

Church's Ministry of Healing – Report 2009

**THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING IN IRELAND**

**REPORT 2009**

**Patrons**

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland

**Executive Committee.**

Rev Baden Stanley (Chairman)  
Mrs Valerie Swanwick (Vice Chair)  
Rev Alan Parkhill (Armagh)  
Rev Maurice Armstrong (Clogher)  
Rev Nigel Baylor (Connor)  
Rev George Beattie (Connor)  
Rev Canon Paul Willoughby (Cork)  
Rev Canon John Clarke (Dublin & Glendalough)  
Mrs Avril Gillatt (Dublin & Glendalough) (Supplementalist)  
Rev Canon David Brown (Down & Dromore)  
Mrs Iris Hunter (Down & Dromore) (Supplementalist)  
Mr Terry McNeilly (Down & Dromore)  
Rev Kathy Trimby – Tuam, Killala, Achonry  
Mr Richard Graves (Hon Treasurer)  
Miss Hilda Bleakley (Hon Secretary)  
Co-opted Rev Gordon Freeman (Connor)  
Ven W John Scott (Down & Dromore)

**Director** - Vacant

**Deputy Director** Rev Dr Patricia Mollan

**Training & Resources Advisor** (South) Rev Susan Watterson

**OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**

- Continue serving people in need through the healing, counselling, deliverance and prayer ministry
- Clarify and implement new form of governance of Church's Ministry of Healing (CMH)
- Launch and begin to implement strategic plan for serving the Church

**INTRODUCTION**

Right across the Church of Ireland the Ministry of Healing has continued to serve individuals, families, Healer Prayer Unions (HPUs), parishes and dioceses. From small rural HPUs faithfully standing in the gap on behalf of the sick, the troubled, and the dying to the continued growth of our counselling ministry in the Mount Help Centre in Belfast; from occasional services of healing to weekly services with the laying on of hands in Dublin, Downpatrick, Belfast, Raphoe and many other centres; from Cathedrals to sitting

## Church's Ministry of Healing – Report 2009

rooms; from pastoral support to seminars on suicide; from training courses to Quiet days; we continue to focus on ministering to people wherever their need is greatest.

### **DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN**

In the past twelve months we have been able to review our vision and develop a clear strategic plan that will help us to support the ministry in a sustainable way right across the Church that we serve. This process has been an exciting and humbling experience. It is exciting because God has been revealing a new way to serve the Church in her mission to preach, teach and heal .... it is humbling because we have become aware again of the reality that Christ is the only healer, and that the resurrection of Jesus is the greatest act of healing of all.

While we continue to be a work in progress our commitment continues to provide service and ministry to the very highest standards of excellence and professionalism. We have rooted our future in the following vision statement:

“Empowered and blessed by God, and compelled by the love of God, we are passionately committed to serve and support the Church in her mission to preach, teach and heal so that lives are transformed in body, mind and spirit, to the glory of God”

When the Synod meets in May members will receive a summary of our Vision, the principles which underscore that Vision, our Position Statement, Objectives and Strategy. It should be noted that we are currently meeting with our patrons to review this plan and ensure it contains a clear understanding of where we are and of where we believe God is leading us.

### **NEW STRUCTURES OF GOVERNANCE**

The process towards this strategic plan has been greatly helped by Mr Clifford McSpadden who has enabled us to identify, clarify and prayerfully consider the way forward. In some ways this process has been just the beginning and the greater challenge will be to ensure the plan is implemented over the coming three to five years. We envisage that CMH will look very different in five years time, while retaining our heart for healing and service. This year will see the completion of our move from current structures to a company limited by guarantee. This change in governance is necessary to better support the ministry that occurs across CMH. While ministry matters will be the main priority of our Pastoral Council (made up of 12 Diocesan Advisors, and those providing specialist ministry support), the Board of CMH will be responsible for governance, administration and strategy. We are currently reviewing how the Mount Help Centre (our counselling service) can best be enabled to continue its steady growth and development.

### **MEETING THE NEEDS OF THOSE WE SERVE**

The counselling ministry is particularly important at a time of great change in the society we serve and in the myriad of challenges and problems people encounter daily that they feel painfully unable to cope with. We gratefully acknowledge the work of Rev Dr Pat Mollan who, as well as coordinating CMH activities in the north, also works tirelessly in

### Church's Ministry of Healing – Report 2009

the development of the counselling ministry. She is ably supported by a team of counsellors, supervisors, intercessors and others ensuring this vital ministry is sustainable and accountable. The late Professor Malcolm Brown was a great support to Dr Mollan and the team, serving as triage-manager, counsellor and friend in his wonderful gentle way.

Training and resourcing continues to be a vital part of our journey forward. Rev Sue Watterson has continued in this work from her base in Killarney serving both the Diocese of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert, and the Church of Ireland in the south. Rev Sue Watterson has been developing the next course for CMH, *Health & Healing*, which will be launched soon.

More details of all this can be found on our website [healing.ireland.anglican.org](http://healing.ireland.anglican.org), which we continue to update regularly.

### **CONCLUSION**

The road ahead for CMH is much clearer than in recent years. We exist to serve the Church at a local and churchwide level. We are ready to support the Church of Ireland as we all seek to fulfill Christ's commission that we should preach, teach, heal, deliver and cleanse ... To God be the Glory.

Church's Ministry of Healing – Report 2009

The Parochial & Diocesan Contributions from each Diocese are given hereunder for the year ending 31 December 2008

	%	<u>£Stg</u>	<b>2008</b>	<u>Euro</u>
Armagh		2,300		350
Cashel & Ossory				1,104
Clogher		1,830		525
Cork, Cloyne, Ross				1,025
Connor		5,575		
Derry & Raphoe		1,650		150
Down & Dromore		6,972		
Tuam, Killala & Achonry				100
Dublin & Glendalough				10,706
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh				300
Limerick, Ardfert & Killaloe				494
Meath & Kildare				1,650
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,327</b>		<b>16,404</b>