

Prayer Ministry Safeguarding Guidelines 2023

- **Pre Service** Team prayer of preparation, asking for God's presence.
- It is advisory to wear Prayer Ministry identification badges.
- Prepare an open, visible, easily accessible Prayer Space. Tissues, oil available for anointing.

- **Prayer 2:1** Work in pairs, ideally male & female (advisably not partners or spouses) praying for one recipient.
- Create a safe welcoming space, share names, hold a short pre prayer conversation.
- Avoid unnecessary bodily contact. Ask to place a hand on the recipient's shoulder or arm to pray– do not assume.
- Keep to the request of the recipient. Keep the prayers simple.
- Pray with your eyes open. Be aware.
- If the recipient becomes upset/tearful avoid hugs and over comforting, let God bring release.
- If 'laying on hands' for healing and the position of the hands is on a vulnerable site of the body ask the recipient to lay their own hand upon that area first and place your hand on top of theirs, or place your hand on a shoulder.
- If appropriate, anointing with oil is upon forehead and palms of hands only.
- Close the prayer with words of reassurance and blessing in Jesus Christ.
- If there is a spoken need for further prayer, counselling or practical help ask the recipient to consider speaking to a member of clergy or pastoral minister. Offer to come with them to do that if appropriate.
- If a very difficult situation or possible deliverance matter seems to arise respond appropriately. Bind the situation discreetly, gently closing the prayer, reassuring the person and offer some further help.
- Never label anyone as needing 'Deliverance'. Deliverance Ministry is unusual, specific, and requires careful handling by Clergy and the Diocesan Deliverance Team. Ask the recipient to consider speaking to a member of clergy or pastoral minister. Offer to come with them to do that if appropriate.

- **Post Service** Team prayer, confidentially bring all encounters to God & include prayer for own wellbeing.
- Note any safeguarding issues immediately.

- **Confidentiality and Safe Practice.** Prayer is confidential between the three persons involved. Following prayer you may not raise the issue with the recipient in any other setting unless they raise it first.
- Only seek outside guidance if absolutely necessary, retaining the anonymity of the situation.
- If an adult discloses current physical, emotional or sexual abuse* either to them self or to another you must encourage them to take measures of protection, either through their GP, Police, or a local or national help line. If it is current abuse of a child or abuse by a member of clergy you must report to a Safeguarding Officer and reassure them of help.
- Risks of suicide and self harm* are taken seriously, and encouraged into the open, with either family, a pastoral carer, GP or other professional body.
- **Under 18 year olds.** If a youth makes a disclosure of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse* either occurring to them self or to another reassure them of help and Inform them of your duty to disclose to a Safeguarding Officer.

- **Pastoral Follow Up*.** Very occasionally, in the cases of high risk, it is right to ask if a member of a clergy or pastoral team may contact them. Use Church contacts and public venues for these purposes, not private.

- **Team Responsibilities.** To attend both the pre-service and post service prayer time.
- To attend training as requested, with accountability to the clergy & advisably authorised by the PCC.
- To be Enhanced DBS checked and C of E National Safeguarding Basic Awareness and Foundation compliant.

- **Personal Health.** Physical, emotional and spiritual.
- Good personal hygiene is expected when working up close with people.
- Be honest and aware of your own competence and boundaries.
- Team are expected to nurture their own spiritual wellbeing and to hold integrity.

These guidelines are additional & comply with The House of Bishops Guidelines for the Healing Ministry 2000.