

Prayer and discernment

The basis on which a prayer ministry team exercises this ministry is that it is a group of Christians who pray together with faith, hope and love, seeking God's will.

- Individuals who feel called to be involved in healing teams should be willing to pray and listen, in order to discern where God is leading them in this aspect of the Church's mission and ministry.
- People involved in the healing ministry should be sufficiently self-aware to recognise their own spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs for healing. A prayer life which acknowledges and is open to the healing love of Jesus Christ is essential, as is a willingness to recognise and seek healing for oneself, in order to be available as a channel of His grace.
- Those seeking to be involved in this ministry need the support of others, through prayer and Christian fellowship, and to be willing to support the other team members in prayer.



Diocesan Healing Advisory Group

God has gifted his Church in order to build up this ministry. Our Diocesan Healing Advisory Group members are a valuable resource for the congregation for this ministry, and may be able to help through presentations, preaching, training and helping to set up local healing teams. They can also advise on the various ways in which this ministry is carried out and its wider implications and help individuals to discern their vocation within it. They also have useful contacts for information, resources, referrals, specialist advice, and ecumenical contacts.

How do I find out more?

Talk to the someone on the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group:

- **Revd Gilly Bunce** Healing Adviser
- **Justine North** Chair of Diocesan Healing Advisory Group
- **Josie Halla** Ministry for Mission Administrator
ministryformission@bathwells.anglican.org

For more information visit:
www.bathandwells.org.uk

Is God calling me to Healing Ministry?



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Lord, let your spirit meet us here
To mend the body, mind and soul,
To disentangle peace from pain
And make your broken people whole.

John Bell and Graham Maule



What is Healing Ministry?

Healing is at the heart of Jesus's ministry, for us, for our communities and for Creation. Healing is about becoming whole, in body, mind and spirit. It is about new life, not just about 'more of the same.'

Christ heals, meeting people at their point of need, as we see throughout the Gospels. In Acts, we see his friends continuing to fulfil that commission, by bringing people and the world into new and abundant life in his name. As Christians we are to continue this, by offering people a safe space to heal, in love and prayer.

It's Christ's very nature to love us and to heal. Having given the situation to God, we are to remain aware of God's love and care, even when we do not understand it or see the outcome we had longed for. However, healing may gradually become apparent through inner transformation and growth.

The practice and commitment to the healing ministry of Jesus is as important today as it ever was because the world and its people need to experience, and well as to hear, that God loves them.

The Healing Ministry is...

Visionary

... because it beckons us towards the future and a glimpse of the kingdom, and the hope of the whole of creation renewed.

Prophetic

... because it calls us to reconsider our relationships with God, each other and the world and to seek forgiveness and a new start in our lives.

Dynamic

... because Jesus Christ is with us to the end of time: when we pray for his help, he comforts, strengthens and heals us, responding to our deepest needs.

The Church's ministry is a continuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ. We seek to fulfil it in the power of the same Holy Spirit who anointed Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan. Jesus' ministry was totally faithful and obedient to his Father. The gospel of the kingdom of God is the good news of healing which Jesus proclaimed. 'Go and preach the gospel... Go and heal the sick' summarises the commission Christ gave to his Church, so Christians have always been called to have a special concern for those sick in mind, body and spirit. The Church's ministry can be described as one of healing — the healing of ourselves, and of our relationships with God, with one another and with our environment.

Qualities needed in healing ministry

- Compassion and empathy, in order to help discern the needs of others and the most appropriate and helpful way of ministering to them;
- The ability to listen, or a willingness to learn to do so: a great part of this ministry involves listening; to God, and to other members of the team, as well as to the one who is seeking help;
- Discretion and confidentiality, so that anything shared during ministry is treated in confidence, showing concern, never offering advice or counselling and respectful of the person's requests;
- Humility; acknowledgement that healing comes from Jesus Christ, not the person exercising the healing ministry;
- Acceptance of one's personal limitations, and willingness to refer those in need for specialist help, when necessary;
- Reliability and trustworthiness; a willingness to work collaboratively in order to fulfil God's will;
- Patience, with themselves, other team members and those seeking healing; maturity and self-awareness to help absorb the disappointments and hurts which can sometimes result through endeavouring to help others.

