

Healing, Wholeness and Hope.

Exploring Healing Ministry
and developing a model for a Local Parish.

by
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Introduction

In this dissertation I wish to examine the ministry of healing and to develop a model for how this ministry may be integrated into a parish setting. There are several reasons why I have come to this study. From a personal perspective, three people very dear to me became seriously ill in the past number of years. Sadly they passed away. While they came to terms with their illnesses the hope of faith was important, as was the kindness and ministry of clergy. As a young person, I also attended healing services and these were very important for me, in terms of prayer for myself and others, and in nurturing my own faith. I believe that healing ministry is of intrinsic worth and it is a ministry in which I would like to gain more understanding. The question I am thus asking in this research is: "With discussion of issues arising, to what extent is healing ministry integral to the role of Christian ministers today, and can a model to facilitate this ministry at the level of a local parish be developed?"

I come with a firm belief that God is able to do the impossible and to bring healing to the most serious of illnesses or situations. Healing is a reality in the Bible and is a key aspect of Jesus' ministry. With this in mind I wish to explore biblically and theologically what healing means, and to examine issues that arise in relation to healing. I will also view healing through a pastoral lens, considering ways in which healing might be appropriated within a local church.

My starting point will be to examine why God would want to bring healing and to intervene in the brokenness of peoples' lives. This will include examining Jesus' actions