## Bath and Wells Diocesan Healing Adviser

This is an honorary appointment made by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

## Purpose of role:

Healing is integral to the good news of Jesus Christ. The role of the Diocesan Healing Adviser within our diocese is to encourage, support and resource healing ministry, with understanding, expertise and commitment, and to maintain and develop links with other dioceses and denominations so that we continually learn, share and challenge ourselves.

## Role Description:

Alongside the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group, the Diocesan Healing Adviser (DHA) will work to

* support and encourage lay and clergy within our parishes and diocesan staff team, in the Anglican understanding of Christ's work of wholeness, health and healing for individuals, churches and communities.
* help others in the wider Church and society to understand and engage with matters of wholeness and healing,
* engage with a broad range of partners, including other Diocesan Advisers with complementary roles, other Christian and secular organisations (including medical / scientific) and churches across different denominations

## Support and Accountability

* This role is ultimately accountable to the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Adviser will meet with either the Bishop of Bath and Wells, or the Bishop of Taunton, annually so that they can be updated on healing ministry across the diocese.
* The role sits within the Deanery and Parish Support Team (DAPS Team) and so the Adviser will meet regularly with a member of the team for ongoing support and accountability.
* The Adviser works with the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group, discussing and agreeing the work, to benefit from a range of approaches and understandings of healing in the Anglican context, and ensuring that it can be delivered.
* Most work will be done by agreement. Where difficulties or disagreements arise, the Adviser should speak with the Head of Deanery and Parish Support initially, to agree the best way forward.
* The DAPS team administrator will provide administrative support for this work.
* Travel and other expenses can be claimed in agreement with the Head of Deanery and Parish support

**Remit**

* To enable the flourishing of healing ministry across the diocese through resourcing and support for those exploring or exercising this ministry.
* To support clergy as they support others discerning / doing the Healing Ministry Pathway.
* To have an understanding of healing as an intrinsic part of Anglican liturgy and ministry.
* To think broadly and deeply around healing theology and to encourage others to engage with healing ministry, with the appropriate safeguards in place.
* To work alongside others to convene spaces for prayer and learning in healing.
* To ensure that we have confidence in any healing resources to which we are signposting.
* To integrate the ministry of healing into the wider diocesan vision.
* To ensure that safeguarding practice is in line with diocesan policy work
* To meet, liaise with and learn from, and share with, other Diocesan Healing Advisers nationally.

## Commitment

* This is a flexible role, in line with the needs of the role and of the post-holder’s wider context. As guidance, the minimum average expectation is 2 days a month.
* The appointment is for three years, with an option to renew if the post holder and Bishop are in agreement
* The Adviser takes responsibility for ensuring that the DHAG meets as is necessary and ensures the delivery of resources, pathways and equipping for healing ministry, such as Healing Forums.

## Person Specification

* Deep theological understanding of, and a heart for the ministry of healing
* Conversant with Anglican teaching and theology of healing, such as ‘A time to heal’, and desiring to uphold and encourage this teaching among the people with whom they work
* An openness to the work and guidance of the Holy Spirit
* A life of prayer which nourishes and sustains a rich spiritual life
* Ability to work collaboratively across diocesan structures, particularly with those with complementary remits, and with a variety of church traditions
* Ability to communicate with and inspire others, including through preaching and teaching
* Ability to organise time and delegate appropriately
* Self-awareness and sensitivity; able to exercise the ministry of healing with conscious humility and healthy attention to power dynamics
* A listener who is attentive, sensitive to people and context and able to engage effectively with a wide variety of people