

# **BENEFICE OF HOLY CROSS SARRATT AND ST PAUL'S CHIPPERFIELD**

## **POLICY FOR RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE**

This Policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council Meeting of Holy Cross held on  
...28th APRIL.....2021.

**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 information 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.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact: -**

**Benefice Safeguarding co-ordinator: Sue Walker**

Tel: 01923 261847

email: m.sue.walker100@gmail.com

Signed : Incumbent ..... *Michele duSarre* .....

Print name.....*REV. CANON MICHELE DUSARRE*.....

Churchwarden ..... *Linda Clough* .....

Print name.....*LINDA CLOUGH*.....