

Canon Brian Davis, Diocesan Advisor for Wholeness and Healing, is arranging this course in various venues throughout the Diocese during the next two years.

To explore having a course in your area, or to find out more about a course near you contact

**Canon Brian Davis,**  
62 Lubenham Hill,  
Market Harborough LE16 9DQ  
01858 431843  
07907 650727  
revbdavis@aol.com



# Love One Another

***Sharing Pastoral Care in the parish  
and discovering how a ministry of Wholeness & Healing is  
rooted in Pastoral Care & grows naturally out of it.***

*a six week course, aiming to renew the vision of the church as the Body of Christ where lay people share responsibility for the pastoral ministry of the church and help to develop a ministry of Wholeness & Healing.*

Canon Brian Davis, the Diocesan Advisor for Wholeness & Healing, has written this course and already used it several times recently with groups of parishes.

What is our mission as a church? Surely it is to carry forward the work of Christ, working for his Kingdom of justice, peace and love. A very important part of our ministry is building a community of love, where the love of God is made real.

*God has never been seen by anyone, but if we love one another,  
he himself dwells in us;  
his love is brought to perfection in us.  
(1 John 4. 12)*

**The aim of course is to inspire and encourage groups of laity and clergy to set up pastoral teams in their parishes, or benefices, if they don't already have them. These teams would include those who could provide some form of prayer ministry (prayers for healing of mind, body and spirit) in services and at other times.**



## It is not just about caring.

Many of our church communities are very friendly and caring. Our caring has to be rooted in prayer, so that we can become channels of God's healing love. We need to teach and encourage one another to pray, so that we can pray with others. How many of us feel able and willing to do this? Or do we leave that sort of thing to the vicar! Our aim should be in every church, however small, to have at least two or three people who are able to pray with others.



*Come to me, all who are weary and whose load is heavy; I will give you rest (Matthew 11. 28)* And people often come to church bearing heavy loads. Do we offer in our churches opportunity to share that load, and find God's healing peace? We need to train teams of people who can help in this ministry, which is at the heart of true Christian pastoral care, Wholeness and Healing.

**So we need to recruit people who are willing to help with pastoral care and prayer ministry in the parish. We invite anyone who is interested in this subject to take part in a six week course which will explore the various areas of pastoral care, wholeness and healing.**

## The six week course will cover such subjects as :

- What is the church? What is it for? What is its mission?
- What does it mean for a church to be a loving, caring community?
- What do we learn from the healing miracles of Jesus?
- How do we follow the example of Jesus today and be a channel of his healing love?
- What is health? How can we help people to find healing of mind, body and spirit? Why wholeness and healing?
- Learning to listen – fundamental to all pastoral ministry, and so fundamental to helping people to find Wholeness & Healing.
- Visiting the sick, the frail elderly, the housebound, and those in hospital (we hope to have a hospital chaplain with us one evening) and praying with them.
- Visiting and comforting the bereaved and the Christian hope.
- New life through the Spirit.
- Developing a healthy life style. How can we help people to stay healthy – in mind, body and spirit? What part does our faith play in this?
- Above all: Learning to pray; praying with other people and helping them to pray.

*The crop is heavy, but the labourers are few (Luke 10)*

**There will be fewer and fewer full time ordained ministers in the future. Yet the need for really effective pastoral care, rooted in prayer, is greater than ever.**

Brian says,

“The course runs best with at least twenty people talking part as I like to have people sitting in small groups so that they can spend some time during the evening discussing various questions. Also we need to be able to cover costs.

It is also helpful if parish clergy can take part, even if they cannot make every evening, because this course is very much about recapturing a vision for parochial ministry. I really believe in parochial ministry, having spent forty years first as a curate in Leicester, then as vicar in two parishes (St Andrew's, Countesthorpe and St Mary's, Hinckley). But I know it is easy to lose heart, or become so bogged down with maintenance that we lose sight of mission.”

There will a charge for the course to cover expenses, this is usually between £6 & £10.

