

KCA MINISTRY TEAM GUIDELINES*

GENERAL MINISTRY:

We ask that all members of the prayer ministry team have read, and agreed with, the KCA Safeguarding Policy.

The following applies to face to face meetings – and where applicable, virtual meetings. Covid-safe regulations must be complied with. The ministry team member must ensure that they are familiar with government guidelines. <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. Present practice is for prayer ministry team members to have taken a rapid lateral flow test and have a negative coronavirus result, before ministering

If an individual comes up for specific prayer, or during general ministry, please remember that KCA has a general policy of same-gender ministry, so, if praying one to one please only minister to individuals who are the same sex as yourself. The ministry should be Christ centred and Holy Spirit led, but your part may be more active. If possible, try to minister in twos, one of whom should be the same sex as the individual.

Often God operates sovereignly, and we need to stand back and allow God to be God. Do not intrude on God’s private time with the individual but focus on the Lord and encourage the individual to go on receiving. ‘The Holy Spirit is on you...’, ‘Go on receiving...’, ‘Don’t open your eyes...’, ‘I bless what God is doing...’. This approach to ministry also applies following a general invitation from the leadership for individuals to be open and receive the Holy Spirit.

The suggestions below may be useful:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask what the person is seeking from the Lord. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to the recipient and to the Holy Spirit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite the Holy Spirit to come, to lead, to guide and encourage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember the place of repentance – forgiving and being forgiven.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remember there is a place for expressing feelings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wait – it is God’s work, not yours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can ask the person questions, i.e. ‘What do you feel God is doing?’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you feel it is right, speak to the condition in Jesus’ name.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have a prophetic word or picture, pray into it - or offer the word in such a way that it gives the person the freedom to weigh it. Never insist that it is a word from God: remember that you could be wrong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don’t be shocked by anyone’s disclosure – be loving and remember our values – confidentiality etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer any words or thoughts sensitively, recognising that you may be wrong.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not offer any ‘mates or dates’ words. 	

If at any time you recognise that you should not be ministering to someone, especially if they are of a different gender to yourself, **it is your responsibility to stop**. Do not continue ministering alone: please ensure that you ask a fellow Ministry Team member – who is of the same sex as the individual that you are ministering to - to partner you.

We are there to make things safe – so be watchful because the person could fall! Never push anyone, but watch for their safety as, and after, they fall. Encourage them to stay in the Lord’s presence and to go on receiving.

The laying on of hands is biblical – for blessing and healing. However, be sensitive as to where you place your hands, and only touch in a restrained and appropriate manner.

Help allay a person's fears of what God is doing: 'Don't be afraid...', 'It's OK to receive...', 'It's OK to express your feelings...', 'You can stop at any time but try to go with it...', 'God loves you...'

Each individual has a responsibility for his/her own life – even Jesus asked, 'What do you want me to do?' (Mark 10:51). It is often important for the individual to pray aloud to the Lord if he/she wants healing, guidance, feels stuck or does not know what to do next. Stay with him/her in the confusion but do not accept responsibility for his/her life.

Be aware of your own issues - avoid projecting onto someone else what God is doing with you. Let each individual find out what God is doing in his/her life.

Do not let people become dependent on you – do not make appointments to pray with individuals outside the meeting, nor allow people to ask for ministry from certain people. (If they request further **prayer or** counselling, refer them to Ministry Team leader or Pastoral Team leader, Pastor or elder). This is the Holy Spirit's ministry: the person who ministers is not important. The only exception to this rule is if/when we realise we are out of our depth and need to refer to someone else with higher authority and more experience.

Never tell a person they have an evil spirit - assume that the person is manifesting his/her pain or hurt. If an evil spirit does begin to manifest, please ensure that you ask an experienced Ministry Team member to partner you and ensure that one of the leaders is aware of the situation: Two or three people should minister – not a single person and not a crowd. Do not minister late into the night. You may want to bind the evil spirit and discuss the situation with the Ministry Team leader.

Anyone reporting physical or sexual abuse needs sensitive support - please ensure that you ask an experienced Ministry Team member to partner you. If it is a past experience, you can deal with it as a deep hurt that needs safe expression of feeling, and recognition of where the true responsibility lies (with the abuser), which hopefully will lead on into forgiveness, and asking God for healing. It is important to remember that most healing is a process and takes time. Do not force people to go faster than they are able. *Report all forms of abuse to the Pastoral Team leader/safeguarding officer.*

You are working under authority so please recognise your limits - do not intrude when others are ministering unless invited. Be open to correction and guidance. Report to one of the leaders any individuals who you believe to be mentally ill, needing deliverance, or victims of physical/sexual abuse, or any incident where someone has been hurt. Be aware of confidentiality and, if in any doubt, please ask an experienced Ministry Team member to assist you.

Appendix B(i) -**Guidelines for praying for each other**– used by the 'All' e.g. during a church service / conference

- 1) Ask the person for permission to pray with them (men with men and women with women)
- 2) Ask permission to place a hand on their shoulder
- 3) Keep eyes open, pray "come Holy Spirit"
- 4) Wait and see what God will do
- 5) Look for help if you need it.

*Follows 'New Wine' guidelines and other sources.