

St Hilda's Church Warley Woods



Healing Prayer Ministry at St Hilda's

*Take me often from the tumult of things into Thy presence.
There show me what I am,
Then hide me from Thy tears.
(Prayer of St Hilda, Abbess of Whitby c 614-680)*

There are times when we need others to pray for us, when our own words run out or when we are overwhelmed with sadness or a sense of helplessness. Our natural inclination can be not to burden someone else. We are learning that the path to wholeness and healing is never walked well when we do it alone. Here at St Hilda's we are also discovering that it is often when we feel broken that Christ is able to work gentle and unexpected changes in us. We might find our circumstances can't be changed, but that we can be changed by God's grace and wisdom, and that change is God's healing. We hope that this leaflet will help you understand our commitment to prayer ministry.

Jesus said: "Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)

1.

Prayer Ministry at St Hilda's

Prayer Ministry is usually offered on the first and third Sunday mornings of each month. It takes place during the Holy Communion Service (or Eucharist), at the point when people go to the altar to receive bread and wine or a blessing.

Members of our prayer ministry team will be standing in pairs in St Katherine's chapel (on the left-hand side as you face the altar), for quiet and confidential prayer which you are invited to request from them.

You are welcome to ask for prayer ministry immediately after or before receiving communion or a blessing or instead of going to the altar if you feel unable to do so.

You can ask for prayer about a specific concern or if you prefer, you need not say anything and can just let them pray for you as God leads them.

Healing

All healing comes from God, either directly or through the skills of professionals, whether they acknowledge God as the giver or not. God's will is for the whole of God's creation to be restored and healed, as it was in the beginning, when He saw all that He had made, and beheld that it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

Wholeness

Our lives are a journey towards wholeness. We are all prone to the ills and disease present in the world and we all need healing. Wholeness is not just about physical healing. It is also about peace and trust.

2.

Healing Ministry

The healing ministry of Jesus was not an 'extra' but was part of his total ministry. The same applied to the twelve disciples and the seventy others who Jesus sent out (*Luke 9:1-6, Luke 10:1-12, Matthew 9:35 –10:16*) and it applies to the Church today. It seems right for healing prayer ministry to take place within the Eucharistic service in which we share in the words and work of Christ and which is itself a sacrament of healing for the whole person. The laying on of hands helps because love is expressed by touch in so many ways, touch is healing and it is the hand of the Lord that touches the person who comes for healing

At St Hilda's we believe in the power of prayer and that people can receive God's healing and sustaining presence. The people ministering are channels of God's love and the congregation present is a continuing source of God's prayer.

Why are only some people healed physically?

St Paul must have asked the same question after his prayer, three times, for the thorn in his flesh to be removed was not answered in the way he would have wished. The Lord's answer was "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (*2 Corinthians: 12:9*)

The banner to the right hangs in the side of the Church where prayer ministry is offered. It reflects the truth of the passage from Revelation 22.2:

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."



Prayer ministry at St Hilda's is based on clear shared principles which include:

- We regularly meet together, pray together and learn together.
- We pray together before the Holy Communion Services.
- We pray to be channels for God's healing peace.
- We always pray in pairs.
- After asking whether you would like to give your name and whether or not you would like to say something, we only ask questions to clarify what has already been said.
- We listen carefully.
- Our prayer is based on faith and the scriptures.
- We pray in the presence of God, focusing on Jesus and inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us and bring healing and wholeness.
- At all times, we respect and demonstrate confidentiality within the context of St Hilda's safeguarding policies. This means that all that is said is completely confidential unless we have reason to believe that you or someone else is at risk of injury or life.

St Hilda's Prayer Ministry Team

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