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Domestic abuse statement

St Mary's, Wootton is committed to keeping everyone in its care safe. To ensure we keep everyone safe we have adopted a domestic abuse statement. This was adopted by St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 19 January 2026 and will be reviewed annually.

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.
- PCC will follow the Church of England responding to victims and survivors of abuse policy and will inform the DSA of the disclosure. Further information can be found here: [Church of England responding well to victims and survivors of abuse](#)

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 the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Incumbent / vicar or the Church Office on 01234 765375.

Safeguarding contact details

Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSO)	Kate WILSON	safeguarding@stmaryswootton.org.uk
	Emma HEARN	
	Pauline KENDALL	
	Martin SANDERS	
Incumbent (vicar)	Joseph ADEWALE	vicar@stmaryswootton.org.uk
Churchwardens	Allyson CABLE	wardens@stmaryswootton.org.uk
	Tim DILLISTONE	
Children's services	Bedford Borough Council	01234 718700 / out of hours 0300 300 8123
	Central Bedfordshire Council	0300 300 8142 / out of hours 0300 300 8123
Adult services	Bedford Borough Council	01234 276222 / out of hours 0300 300 8123
	Central Bedfordshire Council	0300 300 8303 / out of hours 0300 300 8123
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers (DSA) www.stalbansdiocese.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-contacts	Jeremy HIRST	01727 818107 / 07867 350886 safeguarding@stalbands.anglican.org
	Dave ADAMS	01727 818104 / 07469 351357
	Warren LUCAS	01727 818106 / 07311 310545
Police	Emergency	999
NHS mental health www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/mental-health-services/Where-to-get-urgent-help-for-mental-health/	Out of hours all ages mental health line	111, "mental health" option
	North Bedfordshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	01234 893 300
	Community mental health team (adults)	01234 880433
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)	Bedford Borough Council	01234 276 693 Lado@bedford.gov.uk
	Central Bedfordshire Council	0300 300 8142 LADO@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Support services

National Domestic Abuse Helpline	0808 2000 247 www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk	24-hour helpline
Women's Aid	womensaid.org.uk	Support for women
Refuge	refuge.org.uk	
ManKind Initiative	0808 800 1170 www.mankind.org.uk	Support for men Helpline Monday–Friday, 10am–4pm
Respect: men's advice line	0808 801 0327 mensadvice.org.uk	Support for men Helpline Monday–Friday, 10am– 8pm
NSPCC	0808 800 5000 www.nspcc.org.uk	Support for children Helpline Monday–Friday, 10am–4pm
ChildLine	0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk	Support for children 24-hour helpline
Restored	www.restored-uk.org	Advice and support for churches and victims