

St Mary's Church, Watford

Statement of Policy on Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse (November 2022)

1. Safeguarding

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary's, Watford has adopted the House of Bishops' *Promoting a Safer Church* safeguarding policy statement which commits the Church of England to:

- promoting a safer environment and culture
- safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
- responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse, including domestic abuse, and other affected persons
- caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

2. Domestic Abuse

The PCC has also adopted the following policy statement about abuse as required in the Church of England's policy and practice document *Responding Well to Domestic Abuse*:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse:

in all our activities by –

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic 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 –

- 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.

in our care by –

- 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.

3. Who to contact if you have any concerns or need to talk to someone

(i) St Mary's

- Tony Rindl, Vicar - 07792 505480
- Peter Dean, Churchwarden - 07876 154387
- Lesley Gray, Parish Safeguarding Officer – 07986 408995
Stmaryssafeguarding10@gmail.com

(ii) St Albans's Diocese Safeguarding Team

Email: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

- Jeremy Hirst, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01727 818107 & 07867 350886
- Martyn Hedley, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01727 818106 & 07391 010033
- Mandy Davies, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser - 01727 818103 & 07771 179015
- Catherine Boon, Safeguarding Administrator - 01727 854532

4. Organisations to contact for further support and advice:

(i) Children

- Childline - 0800 1111
- Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership - 0300 123 4043

(ii) Vulnerable Adults

- Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board - 0300 123 4042

(iii) Forced Marriage & FGM

- Freedom Charity - 08456070133

(iv) *Domestic Abuse*

- Watford Women's Centre, 83 Market Street, Watford WD18 0PT
01923 816229 or 07514 648 829)
Email: general@watfordwomenscentre.org.uk
- Respect - Men's Advice Line - 0808 8010327
Email: info@mensadviceline.org.uk
- Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline 08 088 088 088)
Email: Kim@mailpurple.org

5. Church of England documents

You may view *Promoting a Safer Church* and *Responding Well to Domestic Abuse* on the Church of England's website at www.churchofengland.org. The Church Office also holds copies of these and the PCC's full safeguarding policy.

PCC of St Mary's, Watford