



Parish Nursing Ministries UK

Bringing health, healing and wellbeing through any local church

Thinking of Parish Nursing?

For churches, Christian organisations and registered nurses interested in finding out more.

Why have a health ministry in a church/organisation?

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of the link between physical health and emotional, social, mental and spiritual health. The whole population has witnessed times of distress and difficulty in one or more of these areas over recent months and our society has had to adapt to new ways of living and being in each others' company. A health ministry is a way of intentionally caring for the body, mind, and spirit of an individual or community. If your church/organisation is wondering:

- How can you extend your pastoral care work into the community?
- How to better support families who have health needs?
- How to extend your social outreach with spiritual care and prayer?
- How to reduce the health risks faced by your congregation?
- How can you help people to live their life in all its fullness?

Maybe a health ministry is something worth exploring further?

Who are Parish Nursing Ministries UK (PNMUK)?

PNMUK is a national charity that trains, equips and supports registered nurses to work through a local church or Christian organisation as a parish nurse. PNMUK also supports the church or organisation to set up a robust, accredited parish nursing service for the appointed parish nurse to work in. PNMUK provides professional supervision for the parish nurse, as well as support to access continued professional development and works across all denominations.

PNMUK Vision

To see churches and Christian organisations mobilised in bringing health, healing and wholeness as a missional expression of faith to local communities.

PNMUK Mission

To equip and support churches and Christian organisations to practically establish and run an effective parish nursing health ministry as a form of care and missional outreach to their local communities.



What do parish nurses do?

Parish nurses work alongside clergy and pastoral teams, using their knowledge, skills and expertise as registered nurses to identify health needs, adopt a plan of action for service users and help navigate the healthcare system where needed.

They are able to carry out an assessment of physical, emotional and spiritual needs, using credible and current evidence-based practice to inform their decision making and practice for each service user or group.

The care they offer might include:

- Health screening and advice
- Health promotion/education
- Help with stress and anxiety
- Health support for short or long term illness
- Medication advice
- End of life support
- Support/well-being groups
- Home visits
- Spiritual care including prayer, if wished
- Referral to faith leaders as appropriate

This complements, but does not replace, NHS and other statutory services

“We have very much appreciated the work of our parish nurse. She has become a source of comfort and support to some of our most vulnerable patients and her combination of care, competence and humanity have been of immense value to patients at some of the hardest times in their lives”

From a GP surgery

Where can parish nurses practice?

Parish nurses are employed by a local church or organisation, either as a volunteer or in a paid position. One of the requisites for being a parish nurse is that they have a Christian faith. They can be a member of the congregation or recruited to the position from outside the employing church.

Parish nurses can carry out their practice in many settings. They can hold sessions within the church building or a community building nearby. They can offer home visits to people who cannot access sessions in the community. They can set up new groups and clinics, or partner with other services already providing something for the local community.



“The parish nurse is absolutely brilliant, not only do you get practical help and advice, you have the presence of God in your home and also the power of prayer.”

From a parish nursing service user

How long does a parish nursing service take to set up?

PNMUK would guide you as a church/organisation through the process of setting up your service. Whether you already have a registered nurse in mind and have started planning what you want to do in your community, or you have only just heard about parish nursing and don't know where to start, we will tailor the support we give around your needs.

Much of the planning work required to set up a successful and robust service can take place at any time with the support of a Regional Nurse Coordinator from PNMUK. The planning stage can take anywhere from a few months to a year to complete, however that is all down to how quickly you as a church/organisation want to work.

Once a registered nurse has been identified they will need to attend the first four days of the Preparation for Parish Nursing Practice (PfPNP) course. Only then can the nurse start to practice as a parish nurse. There are two PfPNP courses held each year, and these are normally residential, but are currently adapted as a virtual course via Zoom. There is a fifth and final day of the course held six months after the residential course, which is included in the PfPNP price.

“I owe a huge debt of gratitude to our parish nurse, who supported me immensely when I had to face up to a potentially life-threatening situation not long after she joined us....she was always willing to answer questions and she always ended a visit by taking out her special parish nursing prayer book and adapting a prayer specially for me. These were very special moments.”

From a client

How much does having a parish nursing service cost?

To start up a parish nursing service, as for any ministry, there will be costs. At PNMUK we have tried to keep these to a minimum and to 'pay-as-you-go' to limit initial outlay.

Once you make a decision to proceed with setting up a parish nursing service the costs are:

- Planning - a combination of online advice and support from a Regional Nurse Coordinator and a visit to the church/organisation at an agreed point **£260**
- Parish Nursing Preparation for Practice course **£595** (residential) or **£342** (if offered online)

Other costs may include:

- Equipment e.g. office furniture, phone, locked filing cabinet and/or computer
- Expenses e.g. phone bill, travel, stationery, printing
- Public liability insurance specifically for the parish nursing service approximately **£100 per year** as a supplement to your church/organisation public liability insurance

Additionally for a volunteer nurse:

- Registration with Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) **£120** per year
- Professional organisation fees (e.g. Royal College of Nursing) approximately **£120** per year

Or for a paid nurse:

- PNMUK assistance with recruitment **£160** in person (**£110** online).
- Salary - approximately **£16.50 per hour** plus any additional employer costs.
- Employer's professional indemnity insurance approximately **£200** per year.

Once the service has begun, there is an annual contribution to PNMUK of **£595 (or £50 per month)** for support from the Regional Nurse Coordinator which includes professional support for the nurse, including quarterly group supervision (Community of Practice), and an annual review with the church/organisation. This fee would also include administration costs.

We would also invite you to support your parish nurse to attend the **PNMUK Annual Symposium**, which will cost around **£295** in 2022. This is a time of fellowship, training and refreshment for the parish nurses.

All of these costs will be looked at in the planning stage, and we can discuss how and where to look for funding for these items at this point.

“A very valuable and important resource for myself and the community, would like to see more in the country.”

From a church minister



Why is it important to partner with PNMUK if setting up a parish nursing service?

Churches are wonderful at innovating and imagining what can be done in their communities. There have been some great examples of missional outreach across all Christian denominations throughout history, and it is a joy to see how God is using these for His glory. Parish nursing is no exception. There are over 90 parish nurses across the country at present, providing services in 85 locations. Each one of these services is unique in what it provides. There is not one community that is the same as another. Just like us humans, communities and churches are uniquely made up of personality, gifts, characteristics and therefore each parish nursing service has to be flexible to meet the identified needs and vision in each area.

Partnering with PNMUK will give you as a church/organisation the reassurance that your service has been set up in line with the robust standards set out by the healthcare sector. Registered nurses have to abide by the Nursing and Midwifery (NMC) Code of Professional Conduct, in order to practice safely. PNMUK ensures that your service will be set up to enable this to happen. We will also support you in aiming to provide a service that is safe, effective, responsive, caring and well-led. These are the core quality standards we have as a charity, which are in line with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). These standards will help you as a church have confidence in your service and are vital for any parish nurse to have in place so they can practice safely.

I face new challenges every day and sometimes need reassurance and support. PNMUK is invaluable in providing this to me and to my church - at our annual visit, through the Community of Practice group and via my Regional Nurse Coordinator when I need advice on a particular issue.

From a parish nurse

How do we get started?

PNMUK offers quarterly yearly 'Explore online' events, which are open to any church to attend and discover more. These are short, informal online gatherings. Meeting dates are on our website, please contact enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk for information and the Zoom link.

You can have an 'Explore More' meeting to provide you with more information about parish nursing if you would still like to discover more before committing to anything. An 'Explore More' meeting is a virtual meeting to allow a group of people from your church/organisation to ask any questions about parish nursing and how it could fit with your vision and mission for your community. We don't charge for this meeting but welcome any small donations towards covering costs (suggested amount £30.00). If you would like an 'Explore More' meeting, please complete the form attached with this pack.

If you feel you are ready to make a commitment to work with PNMUK to host a parish nursing service, please email enquiries@parishnursing.org and we will be able to arrange for a Regional Nurse Coordinator to be in touch with you to start planning your service.

Our parish nurse is a wonderful person who has helped me and my husband through some very difficult times. We look forward to visits, always cheerful and understanding. She has helped me to cope with my cancer.

From a service user

Frequently asked questions

1. Why would we need two insurances?

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the body that regulates nurses and midwives, stipulates that registered nurses must have adequate professional indemnity insurance in order to practice as a registered nurse. Without this insurance cover they would be in breach of 'The Code' which is the professional standards to which nurses must adhere. The insurance covers any potential harmful eventualities that could be caused by the registered nurse's actions/advice/treatment or care.

Public liability insurance, which churches will already have in place, will need to have an extension applied for having a parish nursing service, in order to cover the church for any potential harm caused by having the service. Some insurance providers require partnership with PNMUK as a requirement to their insurance cover.

2. What will our money cover when partnering with PNMUK?

PNMUK will:

- a. Offer appropriate education pathways/professional development opportunities for the parish nurse(s) who are involved in the service.
- b. Offer resources and documentation templates to the parish nurse to aid professionalism and best practice.
- c. Organise and lead a regional Community of Practice for parish nurses including, but not confined to, periodic meetings and online peer networking.

- d. Support PNMUK trained parish nurses or practitioners with NMC revalidation (or with the similar process for other health care professionals involved in the delivery of parish nursing)
- e. Act as a resource for nurses, practitioners or leaders undertaking theological and professional research in areas related to parish nursing.
- f. Provide the church/organisation with regional nurse coordination and ongoing service support.
- g. Help the church/organisation develop a health ministry in ways that are consistent with PNMUK standards, legislation, Nursing and Midwifery Council and other health/professional codes that apply.
- h. Provide ongoing coordination support for the church/organisation by offering at least one visit from a Regional Nurse Coordinator per year and telephone/email contact as appropriate.
- i. Collate statistics from the church/organisation that can be used for local and national reporting.
- j. Provide a service accreditation and quality assurance scheme to support good governance, public protection and stakeholder assurance.
- k. Provide access to an up-to-date website, periodic news and updates.

3. How do we fund a parish nursing service?

There are different ways to fund a parish nursing service and each church will have creative plans to provide the funds required. Local funding pots are a good starting point as they often take into account the health needs of the local community and therefore can identify with the service. There are often funds available from local authorities and charities for such services.

Alternatively there are denominational grants available for innovative projects working in communities.

In addition, PNMUK is a 'recommended project' within the Cinnamon Network, and as such seed funding from the Cinnamon Network is often

available to set up new parish nursing services in different areas at different times.

4. Why do we have to have a registered nurse?

Providing a health ministry in a community will require the right people in place to carry this out well. Registered nurses are self-regulated and autonomous practitioners who have been trained to a high level to provide such support to communities. Nurses are considered the most trusted professionals in the UK, according to the Ipsos MORI poll (2022), which means they are in a fantastic position to speak to and support people of all backgrounds. Nurses are able to carry out in depth assessments of people and can implement a plan of support using current evidence-based practice, ensuring the physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and social health needs are met. Nurses are in a good position to understand the healthcare system and how to navigate this. Nurses have an obligation and duty to ensure they keep up to date with their professional skills and knowledge, which means you as a church can have confidence that any appointed parish nurse will be providing a safe, caring, effective, responsive and well led service.

5. Can I set up a faith nursing service without partnering with PNMUK?

You can choose to start a faith nursing service without partnering with PNMUK, however you would not have access to any resources, policies and accreditation that PNMUK provides. You would not be able to call it Parish Nursing or use the logo. You would not have access to the PNMUK communities of practice which provide supervision for parish nurses.

6. Can a parish nurse offer wound care and assistance with personal care such as washing and dressing a service user?

The short answer is no. A parish nurse cannot offer injections or wound care as this is already carried out by the NHS. Parish nursing does not replicate services and is not insured or regulated to deliver invasive treatments,

including personal care such as washing and dressing a person, which is also provided by regulated care services. A parish nurse, will however, be able to navigate the healthcare system to assist a person in getting the correct care or treatment through the NHS or other services. Many people struggle with knowing who to contact with health issues, therefore a parish nurse is in a good position to direct and guide, and in some circumstances accompany clients to their appointments. Parish nurses will also advocate in a professional manner for those who cannot speak up for themselves.

7. Why does the parish nurse have to be a Christian?

Parish nurses offer spiritual care as well as health support and are able to pray with clients should they so wish. Therefore as the nurse will be employed by the church or Christian organisation it is a prerequisite that the appointed nurse be a Christian. Parish nurses can offer spiritual support to any person, regardless of faith. If asked to do so a parish nurse would liaise with other faith leaders in the community in order to refer clients to the relevant faith group.

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