

St Paul's and St Luke's Church policy on domestic abuse

- We affirm that domestic abuse is always wrong.
- We will not accept, condone or tolerate abusive behaviour in relationships.
- We undertake to make those involved in teaching and pastoral care aware of the practical, pastoral and theological issues.
- We will make links and work with police and local specialist domestic abuse organisations in order to keep victims and their children safe, recognise levels of risk and appropriately deal with any cases presented to us. We will not undertake to deal with domestic abuse purely on our own.
- We will undertake to include discussion of domestic violence and abuse, relationships, communication and conflict resolution in marriage preparation.
- This church will not use its belief in the sanctity of marriage to 'encourage' victims to remain in abusive relationships or to accept back an abusive partner.
- All those working with children and young people will be made aware of the need to be alert for domestic abuse and know how to respond.
- This church takes issues of domestic abuse seriously and will, as appropriate speak out publicly against it.
- We believe the gospel must be presented as good news to those who experience domestic abuse, in so doing we will take care to ensure our language and way of speaking about God does not alienate those who for whom a male role is not helpful.
- We believe the gospel is also good news for those who perpetrate abuse and we will make links and work with police and local specialist domestic abuse organisations in order to help perpetrators. There is hope for forgiveness and change in the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you are a victim of abuse, or concerned about somebody else, you can:

1. Speak to our clergy or safeguarding officers (see sheet in church) or 01189814860
2. Contact: the National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0800 2000 247
- 3. IN AN EMERGENCY, ALWAYS DIAL 999.**

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Other sources of support:

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Forum (HDAF): website for the public, giving advice for victims of abuse, support for children, advice to perpetrators and advice for families and friends.

www.hampshiredomesticabuse.org.uk

Victim Support: 0845 389 9528

National Stalking Helpline: Practical advice and information to anyone who is currently or previously been affected by harassment or stalking. <http://www.stalkinghelpline.org> 0300 636 0300

Samaritans: 24 hour confidential emotional support 0345 90 90 90, 08457 90 90 90

Shelterline: 24 hour free national housing helpline 0808 800 4444

Men's Advice Line: A confidential helpline for any man experiencing domestic violence and abuse from a partner (or expartner). 0808 801 0327 www.mensadvice.org.uk

RESPECT: Helpline A service for people who are looking for information and advice to help them stop their abusive or violent behaviour towards their partners. 0845 122 8609 info@respect.uk.net

www.respect.uk.net

Childline: Advice and support for children on abuse: 0800 11 11 11

The PCC of this Parish agreed and adopted the above policy at its meeting on 3rd May 2017.

Christine Watson (Parish Safeguarding Officer)