Hardwick Evangelical Church
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

Name of church: Hardwick Evangelical Church (hereafter, "The Church")
Denomination / Organisation: Members of the Eastern Baptist Association
Charity number & registered address: 1163049.
Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd., Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ

Hardwick Evangelical Church is a member of **Thirtyone:eight**, an independent Christian Safeguarding Charity.

Safeguarding Co-ordinator - adults	Steve Gaze 58 Main Street Hardwick Cambridge CB23 7QU	01954 212556 07748 317343 SteveGaze@gmail.com
Safeguarding Co-ordinator -children & young people	Susie Thomson 22 Laxton Ave Hardwick Cambridge CB23 7XL	01954 212345 07714 324617 susannah_thompson@hotmail.com
Minister	Rev'd Kate Gaze	07484 866966 minister.hechurch@gmail.com

The following statement was agreed at the Church AGM on: 9th July 2024

- This church is committed to the safeguarding of children, adults with care and support needs, and ensuring their well-being.
- We recognise that we all have a responsibility to help prevent harm or abuse to children and adults with care and support needs in all their recognised forms.
- We recognise the personal dignity and rights of adults and children and will ensure all our policies and procedures will reflect this.
- We believe all people should enjoy and have access to every aspect of the life of the church.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with children and adults with care and support needs.
- We believe every child and adult should be valued, safe and happy. We want to make sure that all those we have contact with know this and are empowered to tell us if they are experiencing significant harm.

We are committed to:

- Following statutory denominational and specialist guidelines in relation to safeguarding children and adults and will ensure that as a church all workers will work within the agreed procedure of our safeguarding policy.
- Implementing the requirements of all relevant legislation including, but not limited to; Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005, Equality Act 2010 and referring concerns about adults with care and support needs to the local authority under the Care Act 2014.
- Supporting, resourcing and training those who undertake this work.
- Ensuring that we are keeping up to date with national and local developments relating to safeguarding.
- Ensuring that everyone agrees to abide by these recommendations and the guidelines established by this church.
- Supporting all in the church affected by abuse.

We recognise:

- Children's Social Services has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about a child. Adult Social Care has lead responsibility for investigating all allegations or suspicions of abuse where there are concerns about an adult with care and support needs.
- Where an allegation suggests that a criminal offence may have been committed then the police should be contacted as a matter of urgency.
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE (Summary)

Under no circumstances should a church worker carry out their own investigation into the allegation or suspicion of abuse. The person in receipt of allegations or suspicions of abuse will follow the usual safeguarding procedure: Recognise, Respond, Record, Report.

- Concerns must be reported as soon as possible to the relevant Safeguarding Co-ordinator. These co-ordinators have been nominated by the Church to act on its behalf in dealing with the allegation or suspicion of neglect or abuse, including referring the matter on to the statutory authorities:

Adults: Steve Gaze, tel 01954 212556 / 07748 317343

Children and young people: Susie Thomson, tel 01954 212345 / 07714 324617

Suspicions must not be discussed with anyone other than those nominated above. A written record of the concerns should be made and kept in a secure place.

Whilst allegations or suspicions of abuse will normally be reported to the Co-ordinator, the absence of both of the Co-ordinators should not delay referral to the Social Care Services.

- In the absence of both of the Co-ordinators, then advice should be sought from Thirtyone:Eight, PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ. Telephone 0303 003 1111 (24 hr Help line) or alternatively contact Social Care Services on 0345 045 5202, where there is an answering machine with the out-of-hours emergency number, and website details. If you need to contact the Police you can call 101 (non-emergency), or 999 in an emergency.
    - The Church will support the Co-ordinators in their roles, and accept that any information they may have in their possession will be shared in a strictly limited way on a need to know basis. This can include liaising with a Designated Safeguarding Lead (or their Deputy) for a local school, or logging information with the Safeguarding Contact for the Eastern Baptist Association (safeguarding@easternbaptist.org.uk or on 07735 860804).
- The Co-ordinators may also need to liaise with the Church's Insurance Company or the Charity Commission to report a serious incident.
- Any safeguarding concerns involving a Minister should always be reported immediately to the Eastern Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact in addition to following the church's usual procedures. Do not tell the Minister that a concern has been raised about them.
- Any safeguarding concerns involving the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) or Safeguarding Trustee should be raised with the Minister, they in turn should consult the Eastern Baptist Association Safeguarding Contact. Do not tell the Safeguarding Coordinator / Safeguarding Trustee that a concern has been raised about them.
- It is, of course, the right of any individual as a citizen to make a direct referral to the safeguarding agencies or seek advice from Thirtyone:eight, although the Trustees hope that members of the church will use the procedure indicated above. If, however, the individual with the concern feels that the Safeguarding Coordinator has not responded appropriately, or where they have a disagreement with the Safeguarding Coordinator(s) as to the appropriateness of a referral they are free to contact an outside agency direct. We hope by making this statement that the Trustees demonstrate their commitment to effective safeguarding and the protection of all those who are vulnerable.

The role of the Safeguarding Coordinator is to collate and clarify the precise details of the allegation or suspicion and pass this information on to statutory agencies who have a legal duty to investigate.

We will review this statement and our policy annually at the Church AGM.

If you have any concerns for a child or adult, then speak to one of the following who have been approved as safeguarding co-ordinators for this church.

Signed _____ Date 09/07/24

Print Name SUSANNAH THOMSON Role Safeguards Co-ordinator

Signed _____ Date Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Print Name Stephen GAZE Role 09/07/24

A copy of this church's policy can be seen on request.

External contact details referred to in this statement	
Safeguarding Contact, Eastern Baptist Association safeguarding@easternbaptist.org.uk	07735 860804
Thirtyone:Eight, PO Box 133, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ	0303 003 1111
Social Care Services	0345 045 5202
Police (emergency).	101 (non-emergency), or 999

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