



## **Parish of Holy Trinity Exeter**

### **Parish statement on Domestic Abuse - Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse**

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;
- work to protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse from actual or potential harm;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- refuse to condone any form of abuse;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to appropriately and consistently in accordance with diocesan practice guidance.

#### **We recognise that:**

- all forms of domestic abuse cause damage to the survivor and express an imbalance of power in the relationship;
- there are no stereotypical victims of abuse. Anyone can be a victim or a perpetrator; regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, or social position).
- all victims and survivors have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse;
- domestic abuse can occur in all communities including church and faith based 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 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 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 –

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information in public and gender specific 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.

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

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please talk to a trusted adult, or contact:

Vicar – Jonny Elvin: [jonny@trinityexeter.com](mailto:jonny@trinityexeter.com): 07935 343 706 / 01392 363 627

Curate – Ollie Osborn: [ollie.osborn@trinityexeter.com](mailto:ollie.osborn@trinityexeter.com) 07980 866 662

Safeguarding: [safeguarding@trinityexeter.com](mailto:safeguarding@trinityexeter.com)

Ruth Maxwell (safeguarding officer): 07963 220673 [ruth.maxwell@trinityexeter.com](mailto:ruth.maxwell@trinityexeter.com)

If you would prefer to speak with a specialist advisor outside of the Church:

Devon Domestic Abuse Service (FearLess, formerly Splitz): 0345 155 1074

Details of a wide range of local support services can also be found at Devon & Cornwall's Victim Care website : <http://www.victimcaredevonandcornwall.org.uk/>

The Exeter Diocese website also has resources which may be of assistance:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding/>