



# Safe Church Sunday

Isaiah 41:10 & 13  
Mark 12:28 –31

## **Summary**

Safeguarding is about growing together to ensure our church family reflects God's loving care as we create a safe place for children and anyone who is vulnerable.

- In Mark 12:29&30, Jesus says 'Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. And 'Love your neighbour as yourself No other commandment is greater than these.' They flow from one to the other. Safeguarding is all about loving our neighbour well. It is about Christian loving care, especially to protect the weak and vulnerable.

## **Questions:**

### **Conversation Starter**

1. What is your experience of safeguarding at Springfield and does that above change that in any way?

### **Start thinking and sharing**

2. Springfield is both a family and a charity - where can that cause a challenge when it comes to safeguarding?
3. Do you think that safeguarding is now a bit 'over the top' or necessary to protect everyone involved?
4. Where might we be able to grow in keeping others safe as a church family?

### **Start praying**

4. Heavenly Father, help us to love those around us, especially the vulnerable, in a way that is safe and caring. Help us to grow as a community to ensure we nurture and respect everyone who connects with Springfield.

### **Start doing**

5. Share with one another a safeguarding scenario (being careful not to disclose names or identifiable features of a person) you experienced where you weren't quite sure how to respond and discuss how you might respond in the future. Feel free to use the below as examples if that's useful

## **Is it a safeguarding issue? Discuss what you'd do**

- A child at a church club is frightened to go home because he is afraid his dad will punish him physically and for getting a bad test result at school
- A physically disabled adult is reprimanded, patronised and excluded from some church activities because of her attention-seeking behaviour.
- A man reports that as a child he was told in a confirmation/baptism class about hell and this terrified him, because he deduced that all his family would go to hell. His mother had a life-threatening illness at the time.
- Kirsty, a 13 year old girl, attends the church youth club with her friends, who are chatting with each other in the church kitchen after club. They refer to Mikey, one of the young leaders aged 18, who has made them all friends on Facebook and regularly messages Kirsty. She says he has asked her out, and she can't decide whether to meet him.

**Remember** - if in doubt contact your Parish Safeguarding Officer (Tim & Sarah) even if it seems like something small. Don't promise confidentiality and say you might need to pass the information on to someone who can help.