

**Proposal Speech - Church's Ministry of Healing Rev. John Scott ( Dromore )  
Embargoed Until Delivery.**

Your Grace / Members of Synod; --- The Church's Ministry of Healing is I'm sure members will agree, one of, if not the most vital support elements of our church. While it sits autonomous of the church it obviously has very close working ties with each Diocese.

The overall strategy is to continue to promote selected national venues and develop and network the work both north and south from these. – thereby earthing the ministry firmly in each Diocese and through that in each parish.. I don't think anyone would disagree that it is, or should be, a part of every clergypersons pastoral care of their parishioners to offer a healing ministry – and our organisation is there to support that overall objective.

The Ministry is very much at a crossroads just now with the appointment of a new warden for a five year term. Following advertisement in March the interview of applicants is at an advanced stage but no decision on the appointment has yet been announced.

The appointment committee is firmly of the opinion that the new appointee must be resident in Dublin and as a first priority seek to regenerate a strong witness to the ministry at St. Michan's which has dwindled in more recent times. In contrast the Belfast centre is buoyant and expanding all the time – especially in terms of the professional counselling ministry and training of same. The pressures of modern living are evident to us all and so the opportunity to live out our Christian witness in very practical terms through this ministry are at a premium.

I strongly encourage this house to warmly endorse the work that is being carried out, on behalf of our church in this field by a small number of grossly underfunded faithful professionals and volunteers. It is indeed a most important and practical witness to the power of the gospel and imperative to the ongoing outliving of faith in our church. I firmly believe that it is high time our church endorse it as a vital element of our church life and reinstate it as a seminal element in all diocesan and parish life and give it the encouragement and associated funding that it deserves.