



## **St John the Evangelist, Killyleagh Parish Church is now a registered Safe Place.**

As a Safe Place organisation, we

1. Support the Safe Place Campaign: never to commit, condone or stay silent about domestic violence
2. Provide a Safe Place for victims of domestic violence to confidentially access information
3. Acknowledge domestic violence is a problem that impacts on all of us as a society and will be prepared to play our part in supporting victims and state clearly to perpetrators that we will not tolerate abuse in our community.

Statistics show that there will be several homes in the Killyleagh community where domestic abuse is happening now. While we won't be providing any counselling or advice services – we are here as 'signposts' – if anyone needs help, we will provide telephone numbers of those who will offer professional help – if needed we can offer the use of a telephone to make that call too.

**Safe Places is a POSITIVE response to the issue of domestic abuse** – it may not be physical violence – domestic abuse takes many different forms; coercive control, financial control. Joy and Yvonne, who are our trained safe place organisers, have a lot more material if anyone wants more information. You can confidentially email [sjekillyleagh@gmail.com](mailto:sjekillyleagh@gmail.com) to access this information

We are one of the first churches in the Church of Ireland to become a safe church. A church, because of what we stand for and why we exist, should not need window stickers and posters to show it's a Safe Place, but we hope anyone who sees them understands that we are a Church that is prepared to offer support and help.

The 24-hour Freephone Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline is for anyone suffering from domestic and sexual abuse. The number to call is 0808 802 1414. In an emergency contact the PSNI on 999 or 101.

If anyone would like more information about the scheme please speak with Rev Hector or email [sjekillyleagh@gmail.com](mailto:sjekillyleagh@gmail.com)