

THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING IN IRELAND

The Very Rev Robert Townley, Meath and Kildare

Embargoed until Delivery

Your Grace,

With much pleasure I present the Church's Ministry of Healing report.

The Ministry of Healing is conscious of the need to repair and update its plumbing system so that the living water of God's Holy Spirit might the more effectively flow through it. As paragraph one states (page 342) “ ..the healing ministry broadens and expands within the contemporary church to include areas of reconciliation and mediation as well as aspects of personal development”. Several organisations are listed in this paragraph, but, however it is explored and expressed, our vocation is to be instruments of Christ - to be his feet, his hands, his voice and in some way his heart, for those who need healing. Outward and visible signs of this physically expressed ministry include the laying on of hands and anointing with prayer. The executive committee is thankful that these means of grace are included in the new Book of Common Prayer. It hopes that they will be used as widely and discerningly as possible.

There is a splendid network within our Church's Ministry of Healing, under the direction of the Reverend Susan Watterson and the Reverend Patricia Mollan. The Dublin and Belfast Centres, the diocesan committees and the executive committee are united in exploring practical ways to make the Ministry of Healing more widely known and relevant. The Director and Deputy Director continue to welcome practical suggestions from parishes, organisations and individuals in order to commend the Healing Ministry with increased relevance.

Your Grace, I commend to this synod the Annual Report of our Church's Ministry of Healing and ask that it be received.