

DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

Domestic Abuse policy dated: Sept 2024

Name: Parish of Chandler's Ford (hereafter, The Church)

Church Address:

St. Boniface Church, Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 2FT
and

St. Martin in the Wood Church, Queens Road, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 5AG

Contact details:

Vicar: The Reverend Duncan Hollands

Churchwardens: Lynne Mursell and Jane Keen

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Addiss

Office address:

The Parish Office
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Policy Review Date: May 2025



THE PARISH OF
CHANDLER'S FORD

- We affirm that domestic abuse is always wrong, is contrary to God's intention in human relationships and is a sin.
- We will not accept, condone or tolerate abusive behaviour in relationships.
- We undertake to make those involved in teaching and pastoral care aware of the practical, pastoral and theological issues.
- We will make links and work with local specialist domestic abuse organisations in order to keep victims and their children safe, recognise levels of risk and appropriately deal with any cases presented to us. We will not undertake to deal with domestic abuse purely on our own.
- We will undertake to include discussion of domestic violence and abuse, relationships, communication and conflict resolution in marriage preparation.
- This church will not use its belief in the sanctity of marriage as a weapon to 'encourage' victims to remain in abusive relationships or to accept back an abusive partner.
- All those working with children and young people will be made aware of the need to be alert for domestic abuse and know how to respond.
- All leaders will be responsible for considering how they use their power and the messages this may convey.
- This church takes issues of domestic abuse seriously and will, as appropriate speak out publicly against it.
- We believe the gospel must be presented as good news to those who experience domestic abuse, in so doing we will take care to ensure our language and way of speaking about God does not alienate those who for whom a male role is not helpful.
- We believe the gospel is also good news for those who perpetrate abuse. There is hope for forgiveness and change in the power of the Holy Spirit.