

# St Ebbe's Statement on Domestic Abuse

The Parish of St Ebbe with St Peter-Le-Bailey and Holy Trinity, Oxford

## Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse

### Recognising domestic abuse

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background.

### What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is not always physical violence. It can also include:

- coercive control and 'gaslighting'
- economic abuse
- online abuse
- threats and intimidation
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse

### What signs to look for

If you believe that you or someone else could be a victim of domestic abuse, there are signs that you can look out for including:

- being withdrawn, or being isolated from family and friends
- having bruises, burns or bite marks
- having finances controlled, or not being given enough to buy food or pay bills
- not being allowed to leave the house, or stopped from going to college or work
- having your internet or social media use monitored, or someone else reading your texts, emails or letters
- being repeatedly belittled, put down or told you are worthless
- being pressured into sex
- being told that abuse is your fault, or that you're overreacting

**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 which escalates in severity and frequency
- domestic abuse, if witnessed or overheard by a child, is a form of abuse against the child 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 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 please contact:**

Alison Willis (St Ebbe's Central Parish Safeguarding Officer)  
0300 302 3270, [safeguarding@stebbes.org](mailto:safeguarding@stebbes.org)  
Weena West (St Ebbe's Headington Church Safeguarding Officer)  
0300 302 3860, [stebbesheadsafeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:stebbesheadsafeguarding@gmail.com)  
Kendra May (Grace Church Cowley Church Safeguarding Officer)  
0300 302 3295, [safeguarding91@gmail.com](mailto:safeguarding91@gmail.com)

Rector: Vaughan Roberts

Churchwardens: Al Cory, Suzanne Wilson-Higgins

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