

What does anointing mean?

Anointing someone for healing using special oil is a very ancient practise and found in the letter of James 'to pray and anoint with oil'. We do this as you come to receive Communion because there is a very close relationship between the eucharist and healing. If Jesus makes Himself present to His people in the breaking of bread, then we hope and pray His healing power is uniquely released when we come to receive Communion.

How do I arrange for personal prayer?

You can do this by contacting a member of the Healing Ministry Team and arranging for a visit at your home, or another place that you feel most comfortable in. All members of the team have been trained equally so you can contact anyone. Visits will be attended by two members of the team, so you may feel comfortable in male or female members visiting, or a mixture of both! Above all, we all respect absolute confidentiality and offer listening, prayer and support throughout the visit.

How do I Contact the Healing Ministry Team?

The Healing Ministry is Bev & Alex Randle-Bissell, Hilary & Alan Evans, Jenny Skilton, Sally Brewer, Elliot Grove, Ian Smale & Heather Carrick.

You can contact the Healing Ministry Team by initially calling Bev and Alex Randle-Bissell on 07717 778853. Your call will always be held in the strictest confidence, and you can ask for any members of the Healing Ministry Team to visit you.

A prayer for Healing

I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me. Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands, for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul and spirit.



Pastrow Family

Churches sharing the love, grace and truth of Jesus Christ

Introducing a

HEALING MINISTRY



Lord, look upon this work and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness while you stretch out your hand to heal and signs and wonders are performed in the name of your holy servant, Jesus.

Acorn Prayer, based upon Acts 4:30

What is a Healing Ministry?

Matthew's gospel gives us a summary of Jesus' ministry which is 'preaching the Good News of the Kingdom and healing every sickness and disease among the people.' The church, throughout its history, has been entrusted with a mandate for bringing this healing to people and communities. Here in Pastrow we have for some time been training a group of people to exercise this Healing Ministry.

What is meant by Health and Healing?

The World Health Organisation's definition of health is 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.'

However, how does health affect our **relationships** – with one another, or with our communities?

What about our relationship with the world and our environment?

What about our relationship with God? – Before we start to think about healing of our minds and bodies perhaps we should consider our deepest need for meaning and forgiveness through restored relationship with our creator God - that we are loved and that God has purposes for us.

What is Christian Healing?

The Old Testament idea of *Shalom* encompassed more than just what we might think of as 'peace'; it conveys the idea of harmony not just within our mind and body, but with God, one-another, and our world. It gives a sense of total wellbeing. It is similar to what Jesus meant when He said "my peace I give you, not as the world gives do I give to you".

In summary, Christian Healing encompasses:

- Reconciliation, forgiveness, restoration of relationship with God – Jesus meeting our deepest human need through the cross.
- Restoring that which is broken through the fall, bringing us back to wholeness of body, mind and spirit.
- Ultimate healing of all creation and realisation of the Kingdom of God.

So, it is more than just physical healing?

Yes! Restoration is more than just our physical self, it is about our *whole* self – mind, body and spirit. The following diagram is one way of summing this up:



- a) We have bodies – we are physical beings consisting of all the physical and material aspects that constitute our bodies. These will include our genetic inheritance and all the cells and chemical components that enable our bodies to function.
- b) We have minds – we are mental and emotional beings, capable of thought and reason, will, decision-making and emotional feeling and response.
- c) We are spirits, spiritual beings, capable of relationship to God and one another, endowed with creative imagination, able to appreciate beauty, truth, love, goodness etc.

So what is happening in Pastrow?

There are perhaps times in all of our lives when we just feel overwhelmed in all kinds of ways, and sometimes we don't have the words or the right place to bring some or all of these issues to God.

Here in Pastrow, we are offering some opportunities during this Year of Prayer (Prayer Matters...24) to engage with healing in different ways:

- Some services dedicated to Healing and Wholeness.
- Anointing during some Communion Services.
- A sermon series on healing.
- Meeting with members of the Healing Ministry Team for personal prayer.