

Parish Statement on 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:

In all our activities by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting both survivors and alleged or known perpetrators of domestic abuse

In our publicity by:

- 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 by:

- 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

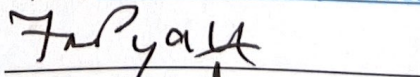

In our care by:

- 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, please contact Frances Pyatt | safeguarding@saintjohnswatford.org.uk | 07786 870 028

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Frances Pyatt

Incumbent: Fr Corniel Quak

To be reviewed annually at the first PCC meeting after the APCM.

Last reviewed: May 2026

