



STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

September 2020

MISSION

St Francis' Church is a single congregation, local ecumenical partnership between the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. It is our mission to be a blessing to our community and to prayerfully and practically look towards bringing God's Kingdom in the Parish of Valley Park.

Ecumenical Church Council

Agreed on: 16.09.2020

Review date: 16.09.2020

Review cycle: 1 year

St Francis Church, Valley Park, Chandlers Ford

Church Statement on Domestic Abuse and Violence

The following policy statement was agreed at the Church Council (CC) meeting held on 16th September 2020.

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 child 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.

Signed by, CC Chair: **Rev. Dr Sarah McClelland**

Name Rev. Dr Sarah McClelland

Date: 16.09.2020

Contact details and further information

Local contacts

Tel: 023 8027 1152 (24hr Answer phone)

Resident Minister (Anglican Priest in Charge): Rev. Dr. Sarah McClelland, rev@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

Parish Administrator: admin@stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Dr Helen Kelso: safeguarding@sfvp.org.uk

Website: www.stfrancis-valleypark.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisvp>

Diocesan Contact details

Jackie Rowlands: Diocesan Safeguarding Manager Tel: 01962 737317 (24hours)

Siona Jeffrey: Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator Tel: 01962 737347

Diocesan Office, Old Alresford Place, Alresford, SO24 9DH

safeguarding@winchester.anglican.org

The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and adults

'Promoting a Safer Church' and Further information on detailed policies and procedures can be found at

<https://www.winchester.anglican.org/safeguarding-resources/>