

have seen people embrace death which of course is perfect healing. I don't know what we shall see this evening. Maybe nothing that will be visible to others of us at all. But in the ministry of his Church today God will be at work bringing healing and wholeness.

There is much, much more that could be said about the ministry of healing but I think we'll leave it there for now. Just to finish off, then, in this ministry it is God who heals and wills to restore wholeness to his creation, and we, the Church are carrying out his ministry by employing the sacramental signs he has given us. We can all benefit from receiving the ministry of healing whether we think we need it or not. As human beings every one of us shares in the lack of wholeness which comes from separation from God. By submitting ourselves to this ministry we are opening ourselves to him and seeking the wholeness for which he created us.

This healing ministry is a tremendous gift which God has given to his Church. No-one is obliged to receive it but I do commend it to you.

Michael Camp

**Spread abroad the name of Jesus in humility
and with a meek heart;
show him your feebleness,
and he will become your strength.**

Thomas Merton

Inclusive Church

Thank you to everyone who used the Inclusive Church declaration slips to express your views about this thorny but important issue. 30 people responded of whom 25 signed to support the statement; four opposed it and one abstained. In the end the PCC decided that it would not be right to sign BPC up to the Inclusive Church declaration. Most PCC members are probably supportive of it but we felt that to sign the church up to something like this leaves those members who don't support it in a rather invidious position, finding themselves part of a congregation which had signed up to something they disagreed with. In deciding not to sign up, the PCC is NOT rejecting the statement, simply resolving that it would not be appropriate to commit the Church to it. We have had a useful debate on the issues raised by the Inclusive Church statement in recent months so thank you to all who have participated in it. If anyone wants to sign up individually go to www.inclusivechurch.net

Michael Camp