

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

Thanksgiving Day

8 July 2023



**The Lord is good to all,
and His tender mercies are over all His works. Psalm 145:9**

Thanksgiving Day was a brilliant Celebration of God's goodness. Our theme was 'The God of Surprises.' We took the opportunity to interview three people who have been on healing journeys with our Lord and in the space we have here, we wanted to share something of their stories. Praise the Lord our Healer as you read how God has surprised each of them! The full interviews can be found on Youtube.

RACHEL – Interviewed by Suzanne



Rachel is currently a Priest in Tunbridge Wells, having been ordained for ten years. Her first visit to CCHC was on an Ordination Retreat, “because it had been the only place I could get into. God is extremely wise!”

Rachel thought that she would just come on the Retreat and not return, but God had other plans and she kept on coming back! She said, “God has done the most extraordinary work in me. Just to help me come to terms with the person I am and to enable Him to do the work He needed to do in me. Because I am a priest and lead a church, I would come here and think this is a calm and safe place, where I can just ‘turn off’ and clearly there is an element of that. What I hadn’t appreciated was that God was

working in the background to get me to a place where He was able to heal me of some stuff that I needed healing of and it’s been completely transformative! He has enabled me to deal with some really difficult stuff and I am now more at peace with Him and the stuff that has happened in the past.”

Rachel has recently become a Trustee. She writes, “I had this feeling that the Lord had been trailing behind me for quite a long time, waiting for me to turn around and pay attention to Him, and I got a sense that He might want me to do something at CCHC. This ‘something’ was a calling to be a Trustee. What a transition – from being a person who came ‘to be’, and later to become a Trustee! It has been a great gift and a privilege.”

Suzanne asked Rachel to say something about the word ‘healing’. Rachel spoke about the ‘skin she was born in.’ “I have always had a disability and one of the most extraordinary things is to understand that God thinks I am perfectly fine as I am, which has been extraordinary because I have spent a long time trying to compete on the world’s terms and have always fallen short because I couldn’t quite ‘make it.’ But God has said to me in so many different ways, **‘Actually, Rachel, you are fine just as you are!’** And people tell me, and I have to believe them, that the skin I am in actually speaks to them about the power of God, and for some reason, that I’m sure God will explain in the fullness of time, He has called someone into His service who can’t walk, occasionally finds it difficult to speak and can’t sit up straight, and it seems to work in an interesting way!”

Suzanne’s last question for Rachel was about the God of Surprises. Rachel said that God had been full of surprises. “The one thing that has really surprised me is that when we have a challenge or a problem, and we pray to God and ask him to fix it, He doesn’t always fix the problem which is right in front of us. He will chip away at the cement which is actually making it difficult for us to get past that problem. And it’s only afterwards that you turn round and think, ‘Oh, that’s not there anymore! So that’s great.’”

CHLOE – Interviewed by Steve



Chloe has stayed at CCHC a few times over a period of years. In 2015 she came with Adam, who at that time was her carer, but is now her husband. Read on!

Recently Chloe visited again and Steve noticed that an extraordinary transformation had taken place, so he asked her if she would be prepared to share something of her story.

Chloe says, *"When I look back on those years, I think WOW! I went through spells of being bed bound and housebound, needing carers to look after me three times a day. My now husband had to feed me. I hit some really scary times and needed to use a wheelchair, crutches, sticks and things. I have visited intermittently and I've received healing, but it's been a bit at a time. I have definitely gone on an amazing journey!"*

Steve said, *"When we were together the last time you were here, I felt prompted to say the words (which made your eyes roll back!) 'How does it feel to hear the Lord say to you, 'Chloe, pick up your mat and walk?'"* Chloe laughed, *"Yes I was quite annoyed! It was quite a powerful word to receive because the last time I came,*

which was about four years ago, I remember walking out of the service. I was furious and full of so much anger. I was frustrated and just thought, 'I am crying out for healing, I'm going to, every single healing opportunity, every single healing service. I've got every single book on healing. I couldn't be 'grasping the hem' anymore if I tried and it's not happening.

I think for me it's been a gradual journey. It's happened and it's happening at the same time. But I also realise, and I want to be very careful how I say this, which I can only say for myself, that the desire to be well and to be healed was 1000% there. But as I've healed and gone on that journey, I've realised how many fears there were to actually being well and being whole, and I think it's because when you have a chronic illness or multiple, you learn to live and survive in that place. I've had to go on a journey of learning what it looks like to be well, to be healed and to be free. That's quite scary when your whole identity has been something different."

Steve asked, *"If you could name just one surprise, what would it be, besides Adam of course!"* Chloe laughed, *"Just, I guess – the other phrase, you said to me, 'Gently, gently, slowly, slowly.' And I thought, for goodness sake! Really! But the healing journey has definitely been that. I guess the surprise for me is how gentle God is, and how tender, patient, and kind He is. In terms of healing, I would have loved it to have been, 'Wham, bam, done! You know, a lightening bolt and it's done. But the healing journey He has taken me on, I am grateful that He's done it in His timing and gently, because that I realise, is actually what I needed."*

Steve asked if this had been faith strengthening? Chloe said, *"It has meant that a relationship is definitely required and not just the mountain top moments! And I can see now with hindsight how being angry and getting frustrated with Him was all part of the journey as well, and like in any relationship you are going to develop intimacy and closeness and will disagree sometimes, but you will come back together stronger!"*

TERRY – Interviewed by David



Two and a half years ago Terry was diagnosed with terminal cancer, devastating news that “*changed my life completely.*” But the God of Surprises had a plan and ‘introduced’ him to Howard’s Well at CCHC! Initially he would drop off his girlfriend, Rachael, a frequent visitor to the Centre, while he went to the pub! David asked, “So Crowhurst surprised you when you came here?” “Very much so”, Terry agreed. “At first, I was quite closed. People would speak to me and I would say, ‘I’m just here with Rachael and for the burgers! But then certain things started to happen. I got talking to Trevor, the gardener, and we chatted about the Bible. One day, completely out of the blue, he gave me his Bible, with his own notes!

I would come after the service to meet Rachael at Howard’s Well, and one day when we exchanged greetings with two ladies, they replied ‘Good morning Terry.’ I asked Rachael how they knew my name. “They have been praying for you”, she said. ‘Why?’ I asked. “Because you are on the Prayer List!” “These two ladies, Hilary and Vivien, have been a part of my faith journey. CCHC has become an enormous part of my life and I have built up great friendships.” David said, “You have come on quite a journey of faith over these last few years.” “Yes, a huge journey!” Terry agreed. “I remember when I had to have monthly blood tests because the cancer had got out of control in my body. When one of the blood tests showed very high levels, we came to CCHC and just sat and prayed. We were both afraid and in a state of shock. Suzanne prayed with us in the Small Chapel and Rachael later

felt ‘led’ to order another blood test for me, which amazingly showed the levels had gone down to ZERO! I can offer no explanation for this, other than Suzanne and Rachael praying for me in the small chapel in front of the picture of Jesus!

David said, “You have now come to faith in Christ, and have recently given your life to the Lord. How did this come about?” Terry explained that he and Rachael had watched ‘*The Chosen*’, a film about the life of Jesus. He described a scene where Jesus was telling Nicodemus about why he should follow Him. “I said to Rachael, ‘If that guy was asking me to follow Him on a journey, I would go. Then a voice inside my head said ‘He is inviting you; He is inviting you now! At that moment I decided to give my heart to Jesus! ... I’m giving my life to Jesus and I’m going to live with Jesus!’”

“So would you say these last few years have been a journey of surprises?” David asked.

“Yes I would say so!” Terry answered. “From the devastating bombshell of a terminal cancer diagnosis two and a half years ago, when I was given just six months to live, and today feeling fitter than I have for some time! I’d always been a traveller; I had a motorcycle and used to go camping, even in the snow! I would trek whenever I could, but because of the cancer, this had to stop. I sold my motorcycle and all my camping and hiking equipment.”

David asked Terry how he saw the future. “I used to be known as an adventurer. My rucksack was always packed with my tent, some food and my cooking stove so I could go off ‘at the drop of a hat!’ In terms of the future I am now going on probably the biggest adventure I’ve ever been on. I don’t need a tent and I don’t need a motorcycle. I just need the time and the presence of the Lord! And the future? The healing will come; whether it’s now or whether it’s when I reach that final destination, but for now I am happy. My life has a forward trajectory and soon Rachael and I are both being baptised.

David asked about a song that has really struck Terry. “Yes”, he said. “It’s called ‘Living hope!’ which has the line – **death has no fear for me now!**”