

THE UNITED PARISH STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

The United Parish of St Mary the Virgin (Speldhurst), St Martins of Tours (Ashurst & St John the Evangelist (Groombridge)

Parish Statement Policy for Responding to Domestic Abuse approved on 20 August, 2025

- 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
- Working in partnership with children, adults and other agencies is essential in promoting the welfare of any child or adult suffering 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
- Ask all our children's volunteers to complete the Church of England Safeguarding Module, Domestic Abuse Awareness

If you have any concerns or need to talk to anyone please contact: Dawn Pottow, Parish Safeguarding Officer – dawn.pottow@speldhurstchurch.org



St Mary the Virgin (Speldhurst) Churchwarden

