



Smethwick Old Church Policy for responding to Domestic Abuse

The Parochial Church Council of Smethwick Old Church agreed to adopt all of the House of Bishop's safeguarding policy and practice guidance and The Church of England - Birmingham's procedures.

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 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 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 the those who have experienced abuse can find safety and informed help and 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 and identifying and outlining the appropriate relationship of those with pastoral care responsibilities with both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse

Galop (LGBT)
0800 999 5428
Action on Elder Abuse
0808 808 8141

0800 999

0808 808

Other Useful Contacts:

Bishop's Safeguarding Officer 07342 993 844	07342
National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247	0808
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid 0808 800 0028	0808 800
West Mercia Women's Aid 0800 980 3331	0800 980
Staffordshire Women's Aid 0870 2700 123	0870
Black Country Women's Aid 0121 552 6448	0121 552
Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327	0808 801

This statement was adopted by Smethwick Old Church
at a Parochial Church Council meeting held on
12 September 2019

Signed by:

Incumbent
Revd Deb Buckley

Church Warden
Jean Martin

Church Warden
Matthew Turley

*This Policy will be reviewed each year to monitor the
progress which has been achieved.

* A Church Officer is anyone appointed by or on behalf of
the Church to a post or role, whether they are
ordained or lay, paid or unpaid.