

# HEALING WAYS

The Order of St Luke

Autumn 2010



**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.**

My Dear Friends

Grandchildren are a wonderful gift. In their presence the years fall away and they remind us of what being a young parent really was like. We see the close family resemblances and the familiar bedtime stories come alive again. Time takes on a new dimension and the little ones draw you to think about God's goodness and faithfulness over the years.

Their presence cause us to notice the power of the familiar which awakens the consciousness to something more profound. It is as though we see and hear the familiar and exclaim, 'Ah!' All of a sudden a light flashes on and we grasp the situation. All the while something was happening, but we didn't notice the significance until a certain signal rang a bell in our mind and woke us up to reality.

That's what the breaking of bread did for the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It was an 'Ah!' signal for them. It was something they had experienced so many times, that it stripped away the blinkers from their eyes. Suddenly the unseen was seen, the unheard was heard, the unrecognised recognised.

We all need such a sign, because we are often like those two disciples. We travel down life's road with unseeing eyes, unhearing ears, and minds dulled to understanding. We talk *about* Him. We may even talk *to* Him, but we don't know *it is* Him. We don't even recognise Him in those we meet. Our eyes are glazed; our ears are deaf; our minds are dull. *He's there*. He is an unknown companion travelling the same road ... and then comes the 'Ah!' factor.

Recently, Brian, a preacher at our weekly Healing Service was talking about Jesus in his home town Nazareth, and the hard fact that not many were healed because of their unbelief. He said that spiritually we are all living in Nazareth. We live with a level of unbelief - that really struck home. If we talk about Jesus and the miracle of the feeding of the 5000, it is as though we talk about it at arm's length. We believe it is real ... but that was then ... somewhere in the distance. We talk about it as though we are outside God's miracles; as though we do not belong to 'The' family.

Luke says that the two disciples on the road 'were kept from recognising him' (Lk 24:16). From what transpired during the journey we'd have to say that they suffered from more than visual limitations, for they missed all kinds of signals. It didn't seem to help that they had Jesus on their minds. Yet it's surprising that they could talk *about* him and not show a hint of recognition. But maybe that's the way we all are.

What kept them from comprehending? As far as we can tell, the disciples heard the words correctly, but they were not able to go beyond the words, to where the words came from. They talked *about* Jesus rather than listening *to* him. For these disciples, all of that changed when Jesus enacted the familiar sign, the 'Ah!' of the breaking of bread. It awoke them to recognise Jesus with them. It clarified scriptures they couldn't comprehend even as Jesus himself explained them. When they recognised Jesus 'is with us', it sent them out with urgency to tell others. In other words - Jesus' presence made things real to them.

