

# REVIVE!

***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19***

**T**hankfulness is a powerful and truly transformative act! In Luke 17:11-19 we read of ten lepers who were cleansed and healed by Jesus, but the one who came back to thank Him was told *'your faith has saved you!'* Something deep and life-transforming was happening in his heart as he expressed his gratitude to God. He would never be the same again!

The outbreak of Covid 19 earlier this year has been extremely difficult for many people. Yet sometimes it is in those hard times that God can do a deeper transformational, and even new, work in our lives. These past months here at CCHC we have had to reduce the scope of our ministry, and even closing our doors to guests. This could have inaugurated some extremely difficult times for our Centre. Yet we have seen God's incredible faithfulness, not only keeping the

Centre financially afloat, but also perceiving the deeper work He has been doing in our lives during this time, as well as the new shoots of ministry that have started to blossom.

We are truly **THANKFUL** to God for what He is doing amongst us. The apostle Paul encourages to be thankful **IN** all circumstances, not **FOR** all circumstances some of which may not be in God's perfect will. But He is Lord of history, and He indeed can work all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

We are dedicating this edition of **REVIVE** to the theme of **THANKSGIVING**, to take a moment to pause and be grateful for all that God has done and is doing in our lives. Our prayer is that He will continue to transform us as we do so.

*With love, David (Mayhew)*

# Fresh Springs

We are grateful to God for leading us into this new season of 'Fresh Springs.' Something new is indeed springing up from the desert, as Isaiah 43:19 proclaims. We have been powerfully reminded that Howard Cobb, CCHC's founder, built the well on our grounds in 1932 in order to increase the water supply to the house. Although he anticipated finding water at 40ft, he found it at 80ft. He had to dig deeper than expected. We believe the Lord has told us to dig deeper, and He will provide the water to bless all the people He still wants to send us. "The opening of Howard's Well café' with its short Middyay Encounter service at noon is one part of the 'Fresh Springs.'



Since re-opening in July, we have already seen many new visitors, including from the local village, one of whom wrote ... *"We had a lovely lunch yesterday at Howard's Well. Our friends were very glad to be able to do something normal as they both have health issues and had started shielding before lockdown began."*

## Other testimonies:

- ♦ *"It is so nice to come to a place of God's peace in a time of bereavement and away from the busyness of the High Street."*
- ♦ *"It was lovely to be in a live service for the first time since March, in the atmosphere of God's presence."*

# Resurrecting Residentials by Steve Gendall

It was five long months without staying guests and visitors, but the Lord, who never misses an opportunity, gifted the remaining residents, Freemans, Mayhews and Gendalls with particular blessings, meeting each of us personally. In August, we were delighted to welcome our first twelve residential guests since March. The experience made me think of eating a favourite meal or reading a treasured book, discovering tastes in the meal and descriptions in the book that I had not enjoyed before. The experience, whilst different, is enhanced rather than diminished, as these guests shared:

- ♦ *"The last few months have been a roller coaster of emotions so it's been good to be immersed in God's peace and love, not having to be or do anything."*
- ♦ *"Congratulations on the many Covid secure measures to keep us safe. The Holy Spirit revealed Himself in worship – tears of joy kept coming!"*

As with all who visit CCHC, the Lord continues His work and we rejoice that the end result will be more beautiful! He is the God who does all things well! (Mark 7:37) It has been a thrill welcoming resident guests back and we look forward to seeing more of you as our residential opportunities now begin to increase. As we venture forward, we are learning and discovering more than ever that this new season can empower our guests, building them up in their walk with the Lord.



**Folk enjoying a meal at Howard's Well**

## Come and See!

One guest prayed that the new 'Covid Way' will be a blessing and it is our hope that this season of Fresh Springs will be that and more. God is good, as the following two guests declare!

- \* *"I arrived feeling terribly depressed. After the beautiful service I felt God's love. After prayer I felt peace and release. I'm leaving on a mountaintop!"*
- \* *'Beautiful communion. Revived and restored again!' 'Peace, presence and prayer, still here in abundance!'*

**A**s you can see from the photo below, the staff are delighted to be back to work serving guests and visitors, and rather than being discouraged by the various Covid safety measures needed, they have risen to the challenge. They are in no doubt that God has been in control throughout these months of lockdown and will continue to be as we move forward.



- \* *"It's been amazing how God has been ahead of us at each step. We had decided to open Howard's Well from Monday to Wednesday before the Government's announcement to finance 'Eat Out/Help Out' on those days! The staff had agreed to take a 20% wage reduction, before the 80% furlough scheme was announced!"*
- \* *"The house feels more alive and I have enjoyed facing the new challenges."*



**I**f you have never been to CCHC before, or perhaps you're long overdue a visit, now is an ideal time to come and be re-fuelled, refreshed and revived – spiritually from encountering Jesus in the Chapel and grounds – and physically with a delicious meal at Howard's Well (open Monday to Wednesday from 11am to 3pm until 9 December.)

There are plenty of quiet spaces to retreat to (including Shalom, the Prayer Rooms, Chapels and Quiet Rooms). There is also an opportunity to encounter God on one of the guided Prayer Walks, and receive prayer at 'The Tent of Meeting', pictured above.

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a new thing! Now  
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Isaiah 43:19*



# Some Reflections on Thankfulness

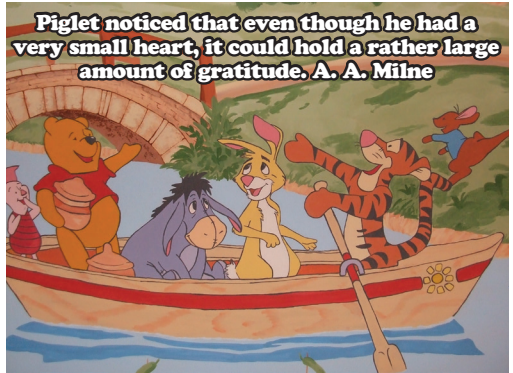
- ❖ “In ordinary life we hardly realise that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- ❖ It opens our eyes to see ... that life is a gift, and God gives us good gifts.
- ❖ It is the first step to come into God's presence, and is the heart of worship – Psalm 100.
- ❖ It helps us connect with the giver, including God and other people.
- ❖ It is a spiritual discipline.
- ❖ It stops us taking people and things for granted, a counter-cultural subversive act in our age of entitlement.
- ❖ It gives us a new perspective on life.
- ❖ It is an antidote to anxiety and bitterness.
- ❖ It opens the door to surprise, wonder and joy.

Do any of these resonate with you?

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## A THANKFULNESS CHALLENGE

Take **Psalm 136** as a model and write in your own words a psalm of thanksgiving and praise, drawing from your life experience and using the constant refrain ‘**for His steadfast love endures forever.**’ When you finish, share your psalm with God!



## CCHC Prayer Requests:

Please pray for:

- ❖ Ongoing safety for our staff, guests and visitors, and for grace and flexibility in these uneasy times.
- ❖ God's anointing and felt presence at Howard's Well, the residential Healing Space and Prayer Partners weekend (9-11 October).
- ❖ Urgent prayer: for a new boiler system for hot water and heating, financial provision for our servant-hearted staff as the furlough scheme changes and to further develop our ministry in this season of 'Fresh Springs'. We give thanks for His faithfulness and 'oil and flour' provision to date.



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