**Prayer Ministry Confidentiality Guidance**

As the Minister continues to encourage people to experience God’s presence and blessing through prayer ministry, increasingly more people are responding, meaning we are encouraged and excited by what God is doing.  It is equally increasingly important that we maintain confidentiality. Any lack of confidentiality, even sharing within the prayer ministry team or between spouses whether part of the overall team or not, could have a negative impact on people coming back for prayer and hinder people from coming forward in the first place and result in one less avenue for people experiencing God’s blessing. There are areas to watch for which include:

**Praying at the end of prayer ministry as a group of four.**

By all means continue to pray for people but you should do this in a way which protects the confidentiality of those who have been prayed with, so nothing specific. It is good to ask God to continue what he has started in people (without going into detail), for continued blessing, etc. It is best to avoid any sharing of issues or names within the team.

**Referrals to the pastoral care team or other ministries.**

If you think that a pastoral care visit might benefit the person being prayed with, please ask them whether they would like this at the time and refer them to the Nurture Leadership Group nurture@barnchurch.org.uk if they have said that this is ok.

Similarly, ask permission before suggesting a Sozo appointment. Sozo appointments can be requested on the church web site and the person requesting the appointment should complete the application themselves: <https://www.barnchurch.org.uk/whats-on/bethel-sozo/>

**Sharing outcomes for wider encouragement**

If someone reports that something has happened (e.g. come forward because of a particular pain, perhaps in response to a word of knowledge, which has been healed), then it is good to ask if the person would mind that information (even without name if they wish) being shared with Mike as Minister (He can then discuss with them further if a wider sharing with the Team or Church would be helpful/desired).  This is as much for the protection of the team as the person being prayed with.

**Continuing to pray for people after prayer ministry.**

This will be particularly an issue for those who have a heart for people. Please make sure that prayers are in private afterwards, not with other people or in prayer meetings, even in a general sense.

**When meeting people who have previously been for prayer in a different context.**

When you meet people, the following week for example, it is good to ask them how they are, but please avoid asking about issues which have been confidentially shared with you as a prayer ministry team member. It would be fine to say “I’ve been praying for you since last week and if you want more prayer, I’m sure the team would be happy to pray with you” for example, as this avoids the possibility of anything sensitive being overheard.

**Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) legislation**

The exception to this, which is very unlikely and has never happened in our experience, is if any child protection or protection of vulnerable adults concern comes up the right thing to do is to tell the person that you will pass on information to our Protection of Vulnerable Groups coordinator and then pass it on to them through the Minister.