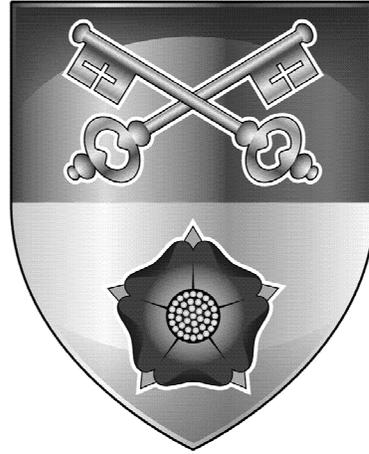


Diocese
of Blackburn



**RESOURCES
FOR
CHRISTIAN
HEALING MINISTRY**

2010
(updated 2011)

HEALING MINISTRY RESOURCES

Contents

Page 2	Acknowledgments
Page 3	Introduction
Page 4-5	Foreword by Bishop Nicholas
Page 6	The Diocesan website
Page 6	The Bishop's Health and Healing Advisers
Page 7-8	Parishes in the Diocese which offer healing ministry
Page 9	Orders of service for healing
Page 10– 16	Key national organisations for Christian healing ministry
Page 17	Residential centres in or near Blackburn Diocese
Page 18-19	Other residential centres which are further afield
Page 20-21	Some reading suggestions
Page 22-23	House of Bishops' Guidelines for good practice

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This handbook was developed from a national resource (no longer available) which was edited by the Revd A Ward Jones MA, MPhil. He has kindly given me permission to use his ideas and material to provide a resource specific to our diocese. I am most grateful for his generosity. Any errors and/or omissions arising from updating and modifying his original handbook are mine, not his. Dr Sally Pidd drew the original resource to the attention of some of the Healing Ministry Support Group who encouraged and supported the development of a resource booklet for the Diocese. They have also helped with information and suggestions, as have a number of people within and outside the diocese and my thanks go to all concerned.

Revd. Barbara Jones
Bishop's Adviser for Health & Healing Ministry

INTRODUCTION

The Christian healing ministry is central to the Gospel and of first importance to the Christian community today. It can be traced back to Scripture and Apostolic times. Healing means being strengthened and made whole in body, mind and spirit.

Within the Church of England, the start of the 21st century saw two major developments relating to healing ministry. The General Synod report, *A Time to Heal*, published in 2000, provided a comprehensive overview of healing ministry and Common Worship Pastoral Services made available officially authorised healing services. These developments encouraged many parishes to explore healing ministry afresh.

This resources handbook is intended to give some basic information and identify further resources and contacts which may be of use to clergy, readers, pastoral assistants and all in our parishes who are interested in Christian Healing Ministry.

Further copies of this booklet can be downloaded from the diocesan website (details Page 6). The diocesan website also gives contact details for parishes, clergy, and diocesan officers and, additionally, for the many Anglican chaplains working within the diocese. Chaplains serving in our hospitals and hospices offer a vital healing ministry.

As in many other areas there is enormous diversity across the Church as a whole. Within the Blackburn Diocese there exists a whole variety of emphases and practices with a degree of overlap and divergence among them. Healing ministry is not homogeneous. It is, however, an important and significant part of the mission and ministry to which we are all called.

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt Revd Nicholas Reade, serves as the House of Bishops' Representative, working with Archbishops' Adviser for the Healing Ministry. Bishop Nicholas is also Warden of the Guild of St Raphael. He begins this resources booklet by giving overleaf the context and an overview of Christian Healing Ministry.

FOREWORD BY BISHOP NICHOLAS

In the letter of James we read the foundation text for the sacraments of healing—the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. We also see that many elements in the healing ministry come together—prayer, confession of sin to one another, forgiveness, salvation, renewal and resurrection. All of these aspects of the healing ministry of Jesus were not confined to His earthly ministry or to that period immediately after His rising from the dead when He was establishing His Church, but continue today.

There are various approaches to healing, some more expected than others:

Penitence and forgiveness

Laying –on-of-hands

Anointing

Listening

Encouragement

Humour

Touch

Prayer

In contrast, bitterness, resentment and a refusal to forgive others create blocks to the healing power of God.

God's touch is manifest in the work of some of the special centres that offer healing. It is important also to be mindful that among God's greatest gifts to today's world are the huge advances there have been in medicine, surgery, psychiatry and other health disciplines. Like everyone else, a Christian who is ill should never be slow to go to a doctor or other appropriate practitioner, and to thank God for him or her.

Nevertheless, the follower of Jesus seeks not simply to be cured from physical and mental illness but to become a person FULLY ALIVE — physically, mentally and spiritually.

We do need to be careful to avoid overvaluing the marvellous and the miraculous at the expense of the mundane and the providential and we need to use all the gifts of healing at our disposal. These may not be the special, the remarkable or the miraculous, but they are a gift of love. What a difference we would make to God's world if, instead of seeking after the extraordinary, we concentrated on being ordinary extraordinary well!

Healing, in all its forms, but especially the Sacraments of the Church, is a normal part of the Christian life. God has not only given us access to His healing love through Jesus Christ but He has actually given each one of us some gifts of healing to share. The only two requirements in any healing ministry are: openness to God and a deep concern for our fellow creatures. These pre-requisites are summed up in the two great commandments:

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR BEING
and
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR AS OURSELF.

BLACKBURN DIOCESE WEBSITE

The diocesan website may be accessed by going on-line to;-
<http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/>

The menu across the top of the webpage shows **Faith & Worship**. Click on this option to find **Health & Healing** as the last option on the drop-down menu.

The link direct to the section on **Health & Healing** is:
http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/more_info.asp?current_id=257

HEALTH AND HEALING ADVISERS

The Bishop's Advisers for the Blackburn Diocese are:-

The Revd Ian Dewar

Chaplain, St Catherine's Hospice
Tel 01772 629 171
email: ian.dewar@stcatherines.co.uk

The Revd Barbara Jones

NSM, Holy Trinity Bolton-le-Sands
Tel 01524 65 598
email: 123bcj@gmail.com

Ian and Barbara are available as a resource to anyone seeking further information, support or advice. They are happy to come to preach, or talk with PCCs or Deaneries about healing ministry. Bishop Nicholas has also asked a small group of people from a mixture of church traditions, with differing approaches, and various areas of expertise and interest to form a healing ministry support group. The Bishop's Advisers may call upon this support group for additional advice or assistance. Please do contact one of the Bishop's Advisers if you have any queries or feel that we can be of help in any way to you, your parish or your deanery.

PARISHES OFFERING HEALING MINISTRY

Those who offer healing ministry may be interested to know of others locally who do likewise. Similarly, those hoping to develop such ministry may find it helpful to contact a parish in their area which already offers that ministry and/or holds healing services. Parishes in the Blackburn Diocese known to offer healing ministry are therefore listed below.

Should you know of other churches not yet listed, or if any listed information is inaccurate, please telephone Revd Barbara Jones with details on 01524 65598 or email: 123bcj@gmail.com

As in many other aspects of Church life, there is enormous diversity of emphasis and practice within this area, ranging right across the board from formal or informal prayer ministry, which is always on offer, through to highly structured formal services and much else in between. To discover what a particular parish offers and to find out times of any scheduled services, please do make further enquiries. The Diocesan website <http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/> and the Diocesan Directory give contact details for all parishes in the Blackburn Diocese.

ACCRINGTON DEANERY

St. James, Altham
Oswaldtwistle, St Paul, Immanuel and All Saints

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN DEANERY

St. Mary the Virgin with St Paul (The Cathedral & Parish Church)
St, Gabriel
St. James

BLACKPOOL DEANERY

Holy Trinity
St. Anne, Greenlands (offers Healing Ministry courses:- see Events on Diocesan website)
St. John the Evangelist
St. Paul, Marton
St. Thomas

BURNLEY DEANERY

St Catherine

CHORLEY DEANERY

St. Anne, Shevington
St. Wilfrid, Standish

PARISHES OFFERING HEALING MINISTRY

GARSTANG DEANERY

St Helen, Churchtown & St Michael on Wyre
St James, Stalmine

KIRKHAM DEANERY

St. Anne, St. Anne's-on-Sea
St Paul, Andsell & Fairhaven

LANCASTER DEANERY

Morecambe Parish Church, Holy Trinity
St. Chad, Skerton
St. George, Marsh
St John, Sandylands
St. Thomas

LEYLAND DEANERY

Holy Trinity, Hoghton
St Ambrose, Leyland
St. Andrew, Leyland
St. Paul, Farington

PENDLE DEANERY

St. Anne, Fence-in-Pendle
St Bartholomew, Colne
St Thomas, Barrowford

POULTON DEANERY

Christ Church, Thornton-le-Fylde
St. John, Little Thornton

PRESTON DEANERY

St. Margaret, Ingol

TUNSTALL DEANERY

Christ Church, Carnforth
Holy Trinity, Bolton-le-Sands

WHALLEY DEANERY

St. James, Clitheroe

HEALING SERVICES: ORDERS OF SERVICE

If you wish to help start or develop provision of healing services, it is important to talk this through as a parish and to try to ensure that what is offered is appropriate for your particular context. The Bishops Healing Advisers are happy to help if you would like someone to talk with your staff or PCC. Parishes shown on the previous pages may well be happy for you to visit and willing to let you have copies of the orders of service that they themselves use for healing services.

Common Worship:-

The following publication is extremely useful:-

The Archbishops' Council, (2000), '**Common Worship: Pastoral Services**', Church House Publishing: ISBN: 0715120077

All the services set out in the book have been commended by the House of Bishops and authorised for use by the General Synod. If you use it for preparing healing services, you have the safeguard that the material is regarded as a sound resource and has been properly approved.

You can also access this material online:-

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/resources/downloads/rfttexts1.html>

The Archbishops' Council, (2002), '**New Patterns for Worship** CHP ISBN: 071512060 3 offers an outline pattern for a CW healing service.

The Book of Common Prayer:-

Some clergy and parishes may prefer to use BCP material which includes The Order for the Visitation of the Sick and the Communion of the Sick.

Other material:-

Some people have found the following book to be helpful:

Gunstone, John, (2004) 'Healed, Restored, Forgiven: Liturgies, prayers and readings for the Healing Ministry' Canterbury Press ISBN 9781853115875

The Iona Community has produced a wealth of material for services of healing and reconciliation. 'Healing' is one of the categories of publications available on their website at <http://www.ionabooks.com/> **National organisations** shown on pages 10-16 of this handbook will be able to offer further advice. Some will have published liturgical material available and may offer it for sale.

KEY ORGANISATIONS

There are a number of national organisations concerned with Christian healing ministry. Some of the main ones are:

Churches Together for Healing

The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation

The Guild of Health

The Guild of St Raphael

The Order of St Luke

Wholecare

Some further information follows about each of these organisations, including contact details.

Churches Together for Healing

This is co-ordinating group of the mainstream churches who work together. It is a forum for the ecumenical support and promotion of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ in England. The member denominations of CTH continue to develop their own approaches to the ministry of healing and make their own policies, in the light of shared experience and working ecumenically wherever it makes good sense. Their website (details below) provides links to various resources and includes information on the approaches to healing ministry of the various churches involved in CTH. The site also offers reading suggestions.

Contacts and Committee

CTE website:

http://www.churchestogether.net/Groups/45577/Churches_Together_in/Temes/Church_Life_Evangelisation/Healing/Healing.aspx

Chair: Revd John Atkinson jpa@lichfield6.freeserve.co.uk

Secretary: Revd Debbie Hodge debbie.hodge@cte.org.uk

CTE Contact: Revd Debbie Hodge

(NB:- Details of post holders shown above will change in 2011. Please check the website for up-to-date details.)

Acorn Christian Healing Foundation

Acorn Christian Foundation was founded as the Acorn Christian Healing Trust in 1983 by Bishop Morris and Anne Maddocks.

Revd Dr Russ Parker has been Acorn's Director since 1995 and the Archbishop of Canterbury is its Patron.

The foundation seeks to share the care and healing presence of Christ with all, viewing Christian healing as a sound companion to modern medicine. It offers a range of services to groups and individuals both within and beyond church, with a threefold focus on:

LISTENING

HEALING

RECONCILIATION.

Courses on Healing Ministry and Active Listening:-

Acorn can offer courses on healing ministry in local areas and also has an extensive network of tutors available to teach church members the attitudes and skills necessary for active listening so that they in turn can teach such skills to others. Acorn's Schools office can also provide resources and training for teaching these skills to young people.

Regional Coordinator for the North West:-

Mrs Tricia Munn

6 Lees Road,

Bramhall,

Stockport,

Cheshire SK7 1BT

Tel: 0161 439 3583

email: tmunn@acornchristian.org

Young people's course:-

Mrs Heather Housden,

(Schools Inspector & former head teacher)

19 Westbury Road,

Buckhurst Hill,

Essex IG9 5NW.

Tel: 0208 505 6261 email: h.housden@btinternet.com

Whitehill Chase (<http://www.acornchristian.org/chase.htm>)

Acorn's residential and administrative centre is a beautiful 19th century Hunting Lodge with several acres of peaceful gardens and woodlands. Acorn runs retreats, courses and conferences there and the centre can also be booked by Christian groups for their own events. Amenities include a modern chapel, library and bookshop. The facilities cater for up to 60 people for non-residential events and there is residential accommodation for up to 30. Except during August, services of healing and wholeness are held every Tuesday and monthly Quiet Days on Fridays. Both library and bookshop have extensive resources on the healing ministry. Acorn publications, including '*Growing a Healing Ministry*' and '*In Search of Wholeness*', can be purchased from Whitehill Chase.

Caring initiatives

Acorn has fostered close links with many caring initiatives in local communities, which combine medical and pastoral skills in the care of the whole person. These partnerships have developed into the setting up of Listening rooms, Cancer Help centres, Christian Healing centres, Day Care centres, residential centres and refuges of healing.

Further information

Acorn Christian Foundation,

Whitehill Chase, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 0AP

Tel: 01420 478121 Fax: 01420 478122

email: info@acornchristian.org

Website: <http://www.acornchristian.org/>

The Guild of Health

The Guild is independent, broadly based and non-denominational. It offers teaching and healing within a Christian spirituality. Its President is the Rt Reverend John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, and its Chaplain is the Revd. Chris MacKenna.

The Guild of Health lists as its activities:

- support the St Marylebone Healing & Counselling Centre
- hold Teaching Days on healing, wholeness, prayer and spirituality, often at large venues across the country.
- hold Day Seminars at St Marylebone Church London on healing themes.
- hold Quiet Days and Retreats.
- hold regular Healing Services.
- publish a magazine, "Way of Life" & booklets
- support Groups for meditation & intercession.
- will hold anyone in prayer.

Although a national organisation, most of its branches cluster in the south. The nearest to Blackburn Diocese is at Eccles Parish Church, Manchester.

All General Enquiries:

including Magazine Subscriptions and Circulation:

Registered Office,

9 St George's Road,

Folkestone,

Kent CT19 4BE

Tel: 01303 277399

email: enquiries@gohealth.org.uk

The Guild of St Raphael

The Guild of St Raphael is a Church organisation concerned with healing in its widest sense - the healing of all creation, individuals, society, the environment. It is a national and international organisation.

The Guild is dedicated to promoting Christ's ministry of healing and practicing it, particularly at the local level. Its stated aims are:-

- to encourage churches and congregations to view the ministry of healing as a normal part of their life and worship.
- to promote good practice in the use of healing services and especially the sacraments of healing.
- to engage in research and theological study across the whole field of health, sickness and healing.
- to share findings through its journal *Chrism* and through the Guild's other publications.
- to work in close co-operation with the medical profession and others engaged in the work of healing.

There are three forms of membership of the Guild –

Branch Membership

Parishes can form a branch.

Affiliated Membership

For churches who wish to be associated with the aims of the Guild and make use of the opportunities and support which membership provides but who do not feel it appropriate to form a branch of the Guild in their parish.

Individual Membership

For people who are not linked to a local branch but wish to be associated with the aims of the Guild and make use of the opportunities and support which membership provides.

If interested in joining the Guild

Please contact the Organising Secretary (as below).

Within the Diocese

The Rt Revd Nicholas Reade, Bishop of Blackburn, has been Warden of the Guild since 2008. Helen Leathard, Professor of Pharmacology with the University of Cumbria and a Lay Reader licensed to St Luke's Slyne with Hest, is a member of the Guild Council and also editor of the Guild's publication, *Chrism*.

There is, within the Blackburn Diocese, a Lancaster Branch affiliated with the Guild of St Raphael. This meets at St Luke's Church Slyne with Hest. For more details contact Professor Helen Leathard 01524 849 495 email: helenleathard@btinternet.com

... .. and nearby

The Diocese is also fortunate to have within reasonable travelling distance the largest branch of the Guild of St Raphael in the country. This is based at St James at Haydock and the branch is most hospitable should you wish to visit either as an individual or as a parish team.

For those interested in learning more or joining

The Organising Secretary:

The Rectory,
3 Church Close,
Hemsworth,
Pontefract, WF9 4SJ
Telephone and Fax: 0151 228 3193
email: office@guildofstraphael

International Order of St Luke the Physician

The Order is ecumenical and dedicated to the Christian healing ministry. Members meet in local chapters to study Scripture, especially biblical stories of the healing miracles, as well as other books on Christian healing. Members also engage in healing prayer, often with laying-on of hands. There are Chapters of the Order in the UK. The Treasurer lives near the Blackburn Diocese.

Warden of United Kingdom and England: Rev. Bob Ash,
28, Woodlands Farm Road
Erdington,
Birmingham, West Midlands, B24 OPG Tel 0121 351 1529

Secretary: Mrs. Yvonne Davies
5, Gerddi Y Bache, Llangollen, Denbighshire LL20 8EJ Tel 01978 860557
email: yand.davies@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Mr. John Low
3, Low Street
Burton-in-Lonsdale, Carnforth LA6 3LF Tel 015242 61579

Wholecare

WholeCare is a new initiative set up by a small group of doctors and clergy. They believe as Christians that physical, psychological and spiritual well-being are closely related and consider it important that people in our healthcare system are cared for in an integrated way, as whole people. Thus WholeCare aims to identify, provoke, and encourage new approaches to whole-person healthcare, which are fruitful, and compatible with National Health Service structures within the UK. The intention of those involved is to share practical initiatives in keeping with WholeCare's aims and to help, encourage and enable prayer for each other. Those involved propose to develop educational and training courses in the whole person approach to health care through the formation of the WholeCare Academy which will concentrate on training students in the application of whole person medicine. WholeCare invites contact from those who wish to participate in such an approach:-

Contact: email: drmikesheldon@aol.com

SOME CENTRES WITH FOCUS ON HEALING:-

Centres with residential facilities in or near to Blackburn Diocese

Holy Rood House

A centre for Health and Pastoral Care

Holy Rood House,

10 Sowerby Road,

Thirsk,

North Yorkshire, YO7 1HX

Tel 01845 522580 email: holyroodhouse@centrethirsk.fsnet.co.uk

Loyola Hall

Offers some health-related courses, including retreats for those affected by addictions

Loyola Hall Jesuit Spirituality Centre

Warrington Road,

Rainhill,

Prescot, L35 6NZ

Tel 0151 426 4137 email: mail@loyolahall.co.uk

St Anne's Greenlands Blackpool

Offers Healing Ministry Training Courses, can arrange local accommodation

Revd A M Bartlett,

St Anne's Clergy House,

Salmesbury Avenue,

Blackpool FY2 0PR

Tel 01253 353 900 email: BCRESSELL@aol.com

Tabor Carmelite Retreat House

Offers retreat facilities and specific healing ministries

Tabor

169 Sharoe Green Lane,

Fulwood,

Preston, PR2 8HE

Tel 01772 717122 email: tabor@carmelite.net

OTHER RESIDENTIAL CENTRES:-

These may be of interest but are further afield

Burrswood

A Christian hospital and place of healing:

Burrswood,

Groombridge,

Tunbridge Wells,

Kent, TN3 9PY

Tel 01892 863 637 email: enquiries@burrswood.org.uk

Crowhurst

A Christian Healing Centre:

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre,

Nr Battle,

East Sussex TN33 9AD

Tel 01424 830 204 email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Green Pastures

A Christian Centre of Pastoral Care & Healing:

Green Pastures,

17 Burton Road,

Poole,

Dorset BH13 6DT

Tel 01202 764776 email: francis@green-pastures.org.uk

Harnhill

A Centre of Christian Healing

Harnhill Manor,

Bushy Hayse,

Cirencester,

Gloucestershire GL7 5PX

Tel 01285 850283 email: office@harnhillcentre.org.uk

OTHER RESIDENTIAL CENTRES:-

Hexthorpe Manor Community

A Therapeutic Community which can offer supported living
Hexthorpe Manor,
Old Hexthorpe,
Doncaster, DN4 0HY
Tel 01302 310133 email: hexthorpe.manor@yahoo.co.uk

The Society of Mary and Martha

Provides care & support for people in Christian ministry and/or their spouses at times of stress, crisis, burn-out or breakdown.
Society of Mary and Martha,
Sheldon,
Dunsford,
Exeter EX6 7LE
Tel 01647-252752 email: smm@sheldon.uk.com

Trelowarren Christian Centre

Offers various provisions focusing on healing, concessions for clergy
Trelowarren Christian Centre
Mawgan-in-Meneage,
Helston,
Cornwall TR12 6AF:
Tel 01326 221366 email: info@trelowarren.cc

Whitehill Chase

Acorn's Centre: Teaching, Training, Retreats, related to healing ministry
Whitehill Chase,
Bordon,
Hampshire, GU35 0AP
Tel 01420 478121 email: info@acornchristian.org

READING SUGGESTIONS

General books as a starting point:

The Archbishops' Council, (2000), *'A Time to Heal'*, CHP

Baxter, J., ed., (2007) *'Wounds that Heal: Theology, Imagination and Health'*, SPCK

Cassidy Sheila, (1998), *'Sharing the Darkness: The Spirituality of Caring'*, DLT

Eve, Eric, (2009) *'The Healer from Nazareth: Jesus' Miracles in Historical Context'* SPCK

Fergusson, Andrew (2005) *'Hard Questions about Health and Healing'*, CMF London

Fulljames, Michael & Harper, Michael (2005) *'Gifts of Healing: Prayers for Those who Care for the Sick'*, Canterbury Press 2005.

Gunstone, John (2004), *'Healed, Restored, Forgiven: Liturgies, Prayers and Readings for the Ministry of Healing'*, Canterbury Press.

Hacker, George, (1998) *'The Healing Stream; Catholic Insights into the Ministry of Healing'*, DLT.

Harper, Michael & Fulljames, Michael, (2003), *'Prayers for Healing: A Burrowswood Companion'*, Canterbury Press.

Lawrence, Roy, (1998), *'The Practice of Christian Healing: A Guide for Beginners'*, SPCK.

MacManaway, Bruce & Turcan, Johanna, (1983) *'Healing: the Energy that Can Restore Health'*, Thorsens

MacNutt, F., (2005) *'The Nearly Perfect Crime: How the Church almost killed the Ministry of Healing'*, Grand Rapids, Chosen Books

Maddocks, Morris, (1995), *'The Christian Healing Ministry'*, SPCK.

Parker, Russ, Fraser, Derek & Rivers, David, (2000), *'In Search of Wholeness'*, St John's Nottingham, Extension Studies

Parsons, Stephen, (1995), *'Searching for Healing: Making sense of the many paths to wholeness'*, Lion.

READING SUGGESTIONS

Different aspects of healing:

Burn, Jan, (2005), *'I'm Still Standing: Parenting a child with a life-threatening illness'*, BRF.

Chevous, Jane, (2004), *'From Silence to Sanctuary: A guide to understanding, preventing and responding to abuse'*, SPCK.

Dominica, Sister Frances, (1997), *'Just My Reflection: Helping parents to do things their way when their child dies'*, DLT.

Dudley, Martin & Rowell, Geoffrey, (1993), *'The Oil of Gladness: Anointing in the Christian Tradition'*, SPCK.

Goldsmith, Malcolm, (2004), *'In a Strange Land: People with Dementia and the Local Church'*, 4M Publications.

Jacobs, Michael, (2000), *'Swift to Hear: Facilitating Skills in Listening and Responding'*, SPCK.

Jewell, Albert (Editor), (1999), *'Spirituality and Ageing'*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Leech, Kenneth, (1998), *'Drugs and Pastoral Care'*, DLT.

McCloughy, Roy & Morris, Wayne, (2002), *'Making a World of Difference: Christian Reflections on Disability'*, SPCK.

Mitton, Michael & Parker, Russ, (2004), *'Healing Death's Wounds: How to commit the dead to God and deliver the oppressed'*, Chosen Books.

Monbourquette, John, (2000), *'How to Forgive: A Step-by-Step Guide'*, DLT.

Parsons, Stephen, (2000), *'Ungodly Fear: Fundamentalist Christianity and the Abuse of Power'*, Lion.

Perry, Michael (Editor), (1996), *'Deliverance' (New Edition)*, SPCK

Rose, Jessica, (2002), *'Sharing Spaces? Prayer & the Counselling Relationship'*, DLT.

Young, Frances (Editor), (1997), *'Encounter with Mystery: Reflections on L'Arche and living with disability'*, DLT.

House of Bishops Draft Guidelines for good practice in the healing ministry

The healing ministry is Jesus' ministry entrusted to us, always to be exercised with reverence, love and compassion. The guiding principle is to recognise the presence of God in those receiving this ministry and honour his presence in them.

Prayer and preparation. The healing ministry is based on prayer in the name of Jesus Christ; those involved in this ministry should be prayerful, regularly practising Christians who acknowledge his healing love and are willing to pray and listen for guidance in order to minister appropriately to others.

Safety. All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure the safety of the person receiving this ministry. People have a right to know what is being provided and how they will be ministered to.

Accountability and diocesan regulations. Everyone involved in the healing ministry needs clear lines of accountability to recognise who holds relevant authority within their parish church. All reasonable steps should be taken by those involved to ensure their awareness of current law as it applies to this ministry, e.g. data protection, informed consent. Legal liability issues must be considered from an insurance viewpoint. Existing diocesan regulations should also be followed.

Training. Individuals should receive appropriate training in this ministry and be kept up to date with developments and its ecumenical expression. Healing team leaders must ensure that members have opportunities for training and a common understanding of good practice.

Competence and boundaries. Persons in this ministry should be aware of their limitations and ensure that they are properly prepared and fit to be involved. If fitness is doubtful or compromised or there is a conflict of interest, they should withdraw from ministering to others. Professional boundaries with health care professional and chaplaincies should be observed.

Personal conduct. The healing ministry is part of the message of the gospel; the personal conduct of everyone involved should encourage confidence in this ministry and not undermine it. Language, personal hygiene, general appearance, body language and touch used by those ministering should be appropriate, considerate and courteous towards those receiving it. No-one should be ministered to against their will.

Confidentiality and public statements. People's privacy and dignity should be respected and protected. Any limitations to confidentiality should be explained in advance and disclosure should be restricted to relevant information. It should be conveyed only to appropriate people, normally with the parishioner's consent, and not misused in any way.

Counselling and psychotherapy. These specific treatments, as distinct from pastoral care and listening, should only be provided by accredited counsellors and therapists who adhere to the codes of ethics and practice of their regulatory organisations and who have professional insurance cover.

Deliverance. The House of Bishops' guidelines (1975) should be followed and diocesan advisers consulted when necessary.

Partnership. The healing ministry should be carried out in co-operation, where appropriate, with chaplains and representatives of our ecumenical partners, and those involved in professional and voluntary healthcare, whilst recognising that they may be bound by other codes of conduct.

Above guidelines copyright© The Archbishops' Council 2000 from A Time to Heal

Ecumenical healing ministry & ecumenical healing services:

Those engaged in the healing ministry who sometimes work with ecumenical partners may find it helpful to look also at the guidelines produced by Churches Together for Healing. These can be viewed by clicking on the box shown near the top right-hand side when you access this link:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/4577/Churches_Together_in/Themes/Church_Life_Evangelisation/Healing/Healing.aspx

Further copies of
this handbook
may be downloaded from
the Blackburn Diocesan
website:

http://www.blackburn.anglican.org/more_info.asp?current_id=257