



St. Mary the Virgin, Temple Balsall

Domestic Abuse Policy

Promoting a Safer Church

We seek to be a welcoming and caring church where all people are included, reaching out in God's love and compassion to a world in need.

'We love because He loved us first'
(1 John 4.19)

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mary of the Virgin, Temple Balsall
agreed this policy in November 2024

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

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 and 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 and 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 someone
please contact:

Nicola Hammett – Parish Safeguarding Officer
Rev. Debbie Collins – Vicar of St. Mary's

If you cannot contact the person above and someone is being harmed or
is not safe and needs immediate help, dial 999, or contact social care
services.

Other Useful Contacts:

Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser	07342 993 844
National Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247
Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid	0808 800 0028
Men's Advice Line	0808 801 0327
Galop (LGBT)	0800 999 5428
Action on Elder Abuse	0808 808 8141