

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin East Barnet  
**Domestic Abuse Policy**

The following domestic abuse policy was adopted by the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, East Barnet, at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on ..... It will be reviewed by the PCC annually. The next review will be .....

We adopt the House of Bishops of the Church of England Domestic Abuse Policy, 'Responding Well to Domestic Abuse'. In accordance with this policy, our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Within that environment and culture, working to protect those vulnerable to domestic abuse.
- Recognising the equality of individuals, of all genders, abilities, ethnic backgrounds, ages and sexualities, within relationships.
- Enabling any safeguarding concerns to be raised.
- Responding to any safeguarding concerns appropriately.

The church recognises that:

- All victims or survivors of abuse have a right to protection
- Domestic abuse can and does occur in all communities
- Domestic abuse can take different forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, financial or spiritual abuse.
- Domestic abuse often forms a systematic and escalating pattern of behaviour.
- Causes harm to victims, survivors, and those who witness or become aware of abusive behaviour.

The church will:

- Publicise agencies with expertise in supporting victims or survivors of domestic abuse.
- Provide information on specific support services, resources and shelters, in public and in private areas .
- Raise awareness about domestic abuse in our public worship and preaching.
- Signpost advice about healthy relationships when teaching about marriage and civil partnerships.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Promote a culture that enables victims or survivors of domestic abuse to access safeguarding procedures and pastoral care.
- Encourage anyone with a concern about domestic abuse to contact the named Parish Safeguarding Officer, who works with the Rector and PCC to implement safeguarding procedures.
- Review the implementation of this domestic abuse policy at least annually.

Those who share in the leadership of the church through their membership of the PCC agree to abide by this policy and the subsequent safeguarding procedures established by this church.

This church appoints Chris Mears as the Parish Safeguarding Officer in 2019-2020.

Rector .....

Churchwardens .....