

in His *Healing* steps

Autumn 2012



Taste and see that
the Lord is good.

Psalm 34:8

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

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Editorial



This issue is one of thanksgiving, welcomes and goodbyes!

On June 2nd over 90 people, including their family, attended Kath and David Batte's farewell service. It

was a happy day, and the service was one of celebration and thanks for their time spent at the Centre. The weather was dry so we were all able to sit out in the grounds after lunch to enjoy fellowship. We wish Kath and David a very happy and enjoyable retirement. See pages 16 & 17 to read more about the day.

We have now appointed a Senior Chaplain, Steve Gendall, and also a Deputy Chaplain, Steve Clark. With the same names, there will probably be some confusion at first! Both men will introduce themselves in the winter issue but you can read some advance information about them on page 5.

New people will bring new ideas but whoever comes to the Centre, we know that the CCHC will always continue to be a place of rest, renewal and spiritual refreshment. Change is inevitable and necessary in life and God never lets us stay static for too long because change means growth. 'He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:5)

As Peter McIntosh wrote in his book, The Miracle Continues, the right people have always come to the Centre at the right time. God knows what we need, even before we do, and we have prayed and trusted Him to provide us with our new Chaplains. He is a faithful God and has answered the prayers of everyone, praise the Lord!

In this Issue

In the absence of a Senior Chaplain, Penny Button, in her role as Associate Chaplain, has written a letter for the magazine, which you can read on page 4. Penny has been very busy ensuring that the Centre runs as smoothly as possible.

Healing & Wholeness Conference

This second joint conference held by the CCHC and Burrswood, was again a great success, with many folk in attendance, some residential and others coming each day. You can read three separate accounts of the Conference, starting on page 8.

Movement in Worship Day: 26 May

This was a very special day for all those who attended, as can be seen by their comments and photos, on pages 6 & 7!

We welcome...

Chris Fincham, our new Financial Administrator, replaced David Podevin, who retired in May.

We also welcome a new member to our editorial board, Jo McNeill.

We wish Chris and Jo every blessing in their respective roles; you can read more about them both on page 15.

Thanksgiving Day

Our annual day of praise and thanksgiving took place on July 21st. After the rain we'd had during the early summer months, we all wondered what the weather had in store for us, but we were blessed with a dry and warm-ish day. John Ryeland from the Christian Healing Mission, was our speaker in the morning and afternoon. You can read all about the day and see photos on page 18.

A Day in the Life

Many people have said how much they enjoy reading about the staff's working days at the Centre. In this issue, Jayne 'interviewed' Juliette, a long serving member of the team, and David, who is our new assistant cook and already proving very popular with his delicious meals! See page 20.

Book Reviews

We have two book reviews this autumn. One is from Colin Crook, who was given a book called 'Nearing Home' by Billy Graham, now aged 93! This book is about growing old, and doing it well! It is an encouraging and uplifting book, well worth a read.

The other review is 'The Heart of Healing' by George Bennett, which we have just had reprinted. If you have read Miracle at Crowhurst, you will definitely want to read this book! It is on sale at the Centre for £5.00 or can be posted out to you if you phone the office (postage & packing extra).

All that's left for me to say now is enjoy the autumn, a very beautiful and colourful season, which gently (hopefully!) leads us into the colder winter months. Autumn colours are always breathtaking and a joy to behold. Our Creator God ensured that we would never be left without colour and beauty, whatever the season!

Every blessing, Mary Slater.



Our Associate Chaplain writes...



Dear Friends,

My goodness I didn't ever expect to be writing in this column! But what a privilege and a blessing it is to serve our gracious Lord at The Old Rectory, Crowhurst, in whichever way we are called.

I have to tell you I am very excited! I believe that we are on the cusp of a 'new season', no, not just autumn approaching, but the gift of two new Chaplains starting out on a 'new thing' together. Steve Gendall in the senior post and Steve Clark, his Deputy.

Whilst both of these men have visited the CCHC before, neither have been regular visitors, so they will be coming with fresh ideas and no preconceptions of how things have to be done! I am sure they will want to absorb and continue many of the traditions that have proved to be at the heart of daily life of The Old Rectory, but there is always room for reaching out to others who would so benefit from the love of Jesus and His healing touch. God has a plan and a purpose and I am sure there will be much prayer and listening in the weeks ahead as His will is discerned. So watch this space and please continue praying that we always remain in God's will, but be courageous to follow where He directs.

I am writing this letter to you on a glorious July day; I know we haven't had too many! By the time you read this, time will have moved on so it will be 'old news', however, today we are half way through the three month interregnum between Kath leaving and Steve Gendall taking up the reins.

During this period I have had the responsibility of ensuring that services continue as usual, prayer ministry is available, that we have members of the team hosting meals and praying Grace, as well as ensuring someone is responsible for the night telephone. We have had to ensure the Guided Quiet Days, weekday courses and Healing Retreat weekends all run smoothly, with the right people in place at the right time.

On paper this is a very scary task bearing in mind that there are at least fifteen services at The Old Rectory every week, and maybe twenty guests to be available for at any one time, fourteen meals to pray Grace, as well as the programmed events. But we should never forget we have an amazing, awesome God – Jehovah Jireh - who sees our needs and provides for us abundantly! He went ahead of us and touched the hearts of at least twelve Ordained Ministers to come as Visiting Chaplains. Trustees and members of the Ministry Team doubled their time and efforts during this period, together with other staff who were willing to carry out additional tasks on a regular basis to ensure that everything was covered.

My goodness what blessings, what a gracious God! Everyone coming together to make a whole, so that there are no gaps, nothing cancelled, all continuing as usual. I have the picture of a giant patchwork quilt, beautiful colours, different patterns; each person forming a patchwork square and it is held together by the beautiful silk stitching of our gracious God! The lining is made of prayers prayed for the daily work of God at the Centre; it is the support needed to keep the quilt smooth and in its right place, a beautiful piece of work indeed!

So, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has used their gifts, time,

talents, and prayer life to make this interregnum at the CCHC such a blessing, and most of all let us praise Jehovah Jireh for seeing our needs and abundantly providing for them!

With love and blessings,

Penny

Steve Gendall, Senior Chaplain (from September)



Both Steve and his wife, Veronica, were born and brought up in what was Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. They grew up through the trauma of the liberation war and the struggles of the newly independent Zimbabwe.

Steve was educated at Hamilton High School, in Bulawayo, after which he completed an Apprenticeship in Electrical Engineering and for a short while ran his own business. During this time he felt God's call to the Ministry of the Priesthood, and was among the first group of ordinands trained at the Bishop Gaul Theological College in Harare. After ordination in 1990 he was given the parish of the Lowveld in south eastern Zimbabwe, an arid rural area roughly the size of Wales.

For twelve years he ministered to a diversity of congregations, from villagers hearing the gospel for the first time under their mango trees, to company executives responsible for multi-national interests in the area.

In his additional role as Diocesan Youth Chaplain, Steve was directly exposed to the concerns of Zimbabwean young people, and was active in organizing the annual National Youth Conference.

In the latter years, as the Government land reform process gathered momentum, Steve found himself performing a delicate balancing act ministering to the commercial farmers under his care as well as the local, land-hungry Zimbabweans.

In 2002 he and Veronica felt God leading them to move their family to England, where for the last ten years he has been the Vicar of the United Benefice of Lingfield and Crowhurst in the Diocese of Southwark.

With their two daughters now of university age, Steve and Veronica felt that God was calling them into a change of ministry, and they are looking forward to focusing on their mutual interest in the prayer and healing ministry here at Crowhurst.

Steve Clark, Deputy Senior Chaplain (from October)

For the past five years Steve Clark has been Rector of four parishes in the Republic of Ireland – (Belturbet, Cloverhill, Drumalloor and Drumlane). He is the Diocesan Director of Ordinands and a member of the Diocesan Council and General Synod of the Church of Ireland. He is highly thought of by his peers and Bishop.

Steve has extensive experience in the healing ministry, having been Chaplain and later Senior Chaplain at Burrswood from 2001 until 2007. Prior to that he worked in parishes and for three years was Warden at the Scargill House Christian Conference Centre.

Steve is married to Hilary. His interests include natural history (he was a science teacher before ordination) photography, painting and wood turning.

Movement in Worship Day

Saturday 26 May 2012



Twenty one visitors enjoyed the Movement in Worship Day on Saturday May 26th led by Denise, Yvonne and Mavis. It was Pentecost weekend, so our first worship song was 'Holy Spirit move within me' and His presence became tangible from then on throughout the day. Stephen played the keyboard, Maggie sang and Pippa harmonised, all very beautiful. Sometimes Stephen's playing led us into free worship in tongues and God's Spirit touched many hearts as we expressed our joy in Him in new ways. The weather was so glorious that we were able to use the garden as well as the large chapel. It was a very special day as can be seen by some of the following comments!

- A joyful, uplifting day. I felt free to really worship the Lord with my whole being. Thank you so much to the team who put this day together. Jill
- A beautiful place in which to 'dance for joy'. Thank you to all those who helped to make this day so special. Amen
- Peace, joy and God's grace in abundance through the beauty of dance and the blessing of Holy Communion
- Such peace and acceptance and a touch of release of healing, the Lord has plans; what joy to be in the Inner Sanctuary
- Amazing Lord, you bring us together, you make us flow together, we became one body in you – unity in the Spirit. Hallelujah!
- What a wonderful day. The Holy Spirit was really with us, touching people and what a lovely group of people; such freedom to worship in different ways



- I felt like a living flame, dancing in the Spirit!
- The singing in tongues was truly pure and beautiful. I don't speak in tongues myself but I found this very moving
- The Holy Spirit blessed me with His overwhelming power
- Water, Fire and Ruach – what a wonderful way to prepare for Pentecost!
- The power of the Holy Spirit coming from the banner waving. I didn't expect a Creative in Worship Day to be a healing experience
- An amazingly blessed day; thank you Lord for letting us come and feel freedom to worship in dance and spirit
- God's blessings were upon us. How fantastic to have the weather to praise God out in the gardens. Thank you!
- Thank you Lord for helping me through this wonderful day worshipping you in Spirit and Truth, and with our whole body. Blessed be your name
- Using movement with arms, hands and whole bodies enable us to worship so much more powerfully. Likewise the flags and ribbons as an extension to this made wonderful tools with which to worship the Lord



When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a nun until I saw Maria in the Sound of Music. Then I thought I couldn't be a nun and a mum, so I wanted to be a ballerina, but my sister did the dancing and I just read the 'dancing books', dreamed and learned to play the piano

I finally plucked up courage to join a group when I was 40 – a bit of 'Old Thyme Music Hall'; I loved to sing and do a bit of dancing. Now, today, I have finally had a chance to 'dance for the Lord' and feel His healing touch through music, dance and worship

I have three beautiful children and two grandchildren. God has blessed me and given me more than I could ever have dreamed of and life is not over yet!

Thank you so much for making a dream come true. God bless you all in your calling. (Six months ago I couldn't get up and downstairs – but today and without painkillers, I could dance with my whole body.) I am probably going to ache all day tomorrow but it was worth it!

Sue Fincham



The Healing Conference 14 - 17 May 2012

I am the Lord who Heals you

'The Journey from brokenness to wholeness'

The Healing Conference (continued)



During an early session at the Healing Conference, I asked for prayer to heal a relationship which had broken down many years ago. In her talk on Prayer Ministry, Angela Seaton-Mills suggested that we should pray God's kingdom into a

person's life so, every time I thought of the broken relationship, I prayed that prayer.

On the final evening, Sue Fauchon-Jones led a very gentle time of worship and I left the Chapel feeling totally at peace. This feeling remained with me until I turned out the light in my room and lay down to sleep. Immediately, supernatural darkness surrounded me and I was in the middle of a spiritual battle. I remembered Paul's words in Ephesians 6, '*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*' I put on the Armour of God, but even so I could not stop shaking. I was terrified, buried my head in the pillow and begged God to make the battle stop. The only response I could hear was the word 'RELEASE'. Occasionally, I dozed off for a few minutes but the battle continued. It was nearly 4am when my room became peaceful and quiet at last. I slept for three hours and woke feeling totally refreshed.

I told Sue what had happened during the night, but not the word God had given me. She prayed for me and said that the word she was hearing was 'RELEASE'. Gareth Tuckwell came to preach at the Healing Service which concluded the Conference. When I was talking to him later that morning, he put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'RELEASE'. I thought of

Jesus' words in Matthew, Chapter 18, '*If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my father in heaven.*' I was overwhelmed by God's peace and love and I knew that He had released me from all the pain, hurt and negative feelings which had held me captive for so many years. Like one of the rescued Chilean miners, I could say, '*I was with God and the devil. They fought and God won.*'

(PS: The person who caused so much pain in my life was my mother. Shortly after I sent my article to the editor, a nurse at the care home where my mother lived phoned to say that her health had suddenly deteriorated and she was not expected to live for much longer. I was at the Centre when the phone call came asking me to come up to Tunbridge Wells, as my mother was dying. I prayed for a safe and problem-free journey. God answered my prayer and I was able to spend the last twenty minutes of my mother's life with her. Although she was barely conscious, she squeezed my hand, so she knew I was there.

I now understand why my mother behaved as she did, and why she was totally oblivious to the pain she caused me for so many years. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

I would like to conclude with two of the verses from Nettie Rose's beautiful hymn, Praise you Lord for the Wonder of your healing ...

*Praise you, Lord for the wonder of Your healing,
Praise You, Lord for Your love so freely given.
Outpouring, anointing, flowing in to heal our wounds.
Praise You, Lord, for Your love for me .*

Praise You, Lord for Your gift of liberation, Praise You, Lord, You have set the captives free. The chains that bind are broken by the sharpness of Your sword. Praise You, Lord, You gave Your life for me.



I wanted to write to say thank you for the amazing teaching days on the Christian Healing Ministry at the joint Healing Conference. I was very privileged to attend all the sessions.

For many years I knew what it was to be 'broken' in mind and spirit, and during those very difficult years, the CCHC became a place of 'refuge' for me. In fact, at times, it was the only place I felt safe. I stayed several times in the house for short periods and received prayer ministry.

Little by little the Lord started a deep healing work in my life. I am now enjoying a wholeness I have not experienced before, and love coming to the Centre on as many Thursday mornings as I can for the precious Holy Communion and Laying on of Hands. I am bringing other friends who are on their journey from brokenness to wholeness because I know the ministry at the Centre is very special, very gentle, compassionate and safe. TOR to me is like a little piece of heaven on earth. I am so grateful to God for this deep inner healing that I have experienced.

So thank you everyone at the CCHC (and Burrswood) for this Conference, and for those who have been channels of God's healing love and grace to me, and so many others. May God bless you all abundantly.

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Mrs Jan Cooper

This year's Conference, which took place in May, was again held at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. It was the second joint venture for the teams from Burrswood and the Centre. Every bed was used and, in addition, some twenty plus day visitors attended over the four days of the Conference.



Imagine the buzz of animated conversation in the lounge and dining room! So many people with stories to share, questions to ask and eager hearts and minds to discover more of the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Not one person was disappointed. The combination of the medical and associated expertise of the Burrswood Team and the interactive, local church focused experience of the Crowhurst Team offered riches of encouragement and learning to all attendees.

The days were structured around times of worship, teaching sessions, free time for people to enjoy the Art Room or walk in the countryside and opportunities to receive personal prayer ministry. The beautiful surroundings of the Centre, the comfort and space within the house and the nourishing meals all contributed to the feeling of being 'well fed' in more ways than one!

In any conference like this it is impossible to cover every aspect of Christ's healing ministry. Mental health issues, supporting those with dementia and praying with those in residential homes are just some of the topics suggested for future teaching sessions.

The Healing Conference (continued)

The benefits of the Conference continue to be explored as most speakers provided useful handouts for participants to take away and use at their leisure, and to share with others.

This description cited by a participant seems to sum up the blessings of the Conference:

"A wonderful, inspiring and healing experience".

Thanks be to God and to all who helped in any way to make the Conference such a source of blessing.

Revd Bridget Jenkinson



The CCHC, a place of Peace, Hope and Tranquility

I first heard of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre whilst I was working at a surgery in Hastings. At the time I was a receptionist to a doctor who recommended it to patients whom he felt would benefit from the quietness of a few days spent there, and on a couple of occasions I was aware of the help it gave to them.

This was some twenty years ago, but it always left me wondering what Crowhurst was about and what it was like. One Thursday in spring, I was invited by my friend Rosemary to visit the CCHC for the first time, and after an enjoyable journey through the beautiful springtime lanes we arrived at the Centre. The lovely scenery surrounding the house was spectacular, and on entering, the overwhelming feeling of comfort, friendliness and the welcome of staff and visitors was so relaxing.

Then to the Chapel for the service, where the atmosphere and peace of the healing service was the most moving experience. I thought it a privilege to be able to take part, and afterwards have an opportunity to browse through the many interesting books and items on sale, while also enjoying a friendly chat with everyone, and a nice cup of coffee.

To round off my very special morning at the Centre, I was able to enjoy further companionship with fellow worshipers during an excellent lunch. Then the time came to leave, but I took away a memory of peace, hope and tranquility of this beautiful place. Thank you.

Frances Dennison



Prayer Requests for AUTUMN 2012
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Autumn 2012

PRAYER FOCUS

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is the Rock Eternal." *Isaiah 26:4*

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Praise the Lord, O my Soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name." *Psalms 103:1*

PRAYER

- We welcome our new Senior Chaplain, Steve Gendall and his wife, Veronica. May the Lord pour out His blessings upon them as they settle into their new home. We look forward to his ministry among us. God is good. Praise His holy name
- We give thanks and praise that our new Deputy Chaplain, Steve Clark and his wife, Hilary, will be joining us in October. May they too soon feel at home as they become part of the ministry of Christ's healing love at the CCHC
- We give thanks and praise for Penny, our Associate Chaplain, who coped magnificently during the interregnum. Apart from her own duties, she organised the rota for visiting chaplains, ensuring there was always someone available to look after the needs of the guests
- We give thanks and praise for the visiting chaplains and the ministry team who took on extra duties during the interregnum
- We give thanks and praise for all the staff who worked so well during the interregnum. Well done good and faithful servants
- Katie and Sue are no longer with us. We thank them for their faithful service. May the Lord bless and watch over them day by day
- We welcome Sarah to the house staff and David, who is joining Diane as assistant cook

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." *Psalms 115:1*

September Prayer Focus

*"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." *Philippians 4:9**

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 31 Aug -
2 Sept | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 5 - 8 | Ordination Retreat |
| 19 | Guided Quiet Day:
Led by Maureen Stringer
'Being changed from one degree of glory to another' |
| 21 | Teaching Day:
'Prayer ministry after service' |
| 22 | Teaching Day:
'In Depth prayer ministry training' |
| 25 - 30 | Prayer and Painting Week |

*"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." *Philippians 4:13**

October Prayer Focus

*"In Him, and through faith in Him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence." *Ephesians 3:12**

OCTOBER

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 3 | Editorial Board Meeting |
| 5 | Teaching Day:
'Overcoming fear & anxiety' |
| 6 | Teaching Day:
'Healing our fear of anger' |
| 12 - 14 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 17 | Guided Quiet Day:
Led by James Bamber
'Living as part of God's Masterpiece' |
| 19 - 22 | Wholeness through Christ |
| 26 - 28 | Prayer Partners Retreat |
| 31 | Art, Music and Reflection |

*"Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." *1 Corinthians 15:58**

November Prayer Focus

*"Sing to the Lord a new song. His praise in the assembly of the saints." *Psalms 149:1**

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2 - 4 | Healing in the Gospels |
| 5 - 9 | Marilyn Baker Music Week |
| 10 | Guided Quiet Day:
Led by Sister Elizabeth
'Seek the Lord while He may be found'. |
| 16 - 18 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 20 - 25 | Prayer & Painting Week |

*"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise." *Psalms 145:3**



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
... It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
Colossians 3:23

PRAYER FOR THE TRUSTEES

Colin Crook (Chair), Jim Beveridge,
Shirley Dawson, Martin Granger, Jane Thomas
and Mavis Williams

- On June 28th we were delighted to appoint Steve Clark as Deputy Senior Chaplain. He and his wife, Hilary, will be joining us in October. Please pray for them as they prepare to leave their parish in Ireland. May all arrangements go smoothly. Pray for calm waters, a safe landing and a trouble free journey to Crowhurst
- Lillian Mumme has resigned from the Board. We thank her for her contribution to the life and work of the Centre, both as a Trustee and as a Visiting Chaplain. May the Lord bless and watch over her in the years ahead
- Pray for Jane Thomas as she prepares a leaflet to give to potential new Crowhurst Reps. May this encourage others to spread the good news of the ministry of Christ's healing love at the CCHC
- We give thanks for the Lord's provision for all our needs, for the recent legacies we have received, and the continued generosity of all those who regularly support the healing ministry at the Centre. May the Lord richly bless each one of them
- Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim. May the Lord strengthen and heal them day by day

"May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us;
establish the work of our hands for us."
Psalm 90:17

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

SENIOR CHAPLAIN: Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN: Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN: Penny

MINISTRY TEAM: Andy, Carole, Colin, Gwen, Hazel, Hildegard, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Paul, Pippa, Stephen, Vivien, Yvonne,

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR: Chris

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Jayne

HOUSE MANAGER: Heidi

MAINTENANCE MANAGER: Geof

OFFICE STAFF: Esther, Gillian, Juliette

HOUSE STAFF: Clare, Chrissy, Justine, Sarah, Steve, Zanetta,

COOKS: Diane and David

GARDENER: Desmond

PIANISTS: Pippa and Stephen

FLAUTIST: Vivien

VOLUNTEERS: Christine, Cliff, Evelyn, Jenny, Mavis, Rosemary, Shirley, Yvonne

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mary

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." Romans 15:13

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Jo McNeill New Editorial Board member

We are very pleased to welcome Jo to our Editorial Board.



I moved to Battle from St Leonards in 2002, with my husband Peter, and children Ben, Lara and Abbey and feel very fortunate to live in such a lovely part of the country. We are members of Battle Baptist Church and

'regulars' at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. I edit two community magazines called the Really Useful Directories, one which covers Battle and the surrounding villages and the other which is for Hastings and St Leonards.

I was first introduced to the Centre back in the 1980's when Ray Jones was Warden. Peter and I were volunteers and helped with rotas, teas and whatever else needed doing at the time. The wonderful sense of God's presence at The Old Rectory and the love shown by the staff were two of the main things that attracted me. It's most definitely one of those 'thin places'!

As a family we rediscovered the centre when Peter and Kay McKintosh were in charge. Ben, Lara and Abbey have always been made very welcome at the services even if they spent a lot of the time colouring when younger, and then made a bee-line for the biscuits when the service finished!

Having received so much, I hope I will be able to contribute something back to the Centre as a member of the Editorial Board.

Jo

Chris Fincham, Financial Administrator

Chris, joined us in May as Financial Administrator.



I am so pleased to be working at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, looking after the finances.

Having officially retired from NHS Finance several years ago, I have done various part-time jobs since, but Crowhurst definitely feels like the place where God wants me to be. The welcome has been wonderful, and what a privilege to work in such a beautiful environment.

I live in Bexhill with my wife Sue. We have three grown up children, and two young grandchildren who live in the Scottish Highlands – a place we have come to enjoy and appreciate on our regular visits north of the border.

As a keen cyclist, I especially enjoy being able to use my bike to get to work here – even though the weather has not always been kind (so far). If nothing else, it helps to keep me fit and work off the puddings at lunchtime!

When not at work or visiting family, my favourite activity is tending our large garden and vegetable plot, where I'm enthusiastic but definitely an amateur (I am hoping to pick up some tips from the Centre gardeners, Desmond and Cliff!).

Above all though, I am really enjoying being part of the Centre team and look forward to the exciting future God has in store for the CCHC.

Chris

Farewell to Kath and David Batte

We said goodbye to the Revd Kath and Dr David Batte at a moving service of Holy Communion on Saturday 2nd June. Over 90 folk were present in the congregation, including some who had travelled a distance to share in the service. Kath preached a very apt sermon for the occasion. The couple were anointed for the next phase of their walk with the Lord.

David and Kath were very modest in what they would like as a leaving present. Kath had a Bible and David some DVDs that he wanted. They were presented with a handsome cheque donated by hundreds of supporters and well-wishers. This was a reflection of the love and high esteem in which they were held. The Board of Trustees presented them with a framed photo montage of all the people that had worked or ministered with the couple over the past five years.

Kath was appointed Deputy Chaplain in 2007 and very quickly proved to be God's gift to us. She worked closely with Peter and Kay McIntosh until their retirement. At the same time David's considerable gifts were recognised and he became a very able Centre Manager – a post that was created around his skills.

Then Kath was promoted to Senior Chaplain and blossomed in the work. Life was not always easy as we were unable to get

any full-time Chaplaincy help to support her. Kath rose to the occasion and did a magnificent job. She combined excellent management skills with a strong pastoral heart. Many have good reason to be thankful for both the teaching and the ministry that she exercised.

Kath and David acted as a team. I know that David was a great support to her with his calm and unruffled manner. They gave of their time completely free of charge – taking no stipend or salary. For this the Trustees are very grateful.

We shall miss Kath and David but rejoice in their wonderful contribution to the life and work of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and wish them God's blessing for the future.

Colin Crook



Kath & David receiving their gifts

And from Kath and David...

The weekend of June 2nd is one this nation will remember for a long time, as a monarch's Diamond Jubilee is something that will not be celebrated again for many a year.

On a personal note, June 2nd is a day David and I will remember for a long time to come, as we had our own important celebration – a celebration of seven years of involvement in the life and ministry of Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. I say seven years as it was almost exactly that since I began my ministry at the Centre, firstly as a Locum Minister in 2005 and then as a permanent Chaplain in 2007.

It was an emotional day of praise and thanksgiving as friends, family and colleagues gathered together to thank our gracious God for His unfailing goodness and providence, and to commend all our futures into His hands. This was so special.

And now we would like to thank all of you who joined in those celebrations, for your love and support, and for simply being with us. Also we want to thank you good people for your incredible generosity. Thank you for the many gifts and cards that you showered on us and for the cheque we were presented with. It was awesome! The words thank-you seem totally inadequate to express how we feel, but they come from the depths of our being.

May God bless you all.

Love Kath

Peter McIntosh and Kath



Colin anointing Kath & David



**David,
Jack
of all
trades,
master
of many!**

Thanksgiving Day 21 July

Thanksgiving Day this year was fine and dry, unlike last year when we had to dodge the rain as we went in and out of the marquee!

John Ryeland from the Christian Healing Mission in London (pictured right) was our speaker in the morning and afternoon and his challenging, but uplifting talks gave us all plenty to think about.

The morning Holy Communion Service was preceded with a time of rousing Praise and Worship – setting a prayerful atmosphere and inviting God into our presence.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the past year followed the opening worship and later during the service, Colin officially anointed Paul and Olive Deeming for the ministry team (See photo right).



John Ryeland began his talk by telling us how he had first come to the CCHC in 1984. He said that the presence of the Lord was very much there then, and continues to be so today. He stressed how important it is to always fix our eyes on Jesus, quoting from Isaiah 26:3, which sums up the ministry of Jesus. 'You keep Him in perfect peace, Him



whose mind is fixed on you. He said that we must always fix our eyes on Jesus as this will bring out a trust in Him. He is a channel where peace flows. The world invites us to fix our eyes on material things but we need to stay focused on Him alone, so that we can receive His rest and peace. *Seek first God's Kingdom* (Matthew 6:33).

The morning service concluded with Charles Wesley's wonderful hymn, *O for a thousand tongues to sing*. There were a good number of men present to sing the male parts of this rousing hymn and sing it as it should be sung!

Lunch followed the morning service and many folk sat in the grounds to eat their picnics and fellowship with one another, while invited guests and those staying in the house were treated to a delicious buffet lunch.

John's afternoon talk was called '*Lifting the cup of salvation*.' The theme of his talk was thanksgiving. He quoted from Robinson Crusoe, a challenging thought – '*All our*

discontents for what we want spring from not being thankful for what we have.'

So what is the best way of giving thanks? The Psalmist in Psalm 116:12 asks, *How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me?*

John said that giving thanks actually encourages thanksgiving. If we were to think of five things to give thanks for, we would more than likely be able to come up with five more! Thanksgiving takes our eyes off our problems and we receive more by being thankful than by dwelling on what we don't have.

In the story of the Ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19) – only one of the men actually came back to say thank you to Jesus for healing them, and in turn, this man received so much more than his healing by doing so.

John concluded his talk with a prayerful reflection, in which we were invited to ask Jesus to come into our presence. It was



moving and powerful, and the sense of the Lord among us was very tangible.

Our afternoon programme concluded with a wonderful time of praise and worship led by our ministry team, accompanied by Stephen's beautiful photos. Mavis and Yvonne brought banners into our worship and the atmosphere was charged with the Lord's presence!



Our final hymn, *Jesus put this song into our hearts* was sung with great gusto and was a fitting end to our day.



Tea and cakes followed the final service; no one was in a hurry to go home and many fellowshiped in the house and grounds.

A day in the life...

Our 'Day in the life' series features, Juliette, who works in the office and David, our new cook. The questions we asked them were:

1. How long have you worked at the Centre?
2. What does your day include?
3. What gives you the most job satisfaction?
4. What makes you smile?
5. What would you like other people to know about this special place?
6. Anything else you would like to say?

Juliette - Office Staff

1. Eight happy years on 1st September 2012!
2. Acknowledging all the donations for the magazine and the Centre, updating the database, recording payments for Gift Aid; checking stocks of cards and gifts; seeing reps to do re-ordering and being shown new products and cards.
3. Going home and feeling I have had a very productive day. Each working day is varied and interesting.
4. Walking through the front door and feeling 'at home'! Seeing my work colleagues and catching up with events. Seeing residents buying the cards and gifts I have chosen and making appreciative comments!
5. That you have to come to see and feel the presence of the Lord so tangible and close, and enjoy the wonderful spiritual services - so uplifting! I have brought friends to services and they have benefited so much.
6. I should have retired three years ago and am so thankful and blessed that I am still needed here. I hope to stay all the time I can be of service - for another eight years at least.....



David - Assistant Cook

1. Almost three months.
2. Lunch and supper service.
3. Creating meals that give people an enjoyable experience.
4. When I see someone smile.
5. That the Centre provides a very real experience of calm, quality time to appreciate the time we are here together.
6. I hope that the guests will enjoy my cooking and would consider that I am fully committed to the Centre. I hope to stay for many years.



Book Reviews



Nearing Home
Billy Graham
Thomas Nelson, 2011 ISBN
2011031734

If you think that 'growing old is for sissies' then this is the book for you. Written in his 93rd year

Billy Graham tackles the subject of growing old - of life, faith and finishing well.

He, himself, is surprised to have lived so long. Nobody in the Graham family ever lived beyond their 70's. One of his major conclusions is that we all need to prepare for retirement and post-retirement living much earlier in our lives. His prayer is that people of all ages, and particularly the young, should read this book and be encouraged by it.

Billy looks briefly at some of the Bible characters who served God in old age such as Abram and Moses in the Old Testament, and Zechariah and Anna in the New Testament.

He provides ten chapters on retirement living, acknowledging our physical loss of strength and stamina. At the same time he shows us how to draw ever closer to the loving Father who determines how long our earthly life should be. Our serving the Lord changes as we age but its value does not diminish.

There is absolutely nothing morbid in this book. It deals honestly with the aches and pains of increasing age, and the loss of loved ones. Yet it is so full of encouraging anecdotes of overcomers, and experiences of older age. These are punctuated with suitable Bible quotations. There are 92 years distillation of wisdom and experience of the human condition within the covers of 'Nearing Home'.

Billy Graham's age has not dimmed his clarity of thought. This book is easy to read and with thought provoking gems on almost every page. I can thoroughly recommend it.

Colin Crook

This book, written by former Warden, George Bennett, was first printed in 1971. There have been several reprints since then, and we have now been able to digitally reproduce it once more. It is on sale at the Centre for £5.00 (plus postage and packing).



In the first chapter, entitled 'Three Questions', George begins ...

I wonder if the most decisive moments come when we least expect them? I think this is generally true of my own life. Certainly I never expected anything out of the ordinary to happen on that bright summer afternoon, now so many years ago. (page 11)

George was visiting a sick parishioner, a popular sidesman of the church. However his wife wouldn't let him in, saying that he was not to be disturbed by anybody. George asked if he could just say a prayer with him and despite having a good friendship with the sidesman and his wife, she refused to let in him.

George, once an agnostic, who was converted when he was a medical student, and God 'turned his life upside down', left the house, greatly troubled. He thought to himself, if Christ was on earth, He would have been welcomed at the house, but he, as His representative had been turned away. Why? He knew that Christ could do wonderful things. What might happen if He were to be let right into the heart of this situation?

"Here was a house which I could not even enter, let alone say a prayer. The man was too ill!"

He later asks three important questions, which very much sum up the heart of Jesus' ministry. Buy the book, discover what the questions are and read what happened to the sick man!

Garden News



Here we are thinking about autumn and we haven't really had any summer yet, although the sun is shining down from a clear blue sky as I write in late July!

Come September the autumn leaves will start to fall from various trees, thus commencing a good few months of leaf clearing!

Strimming will be continuing through the coming weeks and the hedges will need to be kept an eye on. As autumn approaches it will be time for the bonfires to begin!

Next year's display of spring flowers, summer bedding and hanging baskets have to be thought about, even this early. Pruning various shrubs will also need to be given some consideration.



As all gardeners know, work never stops if we are to keep on top of things!

Desmond

AND FROM CLIFF

Despite the frequent rain, Cliff has still managed to keep up his two days of helping Desmond in the grounds. He writes:

After what seems the 'wettest drought' on record, one job that keeps me going is trimming the edges of the lawns and borders of the paths, along with weeding various beds.



One area I would like to get round to is the cottage opposite the main entrance, which has been a bit neglected, but given some fine weather, it will be possible to start tidying it up. Fortunately most of our hedges do not grow quite as quickly as ground cover!

Desmond always manages to add lots of colour to offset the various shades of green around the Centre, so I try to have the ground prepared in advance for him. The mixture of flowers encourages many species of insects and wildlife to add to the sights and sounds, which makes the atmosphere here so unique. *Blessings, Cliff*



Calendar of Events

September

- 31 Aug - 2 Sept Healing Retreat Weekend
- 5 - 8 Ordination Retreat
- 19 Guided Quiet Day
- 21 Teaching Day:
Prayer ministry after service
- 22 Teaching Day:
In Depth prayer ministry

October

- 3 Editorial Board Meeting
- 5 Teaching Day:
Overcoming fear & anxiety
- 6 Teaching Day:
Healing our fear of anger
- 12 - 14 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 19 - 22 Wholeness through Christ
- 26 - 28 Prayer Partners Retreat
- 31 Art, Music and Reflection
An opportunity to spend a day with God through music, painting and other creative ways

November

- 2 - 4 Healing in the Gospels
- 5 - 9 Marilyn Baker Music Week
- 10 Guided Quiet Day
- 16 - 18 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 20 - 25 Prayer & Painting Week

Friday 5 October

Teaching Day:

Overcoming Fear and Anxiety

A day designed to enable people to develop an aspect of the Healing Ministry for themselves and in their churches (£24).

Saturday 6 October

Teaching Day: Healing our Fear of Anger

A day designed to enable people to develop an aspect of the Healing Ministry for themselves and in their churches (£24).

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 November

Healing in the Gospels

An exploration of the accounts of healing in the Gospels, gleaning from them insights that make for wholeness and renewal, and what this means for us in the context of today's world (£165).

Saturday 1 December

Creative Writing Day

Led by Tracy Williamson

Come and express through writing, in your own unique way, the things that inspire you and make you laugh or cry. Have fun putting words together looking at Bible stories from a different perspective, and try writing your own, personal psalm (£27.00).

Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 December

Advent Retreat

A time before Christmas to come away and relax while reflecting on the Christmas story and its healing power for today (£230).

Sunday 30 December to

Thursday 3 January: New Year Retreat

(Always very popular - book soon!)
A mixture of personal reflection and joyful celebration as we move from the past to the future in worship, prayer and rejoicing together (£340).



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

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in His
Healingsteps