

# HEALING WAYS

## The Order of St Luke

### Autumn 2011



**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

As I write this on 1<sup>st</sup> September I see the visible signs of autumn and the scene changing before my eyes. Just after dawn today on my early walk with the dogs, the morning mist hung low over the Lough like a loose roll of cotton beginning to thin out and evaporate as the rising sun spread its rays over the water. Already the first of the Brent geese have arrived from Labrador for their winter season here, while the swallows still enjoy the abundant food before leaving on their epic journey back to Africa. Although the scene is beautiful I want to cry out, 'Not yet. Please, not yet.' I was just enjoying the pleasantness of summer and do not wish to acknowledge its decline to autumn and winter, yet I must accept what comes and be grateful. Change is always difficult and sometimes very hard to accept.

For many people this year has been a difficult journey through increasing financial restrictions and continuing uncertainty, while we ride the storm of cutbacks and disappointment. We return in our thoughts to the scenes of riot and urban disturbance of these past months and wonder how far back the problems started. We want to understand what went wrong so that we can make sure that it doesn't happen again. What on earth can we do as individuals and as Church to heal the hurts in society and develop a social order that is prepared to work together for the common good and take responsibility for the weak and disadvantaged? How can we represent Christ to the world which has so very different values?

In my quiet secluded early mornings surrounded by creation I realise the privileges I have, but also how fragile they are. I begin to comprehend that we are placed where we are not through any perceived merit or striving but as a gift of grace. As a Christians we have that steadfast anchor which will not fail us, and as the Psalmist says (Ps46:2) *'therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change... The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.* (Ps 46:2 and 11)

Wishing you every blessing  
Your sister in Christ  
Pat Mollan

## The Way Ahead

At the last Council meeting we discussed the future of the Order and, with the drop in membership and an aging membership, whether it was worth keeping the Order going in this country. Particularly having regard to the fact that there are other organisations involved in this ministry and it was reported that a number of our members are engaged with them, if not also members.

My answer was a resounding 'YES'. Within the healing organisations we are unique because we are an Order and are called to follow a way of life, which is governed by a rule, of life; also we endeavour to encourage all Christians to study and practice the ministry of Christian Healing. This was the ethos that The Reverend John Banks had when he set up the Order all those years ago and it is still valid today.

I accept that we are not big and all that we seek to do for the Order is on a voluntary basis and therefore we are not full time or have a salaried staff to support us. So what, when Jesus sent out his followers on the road what did they have and how many of them were there?

We have had a new Constitution and web site over the last few months; we have updated our publications and added to them. The way ahead in my eyes is good. Let's make an opportunity of what may appear to be obstacles.

You will have read elsewhere in this issue how we are inviting Chaplains and convenors to a special training day on Saturday 08 October. This is being prepared by the Rev Chris Low, the Assistant Warden. It will be an opportunity to equip ourselves and make confident to 'Go out' and spread the good word. Also next year's Conference is being designed to meet your needs and looking at Healing and wholeness. We are inviting you to make suggestions for work shop topics. Time will be allocated also for prayer and for sharing our experiences in the healing ministry. I know from the responses that I received from those I wrote to have some wonderful stories to share.

