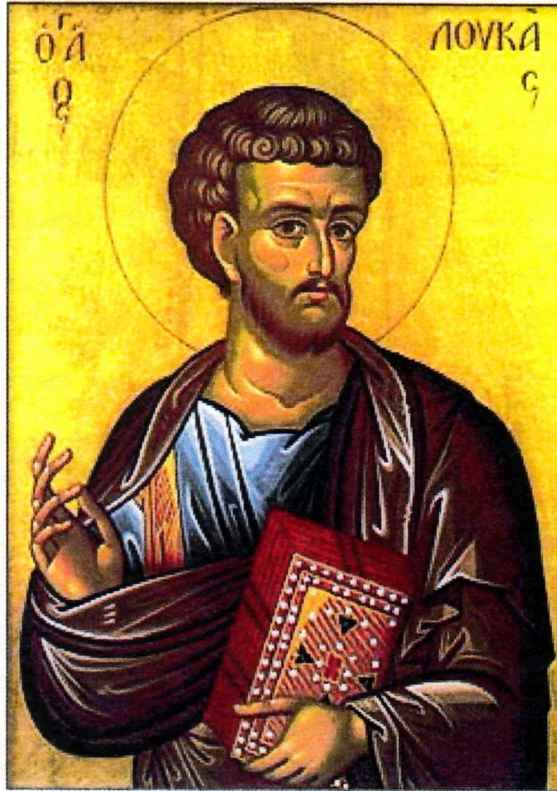


# HEALING WAYS

The Order of St Luke

Summer 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

How I love the summer months. Our temperate climate has much to recommend it. It is never too hot, and we are not short of life-giving water. The days are long and light, and there always seems to be time to do what we feel is necessary, even what we want. It is a time of contentment, and that is precious. It is a time for growth and peace. It feels unending.

Each one of us has a place or time in which we feel that contentment. Perhaps it comes for you when you smell the morning coffee brewing, or when you meet the aroma of Sunday lunch cooking as you open the door and come home from church (even if it is you who set the oven timer). Many of the things that bring this pleasurable feeling come with reminders of the past. However we can miss the gift if we run on tight schedules, trying hard to meet our self appointed goals; others expectations and even our misconceptions of what we think are our Christian responsibilities. We know that summer will come and go, but we don't always think that a quiet opportunity to take in the goodness of life, or to 'waste' time with a friend or family member may be a single chance which may not come again.

When people ask me how they can witness for Jesus, I suggest they tell others what God has been doing in their life recently. Sometimes the response to this is a blank look, and I guess that they have been very busy, perhaps too busy to acknowledge his presence or actions. We can get so messed up in our priorities, in every area of our life. So often we speak to pass on information, but do not take the time to listen. We even approach God in this way. It becomes a habit, which, if left alone kills our relationships, our very joy in living. We have to take conscious steps to reverse this practice, and discipline ourselves to listen and listen deeply to others. Think of the people you really love. They are those who listen to you and welcome the opportunity to give you the time. This should be a big challenge to us in daily



living. If more people actively listened then more people would have their burdens lifted, and Jesus did say that we should carry one another burdens.

This issue of Healing Ways contains an article on suicide. It is a topic which makes many uncomfortable, but it is one that we need to acknowledge and play our part in its prevention and intervention where appropriate. Those who are contemplating taking their life are trapped in despair and need to know that God loves them and that Jesus came to set the captives free.

I send grateful thanks to those who sent articles for publication. If you have not done so, then please consider it. Contributions of book reviews, stories of or articles on healing, prayers, even letters to the editor (good or bad) are acceptable. This is your magazine, and it is only as good as the articles received.

**Pat Mollan**

### **A Word from the Warden**

Lorraine and I have just returned from a week's holiday at our time-share in Majorca. We have had a lovely week with friends; enjoying the sunny weather and touring the sites on the Island. We kept in touch with home by reading the daily paper and watching the news on television. The main topic was the incidents in Cumbria's towns and villages, where Derek Bird had shot and killed 12 people and wounded another 25, before taking his own life.

It is a horrific story: Derek Bird appeared to have randomly gone out in his car and took pot shots at his victims. As the story has unfolded we have learnt that not all the victims were innocent by passers. Some had, it appears, been selected in his warped mind because he held grievances: His twin brother had been favoured by his father and had received £25,000 some years ago, as part of his inheritance. There had been an argument on the taxi rank over queue jumping for customers. He allegedly owed money to the taxman and was in fear of imprisonment. His Thai girlfriend had jilted him. Nothing, it appears, was going right in his life.

As the media covered the events they interviewed victims, friends of victims and the local Vicar, whom they followed, as he attempted to console the community. We heard and read how church services were held or being arranged.

Although on holiday and far away I could not help feeling close to the folk in Cumbria. Such an event affects so many people, far beyond those that live in the locality: it affects the Nation. Questions naturally arise: 'Why?' and 'Where?' Why did God allow it; and

