

# Parish Statement on Domestic Abuse – May 2021

Parish of St Mary's, Redbourn

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;
- 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, including coercion, 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 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 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.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone about Domestic Abuse or Safeguarding please contact:-**

We have appointed as our Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Name: **Janet Lang**

Mobile: **07513 003 034**

Email: **ps@stmarysredbourn.org**

If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:

Call Hertfordshire Adult Care Services on 0300 123 4042 (24 hours a day)



Policies and Statement adopted and agreed by the Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Redbourn on 5 May 2021

The Revd Will Gibbs, Vicar of St Mary, Redbourn

David Mitchell and Paul Vernon, Churchwardens



# Policy for Safeguarding Children 2021

**Parish of St Mary's, Redbourn in the Church of England Diocese of St Albans**

This Policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

- We are committed to implementing a safeguarding children policy and accepting the Church of England Policy (Promoting a Safer Church: House of Bishops policy statement 2017) and to be responsive to local parish requirements.
- We will review and endorse the safeguarding policies annually so that all members are aware of their responsibilities.
- The highest standards will be maintained in all the Church's contacts with children and young people and adult volunteers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- We will respond without delay to every concern or allegation made that a child or young person for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- This Parish will co-operate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any child, young person or adult who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, following the House of Bishops guidance and the advice of the Safeguarding Team.
- The PCC acknowledges its responsibility for all work with children and young people done in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment (July 2016).



# Policy for Safeguarding Adults when they are Vulnerable 2021

**Parish of St Mary's, Redbourn in the Church of England Diocese of St Albans**

This Policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

- We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that all adults should be offered respect and given inclusion and empowerment within the Church.
- We are committed to implementing a safeguarding policy for adults when they are vulnerable accepting the Church of England Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults (Promoting a Safer Church; House of Bishops policy statement 2017) and be responsive to local parish requirements.
- We will review and endorse all safeguarding policies annually so that all members are aware of their responsibilities.
- We will carefully select those working with vulnerable groups and these workers will be given appropriate support and opportunities for training.
- We will respond without delay to every concern or allegation made that a vulnerable adult for whom we are responsible may have been harmed.
- This Parish will co-operate fully with the statutory agencies in every situation and will not conduct its own investigations.
- We will seek to offer informed pastoral care to any adult who has suffered abuse.
- We will care for and supervise any member of our church community known to have offended in a manner which could affect adults who are vulnerable, following the House of Bishops guidance and the advice of the Safeguarding Team.
- The PCC acknowledges its responsibility for all work with vulnerable people done in the name of the Church and requires all those engaged in such work to be properly appointed and supported in accordance with the Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment (July 2016).