

Deliverance Ministry in the Diocese of Chester

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 Deliverance Team is here to advise the clergy and sharing of an individual advisor's personal contact details directly with the general public is to be avoided.

The Deliverance Team is 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 a vacancy, sabbatical or holiday, the Rural Dean, the 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 Pauline Butterfield, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser on 07703 800 031.
- 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.
- Deliverance Ministry is discreet and avoids publicity. Should there be any specific concerns regarding this, please contact the Director of Communications, Jim Butterworth james.butterworth@chester.anglican.org or 07889 217594.

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.
- 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. Submit your report to the DMA.
- 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 children, young people and vulnerable adults. If children or vulnerable adults are found to be involved, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Pauline Butterfield directly 01928 718834 x221 Mob: 07703 800 031. There are clear statutory safeguarding procedures that Pauline can advise on. For more information about safeguarding visit: <https://www.chester.anglican.org/social-responsibility/safeguarding/>
- Pray around the parishes, especially in areas where there are psychic fairs in pubs and community centres.