

CELEBRATING  YEARS



DOES GOD HEAL TODAY?

*The first decade of
The Well Christian Healing Centre
in Royal Leamington Spa*

by James Holden

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Note from the author:

The contents of this booklet are based on an extended
interview with The Well's founder and director
Rev Anne Hibbert, detailed research into The Well's
archives and first-hand knowledge through serving as a
Trustee. Whilst it is hoped that this publication offers a
fair perspective on the first decade of The Well's
ministry, it is by definition personal.

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Acknowledgements

Right from the conception of The Well, God has nudged many people to join me on this incredible Kingdom journey. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has partnered with me through joining the team, those praying for our work and those giving generously. Without each person The Well wouldn't be the place it is today.

I love the acronym for TEAM: 'Together Everyone Achieves More.' This is our experience and for this reason there are too many to specifically name who have helped to grow The Well and for those who are on the team today. However, I would like to thank James Holden who has creatively written this account of our first decade of public ministry and for his encouragement and input along with the other Trustees as we step into the next decade.

Also I would like to thank Ruth, Liz and Janet who gathered around me in the early days after I was given The Well vision.

Their faith and prayers helped to birth The Well.

For Tim Hollingdale who gave up so much to help grow and develop The Well and for the rest of the first Management Team: Tracey Taylor, Edward Quicke, Jen Burgess, Keith Payne and Andrea Kane who bravely stepped with me into uncharted territory. We know that without a doubt: "He who calls you is faithful and He will do it." 1 Thess 5:24

Rev Anne Hibbert, May 2014

In the beginning

In June 2002 the Rev Anne Hibbert was sitting in a friend's back garden in Royal Leamington Spa.

She had laryngitis but was enjoying the summer sunshine in a deck chair when suddenly God seemed to be speaking to her in a very clear and direct fashion. Anne was told in no uncertain terms that He was about to restore His ancient well of healing in the town, that people would come from far and wide and that the place was to be called The Well.

God was calling her in a very personal way to establish all this in His name.

So far, so straightforward, except that Anne, amongst the first women to be ordained in the Church of England, knew that God was calling her in a very personal way to establish all this in His name. To put it mildly Anne was rather shocked and she also just didn't have a clue where to begin – not least because she wasn't actually sure at the time that God was indeed still a healing God.



Anne in her friend's garden in Royal Leamington Spa where she was given the vision for The Well.

The next 18 months or so were spent checking out whether God really meant what He had said – a task that saw Anne

praying and fasting, consulting with experts in Christian Healing ministry in the UK, people like Rev Russ Parker one time director of the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, and even crossing the Atlantic to visit such leading figures as Steve Witt for their wisdom and guidance.

She also spoke to her Bishop the Rt Rev Colin Bennetts (the 8th Bishop of Coventry 1998 -2008) who sensed the authenticity of her calling. Perhaps equally importantly though, she began to share her amazing God encounter with friends and committed Christians in Leamington Spa. In the end she simply held up her hands and said “OK God I’ll do it!”

Open for prayer

And so The Well opened in February 2004 in the Pump Rooms in Royal Leamington Spa, the very place where one of the seven wells, (that were to make Leamington famous as a Victorian Spa town and place of healing to which people had come from far and wide) is located.

Today we may question why a rather unpleasant tasting mineral water should have led people, including a young future Queen Victoria, to flock to Leamington in their thousands: but flock they did and doubtless many believed that treatments based around the spa waters bubbling up from ancient aquifers were truly healing.

In ten years The Well’s core ministry of offering God’s healing through prayer to all on a totally free of charge basis has attracted

In the end she simply held up her hands and said “OK God I’ll do it!”

thousands of people who have come from far and wide.

Moreover, there have in the experience of Anne and her dedicated team been many who have been healed emotionally or physically or both; so many in fact that she often feels overwhelmed by it all: overwhelmed but distinctly grateful to the people whom God has used to make what has been an amazing journey of faith possible.

Taking stock

After a decade of public prayer ministry it is surely important to take stock of this remarkable journey - from when Anne first heard God in that sunny garden right up to 2014, by which time He had demonstrated not only that He was very much in the business of healing but that He wants The Well to continue to grow and flourish.

One morning in Lent I muscled in on Anne's busy schedule as she prepared to leave the Charity's well established offices in Russell Street for new interim accommodation in Cross Street.



Anne with members of The Well's original management team.
L to R Andrea Kane, Tracey Taylor, Keith Payne, AH, Edward Quicke and Tim Hollingdale. Jen Burgess was also in the team.

So often Jesus doesn't get a look in at Christmas but this time he did.

We sat in the meeting room surrounded by packing boxes with a pot of coffee and a plate of biscuits. It all seemed so very prosaic as I prepared to interview the remarkable clergywoman who is leading The Well forward with a compelling combination of vigorous faith and confident humility.

A Christmas miracle

"So Anne," I began our interview amidst the inevitable paperwork amassed from the years of active ministry. "Tell me about some of the healings that you've witnessed during these last ten years. I guess the Christmastide healing of Deanne is one of the most remarkable?"

"Yes that was in 2006," she began in her mellifluous voice, "and the story was that Deanne had been at school and whilst she was there, she was trying to get someone else's bag that had been thrown up onto a wall, but in helping them to get it down she

‘God healed me quicker than I got my appointment at Birmingham Children’s Hospital.’

fell and seriously hurt her leg. She couldn’t walk and after a visit to hospital she left in a wheelchair leaving the doctors puzzled as to why she couldn’t walk.”

At this point Anne paused and reached over for a copy of the Leamington Spa Courier, the local weekly that carried the story of Deanne’s healing on the front page of their December 22nd edition.

She pointed out the miracle headline to me with a fond smile on her lips and continued: “Whilst Deanne was waiting for a follow up appointment at Birmingham Children’s Hospital she must have heard about The Well at her church and she kept asking her mum if she could come to see us. We pray for people of any age from in the womb to over a hundred and so thankfully Deanne’s mum phoned us up for an appointment and brought her in.

“I just happened to be the person on the prayer team with someone else to pray for her and during prayer we sometimes use the model where we break and ask the person whether anything is happening. She said: ‘Yes, I’ve got a washing machine feeling in my leg.’

“‘Well,’ I said. ‘Is that good or bad?’ ‘I think it’s good,’ she said. So we carried on,



Deanne with Anne in the arms of a ‘Strongman’ as she prepares for a sponsored swim in aid of The Well after her healing.

although I have to say that not a lot appeared to happen....in fact she went out unhealed, but I did say to her: ‘Deanne, sometimes we pray for people on a Tuesday and by the Thursday they get out of bed and they are healed.’

“Amazingly enough this is exactly what happened. Her mum was so excited she phoned up the paper and they carried the story in their last edition before Christmas. So often Jesus doesn’t get a look in at Christmas, but this time he did.”

Anne paused briefly as she scanned the article in front of her. “There’s a quote somewhere here from Deanne that says it all,” she mused and paused until she

alighted on it: ‘God healed me quicker than I got my appointment at Birmingham Children’s Hospital’- I think that’s pretty good!”

Doubts in the past

I paused too, and looked at the newspaper’s front page, almost as if I needed to give the wonder of what had happened to Deanne time to sink in. It was amazing for sure, but it quickly led me onto my next question which was to take Anne back to her time before The Well when, as she had often confessed, she had not really connected with the fact that God heals today.

Jesus himself said ‘go and preach the good news and heal the sick,’ so it’s not an option - it’s a mandatory thing.

“The truth is that I’ve been a Christian minister for many years now and in that time I certainly haven’t seen God’s healing hand at work every day, nor indeed all the time,” she explained.

“In my church when I was an Associate Minister in Leicester we had a healing ministry after communion services. I can remember that many people were very pleased to be prayed for and I also remember that people were healed. But I moved from that church a number of years ago and I then spent a long time with the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) where I



The Pump Rooms in Royal Leamington Spa when The Well opened in February 2004.

was on their evangelism team. I can honestly say that I’ve preached about Jesus Christ in many situations - large and small, urban and rural – and I didn’t see, until God gave me the vision for The Well, how closely the Gospel is connected with healing. Jesus himself said ‘go and preach the good news and heal the sick,’ so it’s not an option - it’s a mandatory thing.”

Lack of bottle

“Could it really be the case that Christian healing doesn’t happen just because we don’t ask for it?” I wondered out loud.

Immediately Anne came back at me: “I think we’ve lost our confidence. The truth is that our society is very much into healing – there’s lots of alternative healing springing up everywhere. I used to work down in Glastonbury at a retreat centre there and when you walk down the High Street you’ve got all sorts – Madame Gypsy Lee reading tarot cards and faith healers of all kinds. You’ve literally got lots of alternatives to God and a good number are offering prayer for

“I think probably, as Christians we’ve lost our bottle.”

healing. I think probably, as Christians we’ve lost our bottle.”

I confess I was somewhat taken aback to hear Anne state things so flatly, but she was in full flow and continued: “I think we’ve just stepped back (from healing). Maybe we’ve prayed for someone to get better and instead of getting better they’ve got worse – maybe even died, and we’ve just thought ‘aaaargh!’ this is just so embarrassing and we’ve lost our courage. That’s certainly the feedback we get from a lot of the training courses we run to equip people for a ministry of Christian healing.

“I was talking to someone only the other day and he was telling me how a Well healing course that he’d attended had changed his life. He’s now on his church’s prayer team and he really believes that God heals today, but before our course he wouldn’t have gone anywhere near a prayer team because he didn’t believe he could be used.”

As Anne spoke I found myself nodding in agreement with what she was saying. Yes, we often do lack the faith to pray for healing, but I couldn’t help but voice the thought that lacking courage was totally understandable – so many times it seems to us that God is not answering our prayers for healing and that is so dis-spiriting.

But she would have none of it: “No, I don’t think we should become dis-spirited. God can heal in all sorts of ways.

No certainties

“He may not heal in the way that we expect or want. We might expect the body to be healed but in actual fact as we pray (for a person) their spirit within them may be healed and it may be that as we pray we are helping them to prepare even for death itself. After all, when all is said and done, death is our final healing.”

“And yet the fact does remain that not everyone who comes to The Well is healed,” I somewhat forcibly interjected.

After all, when all is said and done, death is our final healing.

“Absolutely not,” Anne replied. “And that’s something we’re always very clear and honest about. But equally we can’t always tell. Sometimes like Deanne, God heals after they’ve left and often we never ever hear about their miracle (not everyone phones The Courier I silently opined). We pray in faith and whilst we can’t promise healing as people come, they will encounter God and the rest really is up to Him.”

Emotional roots

“Indeed it is,” I ruminated silently. “And anyway,” I suggested to myself, “not



The Well's prayer booths have been specifically designed to give a sense of prayerful space and privacy.

everyone walks out of the doctor's surgery totally well. But that doesn't stop us going. Moreover, it seems that our sicknesses and illnesses are more often than we might think, not down to physical causes."

"It's a frequently overlooked fact that for as many as 70% of the people visiting their local GP's surgery presenting physical ailments the cause has emotional or spiritual roots," Anne explained.

"Sometimes when we are talking to someone about their situation one of our questions will be: 'So, you've got this problem within your body, when did it start?' And they might say two years ago. And we might then ask them briefly to tell us what was happening in their life two years ago. Often we'll be told that they were made redundant, or their wife left them, or their little girl was seriously sick. And we can see the person suddenly think: 'Ah! I wonder if there's a connection?' and there nearly always is."

Unforgiveness

I'd often wondered why, if as Christians we can pray directly to God in Christ it was necessary to go to someone else for prayer.

Here was Anne answering that question obliquely so far but then very directly: "Sometimes you actually need someone else to help you to move along on your healing journey. It is always good to pray in the quietness of your own heart but we don't see what we don't see. Also time and time again we've found that unrecognised unforgiveness is a real blockage to healing.

"So often we find that there's anger over an issue and we ask: 'What have you done with those strong negative emotions?' So often the answer is that they have gone nowhere. Often they are just lying there as bitterness which has an energy of its own and can break down health or act as a barrier to wholeness and well being."

"We pray in faith and whilst we can't promise healing as people come, they will encounter God and the rest really is up to Him."

More healings

We had surely spent enough time for now talking about the whys and why nots of healing. I wanted to hear more actual examples of people who had been healed by God through prayer at The Well and Anne duly obliged me.

“For somebody who a few weeks ago couldn’t see at all it was pretty amazing...”

Sight restored

“Quite early on there was a gentleman who couldn’t see. I think he just went blind overnight. We prayed for him and I don’t think he was able to see at the end of his appointment. He arrived back a few weeks later and I happened to pray for him again (no appointments are necessary for The Well’s prayer sessions at the Pump Rooms, currently on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, although it is a very good idea to book in advance). I said: “Oh, how are your eyes?” And he said: “Well, I hope you don’t mind. I can see now but I’d like a little bit more vision.”



“I asked him how far he could see as we stood at the entrance to the prayer booth and he replied: “I can see all the way down to those doors.” In other words he could see all the way down to the end of the Pump Rooms - at least 60 or 70 feet. “I’d just like a little bit sharper vision,” he added but I thought, for somebody who a few weeks ago couldn’t see at all it was pretty amazing ...

Sent back to Coventry

“One Tuesday evening,” Anne continued, “a woman came to see us from Coventry. Her

‘I’ve been unable to do this for such a long time that I’m making up for it now.’

issue was that she had arthritis, particularly in her knees. She was in constant pain, day and night. She found it very difficult to walk. In particular, she was unable to go up the stairs without a lot of pain and effort. When she came we listened to her story.

“Sometimes with arthritis there is an unforgiveness issue hanging around (as was the case here). And so we prayed and we encouraged her to pray. And then she left and I’m not sure that anything particularly happened.”

Anne re-iterated that the woman had left with nothing obvious having happened but then she picked up on the chain of events: “The next week we got word from her that she’d gone home and the pain had completely gone from her knees.

“She felt amazing. Because she’d had such great difficulty climbing stairs for so long, she just started running up and down the stairs. Apparently her husband stood down in the hall way and called out: ‘What are you doing?’ Her answer was lovely: ‘I’ve been unable to do this for such a long time that I’m making up for it now!’ ”

“What a nice way to be sent to Coventry,” I chuckled.

Conception

“Oh!” Anne continued as clearly many instances of healing were flooding into her mind. “There’s been lots of inner healing and quite a lot of people who couldn’t have babies but now they can.

“There was a lovely instance of somebody I met actually at a conference. I was leading a soaking prayer session when I realised that this woman was crying through it. It was at a time when my dad was dying and I wasn’t in the best of places myself. It was 2008 and I wasn’t going to pray for anybody singularly but I didn’t mind corporately.

I got an email from her saying that she had gone home and immediately got pregnant.



“And then her friend came up to me and said: ‘Please, please pray for her.’ I felt so sorry for her that I spent about two hours with her and listened to her story. She’d lost lots of babies, the hospital had messed up and now she just couldn’t get pregnant. I prayed for her and I took her through our miscarriage prayer.

“The next thing I knew... I got an email from her saying that she had gone home and immediately got pregnant. And then, just

‘You don’t know what a difference that healing prayer made to her. She came back a changed woman.’

before the baby was born, she and her husband came to see me. She was probably about eight months pregnant and her husband just really wanted to thank me for what God had done.

“Then they had a second child and I’ve actually become a Godparent. When I was at this little girl’s baptism all her family came over to me, one by one, and said: ‘You don’t know what a difference that healing prayer made to her. She came back a changed woman.’ Now she’s got three children which is really good.

We’re learning so much in this area of healing all the time and again we’re finding that where there are negative emotions they often, but not always, block healing.”

Even rabbits

Suddenly Anne’s rather concerned face became animated by happiness. “One of the stories that still makes me smile whenever I think of it, is the time when a little girl came in for prayer.

She insisted on coming in by herself so her mum signed a little slip in reception because we become her temporary guardians. So, in came this little eight or nine year old girl

and I just assumed that granny was going to be in hospital or something and that she wanted prayer for granny.

“But no! She came in and she sat down all very grown up and I said: ‘Hello, it’s really lovely to see you, how can we pray for you today?’

“She just looked at me and said: ‘My rabbit is being castrated tomorrow and I want you to pray for him.’ I don’t know how we didn’t laugh, it was so sweet that such a little girl could come out with such a big and formal word as castration. It was a lovely moment.

My rabbit is being castrated tomorrow and I want you to pray for him.



We see so many different kinds of people, with so many different types of prayer request. We were very happy to pray for her because she was really concerned about her bunny. It was important for us to pray.”

Prophetic gifts

Of course prayerful healing for all, regardless of faith or lack of it, and encounter with God lie at the very epicentre of why The Well exists.

It's also critical that prayer is available absolutely free of charge and that everything the organisation does is true to the vision that Anne had in that garden supported by two of the prophetic gifts that she was given in the very early days – after the vision but before ministry at the Pump Rooms began: a set of very special keys and two rather ordinary legal tender five pound notes.

Three keys

Not so long after she received the vision Anne went off to the States as part of her extensive discernment process and this included a visit to Steve Witt's church in Cleveland Ohio. Steve, a former business trainer and long time church planter, travels

It's also critical that prayer is available absolutely free of charge...



Another view of Royal Leamington Spa's magnificent Pump Rooms - the focal point of The Well's ministry for all.

extensively exporting the skills and lessons he has learned. Anne was convinced that her trip to Ohio would be helpful and so it proved.

Anne picks up the story: "I was given some keys.... I had felt I was going to get some keys but I had thought they were going to be spiritual keys – along the lines of ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you. But I was given big, real physical keys. Would you like to hear about the keys?" "No, Anne," I said more tersely than I intended. "I want to see them please." And with that she left the room calling over her

shoulder without the slightest note of reciprocal irritation: “I shall go and get them.”

She fought her way back in through all the flotsam and jetsam of moving, clutching a very large brass key ring roughly the circumference of a decent sized grapefruit. Three giant keys dangled from it by their beautifully formed bows.

Their shanks covered the gape of my thumb and first finger at maximum extension and they all had distinctive ornate bits. “This one,” Anne held up the first of the keys to me, “has a bit like a scroll. I was told that it signifies that whatever we do in Royal Leamington Spa should be based on the Word of God and the Word of God alone.

“And this one here,” she held up a second key to my gaze, “has a cross for a bit and I was told that by His wounds you are healed – a verse from Isaiah 53.

“This third key,” she paused, not so much for effect as to aid recollection, “signifies the Alpha and the Omega – Jesus Christ is still the same yesterday, today and forever more, Hebrews 13:8. And so therefore He still heals today just as He did in the gospels. He’s still the great healer and deliverer.”

It was shortly after she received these keys that Anne went to see Bishop Colin who gave her his sincere blessing, but made it clear that he had no money to facilitate her vocation. “I knew I had been faffing around to some extent, running away even,” Anne candidly confided. “But I had committed myself by then and I have to confess that money (or more precisely lack of it) was

perhaps my biggest fear in stepping out to fulfil what God had called me to do.”

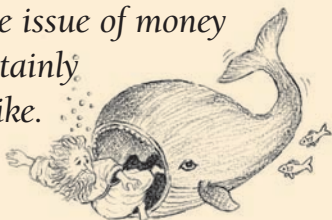


These special keys were a prophetic gift to Anne when she visited the USA.

Years ago I used to handle the Public Relations for Yale locks and I suddenly remembered that one of the earliest known lock and key devices was discovered in the ruins of Nineveh the ancient capital of Assyria. Nineveh was of course the place to which the prophet Jonah was told to prophesy impending doom and destruction and it's well known that Jonah initially flunked his call by going in the opposite direction and getting swallowed by a whale.

Anne clearly, has not suffered the same fate, and anyway she has been called in a very different way from Jonah, but it became clear that the issue of money was certainly whale-like in its scale.

Anne... has been called in a very different way from Jonah, but.. the issue of money was certainly whale-like.



Two fivers

“You see, I don’t come from a rich family,” Anne explained. “We always had enough, but I’d been taught that you never put yourself in a position where you haven’t got the money. You save up for something and then you buy it. So that was my philosophy.

“Interestingly, around that time I became very unwell...” Anne then revealed how doctors advised her that major surgery was necessary for her - something she found embarrassing considering that she was about to open a healing ministry. Not only that, but she was seriously weakened and knew that the operation would effectively put her out of action for many months.

Ironically, given her condition, Anne was involved in running a series of events for burnt out clergy and at the first event attendees were asked to get into pairs, to think about their biggest need and to let the other person pray for God to meet it. Anne, markedly emotional by this stage, admitted that she couldn’t decide what her biggest

need was – healing or money to launch The Well. “Before I could decide,” she revealed, “my prayer partner said: ‘Anne, may Jesus meet you at your deepest point of need,’ and at that moment it was as though my area of vulnerability and weakness was totally on fire. It was burning hot for about 20 minutes. God healed me that day and I’ve never been back to the doctor’s with that problem since. Everything went back to normal.”

In addition to this remarkable personal healing, Anne had also received two five pound notes through the post, “from a lovely Christian lady whom I didn’t know at the time called Sheila Leng.

“At an event in December 2002,” she continued, “I held out these two fivers and the keys and prayed for multiplication... just like that little boy offering his packed lunch. How can a few loaves and fishes feed 5000? We asked for multiplication and it has happened time and again. Now, when any money is given to The Well I rejoice because I know that God is our provider. Many, many people give because they have heard about His vision.”



Early growth

And so the money began to come in and the whale shrank in size, at least for the time being.

The emphasis swung towards preparing a team that would pray for people. Anne was joined early on by the remarkable Tim Hollingdale, a former colleague from CPAS, Anne having left to take up new posts, first to work for the Archbishop of Canterbury on his millennium team and then as a mission and spirituality adviser at The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF).

Together they discovered John Wimber's teachings on Christian healing and indeed, The Well's prayer team was built largely on this foundation.



John Hadden and his wife Jean. John's wise counsel led to The Well giving him the soubriquet 'Our Abraham'.



Bishop Graham Dow, then Bishop of Carlisle and an expert on Christian healing, was a very special guest at The Well's 5th anniversary celebrations.

At this time too, the search was on for a place to operate from. Whilst Anne had a strong sense that The Well would operate from a boarded-up former school in Court Street, on a personal quiet day of prayer and reflection at Offa House (the Diocese of Coventry's retreat house just outside the town in the village of Offchurch) it became clear that Leamington's famous Pump Rooms was the ideal place for The Well's public ministry to commence. Shortly afterwards a rental agreement was struck at charity rates in the summer of 2003.

"But it quickly became clear that we weren't ready," Anne told me. "A very wise

We are a gateway into a local church, but never a church.

Christian called John Hadden – we called him our Abraham – told us we needed more preparation on many levels.” Fortunately John’s wisdom was recognised and the team spent many weeks practising in readiness to welcome the public and also building up support for The Well amongst local clergy. Anne well knew from her days at CPAS that unified clergy support was essential to a ministry such as The Well’s and in particular it was so important that all clergy knew that The Well was neither a church nor would it ever be one.

“Right from the start we knew that The Well was intended to be a place of healing, rest and resourcing,” Anne commented. “A place where people could encounter God but always they would return to their communities.” Much later (2005) it became clear that The Well fitted in extraordinarily neatly with current thinking in church circles that sees the ‘minster model’ as vital in our current society.

The Well’s driving purpose is its innovative healing ministry to an increasingly non Christian culture: it’s all about reaching out to people whilst absolutely not cutting across the excellent work churches do to pastor and lead their communities in worship and discipleship. As Anne likes to put it: “We are a gateway into a local church, but never a church.”

Return of the whale

From when it opened until roughly the time when the boom years of Britain at the turn of the millennium came crashing down in the wake of the banking crisis, The Well’s ministry prospered. People came from ‘far and wide’ just as God had promised Anne they would and, as we have seen, there were many healings.

Through prayer and dedicated teamwork The Well was fulfilling its vocation but, following a failed attempt to purchase Priory House as a permanent home for both ministry and administration, it became clear that The Well had insufficient funds to continue its operations.

Things looked very bleak indeed but ...the failure to acquire Priory House turned into a blessing...

“We were absolutely devastated,” Anne recalls. “Tim (Hollingdale) felt the solution was for him immediately to stand down and he did just that. It was a very sacrificial thing for him to do and our office manager at the time, Andrea Kane, also stepped down from her paid position although she did continue to support us on a voluntary basis.”

Things looked very bleak indeed but actually the failure to acquire Priory House turned into a blessing as, with donors’ permission,

funds committed to acquiring the property were used to underwrite the gap between the cost of ministry and income levels which were very hard to increase during the lean years of recession.

Fortunately fresh expressions of ministry also provided unexpected relief. Pathway events began in 2009, initially because Anne felt there was a pressing need to provide robust teaching on such difficult subjects as depression and addictive behaviour patterns.

The Well started to run regular Quiet Days too, taking advantage of Anne's gifts as a creator of Christian retreat material that gives people the opportunity to draw closer to God by providing space for Him to get into our busyness.

In addition to significant ministerial benefits these developments provided a very welcome additional source of income. In fact by 2014 the financial contribution from Pathway Days, from Quiet Days, from the hugely popular and long standing 'Listening to God' events and from running training courses in Christian healing amounted to some 25% of The Well's income.

A fresh vision

Anyone who knows Anne to any extent knows that one of her favourite expressions is that ‘you need to keep the main thing the main thing.’ For The Well that will always be the vision that God gave to her way back in that summer of 2002 when she couldn’t speak because of her laryngitis.

Sure, there is a fresh expression of that vision now in that there’s a desire to be open six days a week - and there’s a determination to stay right at the cutting edge of Christian healing. It’s recognised too that thinking big thoughts like these will have financial ramifications and it’s possible that the whale of money will come again.

When I asked Anne for her specific thoughts on the future she felt that: “We’ve got more hard work to do but I’m greatly encouraged by what we’ve achieved these last ten years. “It’s a bit like hill walking. You reach one peak and then there’s another. I feel very elated and really grateful to have been used in the way we have and to work with so many wonderful people. Our office move to Cross Street (what a great name!) is only temporary and it’ll give us time to take stock and plan ahead.”



In trying to sum all this up I can’t help but think of that story from the Book of Acts. It’s when Peter and John encounter the crippled beggar at the Beautiful Gate. Peter tells the beggar that he has no silver or gold but that he will give him what he has and he says simply: ‘In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!’ And he does.

That’s what The Well is all about, the faith to pray for people to be healed in His name. Silver and gold will probably always be less abundant than we might humanly wish but ultimately as Anne herself discovered on the course that she led for exhausted clergy, God meets our deepest needs first.

Whatever happens, The Well needs to continue to give people what it has, which is exactly what Peter himself had. **I guess we’re back to the third key and Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus is the same yesterday and tomorrow and He still heals today.**

The Well's Vision

To see people encounter the healing transformative
love and power of God through The Well in
Royal Leamington Spa.

The Well aspires to be a place of excellence, open six
days a week for people from far and wide. We offer a
safe environment for healing prayer in the name of
Jesus Christ. The Well continues to pioneer Christian
healing prayer and practice.

We offer regular events and learning experiences for
people to discover more about God's healing power
so that we equip people to further Jesus' healing
ministry throughout our hurting world.

In answer to the question 'Does God Heal Today?'
The Well's answer is a resounding 'Yes' and we yearn
and work for more people to know this truth.

**To find out all the news about The Well and its
healing ministry please visit:**

www.wellhealing.org

**The Well Christian Healing Centre PO Box 3407,
Leamington Spa, CV32 6ZH**

Tel: 01926 888003

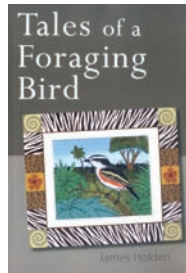
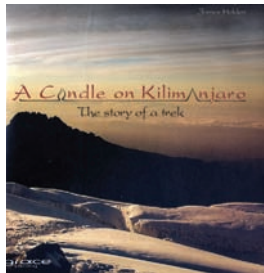
Email: contact@wellhealing.org

Registered Charity No. 1097443

About the Author

James Holden is the interim chairman of The Well Christian Healing Centre in Royal Leamington Spa and has been a Trustee since 2010. By profession he is a PR Consultant.

James has written two other books
A Candle on Kilimanjaro and
Tales of a Foraging Bird
both of which are available from
Roseworld Productions Ltd.
www.roseworldproductions.com



DOES GOD HEAL TODAY?

**Describes and celebrates
the first decade of The Well
Christian Healing Centre in
Royal Leamington Spa.**

It's a remarkable journey which began with a vision that God gave to Rev Anne Hibbert in the summer of 2002, when she was sitting in a friend's back garden recuperating from laryngitis. Little did she know what lay ahead, but 18 months later in February 2004 The Well successfully opened its doors for the first time.

Ten years on, The Well's core ministry of offering God's healing through prayer to all on a totally free of charge basis has attracted thousands of people who have come from far and wide.



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