



**ALL SAINTS STEVENAGE  
SAFEGUARDING POLICY  
RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC ABUSE**

**PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH**

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

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- refuse to condone any form of abuse;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly 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 respond to domestic abuse in all our activities by -**

- valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst appreciating the need to ensure a distance is kept between the two and refusing to condone the perpetration or continuation of any form of abuse.

**In our publicity by -**

- 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 by -**

- 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 by -**

- 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.

**We are committed to reviewing our policy and procedures regularly.**

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact .....**

**Incumbent Minister: Rev. Pete Orton**

**Safeguarding Officers: Helen Gale/ Georgina Offei/Linda Parker**

**Church Wardens: Norman Kiddle/Chris Ffinch**

*This policy discussed at Joint Church Council (JCC) meeting on: 21 November 2023  
and will be reviewed by November 2024*