

All Saints Church Clifton, Diocese of St Albans

Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse

1. 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.

We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

In all our activities –

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

In our publicity –

- 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 –

- 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 –

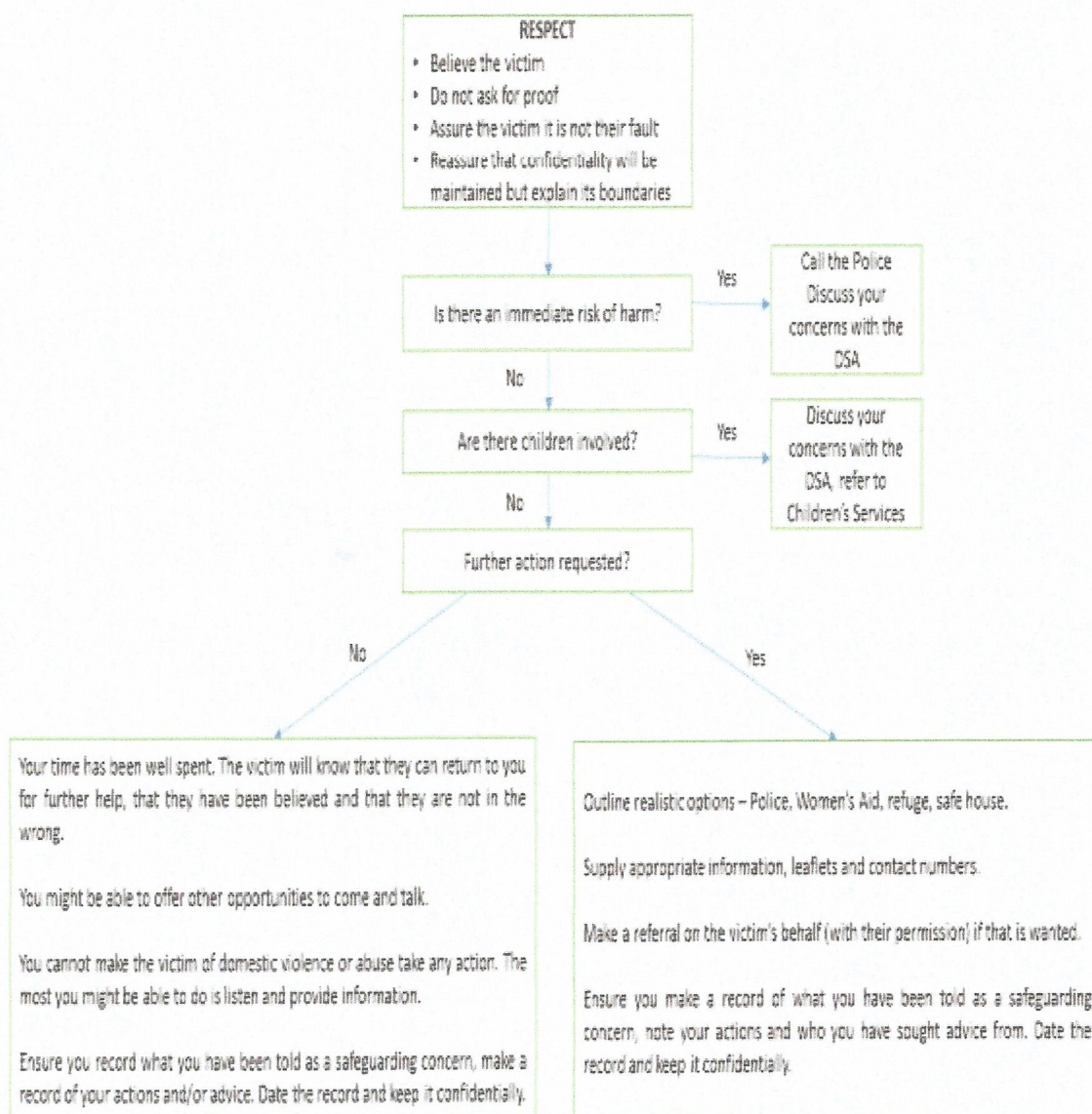
- ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse;
- identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse.

2. What to do if you have any concerns or need to talk to someone about Domestic Abuse?

If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact the Rector:

Reverend Caren Topley
The Rectory, 8 Rectory Close, Clifton
Telephone: 01462 615499
E-mail: rector@clifton-beds.co.uk

Follow this process laid down the Church of England's 2017 Policy and Practice Guidance "Responding Well to Domestic Abuse" if you become aware of an incidence of domestic abuse or violence.



DSA is the St Alban's Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Mr Jeremy (Jez) Hirst

Telephone: 01727 818107

Mobile: 07867350886

E-mail: safeguarding@stalbans.anglican.org

Bedfordshire Police:

For Emergencies: 999

Otherwise: 101

3. Where can I find More Information and Support?

There are many organisations and resources available for support. Some key ones are listed below. A more comprehensive and specific list of resources is available in the Church of England's 2017 Policy and Practice Guidance "[Responding Well to Domestic Abuse](#)" and includes resources for children and young people, for men, for women in black and ethnic minority communities, resources regarding teenage relationship abuse, resources regarding Honour Based Violence and other Christian and Government resources.

Women's Aid

Provides services for women and children who have been affected by the experience of domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse.

0808 2000 247

www.womensaid.org.uk

Refuge

Refuge is the national charity which provides a wide range of specialist domestic violence services to women and children experiencing domestic violence.

0808 2000 247

www.refuge.org.uk

Rape Crisis

Rape Crisis Centres offer a range of services for women and girls who have been raped or experienced another form of sexual violence.

0808 802 9999

www.rapecrisis.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline

The Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge

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National Centre for Domestic Violence

The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to survivors of domestic violence.

24 hour helpline: 0800 970 2070

www.ncdv.org.uk

NSPCC ChildLine

Free, confidential service for young people up to the age of 19. Get help and advice about a wide range of issues, talk to a counsellor online, send ChildLine an email or post on the message boards.

0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline

Free helpline service for anyone with concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing, even one in their own home. You can speak to a NSPCC counsellor 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Advice and support is provided parents and carers and consultations with professionals are offered. We will listen to your concerns, offer advice and support and can take action on your behalf if a child is in danger.

0808 800 5000

www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse/

Galop

Galop gives advice and support to LGBT people who have experienced hate crime, sexual violence and domestic abuse.

LGBT domestic violence helpline: 0800 999 5428

London LGBT Casework Service: 0207 704 2040

www.galop.org.uk/

Respect

The Respect phone line is a confidential helpline offering advice, information and support to help you stop being violent and abusive to your partner.

0808 802 4040

www.respectphoneline.org.uk

www.respect.uk.net

Samaritans

A 24-hour helpline for any person in emotional distress

116 123

www.samaritans.org

4. Key Documents

Church of England National Policies

Responding Well to Domestic Abuse: Policy and Practice Guidance March 2017

5. History of Document

No changes have been made in the annual review of the All Saints Clifton Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse June 2018.

6. Signatures

Rector: C. J. Taylor Date: 11/11/19

Churchwarden: [Signature] Date: 11/11/19