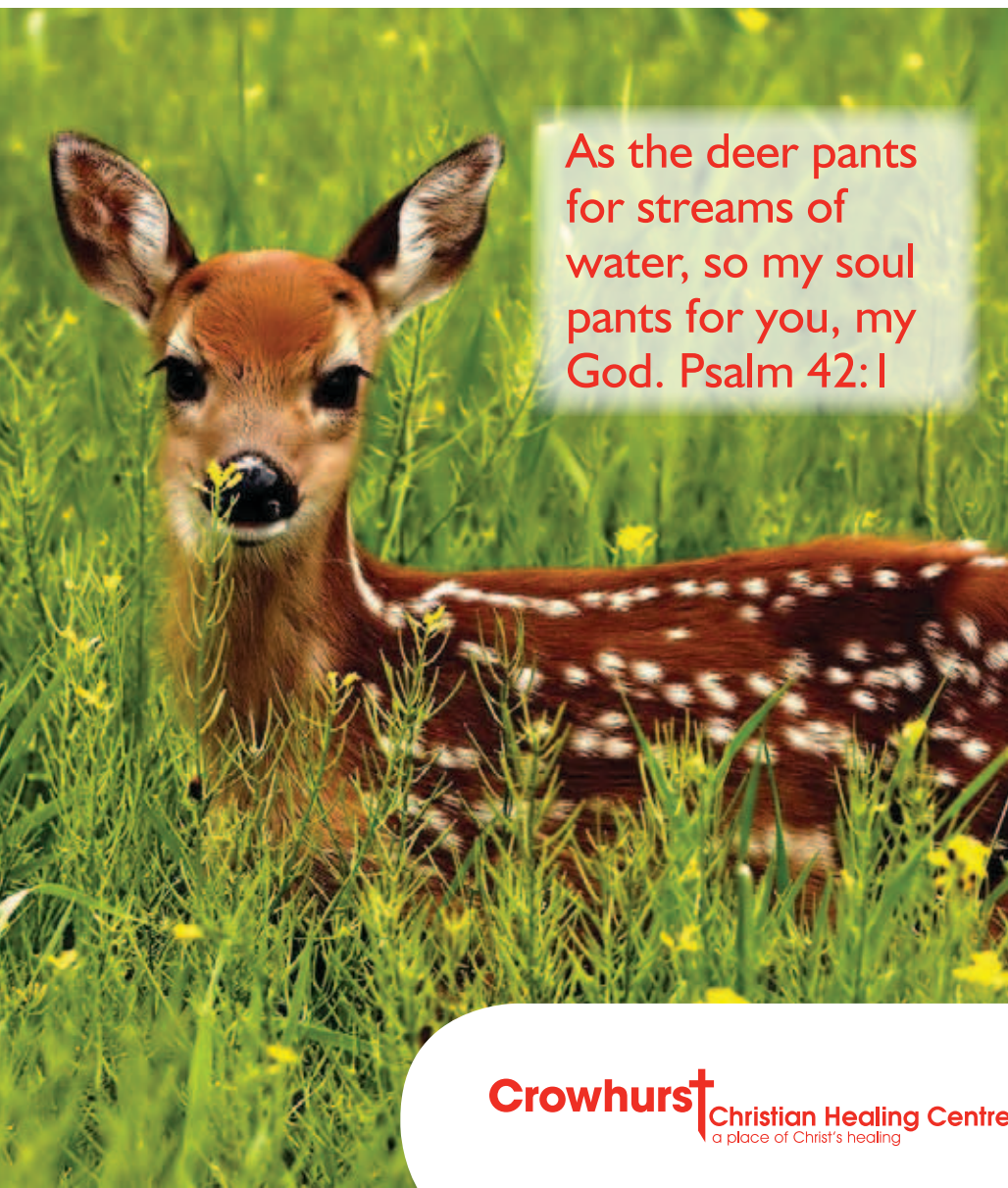

in His
Healing steps
Summer 2014



As the deer pants
for streams of
water, so my soul
pants for you, my
God. Psalm 42:1

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It will be late May when this magazine is printed and the weather will (hopefully!) be warm and sunny. How much better we all feel when the sun is shining. Even the worst of problems seem more manageable, whereas

on a cloudy, sunless day, we can tend to dwell more on difficult situations. However, we know that the sun is always there, even if we can't see it, (*"In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun!"* (Psalm 19:4.)

When we might be experiencing dryness or doubt, we know too that the Son is still there, even if we can't feel His presence, and our times are always in His hands ... *"My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me."* Psalm 31:15.

We may not have enemies pursuing us in a physical sense, but sometimes our circumstances can feel just as overwhelming and daunting. Over the last few months I have thought more and more about the need to continually put ourselves in the Lord's hands, especially when times are particularly difficult.

During a recent stay at the Centre, Steve Clark played a contemplative and very uplifting song from a CD called *'Waymarks: Songs for the Journey by the Northumbrian Christian Community'*. (This excellent CD is available from the Centre's bookstall.) The song, which comprises just a few brief, but very stirring sentences, is a great aid to prayer.

"Even though the day be laden and my task dreary, and my strength small, a song keeps singing in my heart. For I know that I am Thine, I am part of Thee; thou art kin to me, and all my times, all my times are in Thy hands."



The song starts off slowly, acapella style, until it culminates with several voices, children's laughter and music that makes you want to dance! When I listen to this song, especially in the morning, I often find myself spontaneously singing, and therefore praying these words at various times throughout the day, which help to keep my focus and trust on the Lord and be assured that regardless of our circumstances, He is in control; we are safe in His hands and nothing can separate us from Him. *"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:39).

This picture below is one of total trust. Could we put ourselves in the place of this cute little hedgehog and imagine the hand of our Heavenly Father holding us so securely?



Hearing from God

We read in the Bible that God spoke to many people audibly and in very dramatic ways. We may not always hear so clearly His voice as the characters in the Bible did, but He does have different ways of reaching people; through His Word, His wonderful creation, through music, flora and fauna, and maybe for some folk, perhaps even through their pets! (See Steve's letter on page 4.)

Your stories and testimonies

How has God spoken to you at the CCHC? I know the art room is one place where God inspires many folk - some amazing artwork is so often produced in there! Perhaps for you, it is during the services, in the grounds, the Prayer Walk, through birdsong, or maybe even in the quiet of your room? Do write in and share your experiences of how God speaks to you at Crowhurst.

Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue; please keep your stories and testimonies coming; they are such an encouragement to others. You can either email me directly at marys56@hotmail.co.uk, or send by post to the office.

Tributes

Two significant personalities within the life and work of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre died in March, within a few days of each other. Colin Crook has written tributes to the Revd David Payne and Charles Hooper. Teresa Bowen, who was a work colleague of Charles during the nineties, when she worked at the Centre, has written her own tribute to him.

Thanksgiving Day: 19 July

Do make a date for your diaries for this wonderful day of thanksgiving. See more on page 19.

I wish you all a lovely, sunny summer!

With every blessing, *Mary Slater*



Our Senior Chaplain Writes ...



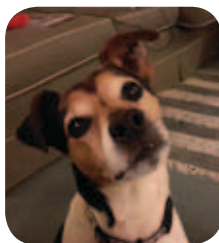
Dear Friends,

I've recently been given an article about Mandy, a stray cat who lived at the Centre in the mid 1980's with Joyce Watson. Joyce wrote, 'At Crowhurst,

Mandy played her own small part in the healing ministry.' She also caused much embarrassment, arriving in the dining room one meal time with a little mouse and on another occasion upending a row of seed trays in a sunny corridor! I expect many of our readers have anecdotes related to pets and I wonder if you have stories in which the Lord may have used a pet to 'speak to you'?

We have a dog, cat and a chicken at home. Ellie, Sam and Chipso (gift) give us much pleasure, some angst and not least of all various sermon illustrations! The most recent has spoken to a number of folk already and I'm feeling prompted to use it here.

Ellie, a Parsons Jack Russell, is a nervous, highly intelligent rescue dog, about 11 years old. As she has aged, I guess we are getting more and more lenient with her and subsequently Ellie is sometimes invited onto our bed. As soon as the invite 'Come' is given, onto the bed she springs. Ellie then nervously watches us and waits for further welcoming words to get more comfortable and little by little she tries to creep her way up as close to us as possible.



We've noticed that as this nestling in is worked out, there remains in Ellie a guilty alertness which seems to be saying to her, 'This is not allowed but enjoy it as long as you can and as soon as the inevitable rebuke comes, run for it!' However the longer she stays, the more comfortable she gets, even rolling onto her back with legs in the air and sometimes an occasional snore too.

I think sometimes we are like Ellie in the presence of Father. We've had the invitation to come to Him and all that's required to make us acceptable has been done – even to boldly approach – yet we enter His presence in a state of tension and dis-ease, ever alert for some rebuke or condemnation to be poured out on us. The result is that many followers of Jesus *experience* His presence rather than *enjoy* His presence; for many it is a working, rather than love relationship, a relationship of duty and not of trust.

It is interesting that the more time Ellie spends on the bed in our presence, the more comfortable she is.

Maybe as we spend more time in Father's company, the more comfortable we will be, even to the point of rolling onto our backs with legs and arms in the air – how's that for a posture of perfect trust?

Intimacy with Father is allowed; enjoy Him, love Him, and trust Him.

Grow in grace and peace as you journey on to the glory of God who made you, His Son who saved you and His Holy Spirit who is making you holy.

With our love from all at the CCHC.

Steve

Prayer Partners' Retreat January 2014

Despite being a 100 mile drive and four days out of our busy lives as Churchwardens, we look forward to visits to the CCHC as a time of peace and inspiration. A Prayer Partners' Retreat is not just relaxing though; it is time to reflect on what God has been doing at the Centre, and to seek His Spirit's guidance for the future, so 'Keep Waiting and Carry On' was the title.

The scene was set by the Chaplains (and aren't we blessed with both of them, as we are with Stephen and Maggie). We were updated with the progress of the new Art Room and its siting; the use of the other buildings with changing needs and the possibility of acquiring the house next door that was originally part of the Rectory grounds. It was encouraging to hear of increased numbers at Healing Services – too many for the Chapel at times; of people coming for short term ministry – even from London – and the problem in fulfilling their needs while other planned events are in progress.

All this gives the Chaplains very little *off-the-job* time, which must be hard when living on the premises. We heard too of sickness and minor accidents the staff have had, making us realise how important it is to have prayer for protection.

It was great to meet Andrew Bell, one of the Visiting Chaplains, who helps to spread the two Steves' loads. Andrew led the Tuesday evening Healing Service.

So having learnt what's going on, what did we do? We spent time individually in silent prayer, looking for insight into changing needs and opportunities; for visions, pictures, scriptures, prophesies and words of wisdom.

These were gathered on 'Post-its' in the Chapel and divided into *Protection*, *Art Room*, *Scriptures*, *Pictures* and *Words* by the Chaplains and will be used by the Trustees in their planning and prayers.



Some examples were:

Protection: *The blood of Jesus to cover the whole place, and each person and their families.*

Art Room: *That God will bless and extend the ministry of art. Could this be with some music too?*

Scripture: *Col. 1: 9-10: Praying for you – for God to give you knowledge of His will ... that you may bear fruit in every good work.*

Pictures: *Crowhurst in snow awaiting spring and new growth.*

Words: *As land is saturated, so Partners not just to soak all in prayer but saturate all – then the living water will flow.*

Late on Thursday afternoon there was a beautiful rainbow that I photographed. On seeing the picture on my camera, Steve G told us how an absent Prayer Partner had emailed a vision

of a dome over the CCHC. The dome is protection and the rainbow is promise. May God bless and sanctify all who work at the Centre, and all who visit.

It was the insight into how the place runs that makes the time so valuable for what we have committed ourselves to – to pray daily for the CCHC because it brings needs and visions of the place to life by experiencing it. We also have to admit that we enjoy being waited on, having beds made, the wonderful meals, and of course the peace and beauty of the grounds that are so beautifully cared for.

Richard Chadborn



Silent Lent Retreat Review your Rhythms



"I'm going on a silent retreat."

"What you?" was the response of quite a number of people who know me well! The silent Lent Retreat came at the beginning of a two week holiday

and seemed like the perfect start to a good break. I certainly wasn't disappointed. We arrived on the Monday to the usual warm Crowhurst welcome. Someone once said that when you walk through the door, you feel as if God is giving you a big hug. There were various degrees of excitement or apprehension as we gathered.

After a welcome cup of tea and evening worship, we made our way to the evening meal, when the silence began. It was amazing how quickly you became sensitive to the needs of people around you. Did they want the salt and pepper, or a glass of water refilling?

After dinner we were introduced to the theme of the Retreat *'Review your Rhythms'*.

We were to look at some of the 'spiritual disciplines' as outlined by Richard Foster in his book, *'Celebration of Discipline.'* (Reviewed on page 7.)

In the first session we looked at our priorities and some of the things we do daily, weekly, monthly and yearly with regard to loved ones, our relationship to the church, our relationship with neighbours and wider, our relationship with God and our own personal health and well-being. Quite a challenge with which to begin!

On Quiet Days and Silent Retreats, you quickly become aware of your body's rhythms and hear both what God and your spirit are saying. I found myself repeating (silently!) the old hymn, which says, "There is

a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God." It is as if the Lord was saying 'Just be.' After night prayer, we retired to bed.

Tuesday began with Morning Prayer, followed by breakfast, with sessions through the day on the 'Inward, Outward and Corporate Disciplines.' Each of us had the opportunity to talk to Steve G briefly with some thoughts to take away and pray about.

We thought about Meditation, Prayer, Fasting and Study; Simplicity, Solitude, Submission and Service; Confession, Worship, Guidance and Celebration. It was quite a challenging day.

Wednesday was a guided Quiet Day, led by Revd James Bamber and which was open to other folk from outside. As we thought about *'Our Treasure,'* again we considered the things we value and the stuff in our lives.

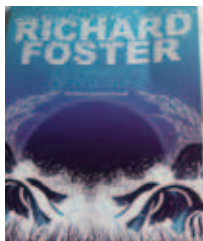
I found the time very beneficial and challenging. I am preparing to move to a new appointment and the Retreat has helped me to think about the rhythms of my ministry, and as I move into a smaller house, ask myself what are the things I really need? Where is Jesus in the list of things I value?

The silence by which we had been befriended drew to a close. The Retreat concluded with the Thursday morning Healing Service and I certainly went away challenged, renewed and refreshed.

Ian Wales



Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster



This is the kind of book you can dip in and out of, or read in big chunks. It is a book that I probably wouldn't have come across had I not been on the Lent Retreat; the extracts used in our programme had such a

profound impact on me and led to a desire to 'go deeper' with the Lord, so at the end of the Retreat I decided to buy this excellent book. Joyce Huggett's endorsement that the book is "*Exciting, stimulating and joyful*" was also a great encouragement!

I hesitated all week about buying the book because I wondered if it might be a difficult read. Celebrating discipline I thought? Doesn't sound like much fun, and I also wondered if it might be too 'academic' for me but once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down, and there aren't too many books that affect me in that way!

The book has been written with every type of reader in mind and the various Disciplines are aimed at everyone, which page two makes abundantly clear!

"We must not be led to believe that the Disciplines are for spiritual giants and hence beyond our reach, or only for contemplatives who devote all their time to prayer and meditation. Far from it; God intends the Disciplines of the spiritual life to be for ordinary human beings: people who have jobs, who care for children, who wash dishes and mow lawns. Joy is the keynote of all the Disciplines." (p2)

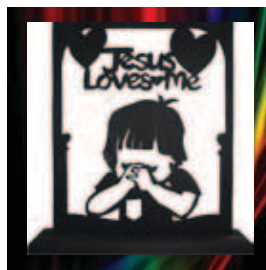
When I grasped the fact that celebrating discipline is **a joy and not a duty**, I felt quite liberated! The Retreat, and this book, have led to me spending more quality time with Jesus and not just fitting Him into my life. Hallelujah!

Mary

Our Facebook page is a good way of staying up to date with the CCHC. The team and guests regularly 'post' photos and comments for other users to read. However for those of you who are not able to use Facebook, here is what Steve G wrote in April, a few days before the Easter Celebration took place.

56 days ago I placed a prayer from a young lad called Isaac in our daily prayer book. Today he came with his sister Hope and his Nanny and Grandad to visit. As we sat on the floor in the sanctuary of the big Chapel we counted out the 56 pages of names of people we've prayed for until Isaac's face lit up when he saw his prayer. Isaac couldn't remember what he had prayed but I assured him Jesus not only remembered it but was also working at answering it too. I then suggested we sing "*Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so*" and before long we had a drum, rain maker and tambourine, and we were having great fun, as children do. I'm sure Jesus had as much fun as we did. What a treat for me.

One day Karl Barth was asked if he could summarize his whole life's theology in a sentence and he answered; "Yes, I can. In the words of a song I learned at my mother's knee:



'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'"

As you journey through this Easter weekend be reminded of the Good News; Jesus loves you and Easter proves it. Dare we celebrate the truth like children? Go for it.

Be blessed in Jesus love.

Steve Gendall

Easter Retreat Dancing into the new day

The Easter Celebration this year, led by Steve and Hilary Clark, was about the movement from Good Friday to Resurrection. Prior to the Easter Retreat, Steve C posted the following words on our Facebook page, and I thought it would be good to share with those of you don't have internet access or use Facebook.

"I sometimes wonder whether our lives as Christians are stuck on Good Friday rather than being an expression of the new life and Resurrection of Easter. Our Easter Celebration is called 'Dancing into the new day.'

It is very much about the movement from dark to light, from hopelessness to HopeFULL. It is a movement from two dimensional living to the three dimensional living of abundant life.

I am captivated by the sense of vitality that Jesus brings as He says 'I've come to set captives free.'

To paraphrase John 8:36, 'Jesus sets you free to be all you were meant to be.'

May we all have a life transforming time this Easter.

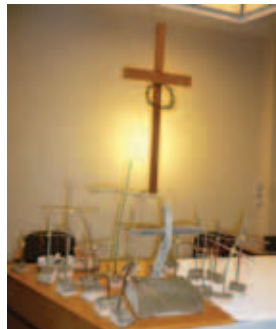
God bless, Steve Clark."

These stirring words lead us nicely into the Easter Celebration which judging by the pictures and comments from those who took part, was an 'eggsciting' mixture of prayer, reflection, refreshment, fun, fellowship, laughter and the usual wonderful food, including this delicious looking cake!

After welcomes and introductions on Maundy Thursday, the evening service reflected on Passover and later in the evening, there was the Breaking of Bread in the lounge.

On Good Friday everyone made a wooden cross, to which they attached red threads to symbolise the burdens they had been forced to carry (like Simon of Cyrene when he helped Jesus to carry the cross), and the crosses they themselves had chosen to carry as followers of Jesus.

On Saturday, people made Faberge eggs to represent the possibilities of new life, and filled them with yellow paper disks to represent the nourishing yoke that enables the new life to grow. On each yoke each person wrote Bible verses, or the names of people who nourished them.





A flip chart was well used for a collection of very amusing 'Egg' puns, some with creative drawings. There were six sheets in total; here are a few of them:

- *Eggstrapolate*
- *'Egglementary My Dear Watson.'*
- *Egghead*
- *Eggsdirectory*
- *Eggsact*
- *Eggsfoliate*

The winner was 'The Eggsodus.' (See below). Very clever!



On Sunday morning, before the Holy Communion service, there was a music, pictures and poetry session with Stephen, Maggie, Pippa, Hilary and Steve C and to round off the weekend, an Easter egg hunt, organised by Justine and Abi, took place after lunch!

Guests' Feedback

- *Coming to Crowhurst is always very special but this Easter Retreat was 'eggstra' special! So much laughter but also sombre and silence at the appropriate times. Thank you.*
- *A very special journey, thank you so much.*
- *The programme for the Easter Celebration surpassed my hopes and expectations.*
- *A wonderful four days; it was my first Easter Retreat; there will be others! During the Retreat I have been refreshed and also feel closer to our Lord and Saviour.*
- *There were many special moments; the making of the cross and hanging strands of red thread on it as the crosses or burdens we have; those chosen by ourselves and those laid upon us. Then placing them by the cross in the large chapel – all of them representing many burdens but taken by the Lord who says 'My yoke is easy.' Very special and very significant.*
- *The planing preparation and prayer for this wonderful Easter was awesome.*
- *Thank you for the best Easter present ever. Thank you for your prayerfulness and spirituality, and your fun. Pat Y.*
- *It was a really blessed Easter experience. David.*

Tribute to Revd David Payne

Gardening with God



The Revd David Payne entered the fuller life on Saturday 15th March 2014. David was born on 12th October 1931 in St John's Wood, London. After completing his education at Sherborne School, Dorset, he did National Service in Egypt. Then he gained

a degree in Natural Sciences from Clare College, Cambridge. After a period of teaching biology he worked in community at Lee Abbey.

He was ordained in 1962 and served in several parishes. In 1978 he became Warden at Crowhurst where he served faithfully in partnership with his wife Anne until 1984. There are still regular guests at Crowhurst who remember and greatly appreciate the ministry of David and Anne.

David kept in touch with many who worked with him at the CCHC and would update us from time to time on their progress. This network was a support when his beloved Anne died several years ago.

We are grateful to God for sending David to exercise his considerable talents at Crowhurst.

Colin Crook



Having left full-time service at the CCHC in 2005, it's so good to be back 'home' serving the Lord at the Centre as a volunteer gardener! My first day in March started, not too surprisingly, with a warm welcome! A few years ago, it would have seemed so unlikely that I would be a gardener. Nevertheless, this is what the good Lord has given me a passion for, even though I may be something of an amateur.

As Crowhurst has taught me, we consecrate our lives and gifts to Him each day, and we seek to do all for His glory. Wondrously we find that we can fulfill whatever the Lord calls us to - as it's only by His grace we achieve it. Awesome really!

So back to that first day. Spring was breaking out and nature was clearly recovering from its soggy winter ordeal - as I hope too, were those of our kind afflicted by the floods. Things take much longer for such folk though and we need to pray for them often.

The grounds were initially overhung with fog, but there was a pleasant sense that the light would break through. Geof's instructions for my first day were to cut down brambles, in two different locations - under a large tree, on the left as you enter the grounds from Forewood Lane and then down by the lower part of the Prayer Walk, releasing the willows lining the way from their brambly entanglements.

This all sounds like a parable of the Christian life, except that our merciful Lord does more than keep the brambles and weeds of our wrong attitudes at bay! He seeks to deal with them radically, ie instead of merely cutting down our unforgiveness by 'a few inches,' uprooting the whole pernicious plant.

So may we keep company each day - forgiven and free - with the Divine Gardener, our mighty Risen Lord! *Ronnie Carless*





Prayer Requests for Summer 2014
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Summer 2014

PRAYER FOCUS

*"For no-one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus."
1 Corinthians 3:11*

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted." Isaiah 12:4

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's protection of the house and grounds during the past months.
- Give thanks and praise that the staff and guests were able to cope with the restrictions and closure of part of the railway line to Crowhurst since January. Give thanks that the line is now open and the service is back to normal. Hallelujah!
- It is with great joy that we welcome a new member to the Crowhurst family. Clare, one of the house staff, has given birth to a beautiful baby girl called Jessica, a sister for Daniel. Mother and baby are doing well. Praise the Lord.
- Pray that the Lord will keep the staff fit and well. Give thanks for their willingness to work extra shifts to cover staff absences.
- Give thanks for the Visiting Chaplains, who provide cover so that the two Steves can have a time to come apart and rest awhile.
- Give thanks and praise that work on the new website is underway. This will be a great blessing to the growth of the Centre, reaching out to people throughout the world. Our grateful thanks to Steve C for all the many hours that he has given to working on the project.
- Give thanks for the visiting speakers who lead special teaching days and weekends. We are so blessed by their input; may they too be blessed.

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 108:5

June Prayer Focus

"Let them praise His name with dancing and make music to Him with the tambourine and harp." Psalm 149:3

JUNE

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2 - 6 | Prayer & Painting week |
| 7 | Creative Day of 'Dance in Worship using Banners' |
| 13 - 15 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 18 | Guided Quiet Day
Led by Maureen Stringer
'Peter: Disciple, Fisherman, Friend' |
| 20 - 22 | Rochester Diocesan Healing Conference: House Closed |
| 25 | Editorial Board Meeting |

"Sing to the Lord a new song for He has done marvellous things. Psalm 98:1



July Prayer Focus

“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3

JULY

- 11 - 13 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 15 Trustees’ AGM
- 19 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 25 - 27 Weekend with Russ Parker
 ‘Blessings’
- 30 Teaching Day:
 Led by Pastor Jim Beveridge
 ‘Releasing the Captives’

August Prayer Focus

“Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no-one can fathom.” Psalm 145:3

AUGUST

- 4 - 8 ‘Be Creative’ Retreat
 Led by Helen Warwick &
 Veronica Gendall
- 8 - 10 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 16 Guided Quiet Day
 Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
 ‘Sir, we would see Jesus’
- 30 Creative Worship Day

“The Lord sets prisoners free ... the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.” Psalm 146:8

“Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted.” Psalm 148:13



Prayer for The Centre

Prayer for staff at The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." Proverbs 16:9

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Martin Granger (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Shirley Dawson, Paul Raynor, Jane Thomas, Nigel Thonger and Mavis Williams.

- Give thanks for the life of Charles Hooper, who died in March. Charles served as a Trustee for many years and took on the responsibility of Chairman when Fred Scales retired. He had a great love for the Centre and even after suffering a severe stroke, was always delighted to receive news of Crowhurst via the magazine. Please pray for his wife, Prim and the family in their time of bereavement, that they may know, *"The Lord is close to the broken hearted."* (Psalm 34:18).
- We are delighted to welcome Nigel Thonger to the Board. Nigel, one of our Prayer Ministers, has a heart for the healing ministry. Furthermore, as a solicitor, he has given us the benefit of his wisdom when legal matters have arisen. We look forward to his input.
- Please continue to pray for new members to join the Board. Jane Thomas is retiring in August due to family commitments. We give thanks for her dedicated service over the years. We shall miss her cheerful presence and commitment to the Ministry of Christ's Healing at the Centre. We feel there is a real need to increase the number of trustees to at least eight, to allow for absences that occur from time to time.
- Planning permission for the new Art Room has been granted, praise the Lord! We give thanks for the generosity of all those who have contributed to the fund. Our target hasn't yet been met, but we trust in the Lord to supply our every need.
- Continue to pray for the Lord's leading in all we do. May we be obedient to His perfect will and timing.

Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight." Psalm 119:35

"In Christ, we who are many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the great gifts given to us." Romans 12: 5 & 6

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Penny, Andy, Brenda, Carole, Colin, Gwen, Hildegard, Jenny, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Paul, Pete, Pippa, Stephen, Veronica, Vivien, Yvonne and Visiting Chaplains

OFFICE

Chris, Jayne, Diane, Esther, Gillian, Hilary, Jenny, Jo, Juliette and Rosemary

HOUSE

Heidi, Abigail, Chrissy, Clare, David, Diane, Julian, Justine, Marion, Mavis, Mike, Sarah, Shirley and Steve

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Geof, Brian, Cliff, Desmond and Ronnie

MAGAZINE EDITOR & DESIGNER: Mary

"Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and for evermore." Psalm 113: 1 & 2

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a non-denominational, residential place with a vision to grow the Kingdom of God by continuing the healing, preaching and teaching ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, both at the Centre and in the wider context of the Church of Christ.

Tributes to Charles Hooper

Charles Hooper went to glory on Wednesday 19th March 2014. He was born on 14th February 1938 and after a career as a naval officer, he turned to administration.

For a while in the 1990's he was Administrator at the CCHC under the Revd Ray Jones. Later he was to chair the Editorial Board and become a Trustee. He rose to become Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a post he held with distinction for some years at a very critical point in the life and work of the Centre. He was the man for the job when at the beginning of the twenty first century it looked as though the CCHC might have to close. Being a prayerful and Godly man, he sought the Lord's will and made significant appointments at the Centre, and this changed everything. That the CCHC is now a thriving Centre is the legacy of Charles.

Charles will be remembered for his vision, energy, enthusiasm and loyalty. He was unusual in that together with vision he had an eye for detail, so when he proposed something it had been very carefully thought through. This meant that he had the ability to take people with him when proposing new plans for the Centre.

Sadly just a couple of months before his 70th birthday, Charles was struck down by a severe stroke. This left him bedridden for the remainder of his days. For such an active and fit man this was a severe blow, yet he fought it with great courage. His mind was as alert as ever and he cared deeply about the life and work of the CCHC.

Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife Prim and his children.

Colin Crook



Charles was a delightful colleague - a joy to know and work with. From the first day he joined the staff as Administrator in 1992, his thoughtfulness and kindness impressed me. His energy and enthusiasm for the work of Crowhurst were beyond doubt and his vibrant Christian faith shone through everything he did.

He would entertain us at tea breaks with multifarious stories from his naval days and his frequent references to "the galley" - that is, the kitchen - were amusing to us landlubbers.

He was full of ideas and worked hard, but cheerfully, as Editor of the magazine and later as Chairman of Trustees.

His jovial manner was infectious and as Jane Brooks, the receptionist at the time, once remarked: "Well, I'll give him 11 out of 10 for enthusiasm!"

Despite the cruel stroke that afflicted him in 2007, the 'real' Charles still shone through, as was evidenced by the great number at his funeral service. He touched the lives of many with his warmth, good humour and vitality. It was more a time of giving thanks for Charles's life than for sadness, though we cannot forget the past six years, when he battled through so many difficulties, with the ceaseless devotion of his wife, Prim. Our hearts go out to her and all the family.

As we raised the roof singing the last verse of the final great hymn, How Great Thou Art, we can only imagine Charles joining in with gusto:

"When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation. And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim - My God, how great Thou art!"

Till we meet again, Charles.

Teresa Goodall (née Bowen)

Secretary to Revd Ray Jones (1991-1995)

Allowing the Dove to Settle

Ladies Weekend: 21 - 23 March

I first came to Crowhurst last year and so enjoyed the experience, knew I had to come back. When I received this year's programme and saw the Ladies' Weekend, I decided this could be for me. I was not disappointed. What a wonderful weekend it turned out to be!

I had not heard Julie Sheldon speak before, nor read any of her books, so was able to come with an open mind. It was wonderful to hear the testimony of her amazing healing from the neurological disease, Dystonia, which had crippled her. However the main reason for the weekend was, as the title implies, to experience the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We were reminded that the Holy Spirit was part of the God-head and didn't work in isolation. Julie also stressed the importance of being rooted and grounded in God's Word, which so struck a chord with me, and everything she said was backed up with scripture.

Her explanation that the wings of a dove are held and locked like a pinion was so helpful. We need to be locked in God's word, then as the Dove settles we can soar with the Spirit and know a deep longing in our hearts.

Julie was accompanied by a friend, Virginia, Duhanes, who led the Saturday afternoon session. Virginia, also an excellent Speaker, with a completely different ministry, hears God speak through pictures and situations around her, which was helpful to hear about.



On Saturday evening after some teaching, there was space for Prayer Ministry, which I found was such a time of blessing and I know the other ladies did as well. I was given real peace about a situation that had been troubling me for some time.

It was wonderful how God brought together ladies of varying ages and different denominations to experience the healing love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in a new way.

So thank you to Julie and Virginia, and also the whole team at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for giving us such a memorable weekend; but most of all to our wonderful Saviour who never ceases to amaze us.

Judith Spink

And from the other guests ...



- *God's presence hangs like incense over this beautiful Centre, with healing and peace. What a privilege to have been at this first Ladies' Weekend. I have been well and truly blessed by Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Thank you Julie/Virginia and God!*
- *I have felt the peace of the Lord and the wonderful fellowship here; I felt Jesus was talking to me. I need to be more flexible and allow the Holy Spirit to lead me into all the good things Father God has for me.*
- *The CCHC is a place to be still and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit afresh.*
- *This was a wonderful, encouraging weekend, which brought me closer to God. I feel uplifted and know that He will be close to me on my return home. God is the apple of my eye and I am the apple of His. Amen!*
- *This was an opportunity to breathe in the Holy Spirit afresh.*
- *I was reminded again that wherever I am, God's love is constant and unconditional. He loves me so much.*

God is Good!

During the week before I was to attend a healing retreat weekend at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, I had prayed to the Lord to do what He had to do, to bring me closer to Him, and for my husband to know Him also, as he is not a believer.

Before I left for the Centre with a friend on the Friday, I had a lovely morning out with my husband. When I arrived at Crowhurst I telephoned him and everything was fine.

At the end of the weekend, I telephoned my husband before leaving to travel home. He told me he had not been well, believing he had the Norovirus, though the symptoms he described did not sound like this virus to me.

When I reached home he did appear to have a gastric problem, although his description of the initial symptoms sounded like those of a heart attack, which he'd had soon after my initial phone call. If I had been present I would have rung for an ambulance; he said he had considered this but after consulting the internet, decided that his symptoms were those of the Norovirus.

His breathing worsened so I eventually persuaded him to see his doctor. My husband is stubborn, and still thought he had a virus, but the GP diagnosed him as having a 'very funny bug' and prescribed strong antibiotics. These appeared to make him worse and by the end of my second week home his breathing had become so bad that we were getting very little sleep. In the early hours of Saturday, I called the emergency doctor, who came very quickly. I told him that I thought my husband had suffered a heart attack, with which he agreed. He immediately called an ambulance and the paramedics gave him an ECG which showed that he'd had a massive heart attack two weeks before. They immediately admitted him to hospital.

After his admission, I came home to spend a night alone for the first time in our 45 years of marriage. I have always dreaded the thought of staying on my own, but many

people were praying for us. I could feel these prayers and indeed I slept better than usual. Up until then I had been a very busy person, looking after my grandson on most days, involved in many church activities, plus other things. All this stopped immediately, just like a light being switched off, which was very hard for me.

Before this episode, I had booked a quiet day at the CCHC for the following month. My family insisted that I went as they thought I needed the break. I don't cry very easily, but that day at the Centre I could not stop. I badly needed to talk and asked God to put someone in my path. Lo and behold, one of the Chaplains came along and we went into the small Chapel, where he let me talk. We prayed together and I was given peace.

My husband's health has steadily improved since then, with the aid of medication and the fitting of a pacemaker/defibrillator and he came to stay with me at Crowhurst recently. During that stay I was really blessed by the Tuesday healing service. God touched me through two of the Prayer Ministers, and the Prayer Team's pictures.

In March I took part in a Holy Spirit-led faith building Ladies Weekend, hosted by Julie Sheldon and Virginia Duhanes, two amazing ladies with wonderful testimonies. This weekend was the first time I had left my husband alone since his heart attack and I feel I have now come full circle. God has brought me closer to Him, and I see small changes in my husband. To me it is a miracle that he is still alive.

The CCHC is an amazing place and we have a wonderful, faithful God who never lets us go. I have had a real wake-up call and now treat each day as precious. Crowhurst has been with me all the way in this incredible God journey. If you have not been to the Centre before, come and give it a try; God is so evident there in every way.

Jan Shrimpton

Forgiving Yourself

Only recently I ministered to someone who was racked with guilt and could not forgive themselves. For over sixteen years they had struggled with this guilt. As I gently pointed out - God had forgiven them over sixteen years ago.

This incident made me think about the problems of failing to forgive yourself and prompted these thoughts.

Step 1

Be honest with yourself. Why do you still feel guilty when you have prayed for forgiveness? There may be unresolved issues to pray and work through. Often these are to do with relationships with others. It can help to share these thoughts with someone you trust.

Step 2

Accept that your debt has been paid. There are many scriptures that can help. Here are just a few:

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 5:1

Since we have been justified through faith we have peace with God.

Romans 8:1

Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Step 3

Allow the Holy Spirit to heal your soul. Believe what the holy scriptures proclaim. Matthew 6:14 says – *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you.*

Forgiving yourself can be a long term process; it is good to remind yourself of one of the Bible verses on a daily basis.

Step 4

Begin to accept that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. When Jesus looks at you He sees something beautiful, and rejoices that He gave you life.

Remember this. When Jesus died on the cross, He died for you and for me. He paid the price for the sin of the whole world. That was a total and complete action – nothing else is required or sufficient. If you cannot forgive yourself then you are actually saying that His death on the cross was not sufficient and you require Him to be crucified all over again.

The good news is that when you confess to God He forgives you instantly and chooses never, ever to recall your confession to mind again.

Colin Crook



RELEASING THE CAPTIVES:
Led by Pastor Jim Beveridge
Saturday 30 July
£35.00 Inclusive of lunch or by
donation if staying in the house

A day examining the biblical and practical aspects of the Release Ministry. Topics covered will be:

- **Jesus ministry.**
- **Using the gifts of the Spirit.**
- **Ministry do's and don'ts!**
- **Compassion for the captive.**
- **The paths to release and freedom.**
- **Strong men and soul ties.**
- **Aftercare, including building up in Christ and maintaining freedom.**

A practical and equipping time for those who have unanswered questions or desire to learn of this aspect of Jesus ministry.

Thanksgiving Day 19 July

Music Review Music inspired by & 'THE STORY'

Thanksgiving Day begins at 10.15 with the morning service, followed by coffee and lunch. As in previous years, due to space constraints in the dining room, please bring your own packed lunch unless otherwise advised. Hot drinks will be provided.

At 2.15, we intend to formally recognise and give thanks to the Lord for all He has done. This will be in the form of song and prayer, and the building of a Thanksgiving Cairn.

At our recent Trustees day of prayer, one of the significant things revealed to us was that we are to be a House of Praise because of the Lord's goodness, His saving and His healing works. As we consider working this out in our daily life and rhythm, we have had an idea for Thanksgiving Day. We want to build a Thanksgiving Cairn. The cairn is an Old Testament idea – constructing a pile of rocks with some specific landmark, memorial or purpose in mind. Ours is thanksgiving and we need your help to make this work.

We hope to write words of thanksgiving on rocks which will be added to the Thanksgiving Cairn on Thanksgiving Day in the afternoon. We are gathering these 'one liners', words of thanksgiving, at the Centre too. Please send us your experience of meeting with God at Crowhurst, as brief as possible so that we can do some preparation beforehand. Ideally, if you are planning to be here for the day, bring your own stone already inscribed.

After Thanksgiving Day the cairn can be added to by individuals who visit the CCHC so that it will be an ongoing Thanksgiving Cairn.

Following the building of the Thanksgiving Cairn, there will be an opportunity to see the development of the new Art Room.

We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to our annual day of praise and thanksgiving.

The Chaplains: Steve, Penny and Steve

'Music inspired by *The Story*' is God's story of love and redemption, told through eighteen songs, from Genesis to Revelation, by twenty four well known Christian artists. The music style differs with each song, depending on the story being told, with some very dramatic and others more gentle and reflective, like the moving song, 'Be Born in me' (Mary, the mother of Jesus) and 'This is how Love Wins' (from the perspective of the thief on the cross) so beautifully sung by Stephen Curtis Chapman.



With 'Bring us Home' (Joshua) there is a strong Jewish flavour and if you close your eyes you could easily visualise yourself in Israel!

The singers really engage with their characters. Natalie Grant's moving song, 'Alive,' is about Mary Magdalene's discovery of the empty tomb. Natalie writes: "We don't sing songs *about* the stories, we take on the voice *of* the character, and I think that makes it so much more relatable. Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus alive, and to be able to put yourself in her shoes ... there would be no other words except for "Master, you're alive! You're alive!"

The final song on the CD, 'The Great Day (Second Coming)', sung by Michael W Smith and Darlene Zschech brings the musical to a grand finale ... "We met pain in a garden, where we lived a lie. We met hope in a manger and a baby's cry. Rescued by hands bleeding grace. Are we ready to see His face? On the great day."

I purchased this CD on the strength of two of the songs that were played on Christian TV and Radio. It has brought the stories and characters of the Bible alive for me in a new and exciting way and I highly recommend it! Available from the Centre's bookstall priced £12.99.

Mary

New Art Room The Next Step!

Friends of Crowhurst A new initiative



It was with excitement that I returned from holiday to discover that the planning notice for the new art room had been fixed to the entrance at Crowhurst – it went up on the 1st April – and it was no

April fool! On 2nd May we received planning approval for the Art Room project. Thank you Lord!

Once construction of the new building begins off site, all the preparatory groundworks on site can be done. When these are complete the new building will be brought in, in sections, and assembled on site. We are a while yet from completion but hopefully by the summer ...!

Thank you Lord for the generosity of so many. The fund for the art room stands at £76,800. We still need just under £20,000 to cover all the costs and it would be great to be able to 'crack' this. Thank you all.

Hilary Clark



Mid-week Retreat
Led by Helen Warwick & Veronica Gendall
Monday 4th - Friday 8th August
£360 (£320 non en-suite)

This informal retreat will give you the opportunity to explore your situation and relationship with God through creative writing, art and collage, looking at nature and giving your imagination free rein.



For many, many years a band of faithful Crowhurst supporters, called Crowhurst Representatives - have carried the responsibility of raising awareness of the CCHC to the wider Church community. Records and testimony show this has been done with prayer, commitment, generosity and a deep love for our Lord. With the arrival of the new Chaplains, questions were asked about how best this work can be carried forward. In February this year, after prayer, consultation and more prayer, the Chaplains agreed a way forward that would make maximum use of all the resources available to Crowhurst.

Our biggest present resource is you the guests, and those who support the ministry at the Centre. Secondly is the increasing global network through the web.

In this magazine will be a *Friends of Crowhurst* leaflet asking you all to please prayerfully consider being a *Friend of Crowhurst*. If you think it is right for you, it means you will agree to assist in some or all of the following ways.

To talk about Crowhurst and your experience of the Lord here to friends, neighbours and those you meet; to share our magazine with folk and thirdly to use the website, Facebook and Twitter to spread the Good News of your Crowhurst experience. Many of you do this already - you are true friends, thank you so much. We pray with thanks for you every day!

We appreciate the efforts of all those who have given much dedicated time and energy to this work in the past and hope that this initiative to move forward with as many as possible as *Friends of Crowhurst* will be warmly received and prayed for by you all. We have all been told about our Lord by someone. The work of telling people about Jesus, 'from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth', continues in the Power of God the Holy Spirit. Thank you.

The Chaplains; Steve, Penny and Steve

Job Hunting with Jesus



I am always in awe of the ways the Lord can speak to me and a visit to Crowhurst in January resulted in a clear message.

My visit included an inspiring ministry session with two Prayer

Ministers, during which we discussed my job prospects, or lack of them! I had applied for four jobs over the previous few months and each time had been unsuccessful. I was feeling really lost and unwanted. Prayers were said for me and I left feeling that Jesus had it all in hand, and I had no need to worry. I decided to 'surrender' and enjoy my time off in between jobs.

The following Thursday, 30th January, I returned to Crowhurst for the Healing Service. Browsing in the leaflet rack near reception I felt drawn to buy 'Every Day with Jesus.' When I opened the booklet I read the piece for that day, headed 'Easy Work.' I knew then this was a clear message for me, I had been heading down the wrong path!

A current health issue often leaves me feeling tired. Two of the jobs I had applied for had been back in training and development and had involved various degrees of travelling around, which would deplete me further. I realised that this is not what the Lord wanted for me.

The following week I received a strong feeling that I would be working in Haywards Heath, an easy fifteen minute drive away. One day, when it finally stopped raining, I decided to visit Haywards Heath and register with the temp agency. How the Lord must have laughed - I couldn't find the temp agency; it had either closed down or moved!

That same day I received an urgent text message out of the blue from the NHS, where I had been temping a few months earlier. When I rang in response I was offered my previous job back at an office in Brighton,

but the guidance had been so clear that I declined, and instead mentioned the magic words 'Haywards Heath.' There was a pause, during which time I heard the rustling of papers. I was then told that a temp at the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, had resigned just two days previously and a replacement was required - someone who could start ASAP.

The following Monday I started my new temp job at the Princess Royal Hospital. My job is interesting and I have lovely colleagues. Working three days a week rather than full time is perfect as it leaves me the time to develop my writing, something I have wanted to do since childhood. Three writing assignments have since arrived, with almost no effort on my part.

A few weeks ago I visited the CCHC again for the Thursday morning Healing Service. This time I decided to stay on for lunch and upon entering the dining room, asked the Lord where I should sit. I was guided to a table by the window and by 'accident' sat next to Mary, the editor for this magazine, whom I met for the first time. As we chatted over lunch, she asked me if I would like to write an article and as the Lord had orchestrated it all so beautifully for me, how could I refuse?

Janet Limb



Garden News



From the middle of March, work started on the hedges. Necessary pruning was carried out and strimming commenced. Various pots and tubs were planted with spring bedding plants and additional bulbs. Weather permitting, dead branches were removed from willows around the Prayer Walk to enhance its appearance. Dead heading of various plants was also carried out. Roses were sprayed and, in addition, weed and moss killer applied.

With the arrival of warmer weather the hedges required more attention; likewise areas that needed strimming. The summer bedding was planted up as usual and all the hanging baskets were thoroughly cleansed in readiness for planting. Hopefully all the flowering shrubs will be at their best again this year. Should it be a very dry summer, plenty of watering will have to be carried out.

With the arrival of spring, Cliff and I couldn't help noticing the leaves appearing on the trees. We will be busy again when they start to fall in the autumn! Could this be nature's way of planning ahead!



I would like to say in closing that the flowering cherry trees have been magnificent this year. With kind regards,
Desmond

And from Cliff

As I write this in late April, the ground has dried out and what has been laying dormant, now springs forth.

The daffodils were particularly welcome, showing their yellow trumpets, a sure sign of brighter things to come.



One task I undertook recently was the cutting back of ivy creeping over the walls of the well at the front of the Centre. Because of a grill covering the top, I could only reach so far down, so I will be keeping an eye out. Other weeds beware. The hoe and spade are ready for you!

Blessings, Cliff

Calendar of Events

JUNE

- 2 - 6 Prayer & Painting week
- 7 Creative Day of Dance in Worship using Banners
- 13 - 15 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 18 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Maureen Stringer
'Peter: Disciple, Fisherman, Friend'
- 20 - 22 Rochester Diocesan Healing Conference: **House Closed**

JULY

- 11 - 13 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 19 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 25 - 27 Weekend with Russ Parker
'Blessings' (See top right)
- 30 Teaching Day
Release the Captives
Led by Pastor Jim Beveridge

AUGUST

- 4 - 8 'Be Creative' Retreat
Led by Helen Warwick & Veronica Gendall
- 8 - 10 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 16 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
'Sir, we would see Jesus'
- 30 Creative Worship Day

'THE POWER OF BLESSING'

July 25th-27th

Led by Russ Parker

£190 full board en-suite

(£170 non en-suite)

£90 day guest (includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch).



What does it mean to bless someone? This weekend will be an opportunity to explore the undiscovered ministry of blessing and learn how to put its purposes into practice in our own lives.

Russ travels extensively around the UK and abroad, lecturing and teaching in issues connected with Christian Healing and Healthcare, Reconciliation and Church Transformation. He is currently the Project Director of Healing Wounded Churches.

He is the author of a number of books and his latest book, published in February 2013, is *"Rediscovering the Ministry of Blessing."*

'WHERE IS GOD IN DEMENTIA?'

19th - 21st September

£190 full board en-suite

(£170 non en-suite)

£90 day guest (includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch).



This weekend is for anyone wanting to know more about dementia, whether caring for, or supporting a family member or friend, or wanting to know how, as Christians, we can support those in our communities who are affected.

The weekend will be led by Elizabeth Milwain, a psychologist who has been working in this area since 1996.

Key topics are the understanding of dementia and supporting people with dementia within a context that allows for sharing experience, and discussing spiritual aspects of the condition.



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Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday

For a brochure, programme or further
information please contact the Secretary

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Healing^{in His}steps