

## PASTORAL CARE POLICY

“ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13: 34-35

Christian pastoral care is the activity which flows from the attitude and commitment to love one another because we ourselves are first loved by God. It is concerned with developing quality relationships and helping one another to become the people that God wants us to be. It embraces a wide range of activity in support of one another, in and beyond the Church. Christian pastoral care is relational in nature and practice and is offered from the gift of God’s love for us and our love for one another. Within Ruislip Baptist Church Pastoral Care is structured in the following way:

- The Ministers provide pastoral support and encouragement to individuals, being alongside them in their time of need, encouraging and guiding them in their walk with Christ. The Pastoral Care Manager also provides pastoral support and co-ordinates pastoral care which is carried out by a team of volunteer Pastoral Assistants who are appointed by the Pastoral Team which comprises the Ministers and the Pastoral Care Manager. Pastoral Assistants have individuals assigned to them, that they care for on behalf of the church. Pastoral Assistants are supported by the Pastoral Care Manager. Pastoral care given by Pastoral Assistants includes on-going support and visiting where long-term care is required.
- The Pastoral Care Manager also works with a team of pastoral volunteers from church who are available to visit, help and provide practical and prayerful support to individuals where possible and within their capacity. This may include practical help such as cooking a meal when someone is ill, occasional shopping, gardening support, dog walking and other practical support. The Pastoral Care Manager maintains a list of volunteers, who can be called upon as needs arise.
- Small groups are a hub for pastoral care as small group members seek to care for one another.
- The whole church fellowship undertakes pastoral care as individuals look out for and care for one another. This care is most likely to be spontaneous and unstructured. Good Practice guidelines for carrying out pastoral care at RBC are available. Pastoral Assistants and volunteers are asked to read these and must undertake to observe them. A paper copy is available from the church office or online via the website, for reference.

If you would like to discuss a pastoral care matter, please contact Barry Dore (Minister) or Julie Ledden (Pastoral Care Manager) via the church office (01895 631239).

This statement was agreed at the church members meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024. It will be read annually at the church meeting where progress in carrying it out will be monitored.