

Introducing Healing and Wholeness

*Heavenly Father,
you anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to us the blessings of your kingdom.
Anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*



DIOCESE OF LINCOLN
faithful · confident · joyful

As you look at the story of Jesus' life, you cannot help but notice that healing forms a major part of his activity. It is the most visible sign of who he was. His ministry of healing was not intended to be just a sign, but more a demonstration of the love of God and his character.

Jesus showed the love of God, with a touch, healing and including those on the edge or the outside of society, whilst also challenging attitudes and structures that existed at the time.

As Jesus began his public ministry, he quoted the words from Isaiah 61 to explain his purpose:

*Healing the sick
giving sight to the blind
making the lame to walk
setting the prisoners free.*

Jesus then proceeds to demonstrate the nature of God's kingdom, healing all who come to him, changing the lives of many he met. With a touch, Jesus welcomed the excluded. He gave new dignity, hope and purpose to those wounded by the experience of life, those who are pushed out and marginalised, those considered unimportant.

Jesus challenged the rich and the religious to see that there was a better way to live. On the cross he forgave the criminal dying alongside him and the soldiers who crucified him. At the same time, he thought of his mother and considered her grief. After the resurrection, Jesus restored those who had failed and who had lost hope.

This activity is hinted at in the Old Testament, shown most fully in Jesus' life, and then passed on to the first disciples. Jesus invited them to learn from him, and then he sent them out to the villages around the area to do the same as he had done; to teach and to heal.

After the resurrection, Jesus commissioned the disciples to continue doing all that they had learnt from him, and to teach others to do the same. The Acts of the Apostles shows, and the early Church continued, this aspect of Jesus' ministry, showing in practical ways God's love to those around them.

The history of Christianity is full of stories of how people have received healing, welcome, acceptance, restoration and forgiveness, and had their lives transformed by that encounter with the healing love of Jesus through his people. This practice has been part of the Church's ministry ever since, bringing healing and wholeness.

How?

Through prayer, sacraments, listening and journeying together.

Where?

In church, such as at special services and in everyday worship, and at home and in other settings, such as hospitals and hospices.

Who?

Through the ministry of clergy and other ministry team members.

The Diocese of Lincoln seeks to support and encourage this important part of the good news of Jesus through the Healing and Wholeness Group.

As well as organising the *annual healing and wholeness day*, which is held around the Feast of St Luke the Evangelist in October, members of the diocesan Healing and Wholeness Group would like to assist you by:

- sharing best practice
- encouraging and supporting local churches
- and helping with training for parishes and deaneries.

Isaiah 61

The good news of deliverance

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

If you are involved in the healing ministry and would like to make contact with the Healing and Wholeness Group, please contact either:

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