

### Prayer Ministry at St John's Crawley

At St John's Crawley our hope is to provide a safe place for people to come into God's presence through prayer.

During prayer ministry time we will pray and with the ministry of the Holy Spirit bring healing, restoration and hope. We will minister with God's grace and mercy without judgment or prejudice.

*"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."*

**Karl Barth**

### Value of Prayer Ministry at St John's Crawley:

As part of the prayer ministry team we agree:

- To commit to worship God with our own personal rhythms and routines. So that we can be with Jesus, be like Jesus and do what Jesus did through prayer and Bible study as well as regularly attending St John's and serving Him within the church.
- To attend initial training for prayer ministry and, once trained, to give priority to attend regular team meetings where, as a team, we can learn, share, pray and support one another while enjoying fellowship together.
- That new team members will have been attending worship at St John's regularly for a significant period of time.
- To serve those we are called to pray with; with humility, sensitivity, gentleness, value and respect, to listen to them and pray without judgment, and to protect their dignity at all times.
- To serve God, remembering it is His work not ours, making ourselves available to be used by Him.
- To maintain confidentiality, unless you have obtained permission to share. Only in the unlikely event of their life, or the life of another being at risk or if a criminal offence is revealed, will a confidence be shared; and then it is only

to be reported to the Parish Safeguarding Officer for them to take appropriate action in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

- To be accountable to the leadership at St John's Crawley at all times.
- To maintain good personal hygiene (have mints available to freshen our breath) appropriate dress and always wear our Prayer Ministry Team badge when on duty.

### Preparing to pray:

- When serving on the Prayer Ministry Team, it is important to arrive early, to prepare ourselves for ministry. Through prayer we open our hearts and spirits to be led into repentance and cleansing, then to receive equipping from the Holy Spirit and listen to the Lord's leading together for His place and purpose for the service. Please join the prayer ministry team for prayer before the service at 10:50 am or 5:50pm on the chancel with the preachers, hosts and worship team
- At St John's men should pray for men and women for women.
- The rota at St John's provides prayer ministry for all 11.00am services so ideally, we need six people every Sunday to achieve this. Currently we do not have enough people for a rota at the 6pm but in time hope to build it up.
- If you need to change your turn on the rota find a replacement from within the team and let Reninca know so the rota can be updated.
- People in the prayer team should be ready to go forward as ministry time begins. Sanitise hands and put on a lanyard.
- Stand right forward in front of chancel. Do not stand at the side or out of view. Coming forward ensures everyone is seen and stays safe.
- Members of the congregation seeking prayer ministry should move to the front when invited. Move them forward in front of chancel.
- Men pray with men and women with women. You may be directed to pray with someone specific

### How to pray at St Johns prayer ministry:

- Welcome people, introduce yourself and ask their name. Spend a few moments putting them at ease. Always remember to be kind and gentle; it takes great courage to come for prayer. Assure the person what they are

sharing will be kept confidential. If you feel you or the person needs further support, ask for their permission to refer to clergy or Reninca.

- Give them time to express why they are seeking prayer; listen well, don't judge and remember we are not a counselling service, problem solving or advice ministry. Help them focus on what they would like the Lord to do for them today.
- Offer prayer; always ask permission to touch a person. If you feel the Lord directed you to lay a hand on a specific area, e.g. stomach, encourage the person to put their hand there and you lay yours on top, if appropriate, and with permission. Continue being gentle.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to come. Quietly allow time for the Holy Spirit to minister. Encourage the person being prayed for to close their eyes and receive. Keep your eyes open, be watching and listen for revelation from God through the Holy Spirit. Speak thanks and blessing for what God is doing. Have tissues ready!
- Make sure the person is okay. Ask what is happening and continue to pray and bless what God is doing. If they have any insights/feelings – don't force anything, a negative response is ok. If you sense it is right then you may wish to pray again.
- If a person becomes very distressed or noisy gently enable them to come to a point of calm. Seek help from clergy or Reninca if needed. Know your limits.
- Simply be a messenger for the Lord. Offer any thoughts you have, let the person receive them, ponder them or reject them. Remember it is the Holy Spirit who is at work. We won't always hear clearly from the Lord, we can get it wrong.
- Remember God's people have prayed powerful prayers throughout the Bible: by being *Humble, Specific, Persistent, and Expectant*.
- Speak the name of Jesus for healing and freedom as directed by the Holy Spirit.
- Conclude your time by asking the person how they feel and thank God for what he has done and what He will continue to do. Encourage the person to come for prayer again if that is helpful or if you feel there is an issue that needs further prayer, refer them to the Reninca or a member of clergy.

### Afterwards

If you feel you need prayer yourself for anything you have dealt with or need any further support do seek support from Reninca or clergy.

### Some no-no's

Never tell someone:

- You've been healed
- Stop your medication
- It's their fault they are not healed
- They need more faith
- They will find a partner
- They will get pregnant
- You will keep a secret, this is different from confidentiality
- You must follow these instructions. Just encourage worship, prayer and reading the Bible
- You will meet them on your own at a later date

### To conclude

- Pray for someone as you would like to be prayed for, with love, gentleness, truth and compassion. Don't put yourself in a vulnerable position.
- If you are going through a particularly difficult time talk to the Reninca or a member of clergy and take some time off from the ministry - that's okay.
- God will use our individuality, our uniqueness, our personalities, life experiences, natural and spiritual gifts to reach others. Remember each one of us is special and unconditionally loved by God with a specific job to do, so treasure your uniqueness and the uniqueness of others.

Jesus said, '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 v 12