



— Diocese of —  
**Hereford**  
Proclaiming Christ ✦ Growing Disciples



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The Diocesan Office • The Palace • Hereford • HR4 9BL  
t: 01432 373300 e: info@hereford.anglican.org  
[www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org)



## **Deliverance Ministry**

Do not fear for I am with you [John 14.27]

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# Deliverance Ministry

## Why is this called Deliverance Ministry?

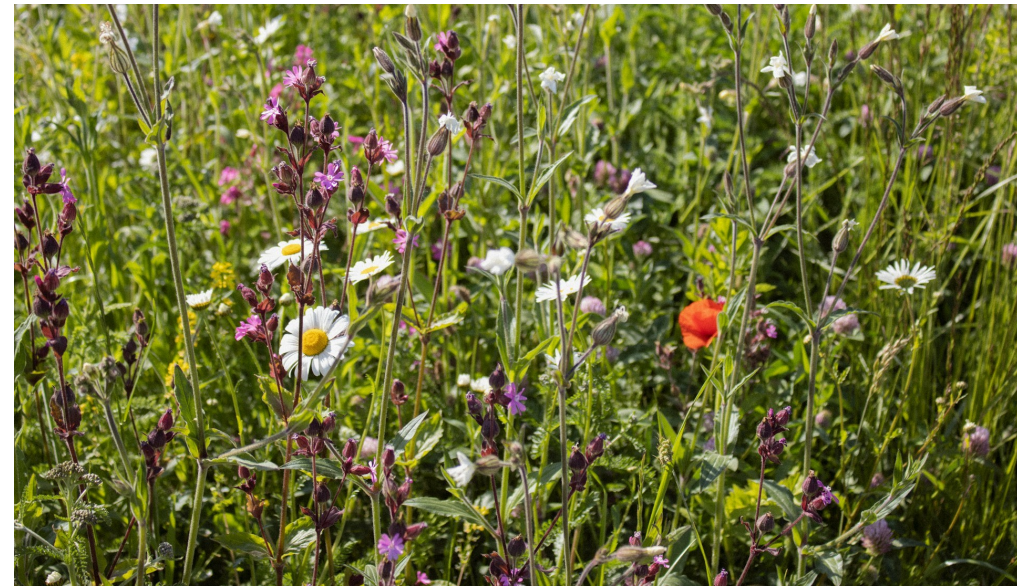
In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray to God the Father to 'deliver us from evil' and that is where the term comes from in what we call 'deliverance ministry'. Essentially, it is about 'delivering' a person, persons, or even a place, from the various kinds of evil that exist in the world and which cause anxiety, suffering and prevent peace of mind. Deliverance is also about giving people a positive sense of being able to grow and live in peace in their future lives.



*We believe that  
God wants  
everyone to  
flourish*

## What is Deliverance Ministry?

We believe that God wants everyone to flourish, whatever their circumstances. Deliverance Ministry is therefore a specialist Christian ministry in the Church of England which can be carried out in addition to the ministry of pastoral care, healing and comfort that is always available to you from your local clergy and lay ministers. Some people think it is about 'exorcism' or about 'casting out demons' that they might have seen in a television programme or a film, but Deliverance Ministry is much wider and much more 'ordinary' than that. Such ministry is about understanding the underlying issues in a person's, or family's trouble, providing reassurance, comfort and a way through to feeling at peace through Jesus Christ. Deliverance Ministry can also take place in a location, rather than being focussed on people.



## Who is my local contact?

Your local clergy will be able to assist you in the first instance. Please visit [www.AChurchNearYou.com](http://www.AChurchNearYou.com) to find your local contact or email [deliverance@hereford.anglican.org](mailto:deliverance@hereford.anglican.org)

## What happens afterwards?

Deliverance Ministry is something which is put into God's hands. It follows the example of Jesus in the Gospels, where those whom he delivered from the evils afflicting them, were transformed, released, renewed and given a fresh start. The vast majority of people receiving deliverance ministry find that they do experience freedom from what has been troubling them and a sense of renewed peace and comfort. Your local parish priest and lay ministers or assistants will continue to offer you pastoral care and make sure that you have someone to talk to about your experience and who will help you look to the future. Many people find that following Deliverance Ministry, they want to find out more about Christian faith and forge better links with their local church to step out more confidently on their journey with God.



## Where do I start if I think I, or my family, have a problem which requires deliverance?

You should first get in contact with your local church, so that you can have a face-to-face conversation with the church's clergy who are close to where you are. If you don't know your local church or want to approach a different one, you can use A Church Near You, (on the internet) to find contact details for Church of England churches, clergy near you.

## Who is referred to a Deliverance Ministry team?

It depends on what arises from your conversation with your local clergy and how they feel you can be best supported. Many issues can be resolved by just talking to them. You may feel reassured by being prayed for, becoming part of a congregation, or by visiting a church, or just by knowing you can reach out to your local church ministry team for help when you need it. However, sometimes, people who are anxious or afraid, or experiencing a sense of oppression and upset, or having disturbing experiences which they don't understand, may well be offered the chance to talk to someone from the Deliverance Team.

## What sort of things get referred?

Often, people are referred to a Deliverance Ministry Team if there are unusual experiences involved. These might include places with a history of violence or sadness; paranormal or unsettling experiences; a sense of spiritual attack or a perception of evil at work in your life. If there are physical or mental health issues which may also impact how you feel, you may need to be referred for more specialist pastoral care, collaborating with health professionals and with the diocesan safeguarding adviser, to ensure you are kept safe and receive the most appropriate forms of care.



## What sort of thing gets referred?

Typically, someone from the Deliverance Ministry Team will spend some time learning about you and your situation and listening to what you have to say. The next step is to assess what your needs are and whether other people need to be consulted about what you say has been happening, or how you feel. The Deliverance Ministry Team will then discuss with you a recommended course of action and agree with you what will happen next. In many cases, this will involve prayers for protection and peace. You will be given God's blessing and reassurance.

The safety and protection of everyone involved is paramount. Deliverance Ministers have to follow strict conduct guidelines about protecting your privacy, your information, your wellbeing and your safety. You need to give your consent to any ministry that is offered. You are able to ask as many questions as you like, and you can ask to stop at any time.

## Is Deliverance ministry for everyone?

There are some circumstances where it would not be appropriate for Deliverance Ministry to take place. Deliverance Ministers have to follow the Church of England's guidelines to safeguard people. For example, if you are unwell, mentally or physically, it may be necessary at first to follow the guidance of health professionals about your care, because deliverance ministry could potentially make things worse. You may be able to benefit from deliverance ministry later.

Church of England guidelines also state that formal deliverance ministry is not allowed to be carried out with children (i.e. those under 18). It is also prohibited for people in relation to altering their sexual orientation or gender identity. You can still be listened to, advised, offered pointers to other resources, and appropriately prayed with, and for.

In some cases, the Deliverance Ministry Team may decide that deliverance is not the best way forward for your situation. You will still always have access to support and care from your local parish clergy and lay ministers or assistants.

## Who is in the Deliverance Ministry Team?

The leader of a diocese's Deliverance Ministry Team is usually a senior priest with a lot of experience. The team may contain both clergy and lay people and come from different church traditions, so that they bring different perspectives to each case that is referred to them. Deliverance Ministry Team personnel are specially authorised by their bishop to carry out this ministry and have been properly trained to do it.