

Love one another as I have loved you



In our small, close-knit rural churches, we often think of safeguarding as something meant for other places—big cities, bustling congregations, or youth ministries. But the truth is, safeguarding is just as vital here, among our familiar faces and long-standing friendships.

Safeguarding isn't only about rules or policies—it's about honouring the dignity and worth of every person, especially the most vulnerable among us. As we age, we may find ourselves in need of a little more help, a listening ear, or simply the assurance that our church is a safe and respectful space.

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). In that spirit, safeguarding becomes an extension of our care, our compassion, and our commitment to each other's well-being. It means being watchful, not suspicious—proactive, not fearful. It's about creating an environment where everyone feels safe to worship, to speak, to belong.

So this week, let us give thanks for those who quietly take responsibility for safeguarding in our churches. Let us also reflect on how each of us plays a part in protecting and nurturing the peace we enjoy here—because safeguarding isn't just a policy. It's love in action.

Rachel