

## **“EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY”**

David N. Caird - Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough

Church's Ministry of Healing General Synod Report, Proposed by David Caird.

Our opening hymn no 456 this morning speaks of the Lords instructions to all of us – “Lord you gave the great commission; heal the sick and preach the word, --- with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry. This of course is the mission of the whole church. What we are about in the CMH is the provision of additional resources to this end .

This is significant to where the Church's Ministry of Healing finds itself at the end of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Like many organisations within the Church of Ireland we find ourselves in need of refocusing our priorities, of **ensuring that our original vision still relates to a very different Church and Society**. In order to do this we are identifying what new resources might be helpful, what are our essentials, what must be at the heart of the healing ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Ministry rather than structure must be central, people rather than committees, prayer support rather than finance, must all be our front line priorities..

As we reported last year we are engaged in a process of transition, we are moving, later this year, towards becoming a Company limited by guarantee. *We are reviewing our vision and emphasising our role as a support and resource to the Church of Ireland. With this in mind, Rev Sue Watterson has moved to a new role within CMH as Training and Resources Advisor for the South, side by side with her priestly role as Rector of Killarney Parish. Sue*

brings great insight and experience into this role. This is borne out in the course that Sue has introduced us to which is available on the CMH stand in the foyer. 'Soul Spark' which was produced by Nick Helm who is the Bishop of Sheffield's Chaplain and Advisor in Spirituality and , Sue is currently working on a new course - 'Health and Healing' which Sue herself has produced and it will be available later this year, this new course will be most suitable for HPU's and will be on a DVD format.. Both these courses will provide a great resource for parishes, HPUs and Diocesan Committees.

Our Counselling services through The Mount Help Centre continue to be in ever increasing demand. Under the leadership of Rev Dr Pat Mollan, and using a triage system under Dr Malcolm Brown, a professional standard of counselling is assured and appreciated. Pat continues to serve the ministry with great gift and ability.

We have re-launched our website which enables access to the " Mount Help centre" website and the "CMH" site. With almost 24,000 hits in one month, we believe this website will help us reach out to a newer generation. The content on the website is regularly under review and will provide a growing resource for the whole Church of Ireland. We would encourage all of you to go to our website which is in course of construction at [www.healingireland.org](http://www.healingireland.org). As soon as the website is complete we will have a permanent link from The Church of Ireland website. You can already on the site see details of Services for " Healing and Wholeness" with "the Laying on of Hands " (this service comes straight from the Book of Common Prayer having been added at the last revision) and we would encourage parishes to make use of the site and register local such services together with details of Local Healer Prayer Groups. I am personally encouraged to see that Healing services are taking place more frequently in

the larger cities and towns at lunch time thereby providing an opportunity for working people to attend during their lunch hour. Service details are on the website and if any parishes would like to put their services on the website we would be delighted to hear from them.

Other sections of the website enable you - within your own home to listen into a healing service, to see details of available resources such as Courses which can be brought right into your parish to help in a better understanding of eg. The biblical basis for the healing ministry and the authority we have today to pray for the healing of others, to read Prayer Letters, to see dates of current and future Ministry connected events , time does not permit me to give you any further insight into the website. So I just encourage you all to go to [www. healingireland.org](http://www.healingireland.org) and examine for yourselves.

The scale of the work in progress is enormous and as we continue to move forward we are conscious that there are great opportunities and challenges in the year ahead. Our prayers are surely with Rev Dr Pat Mollan , Rev Sue Watterson and , Rev Baden Stanley and his Committee as they with the help of so many supporters continue to grow this important Ministry.

Right across the Church of Ireland there are many areas of ministry that are faithfully provided for those in great need and distress, we exist to serve and support those who are seeking to meet these needs, we are available to resource and encourage as the Church of Ireland itself continues on her journey of change and transition.

I request that the report be favourably received.

