**Diocese of Portsmouth Healing Prayer Ministry Guidelines**

**APPENDIX 1. Guidelines for Appropriate Training for Lay Team Members.**

It is not possible to cover all aspects of training for healing ministry here but in general terms it is expected that ‘Appropriate Training’ for Healing Prayer Ministry should include the following:

* An understanding of what is meant by Christian healing and the Scriptural and Theological basis for the Christian Healing Ministry.
* Appreciation of the need for ministry to be exercised out of right motivation, faith and a commitment to personal discipleship and growth.
* An appreciation of the need for ministry under authority and in relationship to others, being respectful of the church’s tradition and leadership.
* An appreciation of the need to be sensitive to the autonomy and needs of those receiving prayer ministry, including the ability to listen and respect confidentiality.
* Respect for the work of health professionals and modern medical practice, in particular support for treatment and medication given, recognising that God is at work through healthcare alongside prayer.
* An appropriate mode of prayer ministry, which includes dependence on the Holy Spirit and sensitivity to the individual as well as the need being prayed for, always affirming God’s love for the person. It should include adequate explanation of how ministry is to be carried out. It is particularly important that no one being prayed for should be made to feel any sense of guilt or burden as a result of healing not occurring as hoped for. [Appropriate models of Prayer Ministry are taught for example within the Diocesan Healing Course or training offered by the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, The Christian Healing Mission or New Wine.]
* The place of laying on of hands, appropriate touch, anointing with oil.
* An understanding of what constitutes good practice in the healing ministry and the importance of personal conduct. [As outlined in the *House of Bishops’ Guidelines for Good Practice in the Healing Ministry.*]
* Teaching should include reference to personal boundaries, limitations, when there may be a need for referral and special circumstances such as mental illness, prayer for vulnerable adults, children, and when advice on deliverance ministry might be indicated.

[The Diocesan Healing Adviser is available to offer advice and recommendations regarding training needs]

David Pearson, Diocese of Portsmouth Healing Adviser. February 2019.