



PRAAYER MINISTRY TEAM MEMBER



VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

We at **St Francis** seek to put God at the centre of who we are and all that we do. Church is not just about Sundays, but the whole of life. Whether we are alone or with others, we are always the church – called into relationship with God through His love and kindness.

We intend our Sunday services to honour God and to equip us for doing Life with God during our whole week with family, friends and work colleagues.

We believe that our behaviour should be of a high ethical standard that brings glory and honour to God. We believe that every human has been made in the image of God and as such should be treated with dignity and respect. Our desire as a church team is to inspire, encourage and build one-another up in our efforts to glorify God in our work and we value living in accordance with the gospel.

Helpful practises to consider in a volunteer role:

- 1) Carry out our duties in a way that glorifies God and honours his Church.
- 2) Treat everyone with care, kindness, honesty, love and respect regardless of their race, gender, sexuality, position or religious beliefs.
- 3) In all financial matters act with integrity and transparency, being able to give an account publicly for all monies handled by us on behalf of others.
- 4) Encourage and support each other and church members.
- 5) Where disagreements or grievances occur and a resolution is not forthcoming, we will seek additional assistance.
 - a) In instances of conflict or division, we will make every effort to biblically pursue reconciliation and resolution.
 - b) Issues pertaining to criminal actions, allegations of abuse, serious misconduct, bullying or sexual misconduct will be referred to the appropriate authorities.
- 6) When interacting with minors (people under the age of 18) we shall promote trustworthy and honest relationships between minors and adults. It is essential that all volunteers understand and apply the principles of the Church of England Code of Safer Working Practice see link to [Safety and Wellbeing](#) at the bottom of our on our website home page (st-francischurch.org.uk)

Prayer Ministry Team Member

Thank you very much for being willing to give your time on a Sunday to help us serve our church family and visitors.

For this ministry you will be responsible to Jean de Garis, the Vicar.

- Pray in pairs wherever possible and have someone of the same sex as the person being prayed for.
- Ask the person what they would like God to do for them. (e.g. “Where does it hurt?”). We do not counsel or offer therapy – we offer to pray.
- Ministry is about co-operating with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Focus on God not yourself. Ask in your heart, “Lord, what do you want to do for this person?”
- Prayer ministry isn’t about technique – but understanding our authority in Christ.
- Don’t immediately rush into praying for what someone asks. Begin by quietly waiting on God for a few minutes. The Spirit may put things in your mind to pray for them.
- Invite God’s Holy Spirit on the person and yourself. Thank God for this person.
- Keep your eyes open and watch the person you are praying for.
- If you lay hands on people, be gentle. Maybe place a hand on their shoulder or back, only with their permission. If there is a request for healing in a specific area, place your hand on that area only if it is appropriate. With Covid-19, people need extra space.
- Treat the person you are praying with as you would want to be treated. Respect their dignity. Try not to make judgements about people – we don’t know their story.
- Safeguard the welfare of the person at all times. Check that there is space around in case they fall, and that they do not fall on someone else. Encourage people to remain in God’s presence after you have finished praying with them.
- Never tell someone that they have an evil spirit. Sometimes it feels appropriate to anoint people with oil as the disciples and early church did (Mark 6.13 / James 5.14)
- If you feel out of your depth, ask for help from someone else. A humble spirit is good! Don’t take over another person’s prayer ministry unless you are asked.

- Knowing when to stop praying is as important as knowing when to start.
- As you finish praying with someone, ask yourself (and them) what is happening: a) Complete and instant healing or answer to prayer – thank God for it b) Partial answer to prayer – thank God and pray again soon c) No discernible change – assure the person that God still loves them. Encourage them to look to see the prayer answered and to continue praying. Don't pretend something has happened if it hasn't!
- At the conclusion, pray for God's protection and blessing upon them. Send them on their way in peace.
- Confidentiality is vital. There are times when it would be good to ask if you can speak to a member of clergy. Do so, with their permission. (NB Within Safeguarding Policies)
- Finally, take care with personal hygiene, fresh breath and tissues!

Practicalities

- The rota works on a monthly basis, which allows for 1 week on, 3 or 4 weeks off.
- Check ChurchSuite to see rota dates
- Please arrange to swap with another member of the team if you are unavailable.
- When on duty be ready during the last song to go to the agreed area to pray with people.

Please refer to the Volunteer Code of Conduct for more information about what we value in and expect of our volunteers.

How do I swap?

It is completely understandable that you may need to swap your date on the rota if you have other commitments. We would ask that once you are aware of your need to swap, you try and organise the swap as soon as possible. You can do this by sending a ChurchSuite email to those on your rota and then changing the names for the different dates once the swap is organised.

Once you have made the swap please inform your team leader and don't forget to double check the dates with the person you swapped with so you know when you are next serving! If you are unable to find someone to swap with please let the Church Administrator know.

Illness

If you are unwell or have a persisting illness on the day you are scheduled to serve, please tell a member of clergy (see ChurchSuite for contact details).