



Spring 2011

in His healing **STEPS**



"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendour of His holiness". (Psalm 29:2)

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Editorial



Here we are in the middle of winter and I am writing for the spring magazine already! Bulbs are already shooting up in various places around the garden and it won't be too long

before we start to see some glorious spring colour, which will be very welcome after the harsh winter that started with all that snow in early November! By the time you receive your magazine, there will be spring flowers all around and the nights will be much lighter.

I am writing my editorial from the peace of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, where I have been staying for a much needed break. I have stayed many times before but can honestly say that each visit is just as special as the previous one. This seems to have been a particularly blessed time (though people tell me I always say that!). I feel rested, peaceful and spiritually renewed; the presence of God has been very powerful through the care of the staff and ministry team, through the teaching and preaching of His Word and in the fellowship we have shared with each other.

There are several encouraging testimonies in this issue and although it can be hard at times to see God's hand at work during difficult periods of our lives, He is there, carrying us through. A visit to The Old Rectory can help to re-focus and unwind from the daily stresses and problems of our lives. Many people say that the healing starts as soon as you drive through the entrance; there is a real sense of His peace and on entering the house, even more so.

As I sat in the peace and quiet of my room,



reading through the healing testimonies that I was given for this issue, I couldn't help but reflect on the testing times in my own life. The Footprints poem, in which the writer is asking God where He was during the low periods of his life, came powerfully into my mind. This poem has given comfort to many people because it reminds us that God is there, whether we FEEL it or not. In the dream, the writer was walking along the beach with the Lord. Scenes flashed across the sky and in each scene there were footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints and other times, just the one set. He asked the Lord why this was, "Why, when I needed you most were you not there for me?" The Lord replied: "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."



During my stay at the Centre, I could see just how much God has carried me through some very dark days. Having my every need catered for enabled me to really take time out and as a result, come closer to the Lord. For those of you who have never been to the CCHC before, I would really encourage you to 'Come aside and rest awhile', be it for a day, a few days, a week or more. You can come for a personal retreat or for one of our many themed retreats, details of which can be found in our programme or from the website. Whatever you choose, you will receive Christian love and support, prayer, renewed faith and good food! (Most diets can be catered for.)

For those of you who know the place well, treat yourselves to another visit, and receive His healing touch once more.

Special Request

Colin Crook's wife, Diane, who looks after the archives, would be very grateful for old photos or details of past events that have taken place at the Centre over the years. If you would like to send these in, please do remember to mention what the event was and date any photos.

Who we are and what we do leaflets

The office has produced leaflets which gives a brief background of the Centre's history and also details of what is on offer. These are ideal for handing out as an introduction to people who may not have heard of us. If you would like some to pass around, please do give the office a call, or pick up a few next time you visit.

Programme for 2011

The programme for 2011 was sent out with the winter magazine; if you don't have one, or if you would like further copies, please ring the office and they will send you some. Our website also gives details of all the events throughout the year. www.crowhursthealing.org.uk.

Our twice weekly healing services, which provide the opportunity to receive prayer with the laying on of hands, are held on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.15am with Holy Communion.

You are most welcome to stay for lunch on Thursdays, though it is always advisable to pre-book. Just give the office a ring.

Every blessing,
Mary Slater



Our Senior Chaplain Writes...



Dear friends,

As I write this letter I still have a number of Christmas thank you letters to write - well it is still early January! Thank-you is a very important word to

say, for it values the giver and acknowledges the gift. One of the hallmarks of Paul's letters is his gratitude to the people of God. 'I thank my God for you every time I remember you' (Phil 1:3), is just one of the many thanksgivings Paul offers for the support of God's people both prayerfully and financially. And as I write to you, this is also true for us here at the Centre. We thank God for your faithfulness in prayer and for your financial support. Without such support the ministry of this place could not continue.

Most people who walk through the door of the Centre comment on the peace they encounter and appreciate that it is a safe place to 'let go and let God'. This is because every part of the building and the grounds are covered by prayer, thanks to the intercessions of our Prayer Partners and of all who uphold us in this way. So 'Thank You' and I trust that our Lord will continue to encourage and inspire you in your praying.

Many of you will be aware that the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is totally self-supporting financially. There is no other source of funding over and above the generous giving of God's people through donations and legacies, together with the income from the guests who come to stay. This Centre costs over £1,000 a day to run. In addition other expenses arise, as they do in any household. We live by faith that our good and gracious God will go on providing for us through people like you. So thank you.

As we look at how God provides we believe we are called to be good stewards of all He gives. One of the ways in which we are seeking to fulfil this call is to ask that guests who are planning to stay here take out an insurance policy against cancellation. This ensures that neither the guests nor the Centre are out of pocket should a booking have to be cancelled.

What some of you might not be aware of is that for the past six years our chaplains have not received a stipend. God in His goodness provided for us at a very vulnerable time financially, but now, as we look to the future and for more chaplains to join the team, it is very probable that we will need to offer a stipend for them. Where the money is to come from we don't know; what we do know



The Power of Prayer

is that if this is God's will, then the money will come. We would appreciate your prayers concerning this.

I don't find it easy to write in this way but a couple of years ago, when there was an immediate need, we heard our Lord say, 'Tell my people,' and I believe that He is still saying that. How are you to know what is happening here and what the needs are unless we tell you? Your ongoing prayerful and financial support is essential to the well-being of this Centre.

Jesus said to His disciples 'Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile' (Mark 6:31). They did and found renewed strength for what lay ahead. Our Lord, in this present day, has established quiet places, thin places, where Heaven and earth are very close in order that His people can still come apart to rest in His presence, to receive His healing touch and to find renewal. The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is one of those places and I pray it will be so for many years to come.

May you know our Lord's blessing as you continue your prayerful and financial support of this place of healing.

Kath

I first came to the Old Rectory in 1977 following a major back operation and from then on I tried to stay every year until I was unable to make the journey any more. I was the Area Rep for North Suffolk and South Norfolk for some years and then became an Intercessor, together with my husband. How I wish you were nearer!

My husband, Guy, wrote to you a while ago to ask for prayers for me as I had been in excruciating pain for some weeks. I have rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis and spinal stenosis. The latter cannot be operated on as I had a heart attack a couple of years ago and was told that it wouldn't be safe to give me a long anaesthetic.

It got to the point where I needed help with washing and dressing and I was unable to walk more than a few steps, even though I was taking 24 various painkillers a day – all prescribed by my doctor.

Anyway the pain suddenly got better and all but vanished! I still have to take quite a lot of pills but my doctor said it was a miracle and the hospital consultant just couldn't believe it.

My legs were very stiff but are gradually loosening up and I try to walk a little further each day.

I have always believed in the power of prayer but I think this proves it, so 'Praise the Lord!' and many, many thanks for all the intercessions on my behalf.

With my very best wishes and very many thanks.

Maeve

ADVENT RETREAT

The Advent Retreat gave folk a chance to prayerfully prepare for the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Here are a few of their comments.

As one ventured through the front door, peace extended a welcome hand; the spiritual atmosphere that encompassed the soul was an uplifting companion. The Christian fellowship, worship, teaching and other blessings came forward to meet you one by one, each helping to lift the problems of the world away.

Away from the world in Advent: awaiting His coming. Resting in Christ, restoring, refreshing, reviving.

Being given a sacred space to have time with God – the God who is always with us – Emmanuel.

Time to open up my life afresh to Him. Learning to wait for Him, not rushing ahead. Proactive with Him, out of my depth in His love. Waiting so He can come, to restore, heal, forgive and set me free 'to be'. Come Lord Jesus.

In trust I rose. Knowing in my heart of hearts, that for the rest of my journey all I need do is walk in the all-embracing warmth of His smile with my hand in His.

Thanks to James for his reflections on the purpose and reality of waiting. Thanks for 'time out' of the invasive secular world. Thanks for time to be quiet physically, mentally and spiritually. Thanks for everyone who prepares the way for God to work so powerfully at Crowhurst. For everything about this Advent Retreat, thank you.

May the Lord bless all those who work at TOR and give their lives in willing sacrifice to Him who lives forever.

And from Pamela and Trevor Blackshaw

God touches each of us in a very personal way. For me it was the words, "No room at the Inn." I began to think of areas of my life as rooms. What rooms do I let Jesus into or what rooms do I shut Him out of? The room can be small or large, light or dark, full or empty, cold or stuffy and smelly. It can be full of joy, laughter, full of life or full of sadness, hurt, pain, despair, even death. Whatever the room, am I willing to let Him in?

The line in a carol says, "Poor as I am, I can give Him my heart." I put this into a poster of rooms, labelling them with all that I had been thinking, some just left blank.

Pamela

The ordinariness of quiet submission

Trevor was inspired to paint this powerful picture.



Waiting for birth. Mary and the Angel
(Luke 1:26-38)

Mary was invited to give birth to the Son of God. "How can this be?" Nothing is impossible with God. "Let it be according to your Word."

Trevor

Christmas Celebration

The Christmas gathering was spirit filled and joyful; some of the guests share their thoughts.

A wonderful weekend, no shopping, no cooking, a time to relax and enjoy home cooked food, party games, singing, quizzes and the highlight concert.

Our thanks to Kath, David, Stephen, Maggie and the staff who cooked such brilliant adventurous meals.

Thank you all for the wonderful thoughts and fellowship we have shared this Christmas.

The fellowship and friendship, the food, oh the food! And the staff who gave up their Christmas to give us ours. Thank you Lord and one and all.



Christmas was a good mixture of theology, fun and rest. The food was excellent and imaginative.

Fun and fellowship in the spirit of Christ.

What an experience! A true celebration of Christmas. Thank you.

Many thanks. This holiday has been really pleasant; a lovely atmosphere and a really very helpful time from staff and guests. An amazing feeling of Christian fellowship.

Many thanks to Kath and all the community for their care and love for us. We have had a wonderful Christmas in this very special place.

The sunshine outside mirrored the warmth and love of Jesus inside.

The fullness of joy overflowing through all things.

Thank you all so much for making this a really lovely Christmas.



For me the heart of my stay was the way Kath was led by the spirit to make the Christmas story real and take away the false notions we have been fed. To think that Mary was a simple peasant girl and Jesus was born in a dirty stable among animals to identify with the poor.

Thank you I felt once again Jesus' gift of humility.

New Year Retreat

What a wonderful way to say farewell to the old year and to greet the new one! One of my companions was hope and as I left a loving and all embracing Crowhurst, I felt filled, forgiven, blessed and made new again. **Hallelujah!**

It is a real blessing to be able to come away and spend the New Year at Crowhurst. Letting go of the old and beginning anew in the presence of God, full of hope, assurance and His peace. It's a welcome set up for a fruitful year which I look forward to.

Selina.



Once again I have received a real blessing from the Lord in the peace and serenity of Crowhurst. The loving care and attention of all the staff is truly exceptional and I am very grateful. What better place to start the New Year? Praise the Lord!



I've had a rest which I needed and appreciated being welcomed and very well looked after. I enjoyed the Taize evening. Thank you to all.

Sue.

Good food, good fellowship, good rest, good laughs. Praise be to God!

Christine



This was my first time here and for someone who came with little, or no expectations, you have managed to exceed them by miles. Thanks for all you have done/provided to ensure a very restful and reflective stay.

Helen

I couldn't even begin to compete with the above comments. Suffice it to say (for the moment) that this is the best New Year ever. Thanks so much to everyone.

Beatrice



Prayer & Painting weeks

Water into Wine, Treasure in Clay Pots, Reflections and Peace are just some of the titles of the themed Prayer and Painting weeks that we had last year.

It has been a joy to see people developing from timid beginners to fully fledged artists, learning new skills and finding a style that is unique for them. Prayer has everything to do with it! That is why we call these occasions 'Prayer and Painting weeks' and not 'Painting and Prayer weeks'. The prayer comes first!

Out of the worship times in the chapel come all the answers to artistic problems such as 'What shall I paint?' 'What colours shall I use?' 'How shall I do it?' When Kath (or another visiting member of the chaplaincy team) speaks to us in the worship services that begin and end each day, they often give us the inspiration and guidance that we need to paint. Holy Communion every morning provides the inner strength to persevere and good food and fellowship at the meals is a way of meeting new friends and sharing ideas.

Many people come again and again to these weeks. One of our 'regulars' is Peter Tomsett, who produced this beautiful painting of a vase being formed out of a lump of clay. His painting which he has called 'You are the Potter', came to him completely 'out of the blue' from the Lord.



As the seasons change and the colours come and go, we are reminded of God's constant love for us and the beauty of His creation here at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. There are more opportunities to come and paint this year, so why not book a place and see what artistic gifts the Lord might reveal to you?

Maggie Freeman



Closer to the Father's Heart: Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson

8th to 12th November 2010

Susan, one of the many guests who attended this week of music, teaching and prayer shares her thoughts.

This was a thoroughly refreshing, inspiring and encouraging week. The teaching and testimonies were reviving, healing, thought provoking and a real blessing.

I was blessed to be able to attend as it had been fully booked for some time. My name was on the waiting list and at the last minute there was a cancellation which meant that I was able to take part.

The concert on the Wednesday evening, was well attended and we all enjoyed singing along with Marilyn's songs.



Marilyn and Tracy, with the always impeccably well behaved Pennie, Marilyn's guide dog.

Christ sets us free!

I would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to you all for the amazing time I spent at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in August this year, and also at the Advent Retreat in early December.

Coming to The Old Rectory changed my life, removing much hurt, sadness and pain that I had been carrying with me for so many painful years.

In the past I have tried counselling but it never really worked; the feelings kept coming back. But the feelings I experienced as I stepped into the house, chapel or anywhere I went within the grounds, of peace, love and the knowledge that everywhere is soaked in prayer, healing and blessings from our Lord Jesus was so apparent. I feel this when I come to the services also.

This is a place of refuge and peace.

From the moment I began to have ministry, I realised the Lord had forgiven me of my sins and that He took all those other feelings from me. I was free, praise the Lord!

And do you know I have been waiting, when I am sometimes a little vulnerable, for these feelings to come back? That is the human in me, but they have not returned because the Lord is great and keeps His promises. I constantly praise and thank Him for His son Jesus and all He is doing for me and many other dear folk now and always.

I would also like to thank Kath and the whole team for being so caring and compassionate in the work that you all do alongside the Lord.

Pauline



Weekend Healing Retreats

These retreats, which are held on a regular basis, are for anyone who feels in need of spiritual, physical or emotional renewal. They are for those who may feel busy, stressed, burdened, hurting, let down, angry, weary, disillusioned, abused, confused, empty, sad or sensing loss of faith and who are seeking quality space to come away and rest awhile in a safe, renewing and healing environment.

These retreats are open to those of any church denomination, or of none, seeking Christian healing and wholeness.

There will be time during the weekend to explore the gardens and grounds or to go for a walk in the surrounding countryside. There is a fully equipped art room for you to enjoy and the lounge and library also provide comfortable places for your own relaxation.

Prayer Requests for Spring 2011

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Spring 2011

Prayer Focus

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

Prayer and Thanksgiving

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3

Prayer

- We give thanks and praise for the Lord’s protection of the Centre during the difficult winter months.
- We give thanks for the dedication of Kath and all the staff for their loving care of our guests, especially during the Christmas celebration and New Year Retreat.
- Continue to pray that the Lord will provide the right people to assist Kath and share the heavy workload.
- We pray for the Lord’s protection of the house and grounds, that it will remain a safe and secure haven of the Lord’s abiding peace.
- We give thanks for all who so generously support the ministry of Christ’s healing love here at the Centre. May they too be richly blessed.
- We pray a blessing on the programme for 2011, that it will be a source of healing and wholeness to many hurting people.

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

March Prayer Focus

“May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.” Psalm 33:22

March

- 1 - 6 Prayer & Painting Week
- 9 Quiet Day: Lessons from the Prodigal, Led by Hilary Malpass (Christian poet and Lay Reader)
- 11 - 13 Ordinands’ Retreat (This is a Closed Retreat)
- 18 - 20 Weekend Retreat: God’s SHAPE for me
- 23 Creative Day of Music and Art
- 25 - 27 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 29 Editorial Board Meeting
- 30 Trustees Meeting

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.” Psalm 37:7



April Prayer Focus

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10: 45**

April

- 2 Use of banners in Worship
- 4 - 7 Windows onto Healing & Wholeness Conference
- 9 Creative Writing Day
- 13 Quiet Day: ‘Streams of living water.’ Led by Mike Robson
- 21 - 24 Easter Retreat
- 29 - 1 May Weekend Retreat: Listening to God

“To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood ... to Him be glory and power forever and ever!” **Revelation 1:5 & 6**

May Prayer Focus

“Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him for God is our refuge.”
Psalms 62:8

May

- 6 - 8 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 11 Quiet Day: ‘The promises of God – His presence, Peace and Purpose’ Led by Sister Clare (Sisters of the Servants with Jesus)
- 13 - 15 Weekend Retreat: Finding God in Suffering
- 24 - 29 Prayer & Painting Week
- 25 Trustees Meeting

“I will listen to what God the Lord will say.”
Psalms 85:8



Prayer for The Centre

Prayer Focus:

"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth ... for you are God my Saviour." Psalm 25:4 & 5

Prayer for the Trustees

Colin Crook (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Shirley Dawson, John Lyttle, Jane Thomas and Mavis Williams.

- Pray for wisdom and discernment as we continue to wait upon the Lord and seek His will in providing an assistant chaplain to share the ministry at the Centre.
- Give thanks and praise for the visiting chaplains who give so freely of their time, sometimes at very short notice. May they be truly blessed.
- We pray for the right person to fill the vacancy on the board of Trustees now that Ted Landon has retired and moved away from the area.
- Continue to pray that we will be wise stewards of our finances during the year ahead. Give thanks that our God is a faithful God and provides for all our needs. Hallelujah!
- Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim. May the Lord strengthen and uphold them day by day.

"The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 85:12

Prayer Focus for staff at The Centre

"Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

Senior Chaplain: Kath

Chaplaincy Team: Penny

Visiting Chaplain: Colin

Ministry Team: Andy, Carole, Gwen, Hazel, Hildegard, June, Lorna, Maggie, Margaret, Nigel, Pippa and Stephen

Centre Manager: David Batte

Book Keeper: David Podevin

Office Administrator: Jayne

House Manager: Heidi

Maintenance Manager: Geof

Office Staff: Esther, Gillian and Juliette

House Staff: Chrissy, Justine, Steve, Sue and Zanetta

Cooks: Diane, Sophia and Chris

Gardener: Desmond

Pianists: Pippa and Stephen

Flautist: Vivien

Volunteers: Christine, Evelyn, Jenny, Rosemary, Shirley, Yvonne and Cliff (gardening).

Magazine Editor: Mary

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31



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THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST THE HEALER

The Fellowship of Christ the Healer is an affiliation of approximately thirty Christian healing organisations across the UK. The Chair of Fellowship of Christ the Healer is Rev'd Russ Parker, Director of Acorn Healing Trust.

In January each year the Fellowship of Christ the Healer organises a three-day conference to give an opportunity for the leaders of healing organisations to meet with each other, to share their experiences and to support one another through prayer. Kath and I attended, together with two of our Trustees, Colin Crook and Jim Beveridge.

During the sessions we heard many remarkable stories as each organisation shared their blessings and concerns, giving their testimonies as to how the Lord has turned around difficult situations and brought encouragement, fresh vision, hope and healing to His people. We prayed together for each organisation in turn, focusing on their individual circumstances and needs.

All in all it was an excellent opportunity to see the wider picture of the healing ministry, to realise that we are alongside others facing similar issues and concerns to those we experience at the Centre, and to see what God is doing in and through us all to further His healing ministry. It was a greatly encouraging and uplifting experience.

Please remember the Fellowship of Christ the Healer and its member organisations in your prayers, and make an extra-large note in your diaries to come and hear Russ speak at our Thanksgiving Day at Crowhurst on 16th July.

David Batte

Thanksgiving Day Saturday 16th July 2011



Our yearly celebration of the life, work and ministry of the Centre will take place on Saturday 16th July. Come and join in with our praise and worship, enjoy your picnic lunch in the grounds (weather permitting!) and share fellowship with friends old and new.

Thanksgiving Day is an opportunity to give thanks to God and to all who work so tirelessly to keep the Centre running. Our guest speaker this year will be Rev'd Russ Parker, who is the Director of the



Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, which exists to resource and educate the church in the Christian Healing Ministry. As well as travelling extensively around the UK and abroad lecturing and teaching, Russ is also the author of a number of books.

**Now, our God, we
give you thanks, and
praise your glorious
name! (1 Chronicles
29:13)**



Why Me Lord?



About three and a half years ago, I was feeling very unwell. To make things worse, my singing voice suddenly went. I

have sung church music since the age of seven and 51 years ago, met my husband in the choir. We have spent many happy hours singing in lots of wonderful places.

Having spent thirty odd years caring for others, my mind began to think I was going down the road of dementia or Alzheimer's. I found that my faith, which is very precious to me, seemed to be being challenged. I went for a week to The Old Rectory, and to the healing service. I received the laying on of hands and anointing, together with prayer for an answer to my state of health. Things initially seemed to get worse, and at this point I was seen by my doctor; he called my husband and told us both that I had Parkinson's Disease. He is a wonderful Jewish doctor and a man of God who has known us for 27 years. I was very shocked when given the diagnosis but was relieved that my worst fears had not been realised.

Having been a carer for so many years, I found overnight that I was going to have to be cared

for myself. Where was God? I asked myself. Having served Him all my life in music, I felt lost and abandoned. Then I asked for guidance and out of the blue God seemed to show me a way to serve Him.

I started to act as a steward in our church, greeting and guiding visitors. We have a 12.30 Communion Service every Thursday and whilst I was there, someone was playing 'Lead me Lord' on the organ. I was convinced that I was being led in a different direction so instead of just helping visitors, I started to go to the 12.30 Communion Service. During the last two years, my husband has been trained as an Authorised Lay Minister and is now assisting at that service.

I feel that although there is no cure for my illness, I have been given a renewed faith and peace. I still get bad days and the medication has nasty side effects, but I was lucky; the Lord seems to have had a hand in my neurologist, a gentle Scottish lady.

If you receive a knock-back and your health will not stand up to what you want to do, do as I did. Pray and the Lord will answer. This may not be in any way that you expected, but keep your mind open for opportunities as I have for the last 18 months.

God bless you and peace be with you.

Barbara Pearman (Prayer Partner)

Barbara's prayer was indeed answered, when upon consulting her doctor, her worst fears were not in the end realised, and His hand was gently guiding her in a new direction. Ed



WINDOWS ONTO HEALING AND WHOLENESS

4th April 2011 to 7th April 2011

This conference for church leaders, healthcare professionals and all involved in pastoral care will be led by a team from Crowhurst and Burrswood, including Dr Gareth Tuckwell, Rev'd Kath Batte, Rev'd Christine Garrard, Dr Paul Worthley and Mr Steve Talmage BACP.

These few days will provide space to look together at the opportunities and challenges for those living out Christ's call to heal those who are sick, as well as space to reflect on our own journey into wholeness.

There will be a chance for those attending to:

- Experience God's love and the healing ministry of Jesus.
- Find emotional, spiritual and physical renewal.
- Receive confidential prayer ministry.

Subjects covered include:

- The Christian healing ministry: Biblical perspectives and practice today.
- Healing for those uncured: Entering the heights and depths of what it means to be human.

- A Christian doctor's perspective on healing.
- Healing the dying: Facing our mortality.
- The place of counselling and the interface with pastoral care.

WINDOWS ONTO HEALING AND WHOLENESS

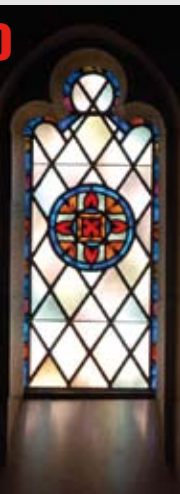
A conference for church leaders, healthcare professionals and all involved in pastoral care.

Led by a team from Crowhurst and Burrswood.

Open to residential and non-residential guests.

Monday 4th – Thursday 7th April 2011 at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

For more information contact the office on 01424 830204



Costs and accommodation:

3-day attendance, including full-board accommodation:

En-suite room £230: Non en-suite £200

3-day non-residential attendance, including lunches and evening meals: £100

2-day non-residential attendance, including lunches and evening meals: £70

1-day non-residential attendance, including lunch and evening meal: £35

Sabbatical at the Crowhurst Christi



I am very grateful to the Methodist Church for the gift of a sabbatical – ‘a time for renewal, study, reflection and recreation.’

I am especially grateful to Kath and everyone at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for allowing me to spend two days a

week, during September & October 2010, alongside them as part of the chaplaincy/ministry team.

The Centre was already a familiar place to me and Christ's healing ministry very close to my heart. Although I was brought up in a lovely church-going family, it was not until I had a back injury that I really came to know the Lord. Jesus wakened me up to His love and gave me the desire to help others meet Him (my physical healing came later).

After this experience and with our minister's permission, I led a small healing prayer group in the church and it was here that I first heard about the Centre. A couple with Crowhurst connections were visiting Oban on holiday and joined us in the prayer group. They later sent information about training courses at the Centre and my husband and I have had regular contact since – over twenty years ago! During these years we have been greatly blessed by the Lord in this place.

During this sabbatical time at Crowhurst, I saw more and more of the lovely partnership that Jesus has with His people here.

When I came in to preach at the services, I realised that those leading the worship music had opened the way and the Holy Spirit was already moving among His people before we had left the small chapel!

In ministry times, as we asked to be shown the way forward, Jesus did just that; during my time there I was conscious of becoming more in tune with Him, and so being able to hear His gentle voice and feel His nudge in the right direction. This usually happened when I was not trying so hard that I got in the way!

Many people, myself included, enjoy the Lord's peaceful presence at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. It is amazingly peaceful given that there is always so much going on.

I knew from the events diary before I went that there would be several different courses taking place, with many groups and individual people coming and going. I had not quite realised how much work this involved for those organizing the accommodation, the administration and the catering. Nor had I taken on board the



an Healing Centre

arranging that needed to be done so that people were available to lead all the services and be on hand to offer ministry. The fact that everything runs so smoothly is a great tribute to the whole team, a wonderful dedicated team, working in partnership with the Lord to enable His ministry of love and wholeness to be experienced.

Someone had the picture of the Centre looking like a beautiful swan with unruffled feathers, gliding gracefully on the water. No one noticed the paddling that was going on under the surface to allow that movement.



It was a special privilege to spend my sabbatical at Crowhurst where I was extremely well looked after and very well fed, spiritually as well as from the kitchen!

I take away a new recreational interest as Maggie's prayer and encouragement in the art room has introduced me to the joys of watercolour painting. I also leave this sabbatical time feeling drawn more and more into Christ's healing ministry and desiring to be used more in helping His hurting people to wholeness.

I pray that the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre will always continue to be a special place where Jesus is honoured, and people can experience the wholeness He has for us all.

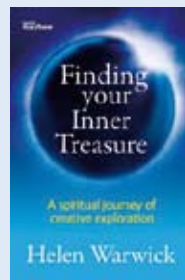
Marion Proud

Finding your Inner Treasure: A Spiritual Journey of Creative Exploration

By Helen Warwick
ISBN 978 1 84867 313 7
Price £9.99

Helen's previous book, *Creating Gardens in the Desert* is on sale at the Centre and many people have found it very helpful and encouraging. Her new book, *Finding your Inner Treasure*, will take you on an exciting journey to explore your inner world - from the conscious to the unconscious. The book has many ways of creatively exploring, including looking at your dreams and the way you transform into the person God has made you to be.

Each of us carries our own unique blueprint, our own personality and gifts that make us different from all other human beings. Using reflection, prayer and a variety of creative exercises designed to release hidden emotions and conflicts, Helen encourages you to use your imagination to dig for your inner wealth and get in touch with the true person that God has made you to be.



God's SHAPE for me.

Discovering who God has made me to be and what He has called me to do

Friday 18 - 20 March

Who am I and what should I be doing with my life? Knowing the answer to these questions brings peace, purpose and power. In order to discover this we have to explore aspects of ourselves by looking at our SHAPE:

- S- Spiritual gifts
- H- Heartbeat (passion)
- A- Abilities
- P- Personality
- E- Experience of life.

God's Creation Captured On Camera

On a Thursday evening at the Centre, Stephen and Maggie present an evening of music and photographs, which are projected from Stephen's laptop onto the overhead screen. It is followed by night prayer and is a very peaceful and reflective way to round off the day.

Stephen's photos are really beautiful and he has given permission to show some of them in this issue of the magazine. Here are a just a very small selection.

Look out below!



These snowy pictures remind me of the carol, 'In the Bleak Mid-winter' ... Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow. It was so deep everywhere!



The snow was inches deep along the prayer walk



All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, our Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings. He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.



I wonder what these two are saying to each other?



This little chappie is clearly full of the joys of spring!!



Hurry up mum and dad; I'm hungry!

Maintenance Report



After the Christmas and New Year festivities, the house was closed to guests, thereby allowing some major works to be undertaken. Every five years we are obliged to carry out what is known as 'Periodic Testing of the Electrical Installation,' which means that every circuit within the main house and its outbuildings has to be tested to ensure that all is safe and to regulations. This was carried out by two electricians after a period of ten days. I await the results with interest!

Many of you will recall that the main Chapel was rewired and new lighting installed just under two years ago. Unfortunately this had an adverse effect on the newly decorated walls and ceilings. (The old lights provided some unintentional but beneficial ventilation, whereas the new lighting provided none.) This lack of air movement resulted in some fungal growth (black mould) on the surfaces. To overcome this problem, ventilators have been installed through the ceiling; also all surfaces have been washed with fungicide and repainted. I hope you will notice that the Chapel has a 'fresher' atmosphere and looks spic and span once more!

During the latter part of January, with only a few guests in the house, I took the opportunity to redecorate the back stairs (long overdue I'm afraid). I have been wanting to do this for four years!

The next job on my list is the redecoration of the wing corridor.

Geoff

Garden News



It has been a hard winter but work has carried on in the grounds. Desmond and Cliff have been busy clearing leaves and generally keeping the grounds neat and tidy.

Desmond's plans for the coming months are to carry out any necessary pruning, trim the hedges, strim the edges of the lawns, mulch various areas that need it, and plant up pots and hanging baskets for the summer. The grounds will be tidied up from the debris of winter and the garden furniture given a clean.

Cliff, our volunteer gardener writes:



Winter within these grounds generates much work, not least the continuous leaf clearing, which has been one of my main tasks, ensuring that the many paths and

walks are clear and safe. Underneath there is new life waiting to bloom in the spring. When working in the Prayer Walk, one is given time to imagine and plan this season's flowers in comparative peace, broken only by the sound of light aircraft above and the local trains.

So watch this space while new collections of plants are being grown and cultivated.

Cliff



Book Review

THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON

by HENRI. J.R.NOUWEN

Published by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd.

ISBN 978-0-232-52078-1

Henri Nouwen [1932-1996] was the author of over forty books on religious subjects. My attention was drawn to this book by a retired priest, who more or less begged me to read it! I was not disappointed.

The author describes how a chance encounter with a poster of the painting of this subject by Rembrandt, totally changed his life, his appreciation of himself and the role he had played up to that point in promoting and explaining the Christian Gospel. From his first view of the poster, time passes before an opportunity arises for him to journey to St. Petersburg to see the original. He is overwhelmed by it.

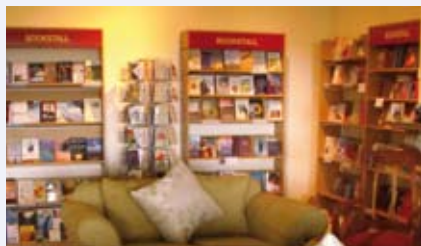
He sees the picture in the context of Rembrandt's own life as well as his own; he draws upon other expert analysis of the

description of the painting and is astounded to realise that Rembrandt painted the father as having a male and female hand resting on the back of the returning son!

He begins believing himself to be most closely identified with the prodigal son; however, he comes to realise that he also finds himself in the character of the elder son, and explores this; later he is amazed to understand that others see him as the father figure, and that it is his destiny to explore this aspect of himself and his role. 'From the deep inner place where love embraces all human grief, the father reaches out to his children. The touch of his hands, radiating inner light, seeks only to heal'.

I can only commend it to you.

Brian Beggs



books on sale that will appeal to everyone. She also has a shelf of 'bargain books' selling at reduced rates, so do spend some time browsing the many books and CD's that are on offer at the Centre on your next visit.

This book is on sale at the Centre's bookstall at the price of £9.50, and is just one of the many and varied books that are available to purchase. Rosemary Froggatt, one of our Prayer Partners and volunteers, works very hard to make sure that there is always a wide variety of



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 1 - 6 *Prayer and Painting Week*
- 9 *Quiet Day*
- 11 - 13 *Ordinands' Retreat (Closed Retreat)*
- 18 - 20 *Weekend Retreat – God's SHAPE for me*
- 23 *Creative Day of Music and Art*
- 25 - 27 *Healing Retreat Weekend*

April

- 2 *Use of banners in Worship*
- 4 - 7 *Healing Conference*
- 9 *Creative Writing Day*
- 13 *Quiet Day*
- 21 - 24 *Easter Retreat*
- 29 - 1 May *Weekend Retreat – Listening to God*

May

- 6 - 8 *Healing Retreat Weekend*
- 11 *Quiet Day*
- 13 - 15 *Weekend Retreat – Finding God in Suffering*
- 24 - 29 *Prayer and Painting Week*

Creative Day of Music & Worship Wednesday 23rd March: 10 am to 4 pm

An opportunity to draw closer to God through music, painting and other creative ways. The day will include times of worship, listening to music, and silence; a chance to use our creativity in the art room with drawing, painting, clay work, collage etc; and walking in the grounds (weather permitting) and finding objects that have meaning for us.

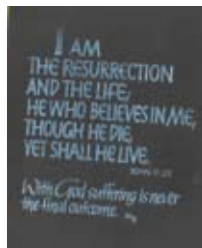
Music will include Taizé singing, and we will be using Celtic-style prayers and meditations. The day will finish with Holy Communion.



EASTER RETREAT

Friday 21st to Sunday 24th April

A time to come away and relax while reflecting on the events leading up to Good Friday, and then celebrating the glorious resurrection of our Lord and experiencing His healing power today. This is always such a powerful and moving way of celebrating one of the most important dates in the Church's history. (£210)



FINDING GOD IN SUFFERING

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th May

This weekend is led by Helen Warwick who is a spiritual director and published author. Her training includes person centred art therapy and she has found much healing through using creative ways of exploring her own life. She regularly leads courses at The Old Rectory.

This course is an opportunity for those going through suffering and difficult times to have some time out to review what is happening in their lives and finding God within those situations. There will be creative opportunities to explore personal journeys and seek God within the suffering.



How to contact us

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The office is open from 9am - 5pm
Monday to Friday and 9am - 5pm Saturday
For a brochure, programme or further
information please contact the Secretary

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Visitor

Rt Revd Wallace Benn BISHOP OF LEWES

Senior Chaplain

Revd Kath Batte

Chairman of Trustees

Revd Colin Crook

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