

HEALING WAYS

The Order of St Luke

Spring 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.

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends

In my work for the Church's Ministry of Healing in Northern Ireland, and I am reminded on a daily basis, 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 clients who are changed, but those who minister to them, 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. It may have been this event which brought us to membership of the Order of St Luke, where we can pray for others' healing and encouragement.

There can be no more life-changing event than the injury or disfigurement suffered by members of our military in conflict situations. This was brought home recently by a Channel Four programme, 'The Cutting Edge', which tells the story of medical evacuation of the injured. Please pray for the protection of our armed forces engaged in war against terrorism, and for those who care for them. Especially because this conflict seems remote we must not forget them, or their families who await their safe return. Included in this issue is the story of the reality of work for a flight nurse.

It would be inconsistent to think that things in any Christian ministry or organisation would remain static, and that is certainly the case for the Order of St Luke. For many years we have been in the forefront of praying for the sick, and all who came seeking laying on of hands with prayer for healing found a safe place to unburden themselves, received Christian healing, and the blessings of Christ's peace. We praise God for these years and the fruits of this ministry evidenced in many changed lives.

In his book, 'Thine is the Kingdom', J S Stewart says, 'This is the answer – that always it is upon human weakness, not human strength and confidence, that God chooses to build his kingdom; and that he can use us, not merely in spite of our ordinariness and helplessness and disqualifying infirmities, but precisely because of them.'

Be encouraged and may God bless you all.

Your sister in Christ,

Pat Mollan

**Order of St. Luke the Physician in the United Kingdom
Warden's Annual Report to
Annual General Meeting and to Council
St. Edyth's, Bristol, April 2010**

The Council has met three times in the last twelve months. The main items on our agenda have been the writing of the new Constitution. This has been a lengthy and necessary process to allow us to consult with members and to incorporate suggestions. The final draft is ready to put to the members to vote on. I would like to thank Alan Coode for all the hard work and patience he has shown in preparing this work. I must also thank Alan for taking on the project of the website, he has been speaking to our friends across the pond to see if we can connect up to their site. This would give people a wider view of the Order and would assist us cost wise. It is hoped that this will be up and running soon.

We have also been looking forward to June and the International Conference at the University of British Columbia, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada, between the 21 and 25 June 2010. This should be a wonderful event for the Order. I well remember when we held the event at Swanick in 2007 and what an excellent occasion that was for all.

We also introduced the new format and name for the quarterly publication 'Healing Ways' a special thanks of gratitude goes to Rev Dr. Pat Mollan, who leads a very active ministry in Northern Ireland.

