Church Crookham Baptist Church

Prayer Team Policy and Guidance

October 2024

Our Aim

As a prayer team, our aim is to provide a safe place for people to come into God's presence through prayer.

We will listen and allow time and space for prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring healing, restoration and hope. We will minister with God's grace and mercy without judgement or prejudice.

Our vision is to see God at work in our lives through prayer, bringing healing, wholeness, freedom and fullness. We believe God hears and answers prayer and we desire to see that in our lives and in the lives of individuals who seek this prayer ministry.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. **James 5:16**

The Prayer Team will….

- commit to worship God with our own personal daily walk with the Lord through prayer and Bible study as well as regularly attending CCBC;
- to attend prayer team training and team meetings where, as a team, we can learn, share, pray and support one another while enjoying fellowship together;
- serve those we are called to pray with; with humility, sensitivity, gentleness, value and respect, to listen to them and pray without judgement, and to protect their dignity at all times;
- serve God, remembering it is His work not ours;
- be accountable to the trustees of CCBC;
- understand our personal boundaries and seek support when needed;
- be ourselves, using scripture and the Holy Spirt as our guide;
- support and encourage other team members. Being aware that some PTM (Prayer Team Members) may need prayer for peace after ministering, always observing confidentiality.

Practicalities

- The pre-service team that pray before the service in the Cutter Room, need to be at CCBC to **start** praying at 9:45am and finish at 10.15am.
- Prayer is offered to attendees after the service and is expected to be no longer than 30 minutes. This will take place where privacy and safeguarding concerns can be fulfilled, especially if the person is under 18 or a vulnerable adult. The PTM need to be adaptable and flexible while finding the quietest spot.
- The PTC (Prayer Team Co-ordinator) organises a rota. If you need to change your turn on the rota find a replacement from within the team and let the PTC know so the rota can be updated.
- We will always endeavour to have at least two people on duty after the morning service for personal prayer. A third PTM will be on duty, if possible, who can be on

standby. This third PTM can support if needed, or be a runner to fetch an elder or appropriate back up.

- We will try to accommodate requests from those seeking prayer, regardless of gender, age and background. An Elder can be called if an extra man is required.
- A box of tissues will be placed at the back of the Church. Water and glasses are on the Communion table.
- There are Good News For Everyone Bibles available in the foyer, and a bottle of anointing oil in the front office [James 5 v14].
- All PTM be aware at the end of the service, and check how many are asking for prayer. If possible step in to offer help.
- If someone needs pastoral support, refer them to an Elder and/or show them the signpost list (see later in the document). You are a prayer team, not a counselling team.
- If a PTM has a prophecy, this is be taken to the Elders for discernment.

How We Pray Guidelines

- Welcome people, introduce yourself and ask their name if you don't know it. Spend a few moments putting them at ease. Always remember to be kind and gentle; it takes great courage to come for prayer.
- If you feel you or the person needs further support, ask for their permission to refer to the PTC or an Elder.
- Be mindful of your stance and position. Stand or sit to the side not "in their face".
- If you ask for permission to share, then do this gently and respectfully.
- 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 a specific thing they would like the Lord to do for them today.
- Ask permission before touching a person.
- Use language and terms that a person will understand, be accessible.
- Make sure the person is comfortable, do not pressure.
- Keep your prayers short, focused and to the point.
- Be guided by the Holy Spirit. Trust that he gives the words to say and pray. If you feel led to pray in tongues, please do so silently unless you know the person understands about tongues.
- If a person becomes very distressed or noisy gently enable them to come to a point of calm. Seek help from the PTC or Elder if needed. Know your limits.
- If children come forward with the parent, try to include the children. But if the nature of what is shared is not suitable for the children, suggest that someone else appropriate could look after the child (the standby PTM may be able to help) or suggest talking and praying in general terms.
- If anyone under the age of 18, or a vulnerable adult, comes forward for prayer, pray with them in the full sight of everyone.
- If the PTM is praying with someone they do not know, it may be advisable for the PTM to pray with their eyes open.

- When appropriate, close with prayer. This could be with a prayer of blessing, protection, peace etc.
- If the person is seeking spiritual guidance then refer them to an Elder.
- Check how the person is feeling. Offer 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 PTC or an Elder.

What we Don't Say

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
- It's your fault
- You will keep a secret, this is different from confidentiality
- What to do (directive prophecy)
- You will meet them on your own at a later date (refer pastoral needs to an Elder)

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

In most instances people coming for prayer can and will expect strict confidentiality. Do not mention the person and their prayer needs to anyone else, even within the team, without their permission. However, prayer ministry is not a 'confessional' and there will be times when total confidentiality cannot be kept.

As a church we follow our Safeguarding Policy, which is available on our website and in the Church foyer.

Confidentially cannot be maintained when:

- any individual confides in you and makes reference to safeguarding issues about any person under 18 or a vulnerable adult;
- any individual confides in you and makes reference to violence to others, self-harm or a serious criminal activity;
- the individual's life, or the life of another being at risk or if a criminal offence is revealed.

In addition to offering prayer, the following procedures should be observed (in regards to safeguarding issues):

- advise that confidentiality cannot be kept.
- record your concerns (do not probe, just listen).
- you must contact our Designated Person for Safeguarding (Natasha Atkins). If she is not immediately available, inform Terry Bateman (Trustee responsible for Safeguarding).
- in an emergency contact Hampshire Social Services at 0300 555 1384 or 999 if there is an immediate threat to safety.

Signposts

Spiritual

- The Elders
- There are resources on our website at https://www.churchcrookhambaptistchurch.org.uk/suggested-resources/

Health

- GPs (Find a GP - https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp)
- NHS 111

Mental Health and wellbeing

- Surrey and Borders NHS Crisis Mental Health Helpline - **0800 915 4644**
- NHS mental health advise and tips : https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/self-help/guides-tools-and-activities/five-steps-to-mental-wellbeing/
- Surrey and Borders NHS Services - https://www.sabp.nhs.uk/our-services/mental-health

Debt and Finances

- Christians Against Poverty - https://capuk.org/ (There are groups in Fleet)
- The Elders hold a discretionary fund for emergency needs.

Abuse

Various helpline for men and women can be found at:
https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/

Addiction

- **Drugs -** https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/addiction-support/drug-addiction-getting-help/
- **Alcohol** https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/alcohol-advice/alcohol-support/
- **Pornography –** Care for the Family - https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/couples/when-porn-becomes-an-addiction/

Counselling

Connect Counselling is a counselling service based in Camberley providing general counselling for adults over 18 as well as couples and family therapy for groups of all ages. Their ethos and background as an organisation is rooted in the Christian faith.

Connect Counselling does not charge a fixed fee per session, rather they ask clients to consider making a financial contribution dependent on their means, as no client is turned away due to lack of funds.

https://connectcounselling.org.uk/ and 01276 24210