

## **Domestic Abuse Policy**

### **All Saints' Church, Laleham**

**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting safer environments which:**

1. ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
2. work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse;
3. recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
4. refuse to condone any form of abuse; enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly and consistently.

**We recognise that:**

1. all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
2. 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;
3. domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
4. domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
5. domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
6. working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

**We will respond to domestic abuse:**

**In all our activities by –**

valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst appreciating the need to ensure a distance is kept between the two and refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

**In our publicity by –**

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.

**When concerns are raised by –**

1. ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
2. working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

**In our care by –**

1. ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
2. identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures regularly.**

**If anyone has any concerns or needs to talk please contact:**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Jan Vince 07795 691138**

**January 2024**