

# DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

*Chris Briggs*

For some, Deliverance Ministry has always been part of the context of their ministry. For others, this seems to be a strange area of ministry. This is true both within the Methodist Church and within other parts of the Christian Church.

Within the Methodist Church of Great Britain, there have been various reports and consideration of this area of ministry. Following a brief period where there was a moratorium on offering deliverance in the name of the Methodist Church, the Methodist Conference of 2022 agreed and issued new guidance. The Conference report can be found on the Methodist Church website under: Methodist Church 2022 Deliverance Report.

The purpose of this article is not to discuss deliverance as a ministry, but to make MET members aware of the new guidance which is now part of our discipline.

For me, the time was right to look at this area of ministry. It is an area of ministry I have been involved with since my conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ back in 1973. Others will also have a rich and

privileged history of ministering in this area. The advice and guidance that we had previously operated under within the Methodist Church were quite old and outdated. Therefore, there was a need for renewed guidance, especially with concern about potential abuse and bad practice. My feeling is this is an important ministry for MET members to be aware of, and, if appropriate, to consider prayerfully offering themselves to it.

In order to do this, it would be useful to read the Conference report which sets up various principles. Essentially though, one now has to be authorised to practice this ministry. That means undergoing Connexional training consisting of discernment conversations and at least a day long training course. A decision is then made by the Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry about whether a person might be authorised for this ministry. Regular supervision would be required if so. Ordained or Lay people may apply to be considered and the route to do this, as specified in the Conference report, is by making themselves known to their Chair of

District who can pass their name to the Chair of the Connexional Panel.

At present, one cohort is considered per year and this coming year's cohort has already started the process, but it is never too early to offer through your Chair of District. If the same timetable holds, it would be important to offer early in each new Methodist year. I do commend this as an important area of ministry and pray that other members of MET will offer to serve. I am privileged to have been authorised to serve in this way, but there are not many of us and there is a whole Connexion to cover so the need is important. Please do prayerfully consider it.

*The Revd Chris Briggs is Chair-elect of Methodist Evangelicals Together and District Mission Enabler of The Methodist Church Nottingham and Derby District.*