

## Deliverance Ministry

The healing ministry of the church includes dealing with the effect of paranormal and supernatural encounters. Such happenings can be distressing and very worrying. Deliverance ministry (sometimes referred to as exorcism) seeks to help people who are encountering these unusual or troubling experiences that might be considered paranormal; or who feel afraid, oppressed or possessed by evil. We believe that Jesus Christ has power over evil and brings peace and wholeness out of chaos and fear.

If you or someone you know needs help, you can contact your Church of England vicar who, if necessary, can take advice from a deliverance adviser appointed by the Bishop. You can also contact a member of the Bristol Diocese Deliverance Ministry Team via the Diocesan Office (0117 906 0100 [reception@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:reception@bristoldiocese.org)). This advice and help is always free of charge.

Prayers and bible passages which you may find helpful

### **A Prayer for Christ's Protection**

Christ be with me: Christ within me;  
Christ before me: Christ behind me;  
Christ on my right: Christ on my left;  
Christ above me: Christ beneath me;  
Christ around me: now and ever. Amen.

### **A Prayer for a Place**

Visit, Lord, we pray, this place  
and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy.  
Let your holy angels dwell here to keep us in peace,  
and may your blessing be upon it evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **A Prayer before Going to Sleep**

May the cross of the Son of God,  
which is mightier than all the hosts of Satan,  
and more glorious than all the hosts of heaven,  
abide with me in my going out and my coming in.  
By day and by night, at morning and at evening,  
at all times and in all places may it protect and defend me.  
From the wrath of evildoers, from the assaults of evil spirits,  
from foes visible and invisible, from the snares of the devil,  
from all passions that beguile the soul and body:  
may it guard, protect and deliver me. Amen.

## **Verses from Psalm 91**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,  
Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'  
For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.  
He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers;  
his faithfulness shall be my shield and buckler.  
You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;  
Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.  
Because you have made the Lord your refuge  
and the Most High my stronghold,  
There shall no evil happen to you,  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.  
For he shall give his angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

or

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
or earth has it is in heaven.

Give us this daily our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil.

For this is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

Amen.

## For Clergy

The House of Bishop's guidelines (1975 revised 2012) offer guidance relating to prayer for deliverance for a person believed in some way to be 'possessed' by evil.

The guidelines state that such ministry should:

- be in collaboration with the resources of medicine
- be in the context of prayer and sacrament
- have the minimum of publicity
- be done by experienced persons authorised by the diocesan Bishop
- with follow up of continuing pastoral care

Clergy wishing to learn more about deliverance ministry can refer to Chapter 9 of the report "A Time to Heal" (House of Bishops, Church House Publishing, 2000), and "Deliverance", edited by Michael Perry, (SPCK, 1996).

The Bishop's Deliverance Ministry team supports clergy in matters relating to Deliverance Ministry. Each of them has undertaken the national church's training course and the team meets regularly under the guidance of the Bishop of Swindon and operates within the House of Bishops' Guidelines for Good Practice in the Deliverance Ministry 1975 (revised 2012).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/guidelines%20on%20deliverance%20ministry.pdf>

Experience of the paranormal or supernatural can be profoundly distressing and it is essential that appropriate ministry is offered, along with the ongoing pastoral support of the local church. It is worth noting that the need for exorcism is very rare and that in every case the explicit permission of the Bishop is required.

Clergy and Licenced Lay Ministers are invited to be in touch with the team through the Diocesan Office at Hillside House (0117 906 0100 or contact through [www.bristoldiocese.org](http://www.bristoldiocese.org)) should they receive a request for ministry relating to

paranormal and supernatural experiences. One of the Deliverance Ministry team members will be in touch as soon as possible and will work with you in this ministry.