

Key messages from 27th June 2019 Statement to Evangelical Ministry Assembly

Emmanuel Church Wimbledon, along with the other organisations involved, have committed themselves to the guiding principle that the interests of survivors are paramount.

The answers to these questions are taken from the full statement made on 27th June 2019 available on walkingwith.uk.

How do I seek help?

Perhaps you are affected but you have not come forward to receive support. If that is you, do contact the independent helpline and listening service at thirtyone:eight or Sarah Hall at Emmanuel, or Kate Singleton, the Southwark Diocesan safeguarding adviser. Contact details are on walkingwith.uk

Why have we acted as we have?

There are a number of reasons.

- The number of disclosures received.
- Their consistent nature, where, for the most part, each person was unaware of what anyone else had disclosed.
- The identity of those making disclosures, whose testimonies we consider reliable.
- The adverse psychological effect of the activities on some of those involved.
- The fact the disclosures were generally against the interest of the men involved. They disclosed their own participation in the activities, although they had been misled into thinking the activities were not wrong.
- The fact that Jonathan has recently acknowledged involvement in activities of the sort described.
- The bullets above are in addition to findings of the 2017 safeguarding assessment commissioned by Southwark Diocese.

What has been done?

Concern for those affected has led to the following action so far:

- A pastoral announcement at the Emmanuel Prayer Meeting in March to identify any involved and to offer pastoral support.
- Statements to the Renew Regional Leaders in April and May to stop Jonathan's continuing ministry, and to offer pastoral care and support to those who might need it.
- Letters in May and June to former Emmanuel staff and ministry trainees to offer pastoral care and support.
- Setting up access to fully-funded pastoral and professional support, which has been offered to those known to have been affected.
- Briefing the Emmanuel congregation in full earlier this week.
- Setting up a website to help those affected to make disclosures and access support, and to provide information and resources relevant to this matter: <https://walkingwith.uk/>

What was the behaviour?

In late 2018 a small number of allegations were made of the practice of physical discipline in the context of discipling relationships. One example of this involved men hitting each other on their naked backsides with a trainer for failing to meet personal targets.

Further disclosures since March 2019 have largely related to a different practice of one to one massage, ranging from partially clothed massage to massage where both men are said to have been

fully naked throughout and to have taken turns to massage each other. Again, this conduct seems to have become a regular part of the relationship between Jonathan and certain men over a period of time.

These disclosures came as a great surprise and shock.

Was the behaviour reported?

Every disclosure was promptly reported to all necessary authorities.

Who has been involved in responding to allegations?

In deciding how to respond and what action to take, Emmanuel has received advice primarily from the Southwark Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and from the Church of England National Safeguarding Team. Rod Thomas, the Bishop of Maidstone, The Proclamation Trust and The Titus Trust, have also been involved.

What next?

Emmanuel and the other organisations involved are committed to supporting the survivors - who include wives and children.

We want the survivors to help answer the question 'what next?'.

We want to improve and, where necessary, to correct our response to this appalling situation.

We want to listen and respond well.