

Alton Day of Renewal Prayer Ministry Guidance (Condensed)

- Minimum of two persons involved in ministry at a time, maintain gender balance if possible;
- *Do not pray with children at all unless you are DBS checked: even then pray along with other family member(s).*
- Always pray within view of others. And never alone.
- It may be more appropriate to pray with people who are seated. This would be best if the person was especially frail, pregnant, carrying a child; or if you feel unable to support them if they fall.
- Be aware of the physical environment: is there furniture they can be injured on if they fall?
- Are you fit and able to catch them if they fall? If not, organise a capable catcher, or pray while seated.
- Be aware of risk of injury from sharp objects being worn by the recipient, prayer team or "catcher" (e.g. jewellery, rings, bracelets, bangles, brooches etc.);
- Treat all attending with love, respect and care; and be wise and prudent in all decisions and choices;
- All physical contact should be appropriate: touch is sacred and involves trust, when it is abused it is the cause of great hurt. To enter another's world is a privilege and should be done with care and clear signals of respect.
 - Always ask permission to touch e.g. "is it ok if I pray with you"? "Can I put my hand on your head"? "Have you been prayed with before"? "This is what will happen, is that ok"? etc.
 - If praying for physical pain, heart, arm leg knee etc., it may be appropriate for a team member to touch the recipient's body outside their clothing but only if they are of the same gender.
 - Always ask the person's permission before touching them. Never touch intimate areas.
 - An alternative is to ask the recipient to place their own hand on the body part and to rest your own hand on the back of theirs.
 - Team members of the opposite gender to the recipient should be wary of offering any touch beyond a hand on the head or shoulder.
 - Never rub or massage the body of anyone receiving ministry.
- Avoid being drawn into long counselling session: help them get to the point quickly. Encourage follow up prayer locally or at next ADoRE
- Avoid being drawn into attention seeking practices: all you do is for the benefit of the recipient not you;
- Do not impose prophecy on the recipient or give false expectation of healing
 - If giving a "word of knowledge" – or a "picture", pray first for wisdom and then share what you believe God has given in a way which makes no unwarranted promises, and leaves the person receiving prayer free to accept or reject what is offered by the prayer team.
 - We pray in the expectation that the Lord will respond to our prayers for healing, be it spiritual, emotional or physical: but always in accordance with God's will, his timing, and his plans for the person's life. Never tell someone their lack of faith has prevented their healing.
 - Encourage those whom the Lord has healed to witness to their healing at the time or, if it were a delayed healing, later in their parish or by returning to an ADORE meeting to give their testimonies.
- Be aware of possible adverse effect of prayer ministry on the health of the recipient. Ask about medical treatment. Never tell them to stop taking medication.
- After initial prayer, ask how they are feeling; check whether there is any observable change; if necessary, pray further.
- Use of restraint is inappropriate unless someone is fitting and there is a danger of them hurting themselves or others.
- It's good to trust in the Lord, but don't be over-confident thinking 'the Holy Spirit will protect me' etc. Remember that the Holy Spirit also grants us wisdom and expects us to use it.
- *Sometimes healing prayer may not be sufficient for a person's needs. Where this is the case, deliverance or major exorcism may be considered. These will be rare occurrences. Refer to any Priest present or to Alastair*

Please sign to indicate you will adhere to these guidelines.

Signature:  Name: Ray Swath