



## **Domestic Abuse Policy Summary of St John the Baptist Church Old Malden:**

### **Responding well to Domestic Abuse**

**St John the Baptist Church, Old Malden is committed to raising awareness about domestic abuse and its impact on individuals, children, the wider family and the community.**

**St John the Baptist Church, Old Malden recognises that all forms of Domestic Abuse are wrong and must stop. We are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone:**

- ensuring **all** people feel welcomed, respected and safe from abuse
- working to protect those experiencing domestic abuse from actual or potential harm
- recognising equality among people and within relationships regardless of age, ability, gender, racial heritage, religious beliefs, sexual identity
- recognising children witnessing domestic abuse is a form of child abuse and action taken under the safeguarding practice
- enabling and encouraging concerns to be raised and responded to within our safeguarding practice.

**We will work to ensure:**

- We adhere to the Church of England Domestic Abuse guidance\*
- the Ministry Team and all those who hold safeguarding roles and pastoral roles are trained on domestic abuse
- the safety of individuals suffering abuse or seeking help is given priority, within an full understanding of the need for confidentiality within the bounds of good safeguarding practice
- teaching and worship reflect awareness-raising about domestic abuse, using appropriate language and with the clear message that domestic abuse is wrong
- helplines and support organisations will be discreetly signposted
- any behaviour that makes us feel uncomfortable is acted upon in line with safeguarding practice, being mindful that a potential victim is not put at increased risk
- clergy and clergy spouses have the same access to support and resources as others who are experiencing domestic abuse.



We expect all clergy, church officers, volunteers and members of the congregation to share in this commitment and respond to domestic abuse:

- in all our activities:
  - valuing, listening to and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse, whilst 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 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 within our safeguarding policy and practices. This is regardless of whom the allegations are made against, including a member of the church community
- in our care:
  - ensuring that informed and appropriate pastoral care is offered to any survivor or perpetrator of domestic abuse and other parties that have been affected.

If you have a concern regarding Domestic Abuse or would like to talk to someone, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer or one of the Ministry Team.

Reviewed May 2026

\*Responding well to Domestic Abuse: Policy and practice guidance.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/RespondingWellWeb.pdf>