

Prayer Ministry at La Côte Anglican Church

A Summary Guide

for Prospective Prayer Ministers

This is a summary of a more detailed guidance document on the church's practice of prayer ministry, which we encourage all current and prospective prayer ministers to read. It is located here: <https://www.lacotechurch.ch/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Prayer-Ministry-after-services-at-La-Cote-Anglican-Church-1.pdf>

What is prayer ministry?

Prayer ministry is a simple but important ministry of listening and prayer offered after most church services. Its purpose is to help people encounter God's love, peace and grace as they bring their concerns to him in prayer. Our role is not to solve people's problems, but to sit alongside them, listen carefully and pray with compassion, trusting God to work in their lives.

Why do we offer it?

Prayer ministry reflects the New Testament's encouragement to pray for one another, bear one another's burdens and care for one another within the body of Christ. It follows the example of Jesus, who combined public teaching with personal ministry to individuals, and expresses the Church's calling to be a caring community.

What does a prayer minister do?

Prayer ministers:

- welcome people warmly and respectfully;
- listen attentively without interrupting or judging;
- pray simply, clearly and compassionately;
- ask God to bring his comfort, wisdom, strength, healing and peace;
- encourage people to place their trust in God rather than in the prayer minister.

We seek to facilitate an encounter with God, leaving space for the Holy Spirit to work in whatever way God chooses.

What prayer ministry is not

Prayer ministry is **not** counselling, coaching or giving advice. Our calling is to listen well and pray faithfully, not to diagnose problems or offer solutions. Sometimes people may benefit from further pastoral or professional support, but referral is made through the Chaplain and appropriate church processes.

Our commitments

Prayer ministers are expected to:

- maintain strict confidentiality, except where safeguarding concerns require information to be shared;
- treat every person with dignity, compassion and respect;
- avoid raising unrealistic expectations about healing while praying confidently for God's work in people's lives;
- follow the church's safeguarding procedures at all times;
- serve as part of a supportive ministry team.

Joining the team

Prayer ministry is open to Christians with a heart for prayer, a willingness to listen well and a desire to serve others with humility. New team members receive guidance and support and are scheduled through the church rota.

Before serving, all prayer ministers are required to complete the Church of England's Basic Awareness and Foundations safeguarding training and obtain an appropriate police check.

A ministry of grace

Prayer ministry is one of the ways La Côte Anglican Church seeks to embody the love of Christ. We do not come with all the answers. We come to listen, to pray and to trust God to meet people at the point of their need.