**Parish of St Margaret's Putney**

**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 anyone, please contact:

**Helen Hargreaves - 07899813113 Natasha Hume - 07956814703 or Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding Officer on 020 7939 9423 (office hours) or 07982279713 (out of hours)**