

Chester Diocese. Ministry of Deliverance

Deliverance ministry advisors (DMA) are appointed by the Diocesan Bishop and work as part of a team which includes a psychiatrist and a counsellor along with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor. They are all trained to respond to requests, enquiries and assistance as necessary.

The team are there to advise the clergy and the sharing of the DM team's personal contact details directly with the client is to be avoided.

The deliverance ministry team are working towards a good practice model for the diocese which will be more detailed but below are some pointers:

Before

- **First contact.** Often by phone. There is no need to rush. Treat the situation calmly and listen carefully to their story making short notes which need to be held securely. **See the Proforma.**
- **Contact your incumbent,** or in the absence of them because of Vacancy, sabbatical or holidays, the Rural Dean, incumbent of a neighbouring parish, or the Archdeacon to talk through the situation.
- Even if you are confident about dealing with the case; still get in touch with the DMA before going any further via deliverance@chester.anglican.org or Church House 01928 718834.
- Some people travel from church to church via way of mediums etc. It is important to let the team know so we can log the details so we can get some idea of geographical occurrences and the frequency of them.
- **Always** work with another person when visiting. Consider the gender of the person affected and whether this might influence who you have with you when you respond.
- **There might be safeguarding implications to consider.** If you are unsure of this please telephone Sean Augustin DSA 07704 338885 safeguarding@chester.anglican.org. If someone discloses whilst on a pastoral visit, still keep ministry to a minimum until speaking to a DMA and the situation has been thoroughly explored.
- Do not collude with people's interpretation of events either by what you say or in the use of prayer. Simply listen without judgment.
- Only those appointed/authorised to do so should engage in this ministry and Curates and Licensed ministers, should not engage in this ministry without the express permission of their incumbent, observing **all** the directions as above.

This ministry is discreet and avoids publicity. Should there be any specific concerns regarding this, please contact the Communications Officer, Stephen Freeman 01928 643454 / 07704 338309 stephen.freeman@chester.anglican.org

During

- Have a supportive praying group who, for reasons of confidentiality, will not know the details, but can hold the situation in prayer during a visit.
- Keep yourself safe and **always go with someone else**.
- Focus at first on what is good and right, rather than on what might be wrong. seeking to strengthen what is good.
- Be supportive and avoid any sudden actions which may aggravate the situation.
- Consider the obvious: electrical and plumbing problems, creaking of an old house, trees brushing against the windows etc.
- On meeting the client, it is useful to find out:
 - who has experienced precisely what and when.
 - who first experienced it.
 - any recent crises, worries, mental health concerns.
 - any recent bereavements or past bereavements.
 - any children or vulnerable adults
 - any medical treatment or current medical concerns.
 - drug and alcohol issues.
 - possible natural explanations.
 - any contacts with the occult.
- With their permission, take brief notes.
- **Know that exorcism is rare and needs to be authorised by the Bishop.**
- Know that a return visit may be necessary so start with things that can be dealt with easily and offer general prayers, a copy of the Lord's Prayer, a palm cross, a copy of one of the Gospels.

Afterwards

- It is essential to keep written notes which should be written up immediately after the meeting and kept securely on file digitally.
- Contact the person/family two weeks after the visit to see how things are and report back to the DMA.

Things to remember

- **Always** be aware of our priority towards those who are children, young people and vulnerable adults. If children or vulnerable adults are found to be involved then contact Sean Augustin DSA 07704 338885 safeguarding@chester.anglican.org There are clear statutory safeguarding procedures that Sean can advise on. Note <https://www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding/> for further information.
- Pray around the parishes, especially in areas where there are psychic fairs in pubs and community centres.