

Diocese of Bristol

Parish Development Pack for
The Church's Ministry of Healing

(written and produced by the Bishop's Advisory Group on
the Church's Ministry of Healing, March 2001)

Introduction

(Introduction revised, 25.10.03)

- 1 Synopsis

- 2 The Purpose of the Parish Development Pack

- 3 How to Use the Parish Development Pack

- 4 The Place of Wholeness in the Process of Healing

- 5 Other Sources

- 6 Bibliography and Further Reading

1 Synopsis

Introduction

The Introduction offers suggestions on how to begin using the Development Pack in order easily to access and use the information you are most interested in.

The purpose of the Development Pack as a practical, step by step guide is explained.

An introduction to the concept of wholeness, as distinct from cure, is set out, looking at the interplay of the scientific, physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions which contribute to our understanding of (and search for) wholeness.

National contacts for further information are listed, followed by a short Bibliography for the Development Pack as a whole, and a Recommended Reading List.

Resources for Learning

"The Diocese of Bradford Foundation Course: Healing Option" has been developed by the Advisor on Healing, Revd. David Swales (18 Sandhurst Drive, Oakworth, Keighley, BD22 7RG.) for people wanting a clear introduction to the theology and practice of healing ministry. The material is organised into five sessions and can be used as it is or adapted for local requirements.

"Seeking Wholeness Together" has been developed by Revd. Ian Wills and used as a Lent Course over six sessions. It also can be used or adapted for local requirements.

A brief introduction to the Acorn Christian Foundation resource: "Growing A Healing Ministry" and the Grove Booklet, Pastoral Series No. 44: "Forward in Healing" are also given.

Gifts of Prayer

Offers an introduction to the relationship between prayer for wholeness and personal spirituality. It begins to explore the spiritual dynamics of prayer and how we can begin to share in the movements of the Spirit as we pray for and with others.

There is detailed information on twenty specific approaches to prayer for and with others.

Gifts of the Sacraments

Considers the role of sacramental ministry in prayer for healing. There is a section relating to the Laying on of Hands to sacramental ministry.

The sacraments of baptism, confirmation, anointing with oil, the eucharist and reconciliation of the penitent are each considered and suggestions made to create clearer opportunities for people to seek wholeness through them. Each is related, where appropriate, to resources now available in Common Worship.

The eucharist in particular is considered as a principal healing service of the Church and various options are considered to provide for people's needs.

Gifts of Healing Services

Begins by asking the question: Why have a Healing Service? It attempts to provide a rationale for times of worship that are specifically set aside with the intention of prayer for healing and wholeness.

A detailed review is given of the preparatory work needed in clarifying the type of healing service that will best suit local needs with specific reference to Common Worship resources.

Step by step suggestions are given on getting started: planning and preparation, and the before, during and after of a service of healing.

Articles by Michael Ainsworth (who served on the Revision Committee which looked at the

Parish Development Pack Introduction

Common Worship Pastoral Services) and Jill Caldwell (Assistant Priest at St. Marylebone Parish Church, London) previously published in the Guild of St. Raphael Journal "Chrism" are reproduced here giving useful insights into the Common Worship liturgical provision and some of the links between healing ministry at parish level, the 2000 Report, and Common Worship.

Gifts of Ministry/Mission Teams

Considers the role of mission/ministry teams in local pastoral care and healing ministry. It gives detailed advice on recruitment, training and authorisation for members of mission/ministry teams.

It outlines the opportunities which can be considered for lay participation in healing ministry, listing some of the opportunities that can be available and how to begin to work together.

2 The Purpose of the Parish Development Pack

The Parish Development Pack has been written to provide a practice based resource for clergy, congregations and parishes interested in beginning to share and/or further developing the Church's ministry of healing.

The Development Pack aims to give advice and suggestions, based on experience, for the 'how to' of local Christian healing ministry.

In 1 Corinthians 12 v 4 - 11 St. Paul lists nine gifts of the Spirit:

(4) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; (5) and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; (6) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. (7) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (8) To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, (9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, (10) to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. (11) All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

1 Cor. 12 v 9 gives one of the gifts as '*gifts of healing*'. In fact the Greek is *charismata iamatown*', or '*gifts of healings*'. It seems that St. Paul recognized that the healing love of God in Christ could not be described as a single gift or even a single kind of healing. There are gifts of various kinds of healings and they are all the work of the Spirit. It is for this reason that the sections of this Development Pack are headed *Gifts of Prayer, Gifts of the Sacraments, etc.* There are many gifts God has given to His Church through which He reaches out to touch

Parish Development Pack Introduction

and heal us, and there are many healings that we can receive as we open our hearts to all that our Lord longs to give.

The Bishop's Advisory Group for the Church's Ministry of Healing offers this Development Pack to the churches of our diocese as a next step in understanding and practice. We believe there will be something here for everyone. However, we make no claim to this being the 'last word' on healing ministry and will be glad of positive suggestions for improvements. It is our prayer that this Development Pack will prove to be a help and encouragement to those who seek to share more of the healing and wholeness God offers us all in Jesus Christ.

3 How to Use the Parish Development Pack

Interested clergy and lay people should read through the whole Development Pack (share the sections around and pass them on until each has read all).

Begin to pray, individually and together, to discern the will of the Holy Spirit for your particular context.

Begin to discuss and discern with others which areas of the Church's ministry of healing you might seek to develop in your current situation. Seek to define and develop a clear set of goals and priorities that will meet your local needs.

As priorities begin to emerge, seek an opportunity to share your vision with the PCC and the whole church community.

Begin to teach the principles of Christian healing ministry and the healing love of God in Christ and listen for people's response to such teaching.

Prayerfully begin to seek the right people to share in this ministry with you.

Arrange the appropriate training for all those to be involved and begin to teach the principles of the Church's ministry of healing to the church community.

Prayerfully begin to share the work of Christ's ministry of healing.

4 The Place of Wholeness in the Process of Healing

by Frank Smith

The ministry of healing is an integral part of the Christian Gospel and in most instances today it takes place alongside the practice of professional medicine. It therefore relates both to God's work of salvation and to the means by which medicinal and surgical treatments restore us to health. Thus it is neither a ministry that is offered as a patchwork repair of our bodies alone, nor as a competitive alternative to orthodox medicine. We are likely to benefit from it more when we see how it links in with our journey towards wholeness, and are able to visualize how prayer and medical treatments can work together to promote healing.

If we consider first the normal way in which our physical bodies maintain our health, we know that they react quickly to any injury or to any infection caused by virus or bacteria. They replace damaged or lost tissue and prevent the multiplication of any invading organisms that would be harmful. To achieve this, those parts of the body close to the injury, or to where the invasion of pathogens has occurred, begin a migration of cells and of very particular chemical fluids into the affected areas. Medical research continues to establish the chemistry and microbiology of this in astonishing detail, but how our bodies initiate and subsequently orchestrate this complex process remains largely outside our scientific knowledge.

Our genes, our age and our social milieu play a very significant part in determining our resistance to disease. Our overall health also has a marked effect upon how well our bodies respond, and external environmental factors such as the level of our nutrition and the nature of our employment can also influence it. However, clinical experience shows that we ourselves, our inner natures, play a role in determining how well the healing process is set in motion and its

Parish Development Pack

Introduction

effectiveness maintained. Emotional crises such as major disappointments, personal bitterness, bereavement or depression are found to severely inhibit the immune system, whereas a strong sense of purpose, an integrated approach to life, the will to recover, all induce a more rapid return to health.

As we respond to the challenges we meet in life, our physical bodies, our emotions, our minds which rationalise the world around us, and our centre for making moral judgements, tend to pull us in different directions. When our inner nature has diverse and conflicting attitudes and aims, it lacks the unity and harmony conducive to promoting the most positive response from the body's natural resources for healing. Our 'inner being', however, is able to integrate these various parts of our nature and bring about a more united approach on the basis of vocation, faith or a dedicated purpose in life. This deep centre is stable and slow to change but is able to integrate the personality and bring about the order that enables us to operate as a complete whole.

One can say that whilst our bodies provide the chemistry for healing, supplemented by the medication given to us, our inner being determines, in some measure, how well the process proceeds. In former days, before we had such powerful drugs or treatments, the personality, the charisma of the physician was very important in promoting recovery of the patient. The spiritual support given by him brought about a more positive attitude in the one who was sick, and the healing power of nature was more effective than would otherwise have been the case. Our inner being, which is thus able to play a significant role in orchestrating the healing process, is essentially spiritual in nature and therefore able to respond to the work of the Spirit within us. Its initial task is to draw together the frequently conflicting attitudes, aims and desires inherent in us from our experience in the world, and to create the harmony that comes from a greater dedication to God's purpose as it affects both ourselves and others. This action contributes toward the wholeness that is God's will for us, and is a step forward in the slowly progressing work of bringing us to sanctification.

Where prayer is the principal channel of the Christian ministry of healing, then in the typical

Parish Development Pack Introduction

parish situation, we may expect that those who are prayed for will first sense the action of Christ within them in their inner selves. People speak of a sense of peace, of seeing things more positively and of a greater trust in God. This may take a little time, but is of lasting value and contributes to the healing being of a more permanent nature. It is not just a stage in restoring us to our former physical state, but brings us closer to that wholeness that is God's intention for us. We are all in need of this inner healing, but for those who are ill, it is more immediately pertinent to their health.

Those who practice the ministry of healing through prayer are working in unity with the Spirit of God, so that he may bring about not only physical healing, but personal wholeness as well. Once the inner being is open and receptive to God, he is able to heal in whatever way he chooses. For the large majority of cases, his Spirit empowers the direction and strengthening of the body's own healing process, facilitated and quickened as it is by the medical treatment.

This brief account draws upon the insights that Dr. Martin Israel expresses in his book *Healing as Sacrament*, and relates especially to the ministry of 'prayer for healing'. There are, of course, individuals who have received one or other 'gifts of healing' and who are called to practice them within the ministry of the Church. Through them a more rapid physical healing is often achieved, their hands held in close proximity to the sick person frequently being a channel of this grace. Undertaken within a supporting prayer ministry, the essential principles set out in the account above still pertain and would enable the healing to be of a more permanent nature.

It may be useful to highlight how the ministry of healing, understood in this way, clarifies a number of issues and enables us to see it in a wider context.

The practice of conventional (and alternative medicine) and that offered by the Christian ministry of healing can be seen as complementary to each other, working together to prepare and speed an individual's return to health.

Parish Development Pack

Introduction

- When we prayerfully hold up in God's love the one who is sick, we may be sure that through Christ, God is at work in that person. Even though it may take time for physical healing to become apparent, an inner change is taking place.
- God is not glorified in patching someone up and leaving him/her otherwise no better than before. His ultimate purpose is our sanctification, and the need for healing can be an opportunity for God to carry forward his purpose in that person.
- To have received healing through Christ will almost invariably increase our empathy toward others also in need of healing. Through us he is able to reach out to others as he seeks to extend his kingdom.
- The change in us, manifested by a greater harmony within ourselves, and with a purpose more aligned with God's will, doesn't stop with our immediate circle. The fruit of it can extend out into the world and play a part in healing society, and in caring for creation while it waits 'to be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God'. Thus God is able to use our new hearts and renewed purpose in life in his work of sanctifying the whole world. To quote from the Report for the House of Bishops' A Time to Heal (p.260):

'The healing ministry in the parish is visionary ... because it beckons us towards the future and a glimpse of the kingdom, the hope of creation renewed in perfect health and wholeness.'

5 Other Sources

Bristol Diocese:

The Bishop's Advisory Group on the Church's Ministry of Healing is chaired by Revd. Ian Wills, who is Advisor on the Church's Ministry of Healing for the Diocese of Bristol. This Parish Development Pack has been developed on Ian's initiative.

The Advisory Group is seeking to appoint and train Deanery Consultants throughout the diocese to facilitate the development of local healing ministry. To date the following consultants have been identified, additions and amendments will be notified through diocesan mailings and area deans:

BRISTOL SOUTH:

Revd. John Lewis,
St. Oswald's Vicarage,
Cheddar Grove,
Bedminster Down,
BRISTOL, BS13 7EN.
Tel. 0117 964 2649
john@stoswalds.freemasonry.co.uk

Mrs. Diana Wright,
126 West Town Lane,
Brislington,
BRISTOL, BS4 5DT.
Tel. 0117 977 4805
pdwright@blueyonder.co.uk

**Parish Development Pack
Introduction**

BRISTOL WEST:

Revd. David Izzard,
St. Edyth's Vicarage,
Avonleaze,
Sea Mills,
BRISTOL, BS9 2HU.
Tel. 0117 968 1912
glan.izzard@ukgateway.net

Mrs. Roasemary Boere,
Eastcombe House,
Haw Lane,
Olveston,
SOUTH GLOUC., BS35 4EG.
Tel. 01454 615 353
wimboere@globalnet.co.uk

(BRISTOL) CITY:

Revd. Richard Burbridge,
25 Morley Square,
Bishopston,
BRISTOL, BS7 9DW.
Tel. 0117 942 4359
richard@burbridge.fsnet.co.uk

Dr. Rosalind Hinton,
Tower House,
Clifton Down Road,
BRISTOL, BS8 4AG.
Tel. 0117 973 9298

KINGSWOOD and SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE:

Revd. Ian Wills, (Chair)
Soundwell Vicarage,
46 Sweets Road, Soundwell,
BRISTOL, BS15 1XQ.
Tel. 0117 967 1511
ian.wills@bristoldiocese.org

Mr. Frank Smith, (Diocesan Reader)
15 Huckford Road,
Winterbourne,
BRISTOL, BS36 1DZ.
Tel. 01454 778 975

**Parish Development Pack
Introduction**

CHIPPENHAM:

Revd. Angela Berners-Wilson,
The Rectory,
Colerne, Chippenham,
WILTS, SN14 8DF.
Tel. 01225 742 742
abw@colrec.freereserve.co.uk

Mrs. Margaret Greening,
Park View, Grittleton,
Chippenham,
WILTS., SN14 6AD.
Tel. 01249 983 522

NORTH WILTSHIRE:

Mr. Ruari & Mrs. Wieni Grant,
House of Steps,
Gloucester Road,
Malmesbury, SN16 9JS.
Tel. 01666 823 691

SWINDON:

Revd. Stephen Waters,
The Vicarage,
Bremhill Close,
Penhill,
SWINDON, SN2 5DS.
Tel. 01793 721 921
frstephen.waters@dsl.pipex.com

Nearest Residential Centre:

Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing

Harnhill offers Time Aside Weeks, Refreshment Weekends, Special Holiday Weeks, Teaching Days & Weeks, regular weekly healing services, individuals can also arrange to go for ministry.

Warden: Revd. Paul Springate

Harnhill Manor,

Cirencester,

GLOS., GL7 5PX.

Tel. 01285 850 283

Fax 01285 850 519

Email: Harnhill@btinternet.com

Website: www.btinternet.com/~harnhill

Other Organisations:

Acorn Christian Foundation

Founded in 1983 to see the Church and nation renewed in the service of Christ the Healer, believing every person has the right to receive the best care and attention that will enable them to grow into wholeness.

Two major elements of its work have been the 'Apostolate' (which provides prayer and support for medical doctors) and 'Christian Listeners' (a training programme for local churches in Christian listening skills)

Director: Revd. Dr. Russ Parker

Acorn Christian Foundation,

Whitehill Chase,

High Street,

Bordon,

HANTS., GU35 0AP.

Tel. 01420 478 121

Fax 01420 478 122

The Guild of Health

Founded in 1904 to further the Church's ministry of healing through prayer, sacrament and visiting the sick, and by co-operation with Christian doctors, nurses and other members of the healing team. It publishes a quarterly magazine 'Way of Life'.

Parish Development Pack
Introduction

This Guild aims to support healing ministry in the mainstream life of the Church. It offers teaching, training and publications.

General Secretary: Revd. Antonia Lynn

Guild of Health,

PO Box 227,

Epsom,

KT19 9WQ.

Tel. & Fax: 020 8786 0517

Email: gohealth@freeuk.com

The Guild of St. Raphael

Founded in 1915 to work for the restoration of the ministry of healing as part of the normal function of the Church, by preparing the sick for all ministries of healing, by teaching the need of repentance and faith, by making use of the sacraments of healing, and by intercession.

This Guild is a specifically Anglican foundation, having a clearer sacramental emphasis than others. But, like them, it is deeply committed to prayer and encouraging faith in Christ as the source of all true wholeness.

Organizing Secretary: Ms Jo Parry,

2 Green Lane,

Tuebrook,

LIVERPOOL, L13 7EA.

Tel. & Fax: 0151 228 3193

6 Bibliography and Further Reading

Bibliography

The Development Pack draws on many traditions and sources, but quotes directly from the following:

A Time to Heal: A Contribution Towards the Ministry of Healing - House of Bishops
(referred to in the Parish Development Pack as the 2000 Report)

Common Worship Pastoral Services

Patterns for Worship

The Church of England Yearbook, 2000

Walter Brueggemann, *Praying the Psalms* (Saint Mary's Press)

St. John of the Cross, *The Dark Night of the Soul*, and *The Inner Flame of Love* (Fount)

Martin Israel, *The Pain that Heals* (Mowbray)

Editor: Ernest Lucas, *Christian Healing, What Can We Believe?* (Lynx Communications)

Sr. Eileen Lyddon, *Door Through Darkness* (New City)

Morris Maddocks, *Journey to Wholeness* (Triangle)

Henri Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart* (DLT)

Margaret Silf, *Landmarks* (DLT)

Brian C. Taylor, *Spirituality for Everyday Life* (The Liturgical Press)

Ambrose Tinsley OSB, *PAX The Benedictine Way* (The Columba Press)

W.H. Vanstone, *Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense* (DLT)

Further Reading

The Handbook to the 2000 Report offers a recommended reading list on pages 57 & 58.

The 2000 Report, Appendix 5: Recommended Reading (page 380f) provides a wide ranging selection of material for further study.

The Advisory Group sees no need to add to these recommendations.