Benefice of St Andrew’s Avonmouth & St Peter’s Lawrence Weston 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:**

**Benefice Safeguarding Officers**

Judy Helme Tel: 0117 982 9893 (St Andrew’s, Avonmouth)

Julie Morgan Tel: 0117 982 6885 (St Andrew’s, Avonmouth)

John Maslen Tel: 07714 333877 (St Peter’s, Lawrence Weston)

Llewelyn Lawton Tel: 07419 736884 (St Peter’s Lawrence Weston)

**Associate Vicar**

Rev Nic Harris (07307 852146‬) - Please note Nic’s regular day off is Friday, so any phone messages left on her voicemail will not be responded to until his next working day, at the earliest.

**Vicar**

Rev Dr Andy Murray (07966 790 535) – Please note Andy’s regular day off is Friday, so any phone messages left on his voicemail will not be responded to until his next working day, at the earliest.

**Diocesan Safeguarding Officer**

Adam Bond Tel: 07543 504977 (office hours) Email: [adam.bond@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:adam.bond@bristoldiocese.org)

**Out of hours:** For any urgent out of hours concerns contact the Thirty One:Eight (formerly CCPAS) helpline on 0303 003 11 11. When calling, please state that you are calling from a Church within the Diocese of Bristol. This will enable Thirtyone: to ensure that relevant information is passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or to other Diocesan staff as required to support you. Further information about Thirtyone:eight is available at: [whttps://thirtyone:eight.org](http://www.ccpas.co.uk/provide/helpline)