

# St Margaret's Parish Church, Olton

## Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

### July 2018

### (Reviewed 25 July 2019)

This policy statement was adopted by St Margaret's Parish Church at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on 19th July 2018.

This policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the progress that has been achieved.

We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

Our commitments:

1. Ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
2. Protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
3. Recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
4. 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 and 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 and 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 someone please contact:

Martin Pyne, Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator	07921646166
Revd Dominic Wright, Vicar	0121 706 2318

Other useful contacts:

Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser	07342 933844
National Domestic Violence Helpline	08082 000247
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	08088 000028
LGBT Domestic Violence Helpline (Galop)	03009 995428
Man's Advice Line	08088 010327
Action on Elder Abuse	08088 088141