



We also heard about the role of spiritual care in the NHS and the role of clinical staff in healing, recognising the need for spiritual healing as well as physical.

Alison led us through bible references to healing, mainly from the New Testament. Healing by Jesus usually took the form of laying on of hands but at other times Jesus healed from a distance and people were also healed through their belief in Jesus. The apostles were given the gift of healing through the Holy Spirit and healed people in the name of Jesus.

Dom then took us through a practical session of healing using Reiki, a form of healing by channelling a person's energy field and removing negative energy. This is done by the practitioner placing their hands over chakra points in an ordered way. This sometimes produces heat, which enhances the healing by increasing blood flow to a certain area.

We finished the day with a Eucharistic service in the church and an opportunity to be anointed with oil and receive prayers of healing. We all enjoyed this service, which included Taize chants and time for reflection, very much. It was a wonderful way to end and we all agreed we would like to have more healing services included in our church calendar.

*Linda George, St Saviour's,  
Bridge of Allan*

## THE NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE

Take a look at the new Diocesan website, [www.standrews.anglican.org/](http://www.standrews.anglican.org/) and see how it can help us welcome, reach out, share our faith and serve the community.

When you are organising activities such as a buildings appeal, a coffee morning or a course, why not use the Diocesan website? Activities can be publicised in the news and calendar sections. No event is too small or too local.

Your church directory entry is important to the wider world because it is read by visitors and those coming to live in the area. It is an opportunity to describe your church and list any activities you have to encourage folks to visit. It can also link to your own Church website.

**To keep the Diocesan website up-to-date, we need entries from you. When you gather events and items for your website and magazines, you could send the same information by email or post for inclusion in the Diocesan website.** Phone, post or email ([office@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:office@standrews.anglican.org)) your information to Diocesan Secretary. Pictures and text are welcome.

In the New Year, a big section on Casting the Net resources will be added as well as information on Ministry and Education for clergy and laity, and Children and Young People. You can read James Petticrew's blog and download helpful resources.

**We welcome suggestions for making the Diocesan website better and any other feedback you'd like to offer.**

*Mrs Susannah Harley  
CTN Action Group*

## FROM BISHOP DAVID ..

I am writing this shortly after our Diocesan Eucharist. I was delighted to see the Cathedral full. That support is an expression of the ministry that we share and the support of the diocese for me personally, particularly in my extended ministry as Primus. It was important that we were able to use this occasion to provide a diocesan focus for Casting the Net.

The interviews in the middle of the service with Dr Karen Gaskell & Canon Dr Alison Peden enabled us to make some very important points about the nature of Casting the Net. I feel that we cannot emphasise these aspects of it too often or too much.

Firstly Casting the Net is an initiative in which the diocese supports our congregations. The whole structure of the diocese has been changed so that matters of mission & the support of congregations are at the top of the agenda. Matters of diocesan administration, while it must be done to the highest standard, come after that. Secondly, this is not a 'one size fits all' initiative. The work which we are developing with vestries and congregations is offered in a number of formats. The results will be distinctive to each congregation. They will all be different and that will be part of the rich tapestry of ministry which will develop. Thirdly, Casting the Net is holistic. It is about congregational development, but it is also about us learning the faith together, our outreach into the world, our involvement in the communities in which we are set about our ecumenical contacts.

My feeling at present is that, after the inevitable period of uncertainty at the beginning, Casting the Net is now moving ahead strongly. The visits by James Petticrew to dioceses of the Church of England, which have been undertaking similar initiatives have led us to feel that we are doing well, that we have avoided some significant pitfalls and that our small size enables us to move with more flexibility than others.

I hope that you will continue, not just to work hard at this initiative, but to hold it in your prayers as we move forward together.

*+David 01738 580426  
[bishop@standrews.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@standrews.anglican.org)*

## CASTING THE NET (CTN) We're on the right track

We don't have Sat Nav for our car so trips to new places by the Petticrews often involve stopping & asking people if we are on the right road. I felt I was doing something similar recently at a conference I attended in England. The conference was for dioceses that have implemented mission planning initiatives similar to Casting the Net. As I listened to various presenters and spoke to people doing similar jobs to mine, they all seemed to be telling me the same thing; we are indeed on the right road as a diocese.

That message was clearest to me in the presentation of statistics that 11 of the 19 dioceses in the Church of England that are known to be using mission planning have shown growth in terms of Sunday attendance. In comparison, only 9 of the remaining 24 have shown growth. So the dioceses that have implemented initiatives similar to CTN are starting to



see a positive impact. Blackburn diocese for instance has managed to reverse 20 consecutive years of decline using a process very similar to ours.

For me the other key message of the day was about the impact of Mission Planning on local congregations. It was apparent that what differentiated congregations that had seen positive results from their planning processes and those who hadn't, was their attitude. Those churches that had seen it as a one-off management exercise, something they had to do because the diocese had asked them, saw little impact. It was congregations who really took the process to heart, who used it to go on a journey of discovery with God, who saw the greatest effect.

These churches had the courage to use the process to ask themselves searching questions about what it means to be God's people today & what God was calling them to be & do in their community & world. This whole process of reflecting on church life & mission & setting out a vision & plan based on that reflection has become embedded in the life of these flourishing parishes, it's now part of who these congregations are.

In light of all of that, one word has dominated my thinking since returning to our diocese, POTENTIAL. All the indications are that Casting the Net has the potential to make a powerful and positive impact on our diocese.

The statistics and experience of other dioceses indicate that the process of Mission Planning we are developing has the potential to help our congregations. To enable them to build on their strengths and address their challenges and so grow in spiritual health.

I have no doubts that we are on the right track. What is important, is that we grasp that the vital link in turning that potential into reality is our attitude. If our attitude to Casting the Net is that it is some kind of "event" that needs to get "done," what our Bishop often describes as a "box ticking exercise," then the process will have little lasting effect. However, if our attitude is one of openness and if through Casting the Net we are open to God & our communities, and use Casting the Net as an opportunity to enter into dialogue with God about His purpose and vision for us, then we will experience the adventure of seeing our God given potential being realised & extended. The choice is ours.

*Revd. James Petticrew 01738 443173  
Casting the Net Development Officer  
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### CTN Liaison Officers

Twelve CTN Liaison Officers from churches across the diocese participated in an induction workshop, including an inspirational presentation on mission from James Petticrew and a bible study on the Casting the Net story. A great NETWORK was formed and all are looking forward to receiving regular updates from James and sharing practical ideas about mission amongst our churches.

For those who could not attend, another **workshop is being held in Perth on Saturday 23 January, 10am-2pm**. This is a joint meeting with congregational leads interested in undertaking Mission Planning in 2010. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact James Petticrew.



### MINISTRY AND EDUCATION

The 'Compass' course is now ready for use, and it would be great if one or two congregations could run it as a pilot before general use.. It's short – just three sessions. It's designed to draw on people's experience, rather than present a lot of material. And it's a starting point for further exploration.

Compass might suit those who are new to the SEC, and those offering different forms of lay ministry. The group studying it would need a facilitator, but it calls for quite a bit of participation by all.

During the course, participants will:

- look at the practice of Christianity in the SEC and reflect on how it speaks of God
- explore values and their relationship to Christian (and Anglican) tradition and the guiding of the Holy Spirit
- share their experience of following Christ in the Church and in their lives.

**Session 1** looks at our experience of worship, the practice of the early church, and the sacraments.

**Session 2** explores how we pray for others, how we find meaning in the face of life's experiences, especially suffering, how we make moral choices and what a 'Christian character' is.

**Session 3** considers discipleship: how we come to faith and discover our gifts, and how we might put into practice the call to make God's love known to the world.

**If you would like to be a pilot congregation for this, please contact me.**

*Canon Alison Peden, Convenor:  
01877 330488  
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### HEALING WORKSHOP

This workshop was held in St. Saviour's church hall in October, led by Canon Alison Peden and Revd Dom Ind.

Around 30 people gathered from churches as far afield as Aberfoyle and Dollar. Most were from the Episcopal Church but some were from the Church of Scotland and the Baptist church.

Alison opened the session with an account of her experience in healing ministries. At Holy Trinity in Stirling they have a team who are available during the Eucharist for anyone who would like prayers for healing, but they would like to expand this ministry. Alison also talked about her time working with the women as a chaplain at Corntonvale prison.

Dom spoke about his experiences with healing ministries, which included prayer, laying on of hands, healing services including anointing with oil, retreats with meditation and visiting the sick. He discussed the need for us to be healed not just physically but spiritually and mentally. He stressed the importance of listening to people, visiting and caring, of us not having to fill the space with lots of words. Most important of all, each time we take the Eucharist we are participating in a form of healing.

In small groups we shared experiences of healing ministries. It was interesting to hear what is happening in our area, including the use of "healing rooms", places where anyone can go to talk and have someone to pray with. There are a number of churches with prayer groups who pray for the sick.