

THE DOMESTIC ABUSE CHARTER

This Church:

1. Understands domestic abuse to be the abuse of a person physically, sexually, psychologically, spiritually, emotionally, socially or financially within an intimate or family-type relationship, which forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. This can include forced marriage and so-called 'honour crimes'.
2. Holds that domestic abuse in all forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living.
3. Accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem, which occurs in church families as well as in wider society.
4. Undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse.
5. Will always place the safety of men, women and children affected by domestic abuse as the highest priority.
6. Will work with domestic abuse support agencies, will learn from them and support them in appropriate ways, and will publicise their work.
7. Believes in a God of love, justice, mercy and forgiveness.
8. Will teach what it means to be male and female, equally made in God's image.
9. Will play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is a sin.
10. Will seek to appoint advisors to encourage the use of good practice guidelines and to keep the church informed about the implementation and development of these guidelines.

