



DIOCESE OF **Bath & Wells**

Living the story. Telling the story.



[Photo by Revd Lis Sparrow]

Diocesan Healing Advisory Group Newsletter & Resources January 2023



²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.
(see Matthew 15: 21-28)

We may long to plead for the action or miracle which will transform the life of a loved one. If we are not rewarded by instant evidence of healing, we may blame ourselves for being inadequate in faith or prayer, or rail at God. But we know that none of this deepens our faith or trust, so there may be other ways in which to understand this passage.

Perhaps we need to be prepared to articulate and even plead for what we really want from God; we are to persist in that, despite being challenged. Perhaps it is only possible for things to change when we are prepared to defend or develop our 'pitch' with energy and commitment. When this happens, we may gain clarity of thought or vision or, as this passage shows, the longed-for miracle.

Early January seems a good time to remind ourselves of our hopes and plans for the year.

Many of us continue to realise that there is not much about the world that feels stable as we adapt to so many changes and challenges. It seems that nothing is quite as we left it, so our main theme this year is about building in small positive changes and ways of praying and living which can underpin our faith and the way we live for the good of our communities.

Our theme for 2023 will be '**Small Steps towards Wholeness.**' There is a need for us to be 'people of peace' if we are to be able to enable ourselves, other people or situations to be open to God's healing.

With this in mind, our programme this year will start with a Forum online next month and continue to prayerfully develop this theme at our next Forum.

Online Forum 'Small steps towards Peace' 7 February

We are planning a mix of online and in person gatherings over the year. The first of these will be an online Forum 'Small steps towards Peace' on Tuesday 7 February, 7.30 – 9.00 pm.

Come along to explore real, do-able, practical ways towards finding peace in our lives today. We will be looking at how we recognise that we are not at peace, what is helpful for our own inner peace as individuals and how we can build these practices into our lives.

[Register to come along.](#)

Healing Service in Wells Cathedral

The Healing Service held on 23 October had a theme of peacebuilding, with an excellent talk by Simon Keyes, the Diocesan Peacebuilding Adviser, on healing of memories. Our response to the past changes the possibilities for the future. This affects our own lives as individuals, but also those of our families and communities, both day to day, and the future possibilities. The Kingdom is therefore more generously served if we can live from a place of healing and grace rather than the limitations of the scars we inevitably bear.

Advance notice – a healing service will take place during Evensong on **Sunday 15 October 2023** at 3.00 pm in the Cathedral, with prayer for healing available afterwards.

[Details of our events are available on our website.](#)

Previous Healing Forums

Videos are available via our website of our previous Healing Forums.

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/healing-ministry/supporting-healing-ministry-across-the-diocese/>

Healing Resources

[Resources to assist parishes wishing to introduce or develop a ministry of healing are available](#) on the Diocesan website.

Please keep in touch with the Healing Advisory Group, as we are here to resource you, and be assured that we pray regularly for you. Do please email us with any comments, questions or requests. Within the bounds of confidentiality, it is good to share something of our struggles and joys with each other and, with permission, with the wider community if it is appropriate.

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Matthew 19:26

Gilly Bunce
Diocesan Healing Adviser
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