

# Diocese of Bath and Wells Domestic Abuse Policy

## Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Hutton

**All forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to promoting and supporting safer environments which:**

- ensure that all people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse.
- work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse;
- recognise equality amongst people and within relationships;
- refuse to condone any form of abuse;
- enable and encourage concerns to be raised and responded to openly 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 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 respond to domestic abuse:**

#### **In all our activities by:**

- 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 by:**

- 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 by:**

- 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 by:**

- 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.**

**Reviewed and accepted on behalf of Hutton PCC on: 4 September 2025**

**Signed: -**

**Rev. Larissa Trust (Rector)**



**David Bradley PSO & Churchwarden**



**Philip Etchells, Churchwarden.**

