

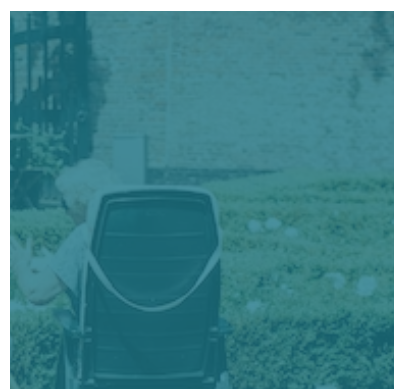
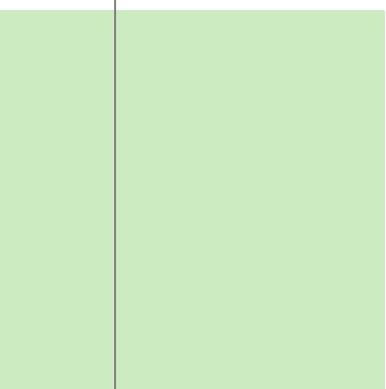
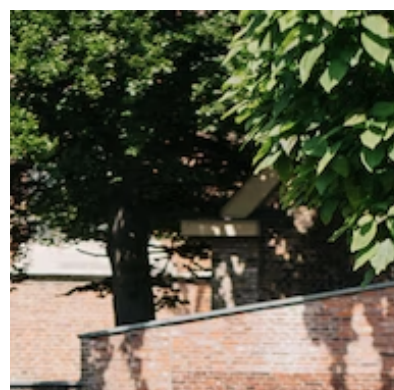
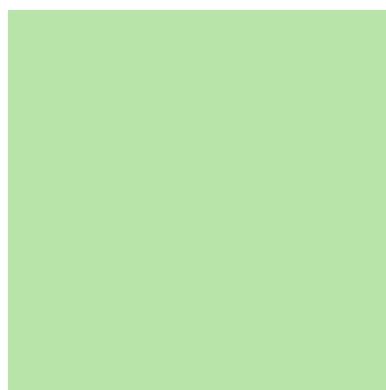


**Parish Nursing
Ministries UK**

Information Pack

For churches, Christian
organisations and
Registered Nurses
interested in finding out
more.

Explore More



What is Parish Nursing?

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.

If your church or organisation has ever wondered:

- 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?
- How to reduce the health risks faced by your congregation?
- How can you help people to live their life in all its fullness?

Then perhaps a health ministry like parish nursing is something worth exploring more.



Our Mission

To support Parish Nurses and churches in enhancing the well-being of people in the UK through holistic healthcare approaches.

Our Vision

To support Christian communities across the UK to establish enduring, accredited Parish Nursing services that promote comprehensive health and well-being.

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 practise for each service user or group. Parish nurses can carry out their practice in many settings and offer care to people of all faiths and none.

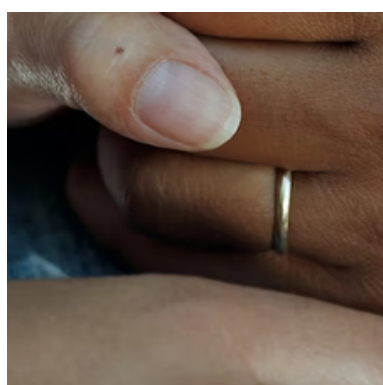
The care they offer might include:

- 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
- Referral to faith leaders as appropriate

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

“Dave’s wife had Parkinson’s. She was unable to come to church, and was becoming more isolated. During my first trip to their home as Parish Nurse, I could clearly see what the toll this illness was taking on both of them. I supported them both, helping Dave to find community with the local carers group. He now attends regularly to enjoy some respite in his own space.”

From a Parish Nurse.



Where can Parish Nurses practise?

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.

“Sarah, in her late 30s, faced a breast cancer diagnosis that turned her life upside down. As her Parish Nurse, we built a strong connection. We talked about life, faith, and her treatment journey. Celebrating her recovery with Sarah and her family was a moment of joy.”

From a Parish Nurse.

How long does it take to set up a Parish Nursing service?

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 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 initial Preparation for Parish Nursing Practice (PfPNP) course. Only then can the nurse start to practice as a parish nurse. There are usually two PfPNP courses held each year. There is a further final day of the course held at least six months after the parish nurse has been in practice, which is included in the price of the PfPNP.



"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 Parish Nursing service user.

How much does it 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 will include:

- Planning - a combination of online advice and support from a Coordinator and a visit to the church/organisation at an agreed point - **£355**
- Parish Nursing Preparation for Practice online course - **£360**

Other costs may include:

- Equipment e.g. office furniture, phone, locked filing cabinet and/or computer.
- Expenses e.g. phone bill, travel, stationery, printing.
- Professional indemnity insurance for your new parish nurse and public liability insurance specifically for the Parish Nursing service as a supplement to your church/organisation public liability insurance.



Additionally for a volunteer nurse, you might consider supporting their annual NMC Registration and professional organisation fees (e.g. RCN)

Or for a paid nurse: Salary as determined by the employer plus any additional employer costs.

PNMUK assistance with recruitment is available - *Price available on consultation with your PNMUK planner.*

Once the service has begun, there is an **annual contribution to PNMUK of £770** 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 attend the PNMUK Annual Symposium, a time of fellowship, training and refreshment for parish nurses. Check our website to find out when the next Symposium is and when registration opens.

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.



Why is it important to partner with PNMUK to set 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 outreach across all Christian denominations throughout history, and it is a joy to see Parish Nursing as one of these. There are over 90 Parish Nurses across the country at present, providing services in 85 locations. Each of these services is unique in what it provides reflecting the vision of the church, the scope of practice of the nurse and the local population need. Therefore, each Parish Nursing service is responsive, aiming 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 practise safely. PNMUK advises partners 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 national care regulators. 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 practise 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 regular 'Explore online' events, which are open to any church or nurse 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.

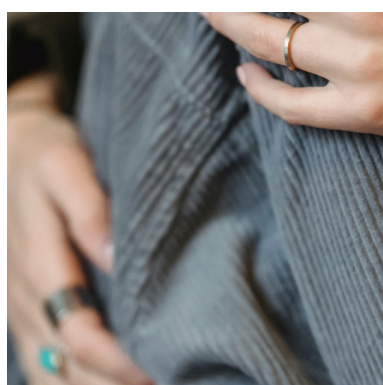
You can have an 'Explore More' meeting to provide more information about Parish Nursing if a group from your church or charity would like to discover more before committing to anything. An 'Explore More' meeting is a virtual meeting to allow a group of people from your church/organisation to ask any questions about Parish Nursing and how it could fit with your vision and mission for your community. Please contact us to arrange a meeting at enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk

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.uk and we will be able to arrange for a 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

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 practise 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.

What will our money cover when partnering with PNMUK?

PNMUK will:

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



- Support PNMUK trained parish nurses with their NMC revalidation
- Act as a resource for nurses or leaders undertaking theological and professional research in areas related to parish nursing.
- Provide the church/organisation with regional nurse coordination and ongoing service support.
- 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.
- Provide ongoing support for the church/organisation through an annual review with a Coordinator each year and additional ad hoc support as necessary.
- Collate statistics from the church/organisation that can be used for local and national reporting.
- Provide a service accreditation and quality assurance scheme to support good governance, public protection and stakeholder assurance.
- Provide access to an up-to-date website, periodic news and updates.

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.

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 regulated, 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 latest Ipsos MORI poll, 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.

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 our logo. You would not have access to the PNMUK Communities of Practice which provide supervision for Parish Nurses.

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. 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 advocate for themselves.



Why does a Parish Nurse have to be a Christian?

Parish Nurses offer spiritual care as well as health support and are able to pray with clients if this is requested. 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.

Getting Started

Explore Options

Please join Explore Online, a free 1 hour event outlining what parish nursing is about. Dates are on our website and you can email enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk for the Zoom link.

If your church / organisation requires further information, please contact us on enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk to arrange an Explore More Zoom meeting between members of your church/organisation and a PNMUK representative, to discuss how parish nursing might work for you.

Planning

When your church or organisation feels ready to make a commitment to start up a parish nursing service, contact us to begin planning with a Nurse Coordinator at enquires@parishnursing.org.uk.

We will support you to plan for your parish nursing service by providing a range of high-quality resources and inputs which ensure that you have the essentials that you need to start a safe and well-led parish nursing service. You will have the opportunity to advertise your post through our PNMUK website and social media. There is a contribution payment of £355 from April 2026.

Recruitment

When you recruit your parish nurse, you may choose to invite your Regional Nurse Coordinator to be on your interview panel. The cost for PNMUK to help with interviews are dependent on the number of applicants and interviews required, either in person or online. This can be discussed during planning with your PNMUK planner.

Preparation for Practice course is to be attended by the designated Registered Nurse before they can practise as a Parish Nurse. It costs £360.

Getting Started

Up and Running

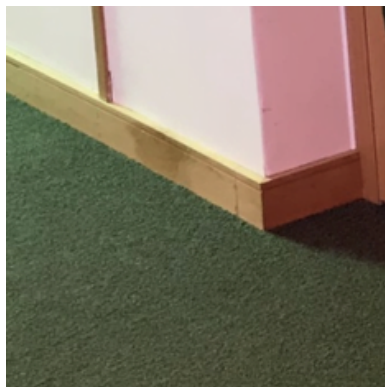
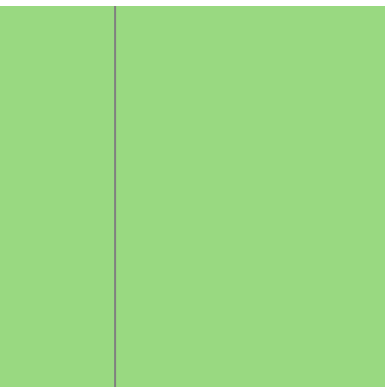
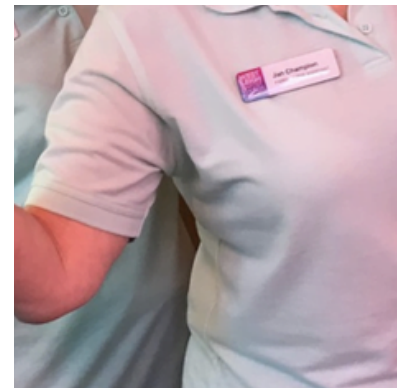
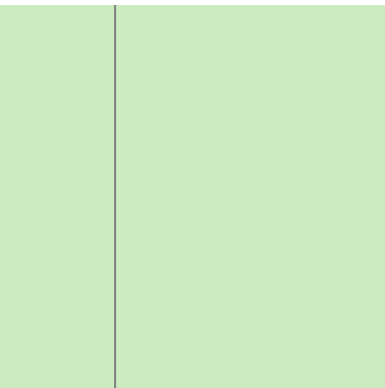
Once a Partnership Agreement is signed with PNMUK, your service can begin. From that point, your Regional Nurse Coordinator will walk alongside you and your Parish Nurse, offering ongoing professional advice, guidance, and support.

The annual contribution will be £770 per annum from April 2026. This contribution covers a range of essential services, including:

- Support from your Regional Nurse Coordinator
- Quarterly professional supervision
- Access to educational resources
- Informal support for your Parish Nurse
- The initial accreditation process, ideally completed in the first 6 months
- Re-accreditation in the 4th year of service

Accreditation demonstrates the quality and sustainability of your Parish Nursing service. It's not a separate cost, all accreditation and support services are included in your annual contribution.





If you have any further questions about starting a Parish Nursing service in your church or organisation, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Parish Nursing Ministries UK, The Hope Centre, 26 North Street, Peterborough, PE1 2RA



www.parishnursing.org.uk



Parish Nursing Ministries UK

Registered Charity Number: 1111680