

**DOMESTIC ABUSE: A CHARTER FOR CHURCHES**

Domestic abuse is extremely serious, and contrary to a Christian way of living.

**Trinity St. Andrew's Church** seeks to support those affected by domestic abuse, and their families.

**Trinity St. Andrew's Church**

- holds that domestic abuse, in all its forms, is unacceptable
- believes domestic abuse is inconsistent and incompatible with the Christian faith
- acknowledges that domestic abuse is a serious and widespread problem that occurs in church families as well as in wider society
- undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse
- prioritises the safety of survivors and children affected by domestic abuse
- works with specialist agencies, learning from and supporting them in appropriate ways, and publicising their work
- will play its part in teaching that domestic abuse is unacceptable and contrary to God's purposes and the teachings of the Bible.

**Contact numbers:**

- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 This is a freephone, 24-hour service.
- Local number: 03000 110 110

**Trinity St. Andrew's Church Domestic Abuse Policy**

Aims and intentions:-

This policy aims to ensure that domestic abuse is acknowledged and responded to appropriately within the Methodist Church. To do this we will:

- 1** raise awareness about domestic abuse and its impact on individuals, children, the wider family and community
- 2** ensure that the safety of individuals suffering abuse or seeking help is the first priority, and be aware of the need for confidentiality (unless there are safeguarding concerns)
- 3** consider how best to provide support and information for anyone seeking help, including working with specialist agencies
- 4** encourage discussion of how our church can be a safer space for victims and survivors of domestic abuse
- 5** regularly discuss the Domestic Abuse policy, procedures, theology and principles that underpin it
- 6** adopt the Domestic Abuse Charter – *see previous page* - and display this in our churches and on social media
- 7** discuss domestic abuse with church leaders, including at the Church Council and Circuit Meetings
- 8** review this policy annually and monitor it continually.

This policy was adopted by **Trinity St. Andrew's Church**

on: .....

Signed .....

Next review date is: .....