

Church's Ministry of Healing – Report 2006

**THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY OF HEALING IN IRELAND  
REPORT 2006**

**Patrons**

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland

**Director**

Rev Susan Watterson

**Deputy Director**

Rev Dr Patricia Mollan

**Membership**

*Executive Committee*

The Rev Canon Leslie Maconachie, MA, MDiv, PhD (Chair)

Mrs Valerie Swanwick BA (SC Mods) (Vice Chair)

The Rev Canon Matthew Moore, DPS (Diocesan Director Derry)

Rev Alan Parkhill (Armagh)

Rev Canon Dermot Dunne (Cashel & Ossory)

Rev Maurice Armstrong (Clogher)

Mr John Irvine (Clogher)

Rev Nigel Baylor (Connor)

Rev George Beattie (Connor)

Rev Canon Paul Willoughby (Cork)

Rev Gordon Freeman (Derry & Raphoe)

Mrs Mary Good (Derry & Raphoe)

Mr George Clarke (Dublin & Glendalough)

Rev Canon John Clarke (Dublin & Glendalough)

Mrs Avril Gillatt (Dublin & Glendalough)

Rev David Brown (Down & Dromore)

Mrs Iris Hunter (Down & Dromore)

Mr Terry McNeilly (Down & Dromore)

Rev Canon Liz McElhinney (Elphin & Ardagh)

Rev Kathy Southerton (Tuam, Killala & Achonry)

Mr Richard Graves (Hon Treasurer)

Miss Hilda Bleakley (Hon Secretary)

Co-opted: Ven W John Scott (Down & Dromore)

Co-opted: Rev Baden Stanley (Dublin & Glendalough)

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### **Executive Summary**

1. Amendments to the Constitution
2. Property matters
3. Reports from Director/Deputy Director
4. News from Diocesan Committees
5. Finances

### **The Executive Committee**

Amendments to the Constitution of CMH occupied much of the four meetings of the Executive (there was one meeting of the Standing Committee). There are separate, although broadly similar, Constitutions for Northern Ireland and the Republic. The respective sets of amendments had to be submitted to the Revenue Commissioners in the Republic and the Inland Revenue in Northern Ireland and all have now been accepted. Obtaining agreement on the amendments entailed a large volume of additional work for staff at Egan House to whom the Executive is grateful.

Property was high on the agendas of Executive meetings. The Director's house in Lucan, Co Dublin and the Belfast Office at the Mount in East Belfast are owned by CMH while CMH has the use of Egan House under an agreement with St Michan's Church. The Mount is a run down property which is gradually becoming less suitable as NI headquarters. Happily at the end of the year there were signs that new and appropriate accommodation can be leased in a suitable area of the city.

Finances were a major concern of the Executive at all times through 2005. See later pages.

Reports were received by the Executive Committee from the Director, Deputy Director, Diocesan Committees and a Healer Prayer Union on activities during the year 2005.

The Director, now in post since 2003, has continued to devote particular attention to establishing and facilitating a Diocesan Committee for Healing in each diocese and seeing that it is appropriately represented on the Executive.

Decentralisation of the work of CMH throughout the dioceses is important. The Director has travelled widely through the country to give listening courses, pastoral care training courses, quiet days, residential retreats as well as preaching at new or customary healing services, visiting Healer Prayer Unions and, as far as her availability permits taking part in the weekly services at St Michan's Church. She also reports having received invitations to mentor students at St John's College Nottingham and the Department of Divinity at Cambridge as well as invitations to speak at international conferences in Britain, Southern Europe and South Africa. She wishes to thank the Archbishops and Bishops for encouragement and Mr Richard

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Graves, Honorary Treasurer for his commitment and generous giving of time to accounts and administration.

The Deputy Director, in post since 2004, has reported under the slogan *Telling Others leads to Growth!* She speaks of opportunities to introduce the wider public to healing ministry afforded by media programmes in NI and of attending two annual conferences for clergy where she was able to raise the subject of healing ministry. She has given lectures and talks to medical students of QUB, women students at Belfast Bible College, Healer Prayer Groups and similar Methodist and Presbyterian Groups. Honouring an earlier commitment she visited Sudan where she was able to promote healing ministry at Maridi Cathedral.

### - News from Diocesan Committees

Armagh held quarterly Diocesan Services of Divine Healing in 2005 and, in November 2006, will hold a Diocesan Conference to highlight the work of CMH and give an opportunity for its staff to meet clergy and people of the Diocese.

The Derry Director reported that Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Committee, amongst other activities, studied a book entitled *Forgiveness is Healing* by Russ Parker. The five healing services held in different churches were well supported.

Clogher Diocese continued to hold bi-monthly healing services in St Macartan's Cathedral Enniskillen. In addition, each rural deanery holds an annual service of healing and tries to introduce new venues each time. Visits by the Director and Deputy Director are anticipated in 2006.

Down and Dromore reported an active year including quiet days, seminars and courses at which the Deputy Director assisted. A survey was undertaken in the parishes to ascertain the significance of healing ministry as part of the wider ministry of the Church in the Diocese. Results to date have been encouraging and will be further analysed in order to ascertain the specific needs of parishes in promoting healing ministry.

The ministry of healing is now well established in Dublin and Glendalough so that many parishes hold their own healing services without the necessity of calling on outside resources – a situation welcome to the Diocesan Committee.

The committee itself considered at length planning and developing future activities which should focus on the needs of people experiencing life crises and on vulnerable age groups.

The Quiet Day was held in Kill O'the Grange Church and Parish Hall in February, presided over by Bishop Peter Barrett. Later in the year the Diocesan Inter-Parish Healing Service took place in Donoughmore Church, Co. Wicklow led by Rev William Deverell with the

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address by the Very Rev Robert Townley. Some of those attending these events had travelled long distances and all who were there were most encouraged and welcomed the opportunity to receive laying on of hands and to discuss their concerns and anxieties.

While not having reported formally to the Executive, the diocesan committees of Cashel and Cork were very active during 2005 particularly regarding clergy conferences and training.

A report from Ballinasloe in Limerick Diocese tells of an active Healer Prayer Group whose work is valued by parishioners and the general public alike.

### **Finance Report**

The Income & Expenditure Account shows a loss for the year of €2,650 (or £1,800 sterling) compared to a loss in 2004 of €73,767 (which was £50,000 sterling) and, if you exclude the almost €18,000 of expenditure in 2004 pertaining to previous financial years, the result still compares very favourably with the adjusted loss in 2004 of €5,778.

However this good result is due to the receipt of income that is not necessarily recurring, - ie the legacies, grants and special donations received during the year which are shown separately in the Income & Expenditure Account underneath the more regular income. If it were not for this income there would be a loss of €35,885 (or £24,400 sterling).

Parochial contributions increased during the year because increased contributions were received from some parishes and new contributions were received from parishes that had not contributed in 2004. The Church's Ministry of Healing is very grateful to the dioceses for their continued support.

The increase in income from courses & seminars and books, magazines & tapes reflects the increase in activity of CMH throughout the dioceses and is directly due to the work of the Director and Deputy Director. But having said that, this direct financial benefit in the accounts is by no means a true reflection of the immense amount of work that is being done and not reflected in the accounts.

Income from fundraising events in the South was mostly as a result of our Director's sponsored participation in the Women's Mini Marathon which brought in almost €2,000.

In the Balance Sheet, the cash position of the Ministry (taking into account debtors & creditors) has reduced from €46,247 at the beginning of the year to €43,597 at the end of the year, - and the reduction is, of course, the loss for the year of €2,650.

2005 was a year in which we made a start to addressing our financial problems:-

- we first of all acknowledged that we had a substantial ongoing annual deficit,

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- we then sought and received additional funding (albeit of a temporary nature),
- we increased income, and
- we reduced expenses.

But it is only a start. As I said earlier, the legacies, grants and donations cannot be regarded as income that will reoccur. The difference between income and costs has been exercising the minds of those of us on the Executive and Standing Committees and it will continue to do so.

In conclusion I would like to thank Hilda Bleakley and Maureen Watters for their assistance during the year. Also to the Director, Deputy Director and members of the Executive Committee for their support.

The parochial & diocesan contributions from each diocese are given hereunder for the year ending 31 December 2005.

	2005	
	£	€
Armagh	1,180	
Cashel & Ossory		1,000
Clogher	1,740	75
Cork, Cloyne, Ross		1,610
Connor	4,793	
Derry & Raphoe	1,169	340
Down & Dromore	5,041	
Dublin & Glendalough		8,531
Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh		415
Limerick, Ardfert & Killaloe		1,290
Meath & Kildare		1,010
Armagh Diocesan Council	200	
Connor Diocesan Healing Committee	300	
Connor Diocesan Committee	275	
Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Council	61	
Derry & Raphoe Healing Committee	100	
Down & Dromore Sundry Fund	390	
TOTAL	<u>15,249</u>	<u>4,271</u>