**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARTIN’S, LOW MARPLE**

**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 any one please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Helen Rogers, or the Vicar, Timothy Hupfield (saintmartinsafeguarding@gmail.com / timothyhupfield@cantab.net)