

HOLY TRINITY, PRESTWOOD AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN

Church Cottage, 134 Wycombe Road, Prestwood,
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, HP16 0HJ
secretary@htprestwood.org.uk 01494 863805

RECTOR: THE REVEREND DEINIOL HEYWOOD

PASTORAL CARE POLICY

(Revised October 2020)

1. What is pastoral care?

- It embraces a wide range of activities which flow from our commitment to love one another because we ourselves are first loved by God.
- It might involve supporting others during prolonged periods of difficulty or during an immediate need, with practical help and/or being “a listening ear”, or encouraging others on a journey of healing and wholeness, or helping others to consider reconciliation with God, themselves or others.
- It can happen formally in planned and organised ways or informally through everyday spontaneous moments.
- It is not counselling - that should only be done by those specially trained as counsellors.
- It is the ministry of the whole church, not just the clergy. We all have a God-given responsibility to care for others.

2. Some Biblical values for pastoral care

- We are called to value each person, regardless of ethnic origin, sexual orientation or religious belief, as uniquely created in the image of God (*Genesis 1:27*) with the purpose, potential and capacity to live life to the full (*John 10:10*).
- It is inspired and enabled by Christ to equip God’s people to do his work (*Ephesians 4:11-16*) and it is foundational to the Church’s mission (*John 17:21*)
- Those who care pastorally are called to be burden-bearers and burden-sharers with and for others, whilst not creating unhealthy dependency or denying the responsibility of the one being supported (*Galatians 6:2*)
- They are to be more ready to listen than to speak, and aware that their words should be spoken carefully (*James 1:19*)
- They are aware of the need for confidentiality and discretion (but see Section 5 below) (*Proverbs 11:13*)

3. How do we give pastoral care?

- For all of us, we look out for people who may need particular support. For example, has someone been absent from church for a few weeks and no-one knows why? Have they said something significant which should be brought to the attention of the clergy or the pastoral care team?
- In particular, Ministry Team leaders and members are encouraged to look out for people in their team who may need pastoral care and support.
- For those who authorised by the PCC to give pastoral care in a more focused way, who have been DBS checked and suitably trained, it may include home,

hospital or care home visits (one-off or regular), giving home communion or co-ordinating some form of practical support.

- Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount at all times and all involved in pastoral care are required to confirm that they have read and will abide by our Safeguarding Policy.

4. Visits

- Where a person is being visited in his or her own home, arrange the visit in advance, if possible, with the person directly or through a competent family member. If you are visiting alone, ensure that someone in your household (or failing that, the church office) knows when and where you will be going., and that you take a fully-charged mobile phone.
- Brief details of the visit should be recorded in the central Pastoral Care record maintained by the church and this can be done by giving the Parish Secretary the name of the person visited, date and time of visit and a short summary of the nature of the visit in one or two sentences.
- All offering pastoral care in a home, hospital or care home are required to confirm that they have read and understand the latest guidance from the Church of England on Personal Risk Factors for Clergy, Church Workers and Volunteers

5. Confidentiality

- All information given by a person receiving pastoral care should be treated with respect and kept confidential and not disclosed to anyone else, apart from the clergy. Confidentiality, outside of safeguarding issues, rests solely with the Rector.
- It should be made clear at the start of a meeting that anything said may be communicated to the Rector or another member of the clergy.

6. Prayer

- Prayer, both public and private, is at the heart of our pastoral care.
- All who offer pastoral care should pray for those they are supporting and for God's help and guidance for themselves as givers of pastoral care.
- If appropriate at the end of a visit, they may offer to pray for the person visited. This should be offered sensitively and never imposed. In many cases, it may be the very best pastoral care simply to offer a loving presence, silently witnessing to God's love for each of us.
- If (and only if) requested by the person concerned or a member of their family, their name can be added to our Intercessions List
- The Staff Team of the church undertake to pray regularly for pastoral needs and for those giving pastoral care.

If you have any queries or questions regarding this Policy, please address these to the Rector or another member of the clergy team.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic:

Our pastoral care during this time is mostly being undertaken by telephone and email, rather than personal visits. We have set up a "keeping-in-touch" scheme so that there is regular contact with all members of our worshipping community. The principles set out in the above policy apply equally to those who have been designated "keepers-in-touch" as they are providing pastoral support to others.

You are reminded that the church has a Transport and Lifts Policy but the church is unable to arrange lifts to and from services due to the current restrictions