



DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

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Diocesan Healing Advisory Group Newsletter & Resources – September 2023



There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.
from Ecclesiastes 3

Greetings,

If you grow any sort of fruit or vegetables, or have friends who do, you will be more than aware that the red soft fruits of summer are giving way to tomatoes and apples which are falling or ripening. My courgettes are busy trying to turn into marrows, and they remind me that it pays to be alert to the rhythm of the year, which it is so easy to ignore.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that for everything there is a time and a season. As we reach the turn of the academic year, which brings new opportunities for students throughout the country, we in the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group would like to offer you something of our hopes and plans for the coming months.

The theme of healing is fundamentally inclusive, depending as it does on Paul's concept that 'all things work together for good, for those who love God.' We understand that this applies widely. It is true of our physical health, when our bodies and minds work in harmony. It also applied to relationships between individuals, communities, and countries, and between humanity and the environment.

As Christians, our relationship with God lies at the heart of our true identity and values as individuals and communities. Inhabiting that relationship as truly as we can enables us to acknowledge internal and external conflict. In doing so, we may then allow ourselves to be 'transformed by the renewing' of our minds and begin the work of peacebuilding.

Our Online Forum on Monday 2 October will be led by Simon Keyes, and we look forward to developing a deeper appreciation and understanding of these and related themes in his company, as we explore The Nature of Christian Peacebuilding.

Rev Preb Julie Birkett will preach on aspects of wholeness on Sunday 15 October at Cathedral Evensong.

You will see that there is a mixture of online and in person events planned as we are hoping that this enables more people to access them. We would be very grateful for your comments and feedback on the range, format and content of what we offer and also suggestions for the future.

If you or a group in your church has an interest in learning and exploring healing prayer, do please contact us and we will help to resource you.

Events – October Healing Forum and Healing Service in Wells Cathedral

Healing Forum: The Nature of Christian Peacebuilding

Monday 2 October, 11.00 – 12.30, on Zoom

The October Healing Forum will be online. We are delighted that Simon Keyes, the Diocesan Peacebuilding Adviser, who preached at the Healing Service in the Cathedral in the autumn last year, will be speaking at the October Healing Forum. We all fall short of our Christian ideals of peace – so how can scripture rescue us from failure and help us to understand and respond constructively to conflict and disagreement?

[Book a place on the October 2023 Healing Forum](#)

Healing Service in Wells Cathedral

Sunday 15 October, 3.00 pm

There will be a Healing service during Evensong. Rev Preb Julie Birkett will preach on aspects of wholeness. The service will be followed by the opportunity for Healing Prayer in the Lady Chapel, which will be offered by members of the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group.

[Details of our events are available on our website.](#)

For further information, contact Sue Whitehead sue.whitehead@bathwells.anglican.org
01749 685272.

Previous Healing Forums

[Videos are available via our website of our previous Healing Forums.](#)

Acorn Christian Healing Foundation

Acorn provides training for individuals and groups in ministry and skills for people on the journey of Christian healing. They provide training, service and resources.

Acorn was founded by Bishop Morris Maddocks in 1983. It has retained his founding vision in working, and praying, for health and wholeness in the Church, and in God's world, through Healing, Listening and Reconciliation; Acorn equips and resources others to do the same. Working in the UK and overseas, Acorn provides people, regardless of their circumstances, background or life choices, with the opportunity to experience the "shalom" that is at the heart of the Christian message. Their vision is Healing & Wholeness for all. Their mission is to encourage, equip and resource local churches and Christians from all walks of life to become agents of God's healing, reconciliation and care in their homes, churches, workplaces and communities.

There are four types of training available:-

- Listening Academy – developing foundational listening skills that can be used in church, at work or in the community.
- Ministry Academy – an opportunity to be ministered to as well as learning about Christian healing - areas covered include loss and bereavement, the Holy Spirit, Inner healing and Prayer and praying.
- Training Academy – learn about prayer ministry training and conflict transformation.
- Healing Academy – practical and helpful training to help set up a healing hub or start a healing ministry in your own church. There are monthly interactive teaching sessions online. Over a year a range of topics are covered including the healing ministry of Jesus, Ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Bible and healing. There are also monthly discussions at the Acorn lounge following up the monthly teaching.

For more information go to Acorn's website. <https://acornchristian.org>

Healing Resources

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

We would like to draw your attention to the short video 'Finding Inner Peace through Photography' shared by Revd Lis Sparrow

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/healing-ministry/>

as shown at our Healing Forum in May. Please use this to inspire you and create a sense of peace.

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.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,
who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

With prayers and best wishes

Gilly Bunce
Diocesan Healing Adviser



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