

The Domestic Abuse Charter

This church:

- 1 Understands** domestic abuse to be a pattern of behaviour in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.
- 2 Holds** that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living.
- 3 Accepts** that domestic abuse is a serious and complex 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 women and children affected by domestic abuse as the highest priority.
- 6 Will** work with domestic abuse specialised services, will learn from them and support them in appropriate ways, and will publicise their work.
- 7 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.
- 8 Will** play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is a sin.
- 9 Will** teach what it means to be male and female, equally made in God's image.
- 10 Believes** in the restoration of victims/survivors as per Isaiah 61:3 *'a crown of beauty, instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.'*