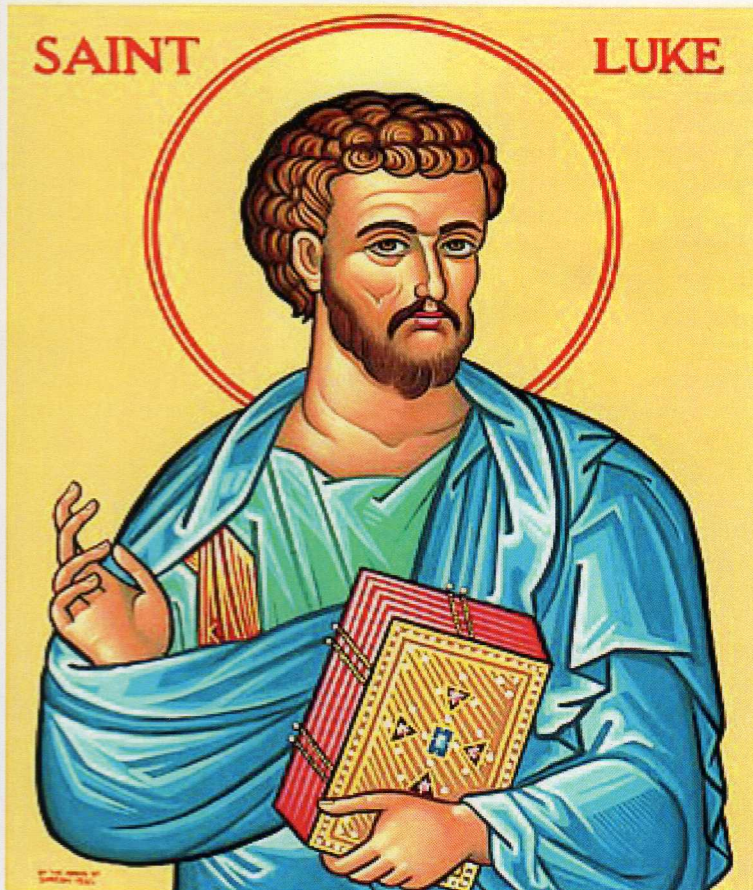


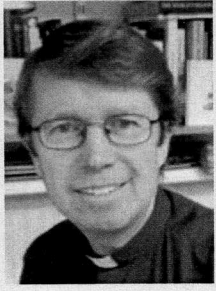
Journal of Christian Healing

HEALING WAYS

The Order of St. Luke



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WE ARE AT WAR! Yes, I know the world is at war in many places right now, and we see reports in the news all the time. But note this... there is a parallel war going on in the spiritual world which impacts our physical world at all points.

If an army is to win it is essential that the enemy is properly recognised and understood. As Christians we have to go beyond just *'wrestling with flesh and blood'*, which preoccupies most of us, and see the battle for what it really is, *'against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms'* Ephesians 6.12.

Paul was sitting in his prison cell and wondering how to finish off his letter to the Ephesians. His piece of parchment, which was always of a standard size, was running out. There were no more pages. What could he say to the churches that would give them one last vital encouragement?

To his amazement, as it is to mine as a struggling writer, inspiration was given. The soldier looking after him suddenly became one of his finest sermon illustrations! So he began to scribble furiously... *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.... put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

That Ephesian letter travelled all over the area, inspiring the readers then and since to persevere and not give up. And it inspires us today!

As I read the contributions to this edition of Healing Ways I note the air of battle about it. As I hear about small numbers, lack of direction, advances and setbacks, I am easily tempted to 'gird up my loins' and just try harder, and there is a place for this. But first there is the place of prayer! So Paul continues... *pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me...*

Saint Augustine said **"Pray as if everything depends on God. Work as if everything depends on you."** What excellent advice from one so familiar with spiritual warfare. It is this balance of prayer and work that is the key, and both themes are clearly in evidence in this edition of Healing Ways. This is God's call to us today.

Charlie Radburn

