

Church's Ministry of Healing – Report 2004

**THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING IN IRELAND
REPORT 2004**

Egan House, St Michan's Church, Church Street, Dublin 7
11 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4NA
St Peter's Church, Culmore Road, Londonderry BT48 8JD

PATRONS

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland

DIRECTOR

Rev Susan Watterson

DEPUTY WARDEN

Mrs Jean Thompson, BA (Hons), Member of BAC, APCC, ACC
(Accreditation of Pastoral & Community)

MEMBERSHIP

Executive Committee

Rev Canon C Leslie Maconachie, MA, MDiv, PhD (Chairman)

Mrs Valerie Swanwick, BA (Sc Mods) (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs Jean Thompson, BA (Hons) (Deputy Warden)

Rev Matthew E G Moore, DPS (Diocesan Warden (Derry))

Rev James Stewart (Armagh)

Rev Maurice Armstrong (Clogher)

Mr John Irvine (Clogher)

Rev Nigel Baylor (Connor)

Rev Peter K McDowell (Connor)

Rev Canon R J Stewart, (Derry & Raphoe)

Rev Dr Pat Mollan (Down & Dromore)

Mr WT Marsden (Hon Treasurer)

Rev Canon Brian Loughheed (Limerick)

Mrs Valerie Swanwick (Limerick)

Very Rev Robert Townley (Kildare)

Rev Anthony Whiting (Lismore)

Mr George Clarke (Dublin & Glendalough)

Miss Elaine Graham (Dublin & Glendalough)

Mrs Iris Hunter (Down & Dromore)

Miss Hilda B Bleakley (Hon Secretary)

Co-opted

Rev Canon W John Scott (Down & Dromore)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Belfast Centre	Deputy Director Retires after 13 years service.
Dublin Centre	New Director appointed with promise of renewed outreach.
Diocesan Committees	Examples from across Ireland of how the theory of the Ministry of Healing is put into practice.
Financial Reports	How your donations are spent.

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BELFAST CENTRE

Most of you will be aware by now that I will be retiring from my position as The Church's Ministry of Healing Deputy Director for Ireland at the end of February 2004.

An involvement that for me started in various roles three years after our return from Africa in 1983. For five years I was invited to serve on numerous Church's Ministry of Healing committees and then at the Mount itself.

I thank God and many godly people for their prayers, loyalty and support, as we moved forward through the recent years in Belfast. I have had the opportunity to work with three All Ireland Wardens/Directors, Canon Jim Farrar, the Rev David Catterall and for a short time the Rev Sue Watterson, who has asked that I continue to assist with training and other areas.

I thank God I can leave Belfast Centre knowing its provision and outreach of ministry, prayer counselling, intercessory teams, conferencing and training programmes are thriving and ongoing.

Our national venues in Enniskillen, Portrush and Portadown with our Lunchtime Healing Services are now well established. The ongoing services each week in Chapel of Unity in Belfast Cathedral have regularly fifty plus attending; all venues where people of all denominations and none may reach out to a known visible church, where God works through our clergy and laity for healing - physical mental and spiritual.

Our six unit Prayer Counselling training courses with myself have been in much demand, the next two scheduled locations which Sue has asked me to run, will be in the Dublin Centre in Egan House and then in St Mark's Portadown where the rector, the Rev Jim Campbell has very kindly facilitated our change of date to enable our Dublin Centre to offer the course in Spring 2004, and then following in St Mark's Portadown in the autumn of 2004.

The United Christian Broadcasters praise concert in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast kindly approved by the Dean, the Very Rev Dr McKelvey, in April 2003 was facilitated and supported by The Church's Ministry of Healing and introduced for us by the Rev Professor RAB Mollan. The event brought many encouraging reports and a greater awareness for many of what The Church's Ministry of Healing endeavour to do.

To conclude, I would like to thank the many clergy who gave the ministry and me their deeply appreciated help and support - you know who you are. The precious invaluable staff, teams, counsellors, ministry teams, intercessors, leaders, hostesses and all with their multi skills and faithfulness to our God, His work and myself. Also Matthew our Diocesan Director in Londonderry and his team, and our All Ireland Director, the Rev Sue Watterson and all my friends and colleagues in Dublin.

To bring us right up to date if I may share - early December a little child came to the Lunchtime Healing Service in St Anne's Cathedral in a wheel chair, unable to walk.

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Then just before Christmas, at home, she said, 'Daddy, Jesus has fixed my legs' and walked out of her wheel chair; after Christmas she returned to the cathedral service with new shoes and thankful enthusiasm.

Through the years again and again we see this ministry of our Lord and His precious Church healing in so many ways body, mind and spirit.

It just remains for me to say I pray the ministry continues to grow and develops to that which so many of you have endeavoured to make it, 'an integral part of the ministry of the church', and as the last Lambeth Report recorded, 'a gospel imperative'.

*My grateful thanks,
Jean L Thompson, January 2004.*

DUBLIN CENTRE

The work of the Dublin Centre continued during the vacancy under the direction of the Rev Cecily West assisted by Miss Elaine Graham and members of the Ministry Team. Thanks are extended to all involved in the work of the Centre during this time.

The Rev Susan Watterson was commissioned as Director for Ireland of the Church's Ministry of Healing on 9 September 2003 by the Most Rev Dr Robert Eames. The service, which took place in Christ Church Cathedral, was attended by clergy from all over Ireland, and also visiting clergy from England.

The Society of Friends, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches were also represented. The address was given by the Most Rev John Neill.

From 1 April 2004 Rev Pat Mollan will take up the post of Deputy Director for Ireland, and will replace Mrs Jean Thompson who retired in February after eighteen years involvement in the Ministry based at The Mount in Belfast. Gratitude and good wishes are extended to Mrs Thompson who will be greatly missed.

The Annual Service of Thanksgiving took place on 9 July in the Church of St George & St Thomas (Cathal Brugha Street) by kind permission of the Rev Katherine Poulton.

The Day of Praise & Prayer was as usual held at St Michan's Church on 22 October, as was the Ecumenical Healing Service on 18 January, both by kind permission of Canon David Pierpoint.

Wednesday Lunch-time Services, with prayer for healing continue each week at St Michan's at 1.05 p.m. Continued gratitude is expressed to the Vicar and the Select Vestry for making the church available each week, and also to all those who contribute to the work, our organists, visiting clergy and ministry team.

It is hoped that the work of CMH will continue to broaden as the Director and Deputy Director visit parishes and Healing Prayer Unions.

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A programme of Listening Courses has begun and will continue as a means of training ministry teams for Egan House and individuals from various churches.

Counselling courses will continue under the direction of Mrs Jean Thompson both in Belfast and Dublin.

A retreat is planned for May 2004 and a conference for October 2005, both in Dublin. CMH has been invited to assist with a Belfast Conference in September 2004.

At present, the possibility of providing training and accreditation for Lay Hospital Visitors is being explored.

Thank you to the many parishes through out the country who contribute so generously to The Church's Ministry of Healing.

REPORT FROM DICOESAN COMMITTEES

Armagh

The Committee, now in its thirty second year, meet in Church House in the month of June to plan venues for the following year. It has always made a point of going to different parishes each year thereby covering the diocese over a period of time. A second meeting is held in November at which we review the services held during the year, receive accounts and make allocation to central funds.

Services are generally well supported and the numbers coming forward for the ministry of healing has been most encouraging. Rectors are always ready to welcome the opportunity to have healing services and prepare well for them. His Grace, the Archbishop, makes a point of preaching at one of the four services we have in the year. An encouraging sign is the number of parishes in the Armagh Diocese that are having healing services on a regular basis.

Clogher

Lunch-time Healing Services continue twice monthly in St MacCartan's Cathedral, Enniskillen. This outreach was launched last year. Although attendance may occasionally be small, those officiating and ministering have always felt that these services fulfil a need and are very worthwhile.

We have begun a series of three Healing Services with a thematic approach. Our speaker for the series is the Rt Rev Roy Warke, retired Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The first service took place in St Patrick's, Monaghan on 16 November 2003.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the Healing Ministry has indeed become an integral part in the life of several parishes in the Diocese.

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Connor

As a response to the desire in Connor Diocese to include more people in the work of The Church's Ministry of Healing, the three services organized annually by the Healing Committee have been restructured to operate on a rural deanery basis rather than on the basis of a wider area, and are being held on a Sunday evening rather than a weekday. The two services that this has applied to so far, in Magheragall and Antrim, have been very positive events for those who attended.

The Rev Professor RAB Mollan was the guest speaker at our biennial meeting, which was chaired by the Bishop of Connor. Professor Mollan gave an illustrated talk on God's gift of pain, which was a moving and thought provoking analysis on the link between leprosy and poverty.

Derry & Raphoe

The Committee meets for fellowship and discussion three times each year.

A Healing Service is held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 4.00 pm in St Peter's Church, Londonderry.

Services have been held in Drumholm Parish Church in Co Donegal and in St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry. Services are held regularly in many parish churches and the Diocesan Director has been invited to preach at many of them.

A Service of Healing and Thanksgiving was held in St Peter's Church, Londonderry on Thursday 30 October 2003. The preacher was the Rt Rev Ken Good, the Bishop of the Dioceses of Derry and Raphoe. The Director of the Church's Ministry of Healing, the Rev Susan Watterson, also spoke.

Arrangements have been made to elect new members to the diocesan Committee. We record our thanks to all those who served so faithfully in past years.

Down & Dromore

The committee met six times during the year.

The committee organised a Service of Celebration of Healing at Down Cathedral on Sunday, 18 May 2003 at 3.30 p.m. The emphasis was on praise and thanksgiving and was led by the Musical Director, Michael McCracken and the Cathedral Choir, Cadenza, and the Youth Music Group from Knockbreda Parish. The Girl's Brigade from Knocknagoney Parish interpreted the hymn 'Faithful One' for the deaf and hard of hearing, and Mrs Ruth Duff told her personal story of healings. Two members of committee read dramatised gospel readings of healing, and there was an opportunity for prayer with the laying on of hands. The service was followed by refreshments in the narthex.

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The second of the Rural Deanery Healing Services was held on Sunday 21 September 2003 at 7.00 p.m., at the Church of the Pentecost, Mount Merrion, Belfast, at which the Rector, the Rev Brian Bird preached.

We were delighted to welcome our new Director at her introduction at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 7 October and as our guest speaker at our Biennial General Meeting on 10 November 2003 at St Patrick's Ballymacarrett.

Our members continue their support for the Lunchtime Healing Services in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast each Friday at 1.05 p.m. and at the Holy Communion Service on Tuesdays at 10.00 a.m. in the Mount.

We record our thanks to the Bishop for his continuing support and encouragement to the Committee.

Dublin & Glendalough

The main concern of the committee has been the display of notices in city centre hospitals, telling of the Wednesday healing services at St Michan's, and the possibility of training lay hospital visitors to assist rectors and chaplains in their work. To this end, the Rev Bruce Pierce, a hospital chaplain, was invited to address the committee; and a serious interest was taken in the listening course being run by the Director in conjunction with Acorn Trust, which is relevant to this.

A quiet day was held during Lent at Kill-o-the Grange Church, which was led by the Rev Jim Carroll, Rector of Raheny Parish. He also hosted the Annual Diocesan Healing Service at All Saint's Raheny, at which the Director gave the address. Members of the committee assisted with the laying on of hands at these, and also at the weekly services at St Michan's during the year.

LIMERICK

BALLINASLOE/AUGHRIM H.P.U

The Group continues to meet on the first Wednesday of every month in St John's Church Ballinasloe. A regular attendance is approximately twelve. Prayers are offered daily by members of the group for each.

A Holy Communion Service with Laying on of Hands is conducted by the Rector, Canon Trevor Sullivan two/three times during the year.

There has been much thanksgiving for restoration of health to many of these prayed for and also appreciation shown for families of the deceased. An increasing number of non Church of Ireland friends ask for prayers for their friends and relatives and are very grateful for same.

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The group is very pleased about the appointment of our new Director, the Rev Sue Watterson and look forward to her working among us.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Balance Sheet for 31 December 2003 reflects the sale of the Warden's House at Templeogue, the purchase of a house in Lucan for this purpose, and the investment of the difference.

The receipts and payments for the year ending 31 December 2003, shows an excess of payments over receipts. This deficit is due largely to the cessation of income from rent from what was the Warden's house. We will not have this rent in the future, but The Ministry will benefit from the investment referred to. The interest derived from the investment will not, however, make up for the total loss of the rent.

While acknowledging with gratitude the assistance we have received from the Church in the past, it remains for The Ministry to continue to endeavour to promote the Lord's healing ministry throughout the Church, with confidence that He will continue to sustain our efforts through the generosity and kindness of those we seek to serve.

The Parochial & Diocesan Contributions from each Diocese are given hereunder for the year ended 31 December 2003.

	2003	
	£	€
Armagh	630	
Cashel & Ossory		1,124
Clogher	1,800	65
Cork, Cloyne, Ross		743
Connor	2,430	
Derry & Raphoe	400	
Down & Dromore	4,673	
Dublin & Glendalough		6,380
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh		350
Limerick, Ardfert & Killaloe		326
Meath & Kildare		1,009
Armagh Diocesan Council	400	
Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Council	400	
Down & Dromore Diocesan Council	730	
Down & Dromore Diocesan Committee	400	
Kilmore Diocesan Council		750
TOTAL	<u>11,863</u>	<u>10,747</u>

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2003	2002
	€	€
RECEIPTS		
Donations & Legacies	11,150	22,008
Grants	11,587	9,587
Contributions	28,794	27,141
Collections	7,634	7,947
Dividends & Interest	12,805	8,996
Courses & Seminars (net)	361	1,308
Fund Raising Events (net)	1,584	2,090
Rent from Warden's House	0	12,423
Miscellaneous	208	1,050
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	74,123	92,550
PAYMENTS		
Salaries & Social Insurance	53,667	56,081
Pension Contributions	0	3,808
Travelling Expenses	3,700	1,858
Warden's House Expenses	5,570	826
Repairs – The Mount, Belfast	1,185	851
Chapel & Office Expenses	15,087	13,026
Subscriptions & Donations	285	228
Bank Charges	291	443
Egan House	2,881	2,563
Book and Tapes	250	530
Miscellaneous Payments	4,678	4,044
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	87,594	84,258
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	-13,471	8,292