

+ Prayer Ministry Guidelines



Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14.12



All Saints' Church
Preston on Tees

This Church Exists To Worship GOD.
To Make Disciples. To Share The Good News.
And To Care For Those In Need

+ A Model for Prayer Ministry

The way we do prayer ministry at All Saints' is based on the one found in New Wine's *Healing Prayer Ministry Handbook* and the model at Ffald-y-Brenin House of Prayer in Pontfaen, Wales.

- 1. Understand:** God goes before; if someone has come for prayer, God is already at work in their life.
- 2. Ask:** Once you have introduced each other on first-name terms, ask the person a simple question: "What do you want Jesus to do for you today?"
- 3. Listen:** Listen carefully to the person's reply.
- 4. Ask:** Ask again: "Are you willing for God to come and touch this area of your life that is troubling you?" Keep dialogue to an absolute minimum; *The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power (1 Corinthians 4.20)*
- 5. Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to come, encourage the person to welcome him, lay hands on the person, and keep your eyes **open** to see what the Holy Spirit is doing while you pray
 - silently, perhaps under your breath in tongues (please use this gift sensitively).
 - aloud: invite the Spirit to move, bless what you see, ask for more.
- 6. Wait:** As you wait on God, ask him for any specific scripture, word of knowledge, discernment or prophecy that he wants to apply to the situation. Sometimes he will, sometimes he won't.
- 7. Exercise spiritual gifts:** Speak out any scriptures, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, pictures or impressions you get. All this should be humbly offered and prayerfully tested. Please avoid saying "God told me..." or "God is saying..." It is better to say, "I feel God might be saying..." *We prophesy in part (1 Corinthians 13.9).*
- 8. Follow-up:** Always leave open the invitation to come back. You might want to suggest Sozo prayer ministry if you feel there might be a deeper blockage. If necessary, encourage a visit to a doctor or suggest a visit from the pastoral care team. In very rare cases where there is some cause for concern (e.g. suicidal thoughts) brief clergy or the pastoral care team leader.
- 9. Conclude:** Bless the person in the name of Jesus. Pray for God's protection and his love to surround them throughout the week. Leave them in God's presence. Stay nearby in case they need further support.

+ Some Dos and Don'ts

Jesus discerned the Father's will in each and every situation and so could act and minister confidently and with authority. We share this ministry with the Holy Spirit and we must be open to his leading at all times.

1. **Do** minister in groups of two or three, making sure as far as you can, that there is someone of the same sex as the person you are praying for in the group.
2. **Do** pray on the basis of scripture but try and avoid religious jargon.
3. **Do** be sensitive to the dignity and integrity of the person. That means avoiding all weirdness and intensity. Keep things natural and be your normal self.
4. **Do** explain what you are doing and do ask permission for things like the laying on of hands and anointing with oil.
5. **Do** keep prayer short and to the point. Jesus never rambled on and on when healing and ministering.
6. **Do** 'tell the mountain to move.' Jesus, rather than praying to his Father *about* a person's presenting problem, often addressed the issue directly. If you feel prompted by the Holy Spirit, rebuke the illness and take authority over the problem, 'commanding it to go.' Speak in the name of Jesus.
7. **Do** break down an overwhelming or complex request into manageable proportions. If you are confronted with a complicated series of needs, try and focus on particular aspects, e.g. relief of pain, or a good night's sleep.
8. **Don't** be disappointed if you do not see any signs of the person being touched by God; there may be much more happening under the surface than what you can see. Leave everything with God. It's his business.
9. **Don't** jump to conclusions as to what is happening if people show visible signs of response. Tears, for example, may be tears of repentance, of joy, of deep inner hurt, or on behalf of others.
10. **Don't** forget that if a person falls and 'rests in the Spirit' they can still hear you and respond. Ask them if they are OK and comfortable. Stay with them and keep praying for them quietly in tongues. God is at work, so bless what is happening and allow him to deal with it.

11. **Don't** seek to 'exorcise' anyone. If you feel there is the power of evil present, simply pray for the person and then refer them to an experienced leader to deal with. There are clear diocesan guidelines to be followed in cases such as these.

12. **Do** take anyone who becomes noisy or deeply distressed to a quiet place (e.g. the pastoral office) if possible and allow them to regain their composure. Be prepared to ask for help from a more experienced member of the ministry team.

13. **Don't** under any circumstances advise anyone to abandon their medication or other aid – only their doctor or medical advisor has the legitimate authority to do that.

14. **Do** stop ministry when the Holy Spirit stops.

15. **Do** be willing to be prayed for yourself, especially at the end of a sustained time in which you have been giving out a lot. Watch out for your own burnout and cover yourself against spiritual counter attack.

16. **Do** remember that prayer ministry is confidential in nature.* Testimonies of what we have seen are not ours to give without permission.

** Confidentiality is about **protecting** people's safety and dignity. In the extremely rare case where keeping a confidence will actually **compromise** the safety or dignity of anyone (e.g. suicidal thoughts or a confession of the abuse of children) you should advise the person you are praying with that you will have to disclose the information to someone in pastoral leadership.*

Revised by John Lambert and Mark Harrison, April 2015

Acknowledgement - We have drawn on the experience and wisdom from the following sources:

Ffald-y-Brenin House of Prayer Pontfaen, Wales - Holy Trinity Brompton - New Wine - Saint Alban's Group for Ministry of Healing - Saint Andrew's and All Saints' Dibden Purlieu - Saint Andrew's Chorleywood - Saint Denys Southampton - Saint Michael's Paris, France.



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