

# Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop.**

**We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:**

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all survivors (regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity) have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

**We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:**

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and women-only areas of relevance to survivors, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.
- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact:**

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Rachel Boswell (Pastoral Care Team)

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**Resources:**

If there is an immediate risk of harm then ring the **POLICE** on 999.

- **National Domestic Violence Helpline** (Women's Aid & Refuge):  
0808 2000 247
- **Male victims** (The Men's Advice Line):  
0808 801 0327
- **Legal support** (National Centre for Domestic Violence):  
0844 8044 999  
Provides a free, fast, emergency injunction service for victims of domestic abuse.
- **Oxford Domestic Violence**  
800 005
- **NSPCC ChildLine**  
0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)  
Free, confidential service for young people up to the age of 19. Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, talk to a counsellor online, send ChildLine an email or post on the message boards.
- **NSPCC Helpline**  
0808 800 5000 [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/)  
Free helpline service for anyone with concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing, even one in their own home. You can speak to a NSPCC counsellor 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Advice and support is provided parents and carers and consultations with professionals are offered. We will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger.