

## Parish statement on Domestic Abuse

### Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

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.

### In all our activities:

- We will value, listen to and respect both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

### In our publicity:

- We will raise 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 we will:

- 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.

### When in our care we will:

- 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 survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone please contact Trish Topham at:  
safeguarding@bucklandchurchdevon.co.uk**