**St Mark’s Church, Brampton**

**Safeguarding Statement and Policy**

**We believe that:**

* everyone has the right to be treated with respect, compassion and Christian love,
* it is the responsibility of everyone within the church family to extend that respect, compassion and love to all,
* as God values all, so we must reflect that through the way in which we value people and are valued ourselves,
* everyone has the right to be protected from all forms of abuse be it physical, sexual, emotional, financial, and spiritual,
* it is our Christian responsibility to protect and safeguard people from abuse,
* to care for those who have been the victims of abuse.

**It is therefore the policy of St Mark’s Church that:**

* we must be committed to the safeguarding of all connected to the life, mission, ministry and church family both directly and indirectly as a fundamental principle of our living faith,
* this commitment should underpin all our policies, procedures and practices,
* it is the responsibility of all within the church family, and those who use any of our facilities to protect and safeguard all who are vulnerable in any way,
* everyone should be aware of their role in the safeguarding others,
* best practice must always be followed in relation safeguarding policies, practices and procedures
* we should work in partnership with other Christian Churches and other agencies in delivering safeguarding,

**We will seek to promote good practice and safety by:**

* striving to create a safe a caring community that provides a loving Christian environment where:

 the vulnerable can feel safe and secure,

those who feel excluded can feel included,

 the abused can report or disclose abuse and find support,

 there is informed pastoral care,

 people are valued and feel valued.

* raising awareness and understanding of

 the forms and potential impact of abuse,

 vulnerability.

 Christian teaching in relation to abuse and safeguarding,

policy, practices and procedures.

* following and adopting agreed practices, procedures and guidelines as identified by the Diocese and Church of England,
* ensuring that:

all appropriate levels of training are undertaken by those who have different roles within the church and who volunteer, take part in, or lead different activities,

all volunteers ( and others where necessary ) have an up-to-date DBS check.

* prayer, faith and living out God’s love.

Date adopted by PCC: 18/7/18 Minute number: 46/18b

Date of next review: July 2019