

## Parish statement on domestic abuse

Parish of Holy Trinity Kendal Parish Church

### 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 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, please contact the Vicar : Rev Canon Shanthi Thompson and /or The Parish Safeguarding Officer ( via contact details on Church notice board )**