

## **Parish of Beighton, St Mary the Virgin**

### **Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

**The PCC of St Mary the Virgin Church, Beighton, believes that all forms of domestic abuse are wrong, unacceptable and must stop.**

**We** undertake to promote and support 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 both the voicing of concerns and an appropriate, sensitive and consistent response.

We recognise that:

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the victim and demonstrate an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- all victims - regardless of age, gender, racial heritage, nationality, religious belief, physical/mental disability, sexual orientation or identity, responsibilities for dependants, or offending background - 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 usually occurs as a systematic, repeated pattern which often escalates in severity and frequency;
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a further form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- it is essential to work in partnership with children, adults and other agencies to promote the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

Accordingly, whenever we encounter domestic abuse, we will:

- value, listen to and respect both victims and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- raise awareness of other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, by providing information in public and women-only and men-only areas of relevance to victims, children and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- ensure that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
- work with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

- ensure that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identify and outline the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both victims and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

See section 7.5 of the Parish Safeguarding Handbook, 20181 for further information on Church of England guidance on domestic abuse

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone, please contact any of the following:

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Diane Joynson ☎ 07894 717487

**Priest in Charge:** Rev Daniel Hartley

**Churchwardens:** Mrs Susan Hayward and Mr Ian Hudson

Contact details for the above are available in the church building and on our website:

<http://www.beightonchurch.co.uk/>

This policy will be subject to annual review.

Ratified by the PCC on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

cc. Safeguarding Adviser, Diocese of Sheffield