

## **Valuing children**

*We believe that all children and young people, whatever their age, culture, ability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs and/or sexual orientation deserve to be cared for unconditionally and valued equally as a unique creation, made in the image of God.*

*In our relationships, and in the ways in which we organise our community, we are committed to helping children and young people develop self confidence, independence and a high level of self esteem.*

*All children are encouraged to express their opinions and to demonstrate respect for each other. Through the development of a family like caring atmosphere we aim to foster a sense of community, which both supports and encourages children to be self aware and sensitive to the needs of others.*

*All children are treated fairly. They are encouraged to take pride in their differences and to celebrate the diversity of our community. Mutual respect and understanding is promoted, and each individual's contribution is valued. We will encourage children and young people to be confident in giving their opinions and take their views into account when making decisions about church life.*

*We take seriously our duties towards children and young people whilst in our care and believe they have the right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in him or her being physically or psychologically damaged.*

*Should we have any concerns about a child's physical, sexual or emotional well being, we will take action to ensure that those concerns are dealt with. Any allegations will be responded to swiftly and appropriately. All staff, paid and unpaid, working with children and young people have a responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate agency.*

*We aim to show the tangible presence of God in all that we do and to encourage children and young people on their journey of faith.*