

## **Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse**

At Holy Trinity & St Mary's Guildford we recognise that all forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. In our churches we strive to promote an environment in which:

We welcome all people in a safe, respectful atmosphere.

We recognise equality within relationships and amongst people.

We enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately.

### **We recognise that:**

Domestic abuse can occur in all communities.

All survivors of domestic abuse (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 is often a systematic, repeated pattern which escalates in severity and frequency.

Domestic abuse can have a devastating effect on family life and cause long-term damage to children within the family.

Working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential to promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering abuse.

### **We will endeavour to respond to domestic abuse by:**

Listening to and respecting all those involved in domestic abuse conflicts.

Raising awareness about other agencies, support agencies & resources through providing relevant, helpful information in public and women-only areas.

### **HOW WE CAN HELP IN CHURCH:**

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mari Gardner (tel: 07786053180) or contact via email at [safeguarding@holytrinityguildford.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@holytrinityguildford.org.uk)

You can also speak to any member of the Clergy or a member of the Pastoral Care team.

The Safeguarding Officer should always be notified where there is an indication that:

- someone intends to leave a relationship as the result of domestic violence; or
- children are being drawn into domestic violence; or
- someone is having to visit A&E repeatedly as the result of domestic violence.

## **WHERE TO GET HELP OUTSIDE CHURCH:**

### **On the phone:**

#### **National Domestic Abuse Freephone Helpline: 0808 2000 247**

24-hour confidential helpline open all day, every day.

#### **Your Sanctuary: 01483 776822**

Woking-based helpline offering confidential support, sanctuary & empowerment for anyone affected by domestic abuse.

Open 9am – 9pm all year round.

#### **Respect Freephone: 0808 801 0327**

Helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.

Monday-Friday 9am – 8pm or email (see below) at weekends.

Phone **Childline: 0800 1111** if you are a child needing help or advice about domestic abuse.

### **Online:**

#### **Women's Aid ([www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk))**

Information and support for those suffering from domestic abuse.

#### **Refuge ([www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk))**

Supports victims of domestic abuse by offering specialist services including emergency accommodation.

#### **Respect ([www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk))**

Offering male victims of domestic abuse confidential support and advice.

**In an emergency, call 999.**