

## Domestic Abuse Policy

*The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) of Locking Castle Church affirms that all forms of domestic abuse are wrong and must stop.*

### **We are committed to promoting a safe environment where:**

- everyone feels welcomed, respected and safe from abuse;
- those vulnerable to domestic abuse are protected from actual or potential harm;
- equality is valued amongst people and within relationships;
- concerns can be raised easily 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;
- everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity has 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 witnessed or overheard by a child is also 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.

#### **On our website –**

- raising awareness about other agencies, support services, resources and expertise, through providing information 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 be offered 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.

**If you have any concerns or need to talk to someone about issues relating to domestic abuse please contact Emily Cumberbatch on 07905 516624**