

DOMESTIC ABUSE STATEMENT



The CHURCH OF ENGLAND
The Diocese of Peterborough



Whitefriars Church,
Boughton Drive,
Rushden, NN10 9HX



THIS STATEMENT was first produced in November 2021 and was reviewed in May 2023.

This statement is to be reviewed every year. It will be reviewed again in May 2024.

Signed: _____

Office: _____

1. We are committed to promoting and supporting environments which:

- a) ensures that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- b) protects those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- c) recognises equality amongst people and within relationships;
- d) enables and encourages concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently.

2. We recognise that:

- a) all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship.
- b) 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;
- c) domestic abuse can occur in all communities;
- d) domestic abuse may be a single incident, but is usually a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency;
- e) domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse by the perpetrator of the abusive behaviour;
- f) working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

3) Types of Domestic Abuse:

The following list includes the more common forms of domestic abuse but is not exhaustive:

- a) physical violence;
- b) sexual violence;
- c) emotional violence;
- d) psychological violence;
- e) spiritual violence;
- f) cultural violence;
- g) verbal abuse;
- h) financial abuse.

4. We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:

- a) valuing, listening and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse in all our activities;
- b) raising awareness about other agencies, supporting 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 in our publicity;
- c) when concerns are raised –
 - (i) ensuring that those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help;
 - (ii) working with the appropriate statutory bodies during an investigation into domestic abuse, including when allegations are made against a member of the church community.

DOMESTIC ABUSE STATEMENT

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

5. If you have any concerns or need to talk to any one please contact Lynda King 07758 512738

National Helpline Phone Numbers:

England: Freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 200 0247 (run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge)

Male Advice & Enquiry: 0808 801 0327

6. Training and Awareness:

The Church of England provides training about Domestic Abuse that is to be completed by all clergy, those holding a Bishop's license, safeguarding officers, church wardens and youth and children's leaders: this training is available through the Church of England training portal (<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>)