



**St. John the Baptist Church Safeguarding
Policy for Responding well to Domestic Abuse**



The PCC of St. John the Baptist Church, Greatham formally adopt The House of Bishops Responding well to Domestic Abuse policy handbook.

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 a 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 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 or 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;
- ✚ Identify 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 our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Keith Wilkinson on 07307184000.

If you require further help listed below are the contact details for a number of agencies:

24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline 0808 2000 247

A Way Out

A Way Out is an outreach and prevention charity which aims to engage, empower and equip vulnerable and excluded women, families and young people to live lives free from harm, abuse and exploitation and to reduce life-limiting choices and behaviour.

Telephone: 01642 655 071

Email: info@awayout.co.uk

Website: www.awayout.co.uk

Harbour Support Services

We offer a range of different services to assist those affected by domestic abuse. We work across the North East of England with services in Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, County Durham, Darlington and North Tyneside.

Telephone: 03000 20 25 25 (24 hours)

Email: info@myharbour.org.uk

Website: www.myharbour.org.uk

SARC

Teesside Sexual Assault Referral Centre offers free, confidential healthcare and compassionate support to people aged 16 years and over in Teesside who have experienced sexual assault, including rape in their lifetime.

Telephone: 03302230099

Email: middlesbroughanddurham.sarc@nhs.net

Website: www.sarcteesside.co.uk

Men's Advice Line

The national helpline for male victims of domestic abuse

Website: www.mensadvice.org.uk

Telephone: 08088010327

Respect Phonenumber

Confidential helpline for domestic violence perpetrators (male or female) wishing to address their violence and abuse.

Call freephone 0808 802 4040

Calls to 0808 80 numbers are free to call from landlines and mobile phones within the UK and do not appear on itemised bills. They are also free to call from BT payphones.

Opening hours Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

Email: info@respectphonenumber.org.uk

Arch Teesside

ARCH Teesside is a specialist sexual violence service offering free and confidential support, help and advocacy to people in the Teesside area who have experienced rape and sexual abuse at any point in their lives.

Telephone: 01642 822 311

Email: referrals@archteesside.org

Website: www.archteesside.org

Tees Valley Women's Centre

Tees Valley women's Centre is the only "women only" space in the Tees Valley Area, providing a holistic approach to all women's issues. Any woman attending the centre can be assured of a no labelling, non-judgemental approach with support from start to finish.

Telephone: 01642 296166

Website: www.teesvalleywomenscentre.org.uk

EVA Support Services

EVA supports women (and their families) who are, or have been, victims of domestic/sexual abuse and violence. We are the only agency in the area providing 'wraparound' specialist domestic and sexual violence services.

Telephone: 01642 490677

Fax: 01642507099

Email: info@eva.org.uk

Website: www.evawomensaid.org.uk

The Halo Project

The Halo Project provides safeguarding and on-going confidential advice, help and support to black and minoritised women, girls and children who are at risk of and/or are survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, including forced marriage, honour-based abuse and female genital mutilation. Community support includes refuge accommodation, help to stay safe, practical, emotional and cultural support, including legal, financial and community education.

Telephone: 01642 683 045

Email: info@haloproject.org.uk

Website: www.haloproject.org.uk

Cleveland Police

Domestic abuse is a crime and should be reported. If a crime is taking place or someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. In a non-emergency call 101. Cleveland Police officers are trained to respond to domestic abuse and protecting the communities of Cleveland is a priority. Cleveland Police have specialist investigators for domestic abuse within the organisation and also have Domestic Abuse Intervention Officers who support in reducing harm to our communities and supporting victims, working collaboratively with partner agencies. Cleveland Police also offer Clare's Law (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) and have some of the highest disclosure rates in the country. For more information please visit <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/cl/triage/v2/request-information-under-clares-law/> or call 101.

Find more contacts and information at:

https://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/20043/community_safety/1254/domestic_abuse/2

Further Safeguarding contact details can be found on the '*Safeguarding*' page on our website.

Last updated: 01/04/25