

HEALING WAYS

The Order of St Luke

Spring 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.

Dear Friends

Trials come to everyone of us personally, but in every area of life we face changes, which can be difficult to deal with. This has also been true within the Order as we struggle to renew and increase the membership and deal with changes in society. The Council have done a sterling job in moving to register under the Charities Act, and to develop a new website fit for communication of our vision in the twenty first century. We are grateful for their untiring work on our behalf, and we pray that it will bear much fruit.

There is no doubt that in mission and ministry no growth can occur without there being a sacrifice involved. There are many examples of this in the Bible. Long ago Abraham left his home in Ur in the Chaldees for an unknown land. David became King of Israel after many hard years of exile because of Saul's intense jealousy. Paul's whole ministry was marked by persecution and pain, but in each case it was for the glory of God, and for the benefit of unbelievers. Paul understood what we often forget; the way of the Cross is a necessary part of discipleship.

As we move through the season of Lent towards Easter, we are reminded of Jesus' words recorded in Luke 14:27 *'Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple'*. For God's work to be done and for his fruit to grow there is always a cost. It has been rightly said that the way of the Cross is essential for anyone to see the God of the Cross. In my work and in my living I am often reminded of the words of Charles Hadden Spurgeon, *'Preach at all times. Use words if necessary.'* How we are seen to react in hardship and struggle is observed by everyone around us. If Christ is not in us, then the world will remain unconvinced. We need to turn to him in all our trials for our comfort and for the world to see and meet him.

May God bless you this Eastertide

Pat

