

Volunteering as a prayer minister

General requirements for volunteers in church

The Church of England takes the safety of everyone within our churches very seriously and expects that everyone will work within our safeguarding policy. In particular, anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, is expected to immediately raise this with your Parish Safeguarding Officer or the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA.

Those who work with children, young people and/or adults who are vulnerable should have a commitment to:

- Treat individuals with respect
- Recognise and respect their abilities and potential for development
- Working in ways that meet and develop the personal, spiritual, social and pastoral needs
- Promote their rights to make their own decisions and choices, unless it is unsafe
- Ensure their welfare and safety
- The promotion of social justice, social responsibility and respect for others
- Confidentiality, never passing on personal information, except to the person you are responsible to, unless there are safeguarding issues of concern which **must always** be reported to the person named above or to the Police or Social Services in an emergency.

Requirements of a volunteer engaged in Healing Prayer Ministry

- Be a regular member of the church, authorised by, and accountable to, the incumbent with the support of the PCC and to have had their appropriate qualities and giftings prayerfully discerned (see suggestions below)
- To follow PCC and Diocesan Safeguarding policy and practice guidance at all times
- Before beginning this ministry to have completed DBS checks and safeguarding training for children and vulnerable adults - Basic Awareness and Foundation Level - on appointment and thereafter according to current Diocesan Guidelines, And in addition, undertake Domestic Abuse Training.
- To provide two references that can indicate suitability for this role.
- To have undertaken an approved training course for Healing Prayer Ministry **before beginning this ministry** and to participate in ongoing trainings.
- Role to be reviewed annually.

Qualities and giftings, examples

- Have some maturity in the faith, be respected within their church and community and committed to personal growth in faith, personal prayer and study of the scriptures.
- Demonstrate an appropriate compassion and empathy towards the needs of others.
- Be reliable and trustworthy.
- Be willing to submit to the authority of their incumbent and team leader and be accountable to them,
- Have an ability to listen; not only to those seeking help but also to God and other members of the team.
- Be self-aware in terms of their own physical, mental and spiritual needs and when these may affect their involvement in this ministry.
- Understand the limitations of their experience and ability and seek help where needed.