

**In the United Parish of  
Abbots Leigh with Leigh Woods the healing  
ministry is available in the  
following ways:**

- \* **At Healing Services** - as they are announced in  
“The Link”
- \* **At Holy Communion Services** - in Residential/ Nursing  
Homes for the elderly.
- \* **Privately** - in the homes of those who are  
housebound—with or without Home Communion.
- \* **For anyone** - who asks the Vicar or a  
representative minister to pray with them.



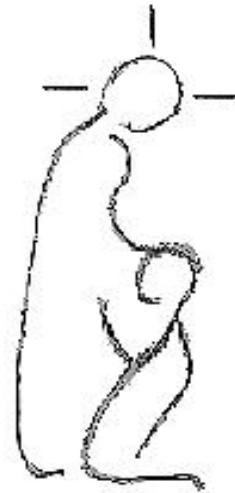
Asking for prayer with the laying on of hands is expressing to God a willingness for Him to act with His healing power. Although no immediate effect may be felt, God will be at work to bring comfort, strength and help.



**Prayer:**

Receive Christ’s healing touch to make  
you whole in body, mind and spirit.  
The power of God strengthen you.  
The love of God dwell in you and give you peace.

For any further information please contact The Revd Decia Smith:  
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## **The Church's Ministry of Healing**

**T**he Church’s ministry is a continuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ, in the power of the same Holy Spirit who anointed Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan. The gospel of the kingdom of God is the good news of healing which Jesus proclaimed. “Go and preach the gospel...Go and heal the sick” summarizes the commission Christ gave to his Church.

So Christians are called to have a special concern for those sick in body, mind or spirit. The Church’s ministry can be described as one of healing—the healing of ourselves and of our relationships with God, with one another and with our environment.

*Healing is Jesus meeting us at our point of need*

# What can we hope for through the ministry of healing?

We believe that God loves us and wills the very best for us. But we also know that suffering of all kinds, and ultimately death, are conditions from which we cannot escape. Yet God is not distant. In Jesus Christ he shared in the sufferings of our world and he died on the cross. He can and will draw close to us in times of need.

All need healing to bring wholeness: sometimes gradually, sometimes swiftly; sometimes to the body; sometimes to the mind; always to the spirit.

Through the Church's ministry we shall receive his love, strength and healing touch: wholeness in body, mind and spirit. What form that healing will take we cannot tell, but it may be:

- \* To help carry us through a prolonged illness or disability.
- \* A recovery more rapid than expected.
- \* Experiencing the love of God overcoming our fear of death.
- \* A healing which is so unexpected that we want to respond in thanks to God

*Jesus is with us to the end of time*

# What are the forms of healing?

**P**ublic and private prayers:  
Christian worship has always included "Prayers of Intercession".

Intercessory prayer, in which we pray individually and corporately, for those who are suffering, combines our love with God's love and our will with his will, so as to co-operate with him in fostering his kingdom.

**L**aying on of hands:  
Actions can often speak louder than words and touch conveys a message of love and assurance as well as being a link with Christ's apostolic command to heal the sick. Hands are usually placed gently on a person's head, or on a shoulder, and accompanying prayers are said quietly and reverently. This form of touch can help a sick person feel less fearful or alone in their suffering.

**W**ider ministry:  
Friendship, forgiveness, listening, acceptance and affirmation can also have a healing grace. So in different ways we are all able to take part in the Church's ministry of healing.

*Laying on of hands:  
the body says what words cannot.*