We are to honour those whom God has set in authority over us and to live as responsible and good citizens in the time and place in which God has set us.
- Every human life, (including and especially, those individuals who are most vulnerable), is valuable to God, and each person bears his image.
- God cares for the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. He calls us to protect and care for those who are vulnerable in our society and to oppose exploitation.
- Because we live in a fallen and sinful world, fraught with many risks and dangers, we must seek to protect everyone, particularly the vulnerable from those dangers.
- The church is not a gathering of sinless and perfect people, but rather a community of grace where we seek to encourage and challenge each other lovingly. We are called to spur one another on to greater holiness and obedience to God in an attitude of humility, grace and forgiveness.
- We are to love those around us as God loves them and, through the gospel, to seek to bring healing, restoration and reconciliation to broken and damaged lives.
- Jesus is our example of how to carry this out and he is the perfect model.

As a church it is important for us to follow through our beliefs with actions. We are to recognise that it isn't enough to just say that we believe these things. We don't want to simply talk about these truths; we need to show our belief in them in a real and practical way .

At Cornerstone Church we actively seek to create and maintain a culture that is consistent with our biblical principles and best practice in safeguarding.

This includes:

Promoting a safer environment and culture.

This is done by having clear policies, guidelines and procedures set out and followed for all ministries that take place. Without exception, our leaders and volunteers all hold to the biblical principles outlined above and understand the importance of their roles.

Safer recruiting, supporting and training for all those with any responsibility related to children and adults at risk.

At Cornerstone we have a clear, safe, recruitment procedure that is followed before anyone is permitted to serve in our ministries. This includes appropriate DBS checks for those working with children, young people and

adults at risk.

Responding promptly to safeguarding concerns or allegations.

Staff and volunteers are trained to respond appropriately in matters of safeguarding, They have clear instructions for reporting all concerns to the Safeguarding Coordinator, who is responsible for passing information on to the local authorities where appropriate.

Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or others affected in this way.

Support is given through biblical counseling and, where appropriate, by helping the victim/survivor to get further support from those with more expertise in this area.

Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and others affected in this way.

Appropriate support is given, together with advice from Christian Safeguarding Services, and local authorities.

Responding to those who may pose a risk.

We work together with local police, probation officers, and social services as appropriate, to establish robust measures which will ensure that children and adults at risk are safeguarded.

We cannot do this alone. We seek to work in partnership with local authorities and service providers where necessary.

As a church we are held accountable to follow the guidelines and legislation set out by the government, but also by other organisations of which we are members, such as the Co-Mission Churches Trust and Christian Safeguarding Services. Both of these organisations help us to ensure that not only are we following the most recent legislation, but that we are also holding fast to the truths that we believe from God's word. We do all this to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)