



Between them Thorpe House and Holy Rood House, provide good training and conference rooms and a chapel opening onto the gardens as well as an excellent Therapeutic and Theological Library.



Our Access and Carers' Suite creates an inclusive environment for residential visits, sabbaticals and study time and **The Raymond Williams** Foundation will support these financially. We will provide a study bedroom and Spiritual Direction/Accompaniment and study support is available.



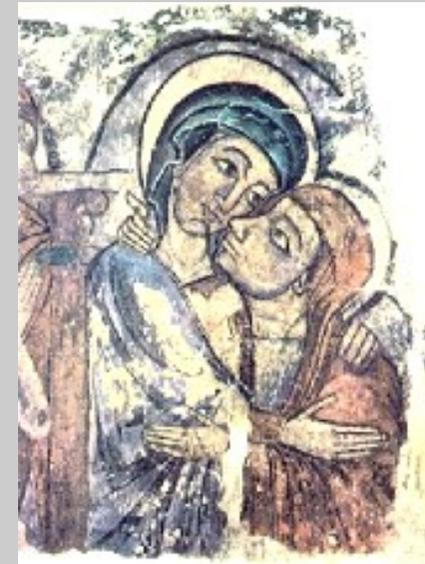
The gardens and quiet spaces support our ecological framework.



# HOLY ROOD HOUSE

CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND PASTORAL CARE

## THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THEOLOGY AND HEALTH



Patrons  
The Revd Lord Rowan Williams PC  
Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge

Professor Mary Grey  
Professorial Research Fellow University of Twickenham  
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Charity Commissioners No. 1099836

The Director of the Centre is the Revd Elizabeth Baxter MPhil. Elizabeth lives and works at Holy Rood House and pioneered the churches' ministry of healing at Holy Rood House, with her husband Stanley in 1993. Elizabeth is a priest and Feminist and Pastoral Theologian and Spiritual Director and draws together the therapeutic and theological work of the charity, accompanying the community in this process.



The Theology Centre with the Annual Hildegard Lecture, was opened in 2001 by the Patron Rowan Williams, then Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To encourage research and reflection on the relationship between theology and all areas of health and healing.
- To arrange seminars, conferences, research days and workshops in all areas that relate to health and healing.
- To encourage a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to the study of theology and health.
- To co-operate with similar institutions and places of Higher Education in arranging and/or supporting training courses which further the aims and objectives of the Centre.
- To encourage and support co-operation between academic research and praxis.

The Centre for the Study of Theology and Health is part of the ministry of Holy Rood House, Centre for Health and Pastoral Care, and works at the interface between psychology, the arts and sciences, ecology, spirituality and theology. The Centre works in partnership with **The Guild of Health and St Raphael**,\* in particular with **The Raphael Institute**, and the Director the Revd Dr Gillian Straine. 'The Proceedings' of the Centre are published in '**Chrism**' the journal of the Guild.

#### PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS



An on going Project is **face2face** - combating sexual abuse within and on behalf of the churches - initiated by Jonathan Baxter (Co-ordinator of the Centre 2003-2006) and funded by the Epworth Trust. '**The Spirituality of Survival**' by the Revd Barbara Glasson (Methodist Minister and former Director of the project) was published in 2009 by Mowbray.



'**Wounds that Heal**' Theology, Imagination and Health, was edited by Jonathan Baxter and published in 2007 by SPCK.



The Revd Dr Jan Berry (URC) directed the Centre 2009-2012 and initiated the '**Hymns for Healing**' project, supported by the Pratt Green Trust. The book '**Hymns of Hope and Healing**' was published in 2017 by Stainer and Bell.

The **25th Anniversary project** of the work at Thirsk, is the study and development by the community of the theme '**AN ECOLOGY OF HEALTH**', with a view towards publication and a robust ministry of healing for the churches for the years ahead.

#### 'An Ecology of Health'

At the Centre we work with a four-fold model of health to which we have given the title **an ecology of health**. This is set out below as four strands working together through our therapeutic and theological work:

**Ecology health** acknowledges the interconnectedness of creation. It recognises that fulfilment through a sustainable vision of planetary well-being. Focus is placed upon the environmental factors that constitute health and ill health, while the inclusiveness of this heading gives rise to our overall theological categorisation of health as an ecology of balanced relationships.

**Global health** emphasises the global community and the social-political dimensions of health. Here, the pursuit of justice and peace are seen as fundamental to any understanding of health and healing. We are particularly concerned to emphasise and contribute to, a culture of justice and peace in contrast to a culture of violence, and we seek to do this by challenging both the logic and practice of retribution ideologies whether in their theological or secular forms.

**Personal health** focuses upon our physical and mental wellbeing. Here, both medical practices and the other healing arts are explored through the interpretative lens of the Christian story. Emphasis is placed upon a holistic model of human personhood that acknowledges the multiple influences constituting human wellbeing, whilst also challenging definitions of health that isolate an individual from the wider relational contexts with which they live.

**Spiritual health** draws attention to the specifically cultural contexts through which all human experience is filtered. Here, emphasis is placed upon the Christian story as the primary mode of interpretation through which we come to know ourselves and our community as either healthy or unhealthy. Spirituality is defined in this context as the symbolic mode of experience through which we gain insight into, and value for our lives.

None of the above categories can be understood in isolation, so our methodology is based upon a conversational encounter between these four overlapping strands.

Notwithstanding our commitment to the Christian story, we wish to Emphasise that no legitimate enquiry into the constitutive factors of health and ill health are to be excluded from the Centre's programme. We only ask that participants respect the diversity of views that constitute open and searching enquiry.

(Summer School 2017 with Patron Rowan Williams)

