

HEALING WAYS

(formerly The Salvator)

Summer 2009

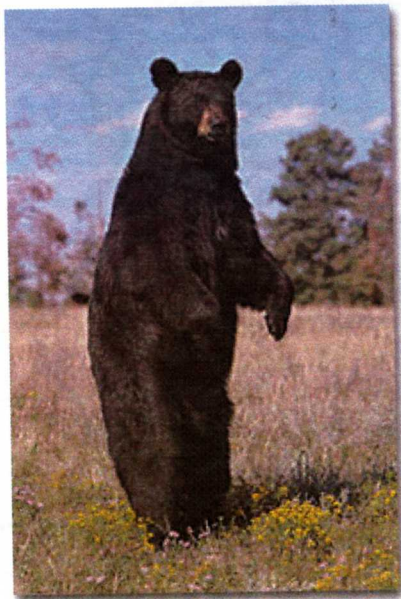


Almighty God, who inspired your servant St Luke the physician to set out in gospel the love and healing power of your Son: make obvious in Your Church the same love and power for the healing of our bodies and souls; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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22-26 JUNE 2010



SPEAKERS

Rev Russ Parker
Rev Mike Endicott
UK

Rev Lionel Brown
Rev Derek Lightbourne
New Zealand

Rev Nigel Mumford
USA

**Order of St Luke
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My Dear Friends

On a daily basis, I am reminded of the privilege it is to spend time with people who are experiencing difficulties or disease and who are looking to God for help in their situation; because it is here that the miracle of God's transforming love in Jesus Christ can so clearly be seen. As we come along side those who are hurting, we see transformations taking place. However, it is not just the patients who are changed, but the carers who witness God's blessing. Jesus, in his teaching, indicates that the life of the disciple is one of transformation, ongoing growth and development, irrespective of how we enter into the faith, whether through nurture or a sudden conversion experience. Underlying the account of Jesus at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11) is transformation; the changing water into wine, transforming an everyday essential element into something that enabled celebration to occur. This is a fundamental theme of John's gospel, that in the midst of the ordinary events of life, metamorphosis (a change of form) is occurring. We are reminded that in the ordinary and extraordinary events of life we can often be brought to the place of metamorphosis – where we move from one stage of our Christian experience to another. It may be illness or the shock of a diagnosis that cause us to reassess our values; relationships become more important and the ordinary things of life become precious. Perhaps we can all point to a significant event which became a turning point; a moment of metamorphosis, a change that has had a lasting effect on our lives. Other changes occur in our outreach and practice when we are challenged in our thinking. Sometimes we shrink from the effort to change, and miss an opportunity. However, it would be inconsistent to think that things in any Christian ministry would remain static, so it is good policy to grasp any chance to review and discuss other's practice in the light of Scripture.

Mike Endicott's opening question, 'Do you see about two real healings a year?' got my attention, because my frequent but silent musing was on why we do not see more than that. As a result he had my undivided attention at the Annual Conference at Swanwick, beginning on 17 April. The challenge began, to look afresh at Jesus' ministry where 'all' were healed, and to see how we could discern the need to change our attitudes and practice, as we have built our theology of healing on our experience. However we need to replicate Jesus ministry. The power of God is in the message of the cross, so our task is clearly to proclaim the good news of the cross. Mike illustrated this beautifully with two horses ploughing a field, harnessed together, and suggested that we should pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be closer harnessed to Jesus. It is as we proclaim the message of the cross that faith increases in the listener and they come to trust God in their heart.

