



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living and telling the story of Jesus



Diocesan Healing Advisory Group – April 2025

Greetings on behalf of the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group.

New Diocesan Healing Adviser



We are delighted to say that we have appointed a new Diocesan Healing Adviser.

Cheryl Hawkins is the vicar of St Andrew's, Burnham on Sea and took up her role last month. Cheryl, who moved to Bath and Wells from Bristol last year, has a wide experience and understanding of healing ministry as well as considerable competence in leading collaboratively and enabling the gifts of all to grow.

This is a Bishop's appointment. Bishop Michael said, "Cheryl is a person of such gifts, abilities and credibility and I am delighted to endorse this appointment."

Cheryl will combine her new role with her work in parish, and has a vision of healing that integrates all of life and work. She said, "Healing ministry in many ways has to be

held lightly within the seriousness of its undertaking – that we only carry out the ministry of healing through God's grace, through prayer and discernment.

"Whether the healing is for physical or spiritual healing or both, the broadness of it means that it is our relationship with God that leads to wholeness and which enables us to flourish well as human beings, but also the wider healing of creation, healing where needed in communities, to explore forgiveness – the Church in its healing ministry can offer something others perhaps cannot, offer a space. It offers the space for lament as a way to move forward to healing.

"And within that space we have been gifted many ways of carrying out that ministry, laying on of hands, anointing, in our liturgical offerings, of listening and pastoral care – of working alongside through collaboration – being open to seeing healing in a wider context, for example the use of warm spaces we have seen recently set up in response to the cost of living crisis and of tackling loneliness through offering spaces – these are ways where the church offers healing and human flourishing.

"Jesus' healing ministry was relational, of walking alongside - healing is relational, it is honouring our common humanity within the uniqueness of each of us being made in God's image."

We welcome Cheryl and offer our prayers for her.

Healing Forum – Monday 14 July at Flourish House

We will be holding a Healing Forum on Monday 14 July, 10:00 – 12.30 at Flourish House, Wells. This will be about encouraging a healthy culture and how we support those experiencing domestic abuse. The speaker will be the Revd Lucy Davies. Lucy is currently a Curate at Milton and Mead Vale whose background is in this field.

To book a place or for further information, please [email Sue Whitehead](#) or telephone Sue on 01749 685272.

Healing Gathering

It was good to welcome around 40 people to Flourish House on Saturday 18 January for our Healing Gathering. There was a real sense of peace, generosity and an acknowledgement of how good it is to know the healing presence of God. We explored various aspects of healing, including what we understand by Christian healing and our experience of it. Jonathan Clark, Director for Premier Lifeline & Chair of Christian Healing UK, gave us an interesting talk on the Spectrum of Healing Ministry ([Jonathan's talk can be downloaded from our website](#)) and we talked about what support and resources are needed to go forward. If you would like to share your views or have ideas of how healing ministry could be supported, or if you are interested in joining the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group, please contact [Revd Cheryl Hawkins](#).

Healing Resources

[Resources to assist parishes wishing to introduce or develop a ministry of healing are available](#) on the Diocesan website.

Please keep in touch with the Healing Advisory Group, as we are here to resource you, and be assured that we pray regularly for you. Do please email us with any comments, questions or requests. Within the bounds of confidentiality, it is good to share something of our struggles and joys with each other and, with permission, with the wider community if it is appropriate.

Of course, if you or people you know would like our prayers, or to talk more deeply with Cheryl, please do get in touch.

[Revd Cheryl Hawkins](#), Diocesan Healing Adviser

[Sue Whitehead](#), Deanery and Parish Resources Administrator

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2 Corinthians 1.3-4

From the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group



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