**Contemplative Fire Safeguarding Policy Statement**

As an ecumenical religious community acknowledged by the Anglican Church we adopt the following Safeguarding Policy Statement which is modelled on that used in the Diocese of London.

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from their creation in God’s own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God’s re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

We are a Community of Christ at the Edge. Our Vision and values states that our movement towards community reflects the value that we place on a shared journey, on building relationships within which faith can be explored and deepened. These relationships are characterised by a profound respect for, and honouring of, one another.

In living out our vision and values:

1. We accept and endorse the principles of the Anglican House of Bishops’ Policy for safeguarding children, young people and adults in the Church of England (Parish Safeguarding Handbook, House of Bishops, June 2018)
2. We are committed to:
   * The care, nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children and all adults
   * The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
   * The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where
     + there is a culture of ‘informed vigilance’ as to the dangers of abuse,
     + and where  victims of abuse can report or disclose abuse and find support
3. We recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole Community
4. We undertake to exercise proper care in the selection, appointment, training and support of those working in a paid or voluntary position of leadership or support with children or adults at risk and make appropriate referrals to the DBS authority
5. We will respond without delay to concerns or allegations that a child or adult at risk may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and social care services in any investigation
6. We will challenge any abuse of power by anyone in a position of trust, which includes bullying and harassment .
7. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support to anyone who has suffered abuse, offering them appropriate ministry, which recognises the importance of understanding the needs of those who have been abused, including their feelings of alienation and/or isolation. We will seek to do all within our capacity to protect survivors of abuse from the possibility of further harm and abuse
8. We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Community known to, or alleged to have offended against a child, young person or adult at risk.
9. We will ensure a Designated Safeguarding Person for the Community is in place. Currently the Designated Safeguarding Person is Peter Wright, Trustee

The Designated Safeguarding Person will:-

* + Annually review this policy, check that our policies are up to date, and submit a copy of the updated policy statement to the Trustees,
  + Annually prepare and submit a report to the trustees detailing whether there have been instances of activity for unsupervised children or groups of vulnerable adults during the year. The report will also detail changes of leadership and whether safeguarding awareness has been passed on to new leaders.
  + Advise the Trustees which Registered Body is used to process applications for Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosures and if a Disclosure which is ‘blemished’ or ‘positive’ is received.
  + Use the services of the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser for the geographical area concerned or use the services of the Safeguarding Adviser of Birmingham Diocese (the Diocese of our Episcopal Visitor Bishop Anne Hollinghurst of Aston) for advice on all queries and concerns which have been referred to them where they are unsure of the appropriate response.
  + Will be responsible on a regular basis for safeguarding training, or for ensuring that those named persons, listed by Contemplative Fire as working for the Community in either a paid or voluntary capacity, receive this training elsewhere.
  + Will be responsible for informing all employees and members of Contemplative Fire that the Diocese of Birmingham has information on Whistle blowing and a referral form available on its safeguarding page http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/safeguarding/

1. In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.