

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Beighton, Sheffield

POLICY FOR RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

The following policy was agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 4 December 2021.

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

- Strive to offer welcome and respect to all people, and offer a place where everyone is safe from abuse.
- Support those vulnerable to domestic abuse, by signposting to sources of help and offering pastoral care.
- 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 perpetrator, 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.
- If a child, young person or vulnerable adult witnesses or overhears domestic abuse, they are also a victim of domestic abuse.
- 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 the following.

In all our activities:

Valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In our learning:

- Ensuring that people are trained in responding to domestic abuse, according to diocesan guidelines (i.e. their Domestic Violence & Abuse Training).

In our publicity:

- Raising awareness about other agencies and support services, through providing information in public areas of relevance to survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

When concerns are raised:

- 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, and based on the training received from the diocese:

- Ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to anyone who has suffered abuse.
- Identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship between those with pastoral care responsibilities and both:
 - Survivors.
 - 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 Elinor Noble

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Mike Healey

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/>

¹ Parish Safeguarding Handbook: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/ParishSafeGuardingHandBookAugust2019Web.pdf>