

Freeland Church: response to domestic abuse

Freeland Church fully endorses the Church of Scotland's domestic abuse charter which 'holds that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and irreconcilable with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living'.

The Church accepts that domestic abuse is a serious problem which occurs in church families and intimate relationships as well as in wider society.

The Church undertakes to listen to, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse. It is recognised that those most affected by domestic abuse are women but also that a significant number of men also are affected. It is known that many children are adversely affected by the consequences of domestic abuse.

The primary role of the Church in this context is to understand, accept and support those affected by domestic abuse as a means of showing and sharing Jesus' love. The Church does not have the expertise to counsel those affected and will not intervene in cases of suspected or known domestic abuse.

If you know someone affected by domestic abuse, or believe that you are being affected, then there are organisations that you can contact for advice, as follows:

Renfrewshire Women's Aid

Renfrewshire Women's Aid offers confidential and free advice and support from women for women.

Website: <http://www.renfrewshirewomensaid.co.uk/>

Tel: 0141 561 7030

Renfrewshire Women and Children First

Women and Children First can provide a range of support services to women and children who have experienced rape, sexual assault, physical abuse, harassment and/or child sexual abuse, whether in the home or in the wider community.

Website: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Womenadandchildrenfirst>

Tel: 0300 300 0345

Respect (previously Men's Advice line)

The Helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.

Website: <https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>

Tel: 0808 8010327

Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline

Support anyone with experience of domestic abuse or forced marriage, as well as their family members, friends, colleagues and professionals who support them.

Website: <https://sdafmh.org.uk/>

Tel: 0800 027 1234

If you wish to contact someone within the Church to discuss the above information, then the following can be approached in confidence:

Minister Rev Kenneth Gray

Session Clerk Dr Graeme Harris

Safeguarding Panel Members

Ian Brodie

Janet Birch

Kathy Leask

Jim Carruth

3rd March 2021