

Guidelines

Prayer Ministry

Bedworth Parish



Praying for people

Prayer



At BPC one of the things we're really passionate about is people not only hearing about God but experiencing him. During our services we will try to let God lead what's going on and make space for him to meet with us.

As part of this, the leaders of our services and meeting will make time for us to wait on the Holy Spirit and pray for groups of people they believe God particularly wants to meet with. This is a great opportunity for God to work in our lives and it's brilliant to be as open to him as possible.

We also want to make available the opportunity for people to be prayed for as part of healing ministries and conferences. There is an enabling team available to support this happening. Look for their badge and they will generally be around after every service to pray with people.

Don't worry if you've never been prayed for in this way, or if you're not sure how to pray for others, the people leading will talk you through what's going on and some basics for praying if you need it.

This is a little guide with some simple rules to make sure that everybody is kept safe, and we look after and care for everybody.

With love and Blessings

Rev Dave and the Bedworth Parish Leadership Team



Encourage

In praying for a person, the most important thing to remember is that this is God's work not ours and we can be expectant as God always wants to meet with us. We are there to encourage those seeking God and bless what the Holy Spirit is doing. Remember the Holy Spirit is a person and not an impersonal force so do address him by name or as a person.

We are there to make things safe – Pray with your eyes open, standing in front or to the side of the person so you can see what the Holy Spirit is doing. Pray in pairs - one person should be ready to support, while one person takes the lead in ministry. Never push anyone or hold them tightly! Stay with the person as long as needed. Make sure one of the pair is the same sex as the person being prayed for.

The laying on of hands is Biblical – for blessing, healing and impartation. A great example of the laying on of hands can be found in Acts 28 when Paul heals a person. Be sensitive as to where you place your hands, having first asked the person if its ok and only touch in a restrained and appropriate manner.

Help allay a person's fears - of what God is doing: 'Don't be afraid...', 'It's OK to receive...', 'It's OK to express your feelings...', 'You can stop at any time but try to go with it...', 'God loves you...', 'You are safe with God...'. Encourage the person to stay in the Lord's presence and to go on receiving.

Each individual has a responsibility for his/her own life – Ask the person what they need. Even Jesus asked 'What do you want me to do?' (Mark 10:51). Listen carefully to the person and God. It is often important for the individual to pray aloud to the Lord if he/she is forgiving someone or confessing sin.

Be aware of your own issues - avoid projecting onto someone else what God is doing with you. Let each individual find out what God is doing in his/her life.

Do not let people become dependent on you – do not make appointments to pray with individuals outside the meeting unless you have consulted with the clergy first, nor allow people to ask for ministry from certain people. If the person requests further counselling, refer them to the service leader. This is the Holy Spirit's ministry: the person who ministers is a vessel. However, if/when we realise we are out of our depth, or beyond your experience, refer to someone else with more experience.

You are working under authority - so please recognise your limits. Do not intrude when others are ministering unless invited. Be open to correction and guidance. Report to your service leader any individuals who you believe to be mentally ill, needing deliverance, or victims of physical/sexual abuse; or any incident where someone has been hurt. Be aware of confidentiality but do not promise secrecy and, if in any doubt, please ask one of the clergy team to assist you.

Confidentiality If we are going to pray with somebody we need to be able to keep what they tell us to ourselves. However, this doesn't apply if what they tell us reveals that either they or somebody else is in danger physically or emotionally. If you are concerned for the person you are praying for or that what they disclose indicates there may be other people at risk then you need to let a member of the clergy or the safeguarding officer know straight away.

Be aware that the person you are praying for may ask you to keep what they tell you confidential. Do not promise this as if there is abuse happening then you are required to pass this on.

Safeguarding is really important. Everybody on the prayer ministry team must have read the Bedworth Parish policy on Safeguarding and agree to abide by it and follow the process should anything arise whilst praying for somebody. If you aren't sure then please speak to a member of the clergy, reader or one of the safeguarding team. The details for the safeguarding team can be found on the notice board by the entrance to the church.

The Rules!

- Always minister in twos.
- Make sure one of the pair is the same sex as the person being prayed for
- Pray with your eyes open, standing in front or slightly to the side of the person and look for physical signs of what to pray into. E.g. tears=release, laughter= joy.
- Ask what the person is seeking in this prayer time.
- Use the laying on of hands as advised above.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to come, to lead, to guide and encourage.
- Wait, this is God's work not ours.
- Remember there is a place for expressing feelings – allow God to do his work, being careful not to suppress or exacerbate the situation.
- Listen to the recipient and to the Holy Spirit.
- You can ask the person questions: i.e. 'What do you feel God is doing?'
- Remember the place of repentance – forgiving and being forgiven.
- If you feel it is right, speak to the condition or into the situation in Jesus' name.
- Don't be shocked by anyone's disclosure. Remember that confidentiality is of utmost importance but DO NOT promise secrecy. Share information on a 'need to know' basis and tell the person who is being prayed for.
- **Never** tell anyone they have an evil spirit, this type of manifestation is not always obvious and a person can react in many different ways. If you believe there is an evil spirit, inform one of the clergy.
- If a person falls, allow them to go down safely and protect their dignity. Stay with them as long as needed and encourage them to continue receiving from God. It may not be necessary to stay with them for an extended time, but keep a watchful eye on them to check they are safe.
- Offer any words, pictures or thoughts sensitively, recognising that you may be wrong.

If at any time you recognise that you should not be ministering to someone, especially if they are of a different gender to yourself, it is your responsibility to stop. Do not continue ministering alone: please ensure that you ask a fellow Ministry Team member – who is of the same sex as the person that you are ministering to - to partner you.

And finally



Not everyone is familiar with ministry and prayer times and some people feel a bit concerned or nervous when they become aware of God working through his Holy Spirit. We need to help people who are receiving feel comfortable and safe, and to encourage them to reach out to God.

Always be sensitive and respectful, keeping in mind how you would like to be prayed for, and constantly asking for God's help. Reassure those being prayed for that God has heard sincere prayers and the cries of our hearts and encourage them to expect answers. Speak healing, peace and release in the name of Jesus and remember the place of repentance, forgiveness and being forgiven.

If someone would like extra prayer you can refer them to a member of the clergy. Encourage the person to receive as much prayer as they like. Remember: don't worry! Clergy and the person leading the meeting will be giving directions and advice to everyone. The important thing is that you are ready and willing to pray for those around you.

Other questions

We may not have managed to answer your questions with this little booklet, or you may have other questions. Don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of clergy or Mary Morris who leads the team.

How to get in touch with Mary
mary@bedworthparish.org or 0247 610 2140

Bedworth Parish Office, All Saints Church, Bedworth CV12 8NH
office@bedworthparish.org

Phone 024 7610 2141

Registered Charity – 1164978

WWW.bedworthparish.org

