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Dear colleagues,

Each one of us, in the course of the ministry to which Christ has called us, may well encounter situations or individuals where evil or oppression is at work. The Church, of which we are a part, has much to offer through Christ's healing ministry including pastoral care and counselling. Prayer addressed to God for protection and deliverance from evil, in Christ's name, may be appropriate, but also there are professional boundaries to observe and all of us need to know when to seek help and advice. If this ministry is sought in connection with a child, the Diocesan Safeguarding Children Adviser must also be involved, in line with the House of Bishops Guidance, as found in the Parish Safeguarding Handbook - Canterbury Supplement.

For these reasons I commend to you the Canterbury Diocesan Guidelines for the Deliverance Ministry. Please read through them and make yourself aware of the professional boundaries that are necessary for safe ministry in this area, in the name of Jesus Christ.

In this diocese I have appointed a team of advisors (please see back page) who advise me on this particular ministry and who are available to us all for advice when needed.

I pray these guidelines and the available advice will help us all to respond to those He brings to us for this ministry, as this diocese seeks to bring Christ's healing to those in need.

Yours in the service of Christ,

Bishop Rose

Diocese of Canterbury

Guidelines for the Ministry of Deliverance

This ministry is seen as being within the context of the ministry of the Church of God and that it is not unusual or abnormal but a normal part of the ministry that the Church offers.

Reasons for contact being made:

Abnormal signs at a place:

- Articles suddenly appearing or disappearing
- Sound of footsteps crossing room
- Animals reacting strangely
- Unnaturally cold areas
- Strange and distasteful smells
- Furniture displaced
- Objects moving, electrical equipment turning on or off

Abnormal behaviour from people in distress, because of:

- Involvement with ouija boards, tarot cards, astrology, fortune telling, other forms occult practice
- Witnessing some poltergeist activity
- Seeking to contact the dead
- Witchcraft, black magic, Satanism
- Curse of an evil nature
- Some New Age practices
- Cult involvement

Within context Christian Worship and Pastoral work:

- Evil may manifest during times of worship
- Possibility of a need of deliverance emerging during pastoral counselling
- A sense of the presence of evil by practising Christians

Discernment:

- Contacting an Adviser may be helpful.
- Thorough history taking is important.
- Treat an approach seriously, listening prayerfully.
- By listening reduce panic levels 'hold' the situation.
- Keep an open mind to the right sort of help required.
- May be links between place and people so information pointing to one or another may not be conclusive.
- Take notes, offering them to be read if any concern about what you are writing.
- Discernment between person or place, however remember that apparent place phenomena can be person related and apparent person phenomena can be place related.
- Take time and prayer and if in doubt consult an Adviser.

Ministry to place

- Can be undertaken by Parish Priest.
- The priest should not minister alone but should always have a Christian colleague (lay or ordained), who has an understanding of the situation, with them.
- Even if the presenting phenomena are clearly place centred there may be a need for repentance, confession and absolution (e.g. where involvement in occult practice has occurred.)
- Calmly explain what you are going to do.
- Use liturgical or informal prayers of authority in the name of Christ. The choice of which sort of prayer should be about 'what is the most appropriate for these people in this place?'
- Resources: Common Worship Pastoral Services, pp95-99. The Advisers may be able to point you to other resources available.
- You may wish to celebrate Holy Communion.
- Conclude with a blessing of the place and of the people and invoke the Holy Spirit.
- As soon as possible make good case notes and keep them on file.
- Stay in touch and provide and facilitate ongoing pastoral care as you are able.

Ministry to people

- In discussion with an Adviser and if involves an exorcism always with an Adviser.
- The priest offering the ministry must be in control of time, length and setting of prayer for deliverance.
- It is easy to be manipulated by the apparent urgency to help a distressed person.
- The person may need a pastoral helper, friend or family member to stay with them until an appropriate time has been found.
- If there are presenting phenomena that appear demonic it is not necessary to start deliverance immediately. Where necessary pray a prayer restraining evil, not one to cast it out. Then there is opportunity for proper prayerful discernment.
- Choose a place where the person can be relaxed. Meet at a pre-arranged time, during the day and never late at night. Set in advance a time limit for the session, normally no longer than an hour.
- This ministry always to be exercised in pairs.
- A prayer support group praying (bearing in mind confidentiality) during the ministry time.
- Establish whether rejection, repentance and/or renunciation of evil is necessary.
- Once rejection or renunciation (if necessary) is complete use liturgical or informal prayers of authority in the name of Christ commanding the evil presence to depart.
- Renewal of baptismal vows may well be appropriate, as may be Holy Communion.
- Pray for the person to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Make good notes and ensure pastoral care follow up is in place.

If the enquiry about Deliverance Ministry involves a child or a Vulnerable Adult then a Bishop's Adviser on the Deliverance Ministry must be consulted as must one of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers.