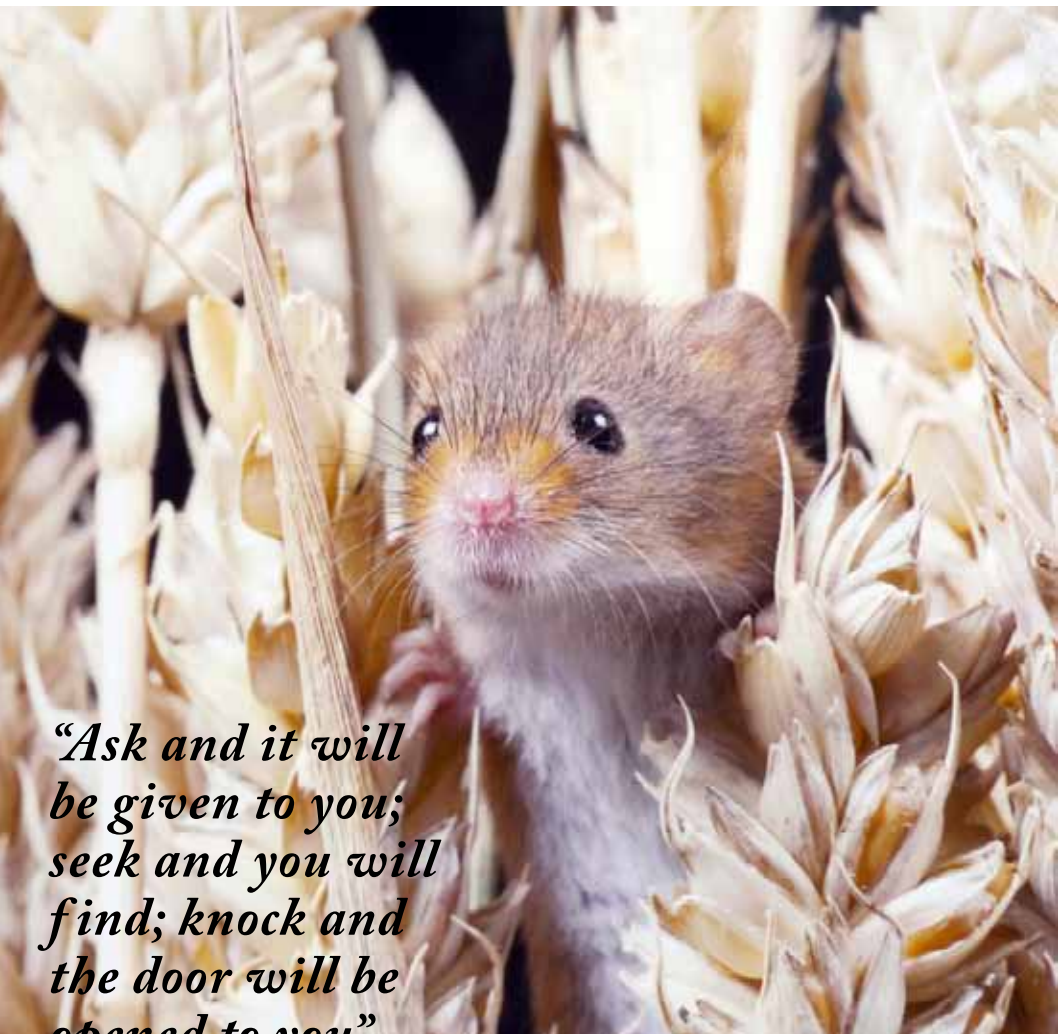


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# in His *Healing* steps

Autumn 2013



*“Ask and it will  
be given to you;  
seek and you will  
find; knock and  
the door will be  
opened to you”.  
Matthew 7:7*

**Crowhurst** Christian Healing Centre  
a place of Christ's healing

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## OUR VISION STATEMENT

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a non-denominational, residential place with a vision to continue 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.

# Editorial



I begin this editorial soon after Thanksgiving Day, which saw the attendance of around 150 people. The theme at the morning service was '**Stop, Look and Listen**' and after welcoming everyone, Steve G

said that Crowhurst is a **Stopping** place - a coming aside and resting awhile. It is a **Looking** place, where there is time to look at oneself away from the world - to look at one's environment, and it is a **Listening** place - a place where people come and listen to, and hear from, God.



'Today,' said Steve, 'we celebrate a covenant keeping God' and from the Message translation he read, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11:28-30).

In the afternoon, the two Steves and Penny Button (Associate Chaplain) shared their vision for the Centre. See a full account of the day, with photos, later in the magazine.



## In this Issue

Steve G's letter helps us to see how the Lord's voice can break through the noisiest of situations!

With our Chaplains and wives coming to the end of their first year at Crowhurst, Veronica and Hilary share thoughts and reflections.

## Board of Trustees

Martin Granger, who was introduced in the 2011 winter magazine, has replaced Colin Crook as the Chair of Trustees. See more on page 15.



## Staff

In July we had the joy of celebrating Justine and Gary's marriage. It was a very joyful occasion, with the couple having their marriage blessed at the Centre.



We wish them both many happy years together. (Justine is featured in our 'Day in the Life' series on page 9.)



Social Media is very popular now and the Centre's Facebook page is becoming widely known. If you would like to become one of our 'Followers', you can read Esther Dunn's helpful article on page 20. We do encourage you to join the Centre's page, where you will be able to see up to date information, photos and comments from other followers.

## Healing Services

**Our twice weekly Healing Services, Tuesday 7.30pm and Thursday 10.15am (with Holy Communion), offer praise, worship and prayer for healing. Coffee and biscuits are served after the Thursday service and many folk also stay for lunch, (please phone to book). If you live far afield, why not stay on Wednesday night and/or Thursday night too and really unwind?**

**At the foot of the cross in the large Chapel, where Jesus welcomes us, lays this inviting 'Welcome' mat, which was made by our resident artist, Maggie. 'Mauya' is a Zimbabwean word for you have come (arrived). So do come and be assured of a very warm welcome!**



## Poetry

We sometimes receive poems for possible inclusion in the magazine, but due to lack of space, we are unable to publish these. However, in the library, there is a 'Treasury of Poems' folder, in which poems can be placed for folk to read while staying at the Centre. So do continue to send them in!

## And finally,

When you receive your magazine, we will be approaching autumn and our wildlife will be busy collecting food for the winter. Paul Deeming, one of our Visiting Chaplains managed to capture on camera this cute, rare white squirrel, who looks like he is gathering food for his winter larder!



With every blessing, Mary Slater



# Our Senior Chaplain writes ...



Dear Friends,  
Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to Colin for his support, prayer and encouragement in his role as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and for overseeing

our first year here at the Centre. By the time you receive this magazine, Colin will have stepped down after faithfully serving the Board for the last six years and although no longer a Trustee, he will continue to be a valued member of the Ministry Team. May I also say how much we are looking forward to working with Martin in his new role as Chair.

Veronica and I recently went on retreat in the Yorkshire Dales at Scargill House. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery, a comfortable room, great company and of course the presence of God (sounds like Crowhurst!). However, it was the way the Lord revealed himself that was surprising.

Scargill are presently having an energy saving plant installed and the procedure requires making space for the machinery. Each day for the four days we were there, we endured a digger smashing its way through



***"Does not my word burn like fire?" says the Lord. "Is it not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces?" Jeremiah 23:29***

rock – the noise was thunderous and bone shaking. A little hyperbole there but I'm trying to make the point - there was no escaping what was going on - rocks were being smashed!

After the second day there, by strange 'God-incidence', I was drawn to the verse below from Jeremiah 23:29. God spoke. At first I thought it was a message for their community, then I thought it was for the Centre, until the light bulb moment. It was as if the Lord was saying to me, *"Steve, you need to use my Word to smash to pieces those things in your life which are not of me. Those things which have become so engrained, so hard, so real – need to be smashed"*. It never ceases to amaze me how the Lord gets our attention sometimes; the retreat was not peaceful but it was penetratingly powerful!

As I have shared this story with friends at the Centre, I have been reminded that it is a timely message for all of us. Our own words, the words of the world and of the Evil One, have been allowed to have too much influence in our lives and they have made themselves into little statues in our hearts and minds, which need to be smashed by the only Word that we need to hear - God's.

As you reflect on these words, and the leaves fall from the trees, I finish with some words of a prayer and a song to help you through the changing seasons:

## **Prayer**

*'Father, may my spoken word be faithful to the written Word and lead us to the living Word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.'*

## **Song**

*'Lord, bless Your Word unto our hearts and glorify Your name.'*

In Him, Steve

# One year on Veronica Gendall



This time last year we were in the throes of our relocation to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and as I look back, my first reaction is surprise at how quickly the intervening

months have passed. Yet I know that the move involved such significant life changes that in reality, like a transplanted tree, it has taken some time for me to put down roots and become established in this new environment.

On the home front, the move precipitated the 'empty nest' experience, with both our daughters opting to live independently. Family life as we knew it was extinguished overnight and it was not easy adjusting to this new existence where it seemed nothing, not even cooking a meal, was required of me. (Fortunately the animals and chickens still expected me to come up with their daily TLC!). However, it turns out that life at the Centre - often exhilarating, occasionally hair-raising, and always unpredictable - has moments reminiscent of the teen combat camp, and the empty nest is now our haven of peace at the end of the day!

The transition from the rough and tumble of parish life was also a challenge. After 22 active years in Anglican ministry, the CCHC felt like another planet. Again, feeling at home in the new ministry experience did not happen overnight, but has steadily deepened with the passage of time. Participation in prayer ministry, shared Teaching Days with Steve, wonderful worship services and active development of ministry in the spiritual gifts are all precious aspects of this

new experience. I am deeply aware that this is God's place, called into being for His purpose, and I can only thank Him that He has placed us here to be a part of that purpose at this time.

Finally, I have found community, or quasi-community, living unexpectedly enjoyable. Although the Centre is not an intentional community, there is a common sense of commitment among those who work and volunteer here, which gives an added dimension to the experience. It gives energy and freshness to what I feared might be a claustrophobic way of life, and I thank God for everyone He has brought to serve Him and His people here.

It is hard to believe that this time last year we were packing up to come here. We both marvel at how the year has flown; we have now experienced Crowhurst in all the seasons, and in that time our roots slowly, but surely, have been taking hold. Now, physically, it is summer and autumn lies ahead, but spiritually it feels like spring. Whatever growth or pruning lies ahead for the Centre, I am excited to be a part of it!

Veronica Gendall





## ***‘Under the shadow of Your wings’***

About twenty people attended this wonderful day of dance and worship, which was hosted in June by Mavis, Yvonne and Denise, with the theme, *‘Under the shadow of Your wings’*.

The day began with the leaders doing a dance with banners to invite the Holy Spirit to come and join us (which He most certainly did!) There was a brief introduction and then we started with a very simple circle dance - *‘Bless the Lord oh my soul’*.

Next, one half of the participants danced with banners to *‘Lord I come before Your throne of grace’*, while the rest looked on; then they swapped so that everyone could have a go. This was a dance to get us warmed up and free us in worship.

Denise completed the first session before coffee with *‘I lift my hands to the coming King’*, which is a ‘follow the leader’ type dance, and *‘There is none like You’*, which we did as a simple but beautiful group dance.

The majority of Session Two was dedicated to choreographing our main dance, to a new worship song which was called *‘Holy Overshadowing’*. We began by sitting and singing the song together, then we worked on the chorus as a whole group. Once we had devised a routine for that, we split up into three groups to take a verse each. When we had worked out movements for the verses, we came together to run it through as a whole routine. We repeated this a few times so that we did it worshipfully in the end, not being so worried about getting every step perfect.

We finished the second session with a time of quiet, when we chose a piece of coloured material and draped it prayerfully around someone else. This was a real blessing, a very peaceful and calming experience.

After a lovely lunch we began our final session with Denise and Caroline (Dance Co-ordinators for the South east of England and for Midhurst), who did a beautiful dance to *‘Lord you have my heart’*.

Next, Denise read out a poem which I had written on the theme of *‘Under the shadow of Your wings’*. We split into small groups and each group took a couple of lines from my work to create a short routine. When we were all happy with our dance, we took a break to move to *‘How wonderful, how glorious’*. It was nice to do another free dance and we used banners, ribbons or pieces of material to express ourselves.

Afterwards, we came back together to practice our *‘Holy Overshadowing’* dance and the dance to my poem, which nicely finished off this session.

The day concluded with a Communion Service, in which we performed our dance to *‘Holy Overshadowing’*. A perfect end to a perfect day! Then we had refreshments in the lounge before leaving.

### **Comments from other participants:**

“The day was a lovely experience of being freed up, not just in body but in spirit. It also promoted a sense of belonging together even though most of us had not met before.”

“Thank you, my first time and I really enjoyed it.”

# Day of dance and worship

"Lovely venue. Special day of dance and worship. Very blessed during the communion with time of individual and collective worship."

"What a joy to dance before the Lord – releasing and freeing. Flags were a new skill and fun." "Lovely day, able to participate fully, despite an ankle injury! Very uplifted by the whole experience. My first time but I will do it again."

"I really enjoyed the day and was amazed that all of us were able to dance and use flags at the same time! I loved every minute, thank you all."



## Mavis wishes to thank the following people:

Yvonne and Denise for their part in leading.

Stephen for playing the music for the day, and for clearing chairs from the Chapel.

Pippa for singing the songs for us as we danced.

Maggie for putting the words of the songs on the overhead projector.

Finally, thanks to Revd Colin Crook for leading the Communion Service. All these contributed to make it a very special day of freedom in worship in new creative ways.

Nikki

# Margaret Rizza

'Calm me Lord as You Calmed the Storm', from 'Fire of Love', set to reflective and gentle, meditative music, is just one of this popular singer/song writer's beautiful songs. There is a good mix of her CD's among the selection on sale at the Centre. Do have a browse on your next visit.



## Creative Writing Day: 16<sup>th</sup> November Led by Tracy Williamson



Come and join us for this exciting and creative day learning to express, 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 psalm. Don't think, "I'm no writer, this isn't for me!"

Don't worry about spelling/grammar, no one will be looking! Just come, have fun and be inspired! We all have our own special experience of life and God, and we all have our own ways of expressing these.



# Hi From Hilary



*'Write something about yourself and what you do' - he says. Thanks Steve G!*

Hi! I'm Hilary, married (for quite a long time) to Steve - that's the other

Steve! As befits a good wife, I have followed 'my' Steve around as we have moved from place to place. I remember when we went to Scargill House in the mid-eighties, Steve was asked to write an article for the magazine there and he started it with 'A wandering Aramaean was my father.' Only in my case it was a husband!

But to be serious - we have had an amazing time through our years of marriage, starting with both of us teaching and then going as a family to Oxford for Steve's theological training. Posts in Essex and North Yorkshire (Scargill) followed. We then moved to Worcester Diocese where our children spent their teenage years. This was followed by ten years at Burrswood, five and a half years in Ireland learning to use Euros(!), and now to Crowhurst.

There are times when folk ask '*and where do you come from?*' and we say - '*well ...*', but we have been so blessed having such a variety of experiences, learning to love God's people wherever we are. When you move so often, it is hard to do the career thing, although that was never high on my list of priorities. But I can say that in each situation we have been in, God has showed me something new to do and gradually I have learnt where my strengths (and weaknesses) lie.

I am loving being at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre - getting to know the lovely folk we work with and hearing people's stories at meal times is a great privilege. I was delighted when the Trustees asked me

to help out as Centre Co-ordinator and I am looking forward to working out the role in practice. Some may say I'm nuts - but I love working on admin type tasks, problem solving, designing stuff on my computer, talking to people about the Centre and, in a small way, being involved in the ministry here.

As you know, part of Crowhurst's vision is to make Christ's healing known in the wider church and to encourage those churches where there is already a healing ministry. As part of this, we had a stand at the Hastings area Unity Service in January and shared a stand at the Bible by the Beach conference (see below) over the early May bank holiday weekend with other local retreat/healing centres - which I was involved in organising.

Apart from 'work,' my other passions in life (apart from 'my' Steve) are my three beautiful granddaughters, Emma, Freya and Bethan. Those of you reading this who are grandparents will know what I mean!

I have learnt so much in each new place we have lived and God has been faithful to me, even in the hardest of times (which let's face it, we all go through from time to time). I pray that God will continue to teach me - and I will be open to receive - what I need to know to help me grow and fulfil what He wants me to do here at the Centre.

*Hilary*



Our joint stand at 'Bible by the Beach', Eastbourne.



# A day in the life of Justine and Brian

A big thank you to Jayne, our Office Administrator, who managed to find time in her very busy work schedule to put together our 'Day in the Life' series, which in this issue features Justine, who is a member of the housekeeping team and Brian, who assists Geof, our maintenance manager, with the upkeep of the grounds and buildings.

- 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?**

## Justine

1. I've been at the Centre for five years now.
2. It can be anything, from making beds to serving meals.
3. Reading the comments from the guests and making them feel welcome and comfortable.
4. When someone experiences something here for the first time.
5. That they should take the opportunity to come and experience the Centre for themselves.
6. I really enjoy working here and love the atmosphere that the Centre has.



## Brian

1. On and off for five years but you will now find me here once a week, normally on a Friday.
2. It can include absolutely anything that is maintenance related, even gluing a guest's shoe back together!
3. When I see guests enjoying Crowhurst and all the hard work put in by all.
4. Desserts at lunch time ... try some!
5. Just that it's a relaxed friendly atmosphere where you can meet like-minded people and have a good time.
6. Did I mention the desserts? Mmmmm!



# Great Expectations: 31 May - 2 June

At the beginning of June, an important conference took place at Crowhurst. The Centre and the Diocese of Rochester co-operated to lead a residential weekend called 'Great Expectations'. It was part of a year-long healing initiative called in his Diocese by James Langstaff, the Bishop of Rochester, and was the first residential healing course that the Diocese has ever had.

About 27 people came, which proved to be a nice number as everyone could get to know each other during the course of the weekend.

Bishop James came along and led the latter half of the weekend, teaching on the Saturday afternoon and evening, and leading the Sunday worship. There was an extended time of prayer ministry and laying on of hands with anointing.

Other speakers were Sue Fauchon-Jones, a Chaplain at Burrowswood, and Andrew and Elizabeth Procter a priest/counsellor and psychiatrist combination, who are members of the Rochester Diocesan Council for Health and Healing. Our own Steve Gendall and Steve Clark also led sessions and were part of the leadership.

Topics dealt in the key sessions were: '*Lord of All Hopefulness*', '*Expect Great Things from God*', '*Over-Expectations*', as well as a question panel and break-out seminars.

It all made for a happy and worthwhile summer residential. The feedback was so good that there is to be another weekend next year, 20 - 22 June 2014, which will be open to all. Book now to avoid disappointment.



Prayer Requests for Autumn 2013

Please pull out and keep for the coming months



# Prayer Requests for Autumn 2013

## PRAYER FOCUS

*"Heal me, oh Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved; for you are the one I praise."*  
Jeremiah 17:14

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

*"Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds."* Psalm 72:18

## PRAYER

- Thanksgiving Day was a joyous occasion, with friends old and new coming together to give thanks and praise to the Lord for His continued provision for all our needs. This year was a first for the 'two Steves'. We give thanks for the way they work so well together, each developing their own special gifts. Pray for them as they continue to seek the Lord's vision for the future of the Centre, and as they go out to churches. They will both be speaking at eight local churches before the end of the year.
- Give thanks and praise for the dedication of the ministry team, a vital part of the day to day life at the Centre. During the Thanksgiving Service, we were very blessed to witness the anointing and appointing of Brenda Thomas as a new member of the Ministry Team, and two new Visiting Chaplains, Angela Seaton-Mills and Peter and Pat Lockley.
- We give thanks that numbers attending the healing services have increased, also those asking for ministry during the week. We are meeting more people who are coming to the Centre for the first time. Praise the Lord indeed!
- May the Lord bless, strengthen and uphold all who minister at the Centre.
- Diane, our cook, has been unwell for several weeks. Pray that the Lord will restore her to full health. Give thanks for Ollie, Geof's son, who has helped in the kitchen.

*"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."* Psalm 150:6

## September Prayer Focus

*"He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just."* Deuteronomy 32:4

## SEPTEMBER

3 - 8	Prayer and Painting Week
11 - 14	Ordination Retreat (House closed)
18	Guided Quiet Day: <i>"What do you want me to do for you?" Encountering God through the story of Bartimaeus.</i> Rev'd James Bamber
20 - 22	Healing Retreat Weekend
28	Teaching Day: <i>Overcoming Fear and Anxiety</i> Led by Helen Warwick

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."* Isaiah 43:1



# October Prayer Focus

*"Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day." 1 Chronicles 16:23*

## OCTOBER

- 2 Editorial Board Meeting
- 5 Art, Music and Reflection Day
- 12 Prime Conference  
(House closed)
- 18 - 20 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 22 - 27 Prayer and Painting Week
- 29 - 1 Nov Prayer Partners Retreat

*"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*  
Psalm 34:18

# November Prayer Focus

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

## NOVEMBER

- 2 Guided Quiet Day  
'A day with Martha, Mary and Lazarus'  
Led by Maureen Stringer
- 4 - 8 Marilyn Baker Retreat
- 8 - 10 Crowhurst Reps Retreat
- 16 Creative Writing Day  
Led by Tracy Williamson
- 27 Guided Quiet Day  
'Blooms in the Desert'  
Led by Paul & Olive Deeming
- 29 - 1 Dec When God breaks through  
Led by Colin Crook

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*  
2 Corinthians 5:17



# Prayer for The Centre

## PRAYER FOCUS:

*"... being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* Philippians 1:6

## PRAYER FOR THE TRUSTEES

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

- Colin Crook has served his six years as Chairman of the Trustees and must now retire. He has been a hard working and dedicated Chairman, with a real heart for the healing ministry. He will be greatly missed. May the Lord bless and watch over him, and continue to use him as part of the ministry team.
  - Martin Granger was unanimously elected to take over as Chair of the Board. Pray that the Lord will strengthen, uphold, lead and guide him, as he takes on this new responsibility.
  - Now there is even more need to increase the number of Trustees. Pray earnestly that the Lord will provide people of His choice to join the Board. Shirley Dawson has had her appointment extended for another year.
  - It has been decided to rebuild the Art Room. Give thanks for a generous legacy that started the fund and for those who have already sent contributions. Pray that the Lord will continue to provide for all our needs. Give thanks and praise for the generosity of our supporters that keeps our finances in good order.
  - Pray for the Lord's guidance in developing the grounds using the resources we have, and to improve the parking facilities to cope with the growing numbers attending the Thursday healing service.
- "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart... It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*  
Colossians 3:23 & 24

# Prayer for staff at The Centre

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."* John 15:16

**SENIOR CHAPLAIN:** Steve Gendall

**DEPUTY CHAPLAIN:** Steve Clark

**ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN:** Penny

**MINISTRY TEAM:** Andy, Brenda, Carole, Colin, Gwen, Hildegard, Jenny, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Paul, Pippa, Stephen, Veronica, Vivien and Yvonne

**CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR:** Hilary Clark

**FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR:** Chris

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Jayne

**HOUSE MANAGER:** Heidi

**MAINTENANCE MANAGER:** Geof

**MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT:** Brian

**OFFICE STAFF:** Esther, Gillian, Juliette

**HOUSE STAFF:** Abigail, Chrissy, Clare, Justine, Sarah and Steve

**COOKS:** Diane and David

**GARDENER:** Desmond

**PIANISTS:** Pippa and Stephen

**FLAUTIST:** Vivien **DRUMMER:** Pete

**VOLUNTEERS:** Christine, Cliff, Diane, Jenny, Margaret, Mavis, Michal, Rosemary, Shirley and Yvonne

**MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Mary

*"My command is this: "Love each other as I have loved you."* John 15:12

**Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre**  
**The Old Rectory, Crowhurst, Battle,**  
**East Sussex TN33 9AD**  
**Telephone: 01424 830204**  
**Bookings: 01424 830033 Fax: 01424 830053**  
**E-mail: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com**  
**Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk**



# Stepping down

# For he's a jolly good fellow!

After almost six years Chairing the Board of Trustees, it is time for me to stand down as this is built into our constitution. During that time I have worked with three Senior Chaplains – Peter McIntosh, Kath Batte and Steve Gendall. They have all contributed a great deal to the life and the ministry of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. It has been a joy to work with each of them.

During this time, God's hand has been on both the place and the people as we have sought to carry out His will. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Senior Chaplain and staff, the Visiting Chaplains, the Ministry Team and the volunteers for their loyalty and support. Also I have always been aware of, and am most sincerely grateful for, every one of you who have prayed for me and for the work of the Board of Trustees.

I am very pleased to announce that my successor from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 is Martin Granger. He has the wholehearted support of the Board of Trustees and will take over Chairing the Board at an important stage in the development of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Martin brings with him a wealth of experience in the healing ministry. Since his retirement from Crossways - a Christian healing centre for people with emotional needs - he has assisted at Burrswood as one of the Chaplains. Do please pray for him as he prepares to take on considerable responsibility, that he will always clearly know the path that God is laying before him.

Colin Crook

*One of our trustees, Jane Thomas, pays tribute to Colin as he steps down from his role as Chairman of the Board.*

On Thanksgiving Day, Colin spoke about his time as Chairman, of the changes he has seen and how good a position the Centre is in, with a great team at the helm.

I have the privilege of thanking Colin on behalf of everyone at the Centre, not least the Trustees. He took over as Chairman after only a year with the Board, due to Charles Hooper's illness (do please keep Charles and his wife, Prim, in your prayers).

Colin has led and served us ably and calmly, with discernment and humility through various times of change and development. We will miss his wit and wisdom ... well, we will miss his wisdom!

And thank you Diane for all you do in support of Colin and also for all your hard work. It may go unseen but it is not unappreciated.

So thank you Diane and thank you Colin.

Jane Thomas



**The Trustees, pictured earlier in the year.**

*Top Left: Martin Granger, Paul Raynor, Jim Beveridge, Colin Crook, Shirley Dawson, Jane Thomas, Mavis Williams*

# Thanksgiving Day



*Thanksgiving Day was a wonderful occasion, as you will read in this article sent in by Marilyn Smith, one of our Crowhurst Reps. To see more photos of the day, do have a look at our Facebook page by following the link from the website, [www.crowhursthealing.co.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.co.uk).*

After a very hot week, cumulus clouds gathered early, bringing much cooler weather but thankfully no rain. Well before 10am there was a buzz of arrival around the house as the Lord's people gathered to give thanks and praise for this special place. Young and old alike chatted, explored and eagerly anticipated the day's events.



By 10.15am people were sitting in the Chapel of Christ's Glory ready for the Thanksgiving and Holy Communion service. By 11am the Chapel was overflowing and folk were sitting on chairs in the corridor, with others seated in the marquee on the lawn outside Poustinia, where the service was relayed so that everyone was included in the corporate act of worship.



Steve G welcomed everyone, including Stephanie Stevens (102 years young). *(Editor's note: Stephanie was featured in a previous magazine article entitled, 'Perhaps our oldest and most long serving guest.' Evidently she still is!).*

After Steve reminded us to give thanks for each other, worship commenced with the song 'Give thanks with a grateful heart.' God's word is living, active and powerful and the two short readings were certainly that!  
**Jeremiah 6:16**, "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But, you said, we will not walk in it." And **Matthew 11:28-30**, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

# Thanksgiving Day



Following these two short readings, which showed how God's word is living, active and powerful, Steve quoted ***Psalm 115:1***, "*Not unto us O Lord but unto Your name give glory for Your mercy and for Your truth's sake.*"

The service continued with prayers of thanksgiving and anointing of the Chaplains, Visiting Chaplains and Ministry Team for the ongoing work of the Lord at the Centre. Communion concluded the service, after which a beautifully prepared, scrumptious buffet lunch awaited the invited guests, Visiting Chaplains and those staying in the house. Others enjoyed their packed lunches in and around the house and grounds.



In the afternoon, Colin Crook reflected on his time as Chair of the Trustees. He paid tribute to the present trustees and thanked those who had supported him, not least his wife, Diane. He said that he was leaving the Board at a time when the Centre has energy and enthusiasm, which will stand it in good stead for the future. He asked us to pray for his successor, Martin Granger.

Martin then thanked folk for their welcome and shared that Isaiah 61 is his heart, to '*Preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness the prisoners.*' Martin reminded us that it is the broken people who are the healers and that if we are dancing to the beat of God's heart, we are in the right place. Jane Thomas, another trustee, thanked Colin for his wisdom, calmness, discernment and humility, and she also thanked Diane.

## **'Stop, Look, Listen: Mission and Vision'**

Steve G, Steve C and Penny Button then shared their vision for the CCHC. All three had recently been away on retreat to pray, talk together and have individual time to listen to God and discern what He was saying.

During the Retreat, Penny described a picture the Lord had given her.

*'The driveway at the CCHC was being widened and people of all ages were streaming in. There were ministry rooms and a Chapel where the garages are currently standing. God's radiant light was shining over the whole area.*

*In the Senior Chaplain's garden, there was a huge wooden cross and brick benches, like a*



# Thanksgiving Day

*small amphitheatre, where people were sitting and praying amidst a landscaped area. People right across the spectrum were coming at lunch times and after work, not necessarily staying at the Centre, but receiving ministry.'*

It was a vision requiring more prayer ministers, a prayer garden and finances and we were asked to pray.

Steve C told us where the CCHC is at now, as well as the vision for the future. He said they'd had serious fun! This indeed is infectious, reminding us that the Joy of the Lord is our strength. With the aid of technology, Steve then 'led' us around the grounds. The Prayer Walk and water feature are real blessings and during July a team, which included the Chaplains, worked very hard to repair this much loved feature. After a thorough cleaning of the stones, a new liner was installed and the edging stones replaced.



At present, very little of the grounds are wheelchair friendly and perhaps for the future it might be possible to create a labyrinth, like a virtual pilgrimage. Already a new large, wooden cross has been erected on the Prayer Walk.

A couple of weekends just for men were envisaged with possibly an orienteering theme and maybe a men's gym. There might also be healing weekends especially for families.

Following Steve C's talk, Steve G gave us a Powerpoint presentation which has been put together for advertising and promoting

the Centre, the aim of which is to try and communicate with those who haven't before been reached, taking healing out to our nation and indeed the world (thus the use of Facebook and Twitter - see page 20-21 for more information on Facebook).

Steve G concluded the afternoon session by thanking folk for supporting the Centre, saying, *"We are in a strong place and serve a strong God, so we look forward to tomorrow. Our relationships are seamless. We are the body of Christ and we should be honouring to God. Crowhurst survives and thrives on being the body of Christ. We are called to an unnatural unity, and when it happens it shocks the world! It's the grace of God that brings it about. Hallelujah!"*

The day concluded with more fellowship over tea and delicious homemade cakes.



It truly was a wonderful day of thanksgiving and prayer, and to enable folk to ponder and reflect, various prayer places were set up around the Centre.

Outside the office, on a table, were various objects that reflected the personalities of the office, maintenance gardening and bookstall team.

There was a gardening basket and tools, a cycling helmet, music manuscript, a wood from a bowl's player and various other items. Folk were asked what the Centre meant to them and their words were fixed to a board - *Peace, joy, hope, acceptance, love*, to name but a few.

# Thanksgiving Day



A place setting and creatively folded serviette brought to mind the dining room staff. At the front sat a huge rectangular iced cake, which Clare, a member of the housekeeping team, had made, piped with all the names of those who give of their very best to make a stay at Crowhurst outstanding.



Another prayer place was the art room. On entering there was immediately a sense of God's peace and presence. The room was full of lovingly displayed paintings all done by those who had visited and left behind their works of art. These were available to purchase for donation/gift aid towards the proposed new art room. Many can testify to the healing work of Jesus as they draw, paint and create at Crowhurst, with sessions being prayerfully led by Maggie under the Lord's direction and wisdom.

In the small Chapel was a prayer place to give thanks for the spiritual food given to us by the Lord through His servants at the Centre. Cascades of various shades of purple material led one's eyes down to the bottom of the display, where there was bread and wine, grapes and the Word open at Jeremiah chapter 6.



Above this were photos and writing depicting the joint Crowhurst and Diocesan Conference, 'Great Expectations', which took place earlier in the year and also the Prime Conference for doctors, which was held in the spring. There was also information on the 200 Prayer Partners, who regularly pray for the Centre throughout the year, other CCHC public events, Healing and Ordinands' retreats, Musicians, Prayer Ministry & Prayer Ministers, and how relationships throughout all are important - so there was a happy face on a small yellow ball and a globe reminding us of 'The Great Commission' (**Matthew 16:28-30**). Alongside, on a small table, sat the *Signs of the Kingdom* book, where guests record their thanksgiving.

This was indeed a wonderful day of celebration, thanksgiving, fellowship, praise and worship and we wait in expectation and excitement as the Lord leads the team forward in their vision for the CCHC.

Marilyn Smith

# Social Media

They are everywhere: TV adverts, packaging, at the bottom of emails and on websites. In fact if you stop reading this article for a minute and have a look around, it won't be long before you find one. On some packaging in the kitchen cupboard; on the satellite TV van outside; or at the bottom of that letter you have just read. I am talking about those small buttons or squares advertising Social Media - the little blue **f** for Facebook or the little **t** for Twitter. Now it seems that the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre has joined the social networking phenomenon as well!

Perhaps you have managed to avoid Facebook so far; maybe when asked, you proudly deny any involvement, or maybe secretly you would like to be part of it but actually you don't really understand what Facebook is!

At a basic level I like to think of my Facebook page as a personal website where I can 'post' updates (statements) about what I have been up to, upload photographs and share links to fun and interesting stuff that I have found elsewhere on the Web. These are then automatically shared with all the people I have chosen to be 'friends'. They can then comment on these statements and photos and in turn I get to see their photos and posts and interact with them.

With 750 million active users you will probably find that a lot of people you know are using Facebook. Your church, local community or leisure centres may have Facebook pages. It is an easy way to stay in touch with people and places that are important to you. For example, from spending two minutes flicking through the

news feed on Facebook, I have just learnt that there has been a change to my normal church service this Sunday. I was also recently able to post information on the Centre's Facebook page by providing a link to the East Sussex County Council Highways site regarding local road closures. Facebook allows important information to be shared in an instant.

If this has not convinced you to join us, why not take a look? You can view our page without even signing up to Facebook by following the link from our website, but to

be fully involved, you will need to create an account. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), follow the instructions and a confirmation email will be sent to you. Click the link in the email and begin! **For security make sure that you have set the privacy settings to 'friends' and not 'public',**

**otherwise anyone can see your information and posts.**

Once you have an account set up, you can click on the 'Like' button on the Centre's page and you will be able to follow all posts from the CCHC, along with other followers' comments; you will also be able to add your own posts. Folk are regularly using our Facebook page to give feedback on their visits to the Centre and to give personal thanksgiving (see page 21). You can post on our 'wall' or message us with personal prayer requests, which we can include in the evening service at the Chapel. Please note though that posts may not appear immediately.

I look forward to hearing from you via Facebook.

Esther Dunn (from the office).





# Facebook friends and followers

*At the time of writing in July, the Centre has 165 'Likes' on its Facebook page and after Esther's very informative and helpful article about how to use it, we will hopefully soon have many more followers. Below are some comments from folk who are already signed up to Facebook and have left brief testimonies of their visit to the Centre.*

"I have wonderful memories of being at Crowhurst in 1988 when I came with friend who was a wheelchair user. Sadly my friend has died since then but we both so loved the Christ filled atmosphere there. I must visit again soon. *Lynda.*"

"Thank you for a very healing three nights/two days. Worship on Thursday morning was awesome & dessert (pictured below) on Friday was pretty close!"



"On a practical level, my room was immaculate and the food was scrumptious! *Sarah.*"

"Just returned from another blessed time at my favourite retreat. Thank you all especially Steve, Steve, Penny and Yvonne. It was lovely making friends and also meeting some familiar ones again. A truly wonderful place to spend quality time with our Lord. See you all again soon I hope. *Cheryl.*"

"Have just had a wonderful few days at the CCHC. Thank you to all concerned for giving my husband and I so many blessings. Love and prayers as always, *Mary.*"

"I attended the June healing retreat and wanted to thank you all for such an amazing time. I arrived worn out and burdened and left renewed, physically and spiritually. I was ministered to in the way I believe Jesus would have done, with kindness, compassion, love and meekness. Everyone at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a credit to God. Keep doing what you are doing."

"A most beautiful peaceful place to find simply Jesus... how He draws you to the place of laying it all at His feet with simple but honest prayer in Ministry, is just beyond words. Jesus sets the captive free. Amen. Thank you to the Ministry Team. God Bless from *Diane & Richard.*"

"We have fond memories of our visits in 1974 and 1979 which contributed to my being equipped for the twenty years of full-time Hospital Chaplaincy in Pietermaritzburg. *Hamish.*"

"Very inspiring and restful days here last November, hope to visit again this year. *Joan.*"

"Lovely service at Crowhurst this morning. Much needed after a difficult week! Thank you Lord."

*And from Jenny, who saw the many photos on the CCHC on Facebook... "ooooohh I'd love to go there for a visit!"*

So as you can see, Facebook is very good way of seeing guests' comments and keeping up to date with news, events etc.



# Garden News



How time flies!  
When you receive  
your magazine in  
early September,  
autumn leaves will  
be falling and the leaf  
clearing process will  
start again, keeping  
Cliff and myself very  
busy, but we get  
there eventually!

The summer started rather wet, but we have since had some lovely hot weather. May and June were quite wet, causing much growth, so I was kept very busy strimming, with the hedges requiring particular attention.

With the arrival of warmer weather, the bedding plants and flowering shrubs came into flower, though the downside of dry and hot weather is that more watering than usual is required!

As autumn makes its entrance, hedges will require attention and this is also the time when roses and other items in need of pruning will be carried out. Roses will be re-checked for mildew and black spot and if necessary, spraying will be done.

In closing my report, I would like to say that I enjoy having my prayer times whilst walking around the grounds in God's wonderful creation.

With regards to you all, Desmond

And from Cliff  
As I write my  
contribution for this  
issue, I am seeking  
shade instead of  
shelter owing to  
the continuing  
heatwave that we  
are experiencing at  
the moment.

One of my tasks  
over the summer  
has been to keep clear the path leading  
to the railway bridge and cutting back the  
verge and hedge, as this comes within our  
boundary. Also, unwanted Ash trees had  
started to take root and were becoming a  
problem so they had to come out.

Much needed weeding was carried out on  
the rose bed outside Poustinia and bark  
chippings were spread in the circular bed  
outside the Wing.

In the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day  
I was asked to clear the weeds and bramble  
which was growing around and inside the  
wooden gazebo near the pond and Prayer  
Walk. This is a much needed bit of shade  
during hot weather, but it had become a bit  
overgrown, which was preventing its use.

Blessings, Cliff





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September

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- 3 - 8 Prayer and Painting Week  
11 - 4 Ordination Retreat (closed)  
18 Guided Quiet Day:  
*See Prayer Focus for title & leader*  
20 - 22 Healing Retreat Weekend  
28 Teaching Day:  
*Overcoming Fear and Anxiety*  
Led by Helen Warwick

## October

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- 5 Art, Music and Reflection Day  
12 Prime Conference  
(House closed)  
18 - 20 Healing Retreat Weekend  
22 - 27 Prayer and Painting Week  
29 - 1 Nov Prayer Partners Retreat

## November

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- 2 Guided Quiet Day  
*See Prayer Focus for title & leader*  
4 - 8 Marilyn Baker Retreat  
8 - 10 Crowhurst Reps Retreat  
16 Creative Writing Day  
Led by Tracy Williamson  
27 Guided Quiet Day  
*See Prayer Focus for title & leader*  
29 - 1 Dec *When God breaks through*  
Led by Colin Crook

# NOTICEBOARD

## ADVANCE NOTICE

### **Advent Retreat: 3 - 6 December**

A time before Christmas to come away and relax while reflecting on the Christmas story and its healing power for today. The mid-week Advent Retreat provides an opportunity, before the festivities begin, to have quality space to rest, relax and reflect on the meaning of Christmas for us today. It is a led retreat that offers daily worship, reflection and prayer on the Christian theme of Advent. During the retreat, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, there will also be a quiet day, which will be open to all.

### **New Year Retreat: 30 - 3 January 2014**

Our very popular New Year Retreat gets booked up very quickly. This is a joyful and uplifting, but also reflective and prayerful retreat and is a great way to see out the old year and bring in the new. At the time of print, there are still some rooms available but don't leave it too long to book as they will soon be taken.

### **New President**

After a number of years prayerfully supporting the work at the CCHC, our President, The Rt Revd Nichols Reade has retired. I am very pleased to announce that The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner has agreed to become our new President. We look forward to working with him and strengthening our ties with the Diocese of Chichester.

Colin Crook







## How to contact us

**Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre**  
**The Old Rectory, Crowhurst,**  
**Battle, East Sussex TN33 9AD**

**Telephone:** 01424 830204

**Bookings:** 01424 830033

**Email:** [bookings.cchc@btconnect.com](mailto:bookings.cchc@btconnect.com)

**Fax:** 01424 830053

**Email:** [crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com](mailto:crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com)

**Web:** [www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

The office is open from 9am - 5pm

Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday

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



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

## Who's who

### **PRESIDENT**

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

### **CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**

Martin Granger

### **SENIOR CHAPLAIN**

Revd Steve Gendall

### **DEPUTY CHAPLAIN**

Revd Steve Clark

### **ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN**

Penny Button

### **PRAYER PARTNERS CO-ORDINATOR**

Shirley Dawson

### **CROWHURST REPRESENTATIVES CO-ORDINATOR**

Jane Thomas

### **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Mary Slater

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*Healing* <sup>in His</sup> steps