**Our Safeguarding Prayer**

**S**aviour, Lord, thank you for calling us to the service of others in our congregation here in St Thomas.

**A**lways help us to follow your example, creating an environment where children and the most vulnerable in our society feel nurtured and allowed to flourish and grow in Christ.

**F**ather God, we seek to ensure our church is a welcoming and safe place for all who enter our doors.

**E**veryone is known to You, You have called us by our name and each one of us has a value and a dignity. Created in Your own image, it is our duty, as Christians, to value all people.

**G**ive us the courage to be vigilant at all times, never looking away or shirking from our responsibility to confront and challenge abuse whenever it happens.

**U**nderstanding God, give us a compassionate heart to reach out to all who have suffered abuse and offer them and their families reassurance and support and help them to heal.

**A**lways make us mindful that it is You alone who is the judge of all people. Help us not to be self-righteous or judgemental and help us to maintain the confidentiality You have entrusted in us.

**R**eassuring God, help us to establish in St Thomas a listening community where victims feel able to disclose abuse, confident that they will be believed and supported.

**D**irect us and all who work to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in the community to seek to eradicate abuse of any kind in Your church and Your world.

 **Amen**