

## Written prayers

### Prayer of blessing for the National Health Service

*This prayer was originally written in May 2011, as part of a visual prayer resource on the UK National Health Service available at [www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer](http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer)*

*This focus on blessing the NHS was inspired by:*

- *concerns over the future of the service due to budget cuts and reforms*
- *reports of insufficient care and respect for elderly (published on 26.05.11 by independent advisory body to the government, The Care Quality Commission)*
- *news that the annual number of hospital admissions resulting from alcohol-related illnesses has surpassed one million (these official figures were published in the same week as the above report and do not include A&E admissions)*
- *a desire to recognise both the daily sacrifices of huge numbers of health professions, and the need for gratitude for the universal access to health-care we enjoy in the UK.*

Creator God,

Who knits each person together in their mother's womb

It is you who reveals knowledge to scientists and doctors.

We thank you for the heritage of medical breakthrough, expertise and welfare we enjoy in our nation,

Freely available to us because of your revelation, and the faithfulness of previous generations.

Renew thanksgiving in our hearts for what we have received because of others' work and sacrifice.

Healer of nations,

You provide insight to all who seek you,

And defend those in need.

We thank you for the gift of health services in our nation,

Freely available to everyone no matter their background, income level or need.

Give your wisdom to our government, health professionals, and advisers as they seek the right reforms.

We bless our health service to thrive, to prosper, and to heal.

We bless our doctors and nurses to care, to excel, and to bring healing.

We bless our nation to understand, to thank, and to honour those who seek to bring us health.

For everything that is good comes from you.

Amen.