



Prayer Ministry for Formation Groups

30th September 2025

Updated by Revd Steve Burston

Church Crawley – St John's

1. Our Biblical Foundation

Jesus' Mission (Luke 4:18–19, quoting Isaiah 61):

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

- This was **Jesus' mission**.
- This is also **our mission in Crawley**.

Jesus gives His authority (Luke 9 & 10):

- Jesus gave His followers His **power and authority**.
- We now carry this same authority to continue His mission.
- Whenever you pray, know you pray in the power of Jesus.

Confidence in prayer (Hebrews 4:16):

- “Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

2. Our Mission at Church Crawley

At St John's, St Richard's and St Peter's we aim to provide:



- A **safe place** for people to encounter God's presence through prayer.
- Prayer that, by the Holy Spirit, brings **healing, restoration, and hope**.
- Ministry carried out with **grace, mercy, love, and without judgment**.

3. Values of the Prayer Ministry Team

As part of the team, we commit to:

- **Personal devotion:** Regular prayer, Bible study, and worship, to be with Jesus, be like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.
- **Church commitment:** Attend Church Crawley services and serve within the church.
- **Training & fellowship:** Attend initial training and regular team meetings for learning, sharing, prayer, and support.
- **Respect & humility:** Serve with gentleness, sensitivity, and compassion—listening without judgment.
- **God's work:** Remember that ministry is God's work, not ours.
- **Confidentiality:** Keep prayer conversations private unless safeguarding requires otherwise.
- **Accountability:** Remain accountable to Church Crawley leadership.
- **Practical care:** Maintain good hygiene, appropriate dress, and always wear your team badge.
- **Team safety:** Pray in pairs whenever possible.

4. Safeguarding & Confidentiality

- **Confidentiality** is always respected—except if:
 - There is risk to the person's life or someone else's.
 - A criminal offence is disclosed.
- In these cases, inform the **Parish Safeguarding Officer** (or Rev. Steve Burston).



- Do not keep secrets—only share safeguarding concerns with the right leaders.

5. Preparing for Prayer Ministry

- Arrive **early** and join the pre-service prayer:
 - Morning service: 10:50 am
 - Evening service: 5:15 pm
 - Or be ready to pray in Formation Groups
- Pray for **repentance, cleansing, and equipping** by the Holy Spirit.
- When ministry time begins:
 - Sanitize your hands.
 - Put on your lanyard/badge.
 - Find a buddy (any trained minister).
 - Stand clearly at the front of the chancel.

6. How We Pray at St John's

Welcoming

- Greet warmly, introduce yourself, ask their name.
- Put them at ease and reassure them of confidentiality.
- Listen carefully to their request.
- Help them focus on what they want the Lord to do **today**.

Praying

- Ask permission before touching.
- If led to lay a hand, ask them to place their hand on the area first.
- Invite the **Holy Spirit to come**—allow time for Him to minister.
- Keep your eyes open, watch and listen for what God is doing.
- Speak blessings, thanks, and encouragement.
- Take turns with your buddy in prayer.

During Prayer

- Stay gentle; respect the person's dignity.
- If they become distressed, help them calm and seek clergy support if needed.
- Offer any impressions humbly; allow them to weigh it.
- Remember—it is the **Holy Spirit** at work, not us.

Concluding

- Ask how they are feeling.
- Thank God for what He has done.
- Encourage them to return for prayer if needed.
- If further support is required, refer to clergy.

7. After Ministry

- Do not discuss the prayer with your buddy afterwards.
- If you feel burdened or unsettled, seek prayer from clergy.
- Pass on any safeguarding concerns immediately.

8. Things Never to Say

Never tell someone:

- “You’ve been healed.”
- “Stop your medication.”
- “It’s your fault you’re not healed.”
- “You need more faith.”
- “You will find a partner / get pregnant.”
- “I will keep this a secret.”
- “You must follow my instructions.”
- “I’ll meet you alone later.”



9. Self-Care for Prayer Ministers

- Do not put yourself in vulnerable situations.
- If you're struggling personally, speak with clergy and take time out.
- Remember: God uses your **individuality, uniqueness, and gifts** to minister.

10. Encouragement from Jesus

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes 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*

Quick Checklist for Prayer Ministry

Before Service

- Arrive early and join team prayer.
- Prepare your heart in prayer.
- Sanitize hands, wear badge, find buddy.

During Ministry

- Welcome with kindness, listen carefully.
- Pray in pairs (or same-sex if alone).
- Invite Holy Spirit, pray gently, bless.
- Keep eyes open, stay attentive.

After Ministry

- Thank God, release the person to Him.
- No gossip, no follow-up.
- Seek clergy support if you need prayer.
- Report safeguarding concerns immediately.



✦ Pray with love, gentleness, truth, and compassion. Be yourself—
God works through your uniqueness.