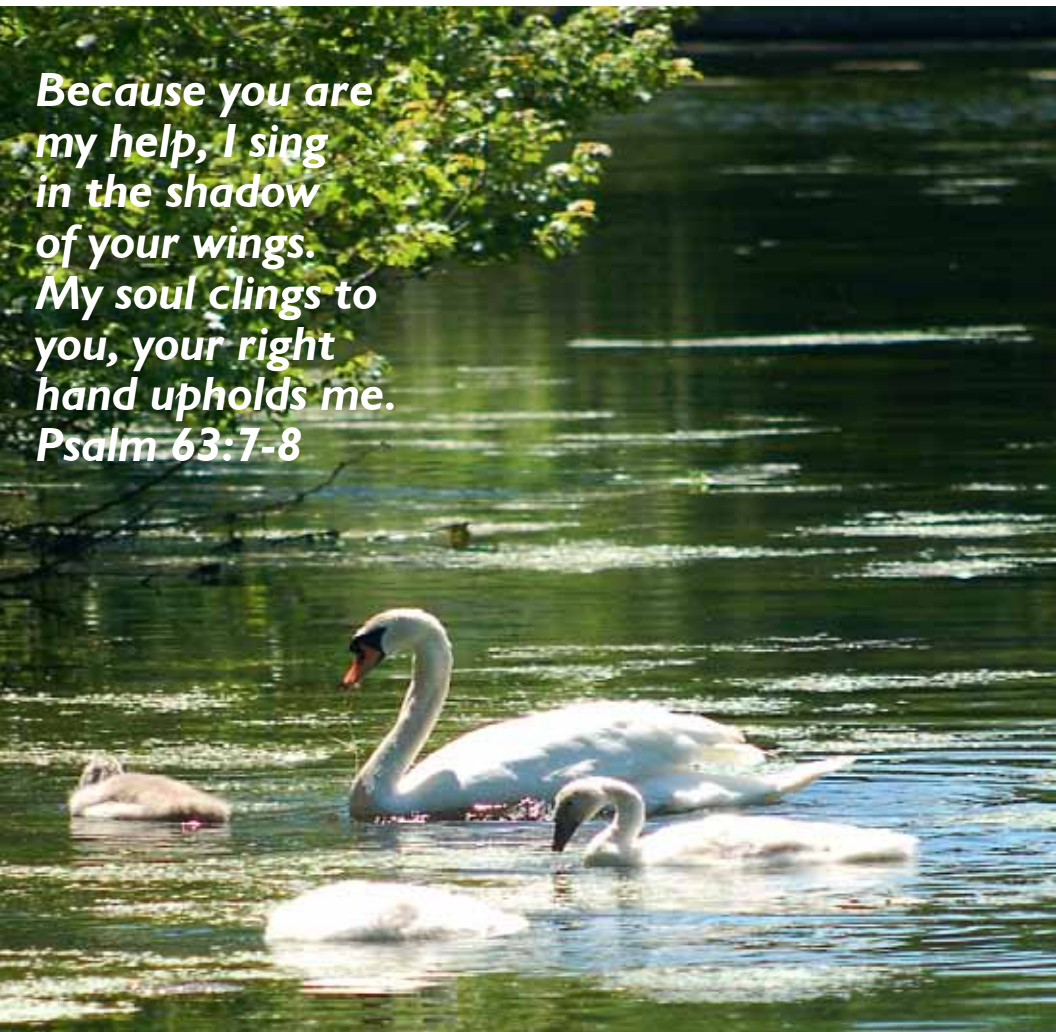


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# *in His* *Healing* steps

Summer 2013

*Because you are  
my help, I sing  
in the shadow  
of your wings.  
My soul clings to  
you, your right  
hand upholds me.  
Psalm 63:7-8*



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

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'Keep Calm and Carry On' was the third in a series of World War Two posters, drawn up by the UK Ministry of Information in order to boost the morale of the British people by passing on a message from

King George VI. These words have caught on in a big way now and there seems to be a 'Keep Calm' slogan for every situation or circumstance!

I thought of 'Keep Calm and Trust in God' as I was driving along today, but I'm way behind with that idea as I have just done a web search to find that this particular slogan already exists!



So what about 'Keep Calm and Come to Crowhurst'? Keeping calm isn't easy, and neither is trusting God during difficult circumstances, particularly when He seems far away, but whether we manage to keep calm or not, we do have to somehow carry on!



If we are honest, many of us don't immediately turn to God because we try and deal with things in our own strength. However, if we bring our situations before the Lord, He will often lead us to people or places where we can be helped. The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a place where you will definitely find not only calm, but also much peace, love and care. The Centre is soaked in prayer and from the



moment you arrive, you are entering into the presence of our Lord. You only have to read the encouraging testimonies and words of thanks from guests in this and previous issues of the magazine, to see how God meets with folk who come to the CCHC.

*'Come unto me all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'. Matthew 11:28*

So bring your burdens to Crowhurst and let Jesus minister to you through the Chaplaincy and Ministry Team, while also enjoying good food and very comfortable accommodation.

#### **In this Issue**

Steve G's letter on page 4 helps us to see that we can often overlook God's presence among us, especially in the simple things.

In Cycle of Freedom 2 (pages 6-7), Steve C continues his teaching on dealing with life through difficult circumstances.

#### **Easter Retreat: 28 - 31 March**

We had a full house and fellowship was shared with friends old and new. As we journeyed with Jesus from the Last Supper to His glorious resurrection, we sang more than once the hymn, *'I am a New Creation'*, because that is what we are, New creations in Christ! There isn't enough space in the magazine to write about the whole retreat but it has been comprehensively summed up by a good number of guests, so does provide a good account of the weekend.



*Easter Garden, designed by Maggie & Stephen*

#### **Thanksgiving Day Saturday 20 July**

Make a note in your diaries and come to our annual day of celebration and Thanksgiving to God for all His provision at the Centre. To prepare spiritually for this, Steve G is planning to have a Week of Prayer & Fasting from Friday 12 to Friday 19 July. All are welcome to participate and it is hoped that this will become a regular event as we prepare for Thanksgiving Day.

The purpose of the week will be: **To honour God and to pray that His Kingdom, Power and Glory be known at the CCHC, and in all our lives more and more.** Folk can choose how they want to fast and pray – the idea being that in the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day, we make a particular and more determined point to pray.

As I write this editorial during late April, the sun is shining, the birds are singing and nesting. Trees, shrubs and perennials are all coming to life. It is as if they are singing too, after what seems to have been a very long winter. Two songs come into my mind. *'See what a morning, glorious and bright'* and Stuart Townend's song *'Creation sings the Father's Song'*, which sums up so beautifully the wonder of God's creation and on a day like today, His handiwork is seen at its very best!

I wish you all a lovely hot summer!

With every blessing, Mary Slater

#### **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.

# Our Senior Chaplain writes ...



Dear Friends,

I was very blessed by a lovely guest recently who described our hospitality at Crowhurst as 'infinite thoughtfulness'.

It is so rewarding to know how the attention to detail, the cleanliness and care, make a real difference to the people who come here seeking the Lord's healing touch.

Last week we went out for lunch to celebrate our elder daughter's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. I presented her with a flower from the florist over the road and the girls, who hadn't seen each other since Christmas, exchanged belated birthday gifts. We didn't make a big thing of it, or mention the occasion to the restaurant, but our waiter was obviously quietly observing, and just before dessert he brought over a bowl of ice cream with four teaspoons, topped

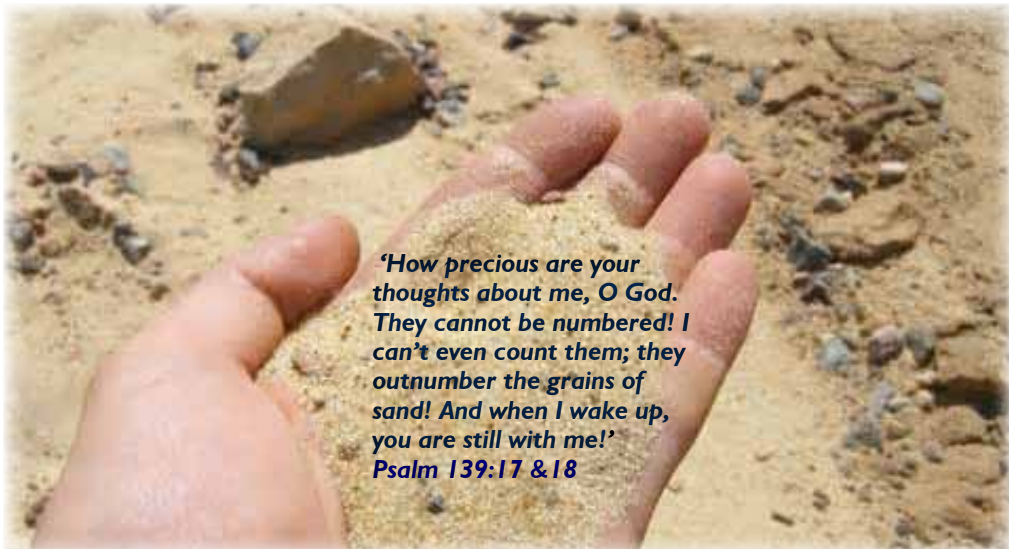
with a burning sparkler, quietly said, "Happy Birthday", and walked away. It was very gentle, not to make a fuss, nor to embarrass, just to surprise and bless. My heart was strangely warmed! Was this God in an apron?

Sometimes we long for God to show up like a huge firework display, with sensational answers to prayer and miracles every day, and many folk are disappointed when that doesn't seem to happen. And yet our Lord so gently, so quietly and so humbly, approaches to bless, to surprise us, with His personal provision and protection every day. I wonder if, in our desire for the dramatic, we overlook the wonder, the 'infinite thoughtfulness', of His intimate presence in our daily lives? Lord please open my eyes to see you every day.

In the New Living Translation of the Bible, Psalm 139 verse 17 and 18 uses words of praise we may like to reflect on and repeat.

In Him,

Steve



***'How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!'***  
***Psalm 139:17 & 18***

# CCHC MAGAZINE

## Mailing List Update

*Our recent mailing list update was very positive, with over 90% of replies coming back to the office and many generous donations made towards the magazine costs. Thank you all for such a wonderful response. The two letters on this page show just how important the magazine is to folk who aren't able to get to the Centre any more.*

We first came to Crowhurst in May 1994, during the time of Reverend Ray Jones and his wife, Maureen.

In a way it's strange how we came to hear about the Centre. I was sitting in our local church in Hornsea, Yorkshire, which was open for visitors. It was raining, typical for August! No one came so I wandered to the back of the church to find something to read. I found a CCHC magazine and saw an article from Maureen regarding the need for intercessors. I had family problems but thought 'I could do this.' I applied and after six months or so, decided to visit the place that I was praying for. One problem was that my husband was a non-Christian – how could I get him to go? (I needed him to drive me there.)

I did go and my husband and I found such love in Crowhurst. I received counselling for my family problems and received much healing. The best part is that my husband, who I had prayed for over many years, became a Christian. He said that the love he found at the Centre was different from the church that he had (reluctantly) attended. "These people are different; they know Christ", he said.

My husband received his healing later and has never looked back. We have come to the CCHC on many occasions but Peter had a stroke two years ago, and it is now unfortunately too far to travel.

Anne



## And from Irene

Receiving 'In His Healing Steps' is very important to me as a way of keeping in touch with you all at the Centre and as a prayer tool, so please continue sending it to me. My most recent visit to the CCHC was in January 2012 but it may well be my last, as I shall be 85 in May this year. I don't drive and am no longer able to travel far alone on public transport.

My first visit must have been some time in the early 1960's and there have been many other visits along the way.

Always there has been a warm welcome, friendship, spiritual help and guidance. Even though the faces change, Jesus of course does not and He is always there in a very special way. Indeed the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a 'very safe place'.

God bless you all.

Irene Watson



# 'A Cycle of Freedom 2'



Even Super heroes get stuck and struggle with circumstances. David, an amazingly courageous man of God, struggled with what life was throwing at him. It really is a struggle sometimes, isn't it? Psalms 42 and 43 spring out of that

struggle, not only showing the depth of the struggle that seemed to go on and on, but also providing insights into David's response to his sense of despair and separation from God. It is worth noting that 'circumstances', awful in themselves, can often be accompanied by a sense that God is absent. For David there is no quick fix but a journey in which he cycles repeatedly through moments of despair countered with tools to cycle out of the darkness into freedom and light.

Let's look in a bit more depth at what these Psalms show us about the reality of the struggle and the steps David takes towards a new way of living. It's about David's **choice** as to where he will focus his attention. Will it be on his circumstances or will it be on his relationship with God? There is no doubt where his heart's desire lies.

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. Ps 42:3*

**Remembering** (*These things I remember as I pour out my soul Ps 42:3*).

David **chooses** to remember his past experiences of the reality of God's presence in his life. ....*how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Ps 42:4*

David chooses to remember moments when God has been his saviour. He remembers

God's intervention and protection when he was being hunted by King Saul .....*therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon – from Mount Mizar. Ps 42:6.*

## **Praise and Worship**

David **chooses** to rehearse what he knows about his God and **chooses** to offer praise and worship. It's a faith step about the God who never changes regardless of circumstances. .... *for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God. Ps 42:5 ..... God my Rock Ps 42:9 ..... my Saviour and my God Ps 42:11 ..... You are God my Stronghold Ps 43:2.*

## **Holy Place**

When Elijah was totally wiped out after his confrontation with the prophets of Baal, he runs for his life. However he does not run aimlessly, but rather chooses to run to a Holy place, Horeb, known as the Mount of God. There are echoes of such a move in David's heart in Ps 43:3-4. At times of deep distress our choice to go to a personally loved meeting place with God represents a faith step that God honours.

## **Retraining the mind – a new way of living**

*(Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2).*

*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God. Ps 43:5.*

It's not easy as David's chorus shows. He has to choose to return again and again as he retrains himself to focus on his relationship with God rather than on the circumstances that were 'in his face'.

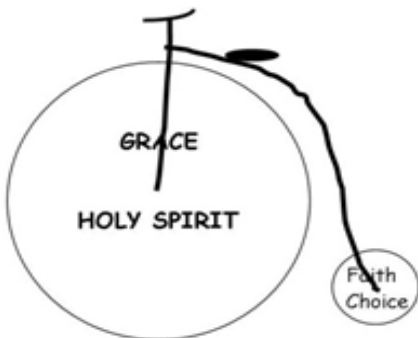
All this may sound as if it is all up to us, rather like a gospel of work and our own endeavour. This couldn't be further from the truth as the following diagram of the Cycle of Freedom indicates.

# Weekly Healing Services Tuesdays & Thursdays



Our faith and choice are tiny parts of the process compared to the Grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit. ....*for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.* 1 Thess 1:6. David understood this and cries out to God in Ps 43:3 ....*Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.*

As with the rest of life, our calling is to co-operate with God and maybe this Penny-farthing illustrates the way forward when the going gets tough. You need both wheels for the Penny-farthing to work.



If you have never been to the Centre before, why not come along to one of the Healing Services? These are held on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and on a Thursday morning at 10.15, with Holy Communion.

At each service, there is the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands for healing. Our ministry team are folk who are inspired by the ministry and person of Jesus, and their desire is to bring His healing and wholeness to the Body of Christ and all God's people.

Come along to one of the Thursday services and spend the day at the Centre, so you can really relax, soak up the peaceful atmosphere and have a good look around. You can book in for lunch (it is advisable to pre-book by phoning the office) or you could bring sandwiches and sit in the lounge or sun corridor. If the weather is nice, you can enjoy the beautiful grounds and eat outside

Thursdays are a wonderful time of coming together, when fellowship is shared with old friends and new ones are often made as folk sit and chat over coffee or lunch.

I know many people who have come along on a Thursday feeling very low and burdened but at the end of the morning after the Christ-centred praise and worship, have gone home feeling uplifted, more positive and very peaceful, having met with our Heavenly Father. One of our regular Thursday visitors recently said, ***A thought about God – He is the Daddy of all Daddies!***

# The Art Room

Back in the early 1930's Howard Cobb put up the Art Room at his own expense, and used it as a 'hideaway' for himself and his wife May. (There was no Cottage for the Warden in those days.) Later, when the Divine Healing Mission moved from London to Crowhurst it became 'The Prayer Room'. After that it became the Art Room that so many people know and love. So the building has been much used for over eighty years.

The Art Room building is now reaching the end of its practical life. Despite loving care and maintenance, it is sinking on one side and needs constant attention. In addition it has become too small for the demands made upon it. We see the therapeutic aspects of the art ministry as a most significant part of the healing ministry at Crowhurst. Indeed we are the only healing centre with an artist in residence.

We have just completed another 'Prayer and Painting Week'. The way that the Lord has been working on that group of people is just awesome (and that is a word that I never use lightly). Painting is a wonderful way of releasing folk from all sorts of issues and allowing the Lord to come in and minister His healing grace. At one point Maggie, our artist in residence, asked those on the course to paint something with their non-dominant hand and those guests were amazed at what emerged.

At a recent Trustees meeting, we made the bold decision to replace the existing Art Room on the same site with a new building to meet current needs. The new building would cost approximately £75,000. We have just received a bequest of £25,000, which forms the start of the project, and this greatly

encourages us. To find £50,000 does not look so daunting.

As a principle we do not directly ask our supporters for money. However we do feel that it is right to make the need known so that together we can pray the money in, and invite you to be part of that. Please help us to pray in the resources that we need to complete the project.

May the Lord bless you.

Colin Crook  
Chairman of the Trustees



## "Walking with Jesus" - April 2013

Abstracts? Impressionism? Turner-esque? We covered them all this week in our attempt to capture the joy of walking with the risen Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and always. We walked with Him along the Emmaus road, and through a sequence of amazing miracles in St. Luke's gospel. We 'watched' in our imagination as Jesus raised two people from the dead and healed many others. This was His walk; the challenge for us was to paint it!

We finished with a wonderful talk on the two-fold mission of preaching the gospel and healing the sick. These two strands are necessary for the complete wholeness that Jesus came to give - not just a 'cure' from illness, but a totally life-changing experience of salvation.

On the Sunday morning we were offered the opportunity of being anointed with oil, receiving prayer for healing, and being sent out like the first disciples. It was an awesome and inspiring moment!

We also enjoyed much fun and laughter during the week. Old friends were reunited and new friends were made. Thank you to all those who were praying and interceding for us - your prayers were answered and we had a wonderful time.

If you have never been on a Prayer & Painting week before, I encourage you to do so. It is a chance to find your own style of painting and to draw closer to Jesus. The weeks run from a Tuesday afternoon to a Sunday morning, finishing with a lovely Sunday lunch.

You can stay on longer if you wish, to relax and enjoy the peace, and the beauty of nature here at Crowhurst, where God is always making all things new.

Maggie Freeman - Resident Artist

### **And some comments from the guests ...**

*A real meeting with Jesus.*

*Very inspirational.*

*This has been another really great week. Under Maggie's tuition and guidance, we all walked with Jesus!*

*I came with a heavy heart, but am going home rejoicing that I have met with Jesus! (The paintings that came from this tells the story.)*

*Very relaxing and the music was soothing; you could feel your tension melt away.*

*Maggie has been a great inspiration to us all.*

*Wonderful time as always.*

*A lovely, joyous time and a great welcome!*



**The next Prayer & Painting week will be 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

# Call the Midwife!



For those 'Call the Midwife' fans, you may be interested to read about retired nurse and midwife, Eve Vause, who when she retired, spent seven years working at the

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Eve says that she enjoyed watching 'Call the Midwife' and particularly loved the character of Chummy, played by Miranda Hart.

When she was 17, Eve began training in orthopaedics in Alton before starting training aged 19 in nursing and midwifery at St Thomas's, Southampton. She says she had always had a 'childish' idea of being a missionary from reading books and hearing stories.

The Christian Missionary Society sent Eve to Lee Abbey, first as a guest, then working in the retreat centre and getting to know people. She remembers meeting someone who said, 'We are pleased to meet you. We have been praying for you for a year.' Eve says, "The idea of someone praying for a person they had never met just threw me."

Eve spent 25 years in Sierra Leone, Uganda, Nigeria and the Congo. She saw midwifery as part of nursing, dealing with the whole person.

Her language skills were put to the test in the Congo, where she couldn't understand why mothers were not taking her advice to give their children beans and ground nuts to deal with malnutrition. Apparently to give and to

kill are the same word. She had been telling mothers to kill their children with beans and ground nuts!

Eve has supervised health centres in Uganda, where during the troubles, midwives would hide cars among the trees so that they could rush an expectant mum to hospital if she went into labour. She also supervised maternity and child health centres up to 100 miles away from Kampala. She says that is where she did proper midwifery and is still in touch with some of the mothers today.

Eve served at a time when Obote and Amin were in power.

While working at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, Eve did everything from washing floors to ministering in the Chapel. She particularly liked the way the whole person is embraced. She is now a prayer partner so is still very much involved.



**Eve in her younger days, working in Sierra Leone**

***This shortened article originally appeared in the Diocesan Oxford Recorder. Photo is from the Church Missionary Society Archives.***

Prayer Requests for Summer 2013  
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

# Prayer Requests for Summer 2013

## PRAYER FOCUS

*"Show me your ways Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and lead me, for you are God my Saviour."* Psalm 25:4

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

*"You are my God and I will praise you; you are my God and I will exalt you."* Psalm 118:28

## PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's provision for all our needs. As we began to consider the need to improve the art room, we received a generous legacy that will help towards the cost. God's timing is perfect! Praise His holy name.
- Part of our vision is getting the CCHC known to a wider world. Esther, one of our office staff, is posting on Facebook and tweeting on Twitter. Pray for her as she organises these facilities, and as we develop the website.
- Pray for wisdom in improving the resources we have, how to develop the grounds and improve the parking facilities.
- There is a real need to ensure prayer cover for our protection at all times lest we come under spiritual attack. *"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions, .. be alert and always keep on praying for the Lord's people."* Ephesians 6:18
- We are beginning to build up local contacts. Invitations are coming in to go out to churches and meet various people. Pray for wisdom and discernment with how to develop the healing ministry more widely.

*"This is what the Lord says - 'I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.'"*  
Isaiah 48:17

## June Prayer Focus

*"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him."*  
Psalm 103:11

## JUNE

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 7 - 9   | Healing Retreat Weekend   |
| 11 - 15 | Prayer & Painting Week  |
| 19      | Guided Quiet Day:<br><b><i>The Joy of the Lord<br/>is your strength</i></b><br>Led by Sister Elizabeth Ewen |
| 22      | Day of Dance & Worship<br><i>Creative Movement<br/>in Worship</i>   |
| 28 - 30 | Finding Personal Wholeness  |

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14*



# July Prayer Focus

*"Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens." Psalm 68:19*

## JULY

- 3 Editorial Board Meeting
- 5 - 7 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 13 Teaching Day:  
**Dealing with Disappointment**  
Led by Steve Gendall
- 16 Trustees AGM
- 20 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 24 Guided Quiet Day:  
**Mountain Views and Valley Paths**  
Led by Gill Payne

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4*

# August Prayer Focus

*"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23*

## AUGUST

- 6 - 9 Be Creative Retreat
- 17 Guided Quiet Day  
**Rest in my Love**  
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
- 23 - 25 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 31 Teaching Day:  
**Release the Captives**  
Led by Jim Beveridge

*"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Joel 2:32*



# Prayer for The Centre

## PRAYER FOCUS:

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love."*

1 Corinthians 16:13 & 14

## PRAYER FOR THE TRUSTEES

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

- Give thanks and praise for an anointed Strategy Day in March. No guests were in the house, so we were able to invite both Steves and their wives to join us. As we spent time in prayer, we were conscious of our faithful prayer partners who were joining us in spirit. Thank you; may you be truly blessed beloved prayer warriors.
- We had a picture of Jesus meeting us in the local woods, showing a new pathway, but still within the boundary of the woods. Please pray earnestly that we will take one step at a time, taking care not to take on too much too soon, or diversify into areas that the Lord does not want us to go.
- Please continue to pray for more Trustees to join the board.
- With the increase in numbers, particularly at the Healing Services, we need to increase the size of the Ministry Team. Please pray for the Lord to provide people of His choice to become part of this vital ministry at the Centre.
- We give thanks and praise for the Lord's protection of the Centre during the temporary road closures to repair pot holes and during the heavy snowfall. The staff coped magnificently so that the programme still went ahead. Well done good and faithful servants.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

John 15:5

# Prayer for staff at The Centre

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

**SENIOR CHAPLAIN:** Steve Gendall

**DEPUTY CHAPLAIN:** Steve Clark

**ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN:** Penny

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

**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

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23*

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

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

# Thanksgiving Day

Our yearly celebration of the life, work and ministry of the Centre will take place on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Come and join us, and share fellowship with friends old and new. It will be the two Steves' first Thanksgiving Day so if you haven't yet had the chance to meet them and their wives, Veronica and Hilary, this will be a good opportunity to do so!

Steve Gendall will be preaching at the morning service, which starts at 11am. His theme will be 'Stop, Look, Listen'. The service will include a commissioning of all those involved in ministry. Do arrive in plenty of time to be sure of a seat as the Chapel fills up very quickly. Please bring your own picnic lunch; coffee and tea will be available.

In the afternoon there will be a focus on 'What does our vision look like?' This will be led by Steve G, Steve C and our Associate Chaplain, Penny Button. It will include some of our new publicity material which it is hoped will be used when going out to other churches, and will be accompanied by a Powerpoint presentation. There will be a few Prayer Stations around the house and gardens (weather permitting) for folk to use during the day to help with the thanksgiving.

It is hoped that there might be an archive display in the library, which Colin and Diane Crook will oversee. There may also be a display of reflections from the Clarks and Gendalls about their time in Ireland and Zimbabwe respectively. This will however be dependent on material and time, so is not guaranteed!

Tea and home made cakes will conclude the day.

Perhaps you might like to book in for a few days either side of the day so that you can really relax and enjoy a complete rest.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual day of Thanksgiving.

# Thanks from Guests

The testimonies of our guests are the best advert for the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Each person comes with their own burdens, but as their many testimonies show, they leave refreshed and rested.

*"I feel that my faith has been strengthened and that I am in a much better place than when I arrived. This place is so full of God's love; I could feel Him wrapping His arms around me."*

*"I came tired and stressed. I have enjoyed being blessed by the peace, love, prayers, teaching, friendship, good food, beautiful garden, birds singing, fresh air and time to read, draw or paint in your wonderful Art Room. I have soaked up God's blessings and leave feeling refreshed and renewed. Thank you to all the staff who have made my stay so wonderful!"*

*"Rest and space to listen to God away from the distractions of home. The prayer ministry was so helpful. The place is soaked in prayer and the presence of God. Excellent food, spotless rooms and lovely company."*

*"Difficult to put into words. Just so special to be back and receive teaching and prayer at the Healing Service. Thank you so much for this very special place and all the input by Steve & Steve. It has been wonderful to come again."*

*"As always, everything I have heard, thought and prayed about, has been exactly what I needed; some of it I knew I needed, some of it I didn't realise until I received it!"*

*"It has been a wonderful opportunity to spend time with God in a calm and prayerful environment."*

*"I have been delighted by the ambience and fragrance of Jesus; the peace and tranquillity have made it easy to relax, find comfort and hear the Lord."*

# Easter Retreat 28-31 March



These Retreats are always very special and this one was no exception. Steve G and Veronica, planned a most wonderfully inspiring and memorable few days, with assistance from Steve C and Hilary.

Around the grounds and house, there were seven Prayer Stations of the Words of the Cross, and also the Stations of the Cross to aid us with our meditations and reflections. Maggie and Veronica between them produced a very moving life sized cardboard drawing of Jesus, which was hung on the cross in the large Chapel on Good Friday.

After breakfast, Good Friday was spent in silence until tea time. *'He died for our sins'* was the day's theme and at the morning service, Veronica spoke about the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-34), and the role of the scapegoat. *The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness (Lev:16:22).* When Jesus took our sins upon Himself, He became our scapegoat; He gave His life that we might live, suffering betrayal, rejection, torture, humiliation and finally the brutality of crucifixion. And why did God allow His Son to endure such an ordeal

on our behalf? Because Jesus bought in the final covenant. He **was** the final sacrifice. God gave His only son and laid the whole human race's sins upon Him. *My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly. That I, the guilty one may go free! Amazing Love, Oh what sacrifice, the Son of God given for me!* (Graham Kendrick).

At the end of the morning service we were asked to think honestly about our own sins. These we wrote down and sealed inside a red envelope, which we placed on Jesus' body on the cross before the start of the afternoon service.

*'The Good News that saves you'* was Veronica's message at the afternoon service and looking at all the red envelopes on Jesus' body really brought home His willing sacrifice for us, and we watched in silence as the two Steves burned our envelopes outside the Chapel.

Later on we assembled in the large Chapel for the removal of Jesus' body from the cross. Steve G wrapped it in a linen cloth and we then walked to the empty tomb, which Geof, our Maintenance Manager, had prepared in a wooded part of the grounds. It was a very emotional and unforgettable experience.

On Saturday evening, *'Believe it or not'* was led by Steve C, who showed us a selection of photos taken at different angles, giving a completely different picture, depending on which way you looked at it! Following this was a fun quiz of photos which had been taken at various places around the house. Our job was to identify what and where they were. Some were actually quite difficult to work out, even for those of us who thought they knew the Centre very well!



**E**xpectant arrival.  
Early evening foot washing on  
Maundy Thursday.

**A**gony on Good Friday of seeing my  
sins pinned onto Jesus. Realising  
afresh the weight of the sins of  
the world borne by Him.

**S**ilence. **S**ix hours on Good Friday to  
practically participate in confession.  
Listening to the Lord at the Stations of the  
Cross. Hearing Him speak into my life at  
the **S**even Prayer Stations of the Words  
from the Cross. He is my **S**capegoat

**T**hrough the night, singing hymns  
and praise music and songs, accompanied  
by tremendous detailed shots of His  
creation. **T**aking Jesus' body to the  
garden tomb.

**E**arly morning walk to the garden  
tomb on Easter Sunday.  
**E**mpy tomb and seeing the folded  
grave clothes.

**R**esurrection, restoration.  
**R**enewal of baptism vows.  
**R**enewal of body, mind and spirit.

**R**egular delicious meals and five star  
rating comfort.

**E**ggs, fun and fellowship!

**T**ime aside with God.

**R**edeemer and **R**isen Lord.

**E**ver humble, caring staff, giving up  
their own Easter to serve.

**A**way from the world.  
**A**bsolution of sins.  
**A**lleluia!  
**A**ppropriating what He has done  
for me.

**T**hank you, thank you!

# Easter Retreat

## And some more comments

*"Wonderful! One of the best Easters I have ever had. I received so much kindness. The services and Easter garden were so lovely."*

*"I just love this place. I have been coming since 1980 but this was the best time of all!"*

*"Been coming to the Centre for 20 years. My first Easter Retreat though and it has been a very moving experience, especially Good Friday, which I will never forget. The weekend was so special."*

*"The silence, time to absorb, listen to the Lord and the participation in the Prayer Stations and Words from the Cross. The Prayer Stations were very powerful, as was the time of confession and seeing our sins pinned to the body of Jesus on the cross. Plus the burial in the tomb and the folded grave clothes on the Easter Sunday early morning sunrise service. Truly wonderful!"*

*"The peace and love surrounding me was a great blessing; the Easter Retreat was amazing, especially Good Friday, with the visual effects of Jesus on the cross covered with our sins, and the burial of Jesus in the grounds later."*



Carrying Jesus' body to the empty tomb and seeing Him laid inside was a very moving and humbling experience.



Sharing Easter Greetings at the early morning Sunrise Service



# Easter Retreat

'I am a New Creation' was the hymn I was singing as I drove home after a memorable Easter retreat. What a wonderful and challenging time I'd had. So well led by Steve and Veronica, with contributions from Steve C and the music team, Pippa, Stephen, Maggie Vivien and Pete.

Crowhurst in its usual inimitable way had opened its loving arms and enveloped us on our arrival. Nothing is ever left to chance when it comes to hospitality. Everyone gives of their best.

Memories include a quite breathtaking occasion when the broken body of Jesus was carried gently to the tomb in the garden. So real, we were there.

Also the evening from darkness to light- a musical evening of Taize music and Stephen's photographs.

During the weekend we were reminded of the new covenant "I will be their God and they will be my people". "God delights in us; we are precious in His sight. We are never separated from the love of Christ."

Thanks be to God for a marvellous Easter weekend.

Christ is alive, Alleluia!

Audrey



**Taize evening - Darkness to light**



**Easter Sunday Morning Worship 'See what a morning, glorious and bright!'**

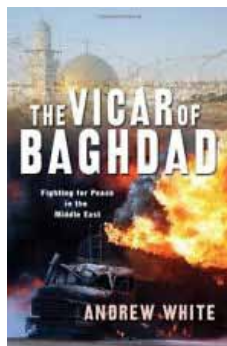


**Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service**



**Guests enjoying the delicious buffet breakfast on Easter Sunday morning**

# Book Review



Andrew White - The Vicar of Baghdad; fighting for peace in the Middle East. Monarch Books, 2009 ISBN 978-1-85424-876-3

*"I live with a price on my head... The kind of people that I spend my time engaging with are not usually very nice. On the whole nice people do not cause wars," writes*

Andrew White. This gives an insight into the world in which he operates.

Andrew decided at the age of ten that he wanted to be an anaesthetist. He qualified as a doctor and went on to achieve his ambition – work that he loved. Yet hardly before he started in his career he felt the call to ordination. This was clearly of God since he was raised as a Baptist.

During his ordination studies he grew fascinated with the Middle East, and regularly attended the orthodox synagogue in Cambridge. He spent his final year in Jerusalem at the Hebrew University, during which time he also got to know leading Islamic figures.

During his early parish life, his dealings with the Middle East increased and he eventually ended up as the Canon in charge of International Ministry at Coventry. From then on his amazing peace mission began. He wholeheartedly threw himself into developing peace accords with other faiths, and was used greatly on the international political scene. He is by no means a name dropper but he really has worked with many very influential political figures, and achieved remarkable results.

Andrew has achieved much, yet at heart he is still a person ministering to his congregation in Baghdad, and spending quality time with his family in England. It is even more remarkable when at the same time he is dealing with the debilitating effects of MS.

Whilst there are Godly people at work like Andrew White then there is hope for the Middle East. This is a book to encourage you – I can thoroughly recommend it.

Colin Crook

## CCHC Bookstall

This book, along with many others, is available for purchase at the Centre. Do have a good browse at the wide variety of books and CD's when you are next there.

Our volunteer bookstall organiser, Rosemary, spends many hours ordering, cataloguing books and sorting out queries with suppliers. During a recent stay at the Centre, while it was quiet one evening, I was able to have a really good look at all that was on offer. I was amazed at the selection that is available!

There is also a very good selection of greetings cards and gifts, suitable for all occasions.



# Garden News



When I compiled my piece for the spring magazine, there hadn't been any snow to report on, but as we all know, it did arrive in late January and involved the clearing of many areas around the grounds. British

Summer time officially began on 31<sup>st</sup> March this year, but it was actually snowing that day, so perhaps it should be renamed British Snow Time!

No matter how inclement the weather, weeds still managed to grow and therefore needed removing! After the late snow and frost, spring did finally show signs of arrival. Strimming did eventually get underway and the various hedges had their first trim. Some of the roses needed a light prune, where applicable and were also sprayed to try and reduce 'Black Spot and Mildew'.

The daffodils, though late to bloom, were beautiful and it is always a disappointment to have to 'dead head' them as they provide so much colour, but it is a job that still has to be done and the spring blossom on the trees provide their own beauty.

Another job in spring was to clean out the hanging baskets, which will then be prepared with quality compost and planted up to give as much colour as possible to greet our guests and visitors upon their arrival. It is hoped that the colour within the containers, pots and various areas of the grounds, will consist of Antirrhinum, Cosmos, Sweet Peas, Geraniums and Marigolds. In addition, of course, will be that provided as usual by the shrubs etc that are already in the borders.

I am planning to have the usual Pansies, Impatiens and Trailing Lobelia. Perhaps the pretty perennial, Veronica Pink Harmony (pictured right) should be included this year!

*With best wishes to all, Desmond*

*And from Cliff*

During the few dry days this cold winter, I have only just managed to keep flower borders and lawn areas clear of debris. One of my tasks was to clear out a wet and muddy ditch near the railway footpath.



With spring bringing nature back to life, I look around and wonder, 'where do I start to make the grounds pleasing to guests?'

Sometimes Geof or Des ask me to do something special and one recent job was to tidy up the Cross shape, which has been planted at one of the Prayer Stations around the Prayer Walk. Another job has been to clear ivy from some of the brick walls around the Centre.

But mostly it is digging, weeding and elbow grease wherever needed! Encouragement and pleasing comments from the guests and visitors keep me going.

Long may the work continue!

*Blessings, Cliff*



# I am a New creation

# I'm Back!

*Our Healing Retreat weekends give folk a chance to really unwind and draw closer to God (see more on page 23). This article from Penny Button, our Associate Chaplain shows just how releasing they can be.*

In a previous magazine article, I referred to the impact the Crowhurst Healing Retreat weekends have on our guests' lives; they really are life changing thanks to our gracious God. People come on a Friday afternoon, very often not sure of what they have let themselves in for, but by the time they go home on Sunday afternoon, having met with Jesus, they have often become 'a new creation'. The caterpillar becomes a butterfly!



Earlier this year we were excited that we had five men and five women attending the weekend, and we had ten prayer ministers - five men and five women; a great balance, God is good! It was a very positive weekend and one feedback form from a young man stated, *"I arrived a man broken hearted, pulverised by life and everything the enemy could throw at me. I had lost my relationship with my God.*

*After the wonderful peace, prayer and ministry I leave a new man! I have found Jesus, my friend and constant companion. I have found my self-confidence. But more than that, the Lion of Judah roars within me once more! I cannot thank you enough. All Glory to our God! x "*

Indeed, Praise be to our God! Thank you too praying friends, for your faithfulness, please keep up the good work.

With love in Christ - Penny

One step from the car, and what do I see first?

**The 'Welcome' sign.**

I cast my eyes down – thank you Desmond and Cliff for the lovely coloured plants; what a first greeting! All those pots, and evergreens. Then the brass doorknob is opened - I'm home again! And there it starts for me. It's the Easter break; time to meet up with old friends and the hope of making new ones with the 'first timers' who have come to the Centre.

What an introduction on our first day! Steve G and Steve C greeted us after tea as we all gathered in the lounge to meet with the other guests. What fun it was to put our names on our badges, with little 'works of art' drawn alongside our names.

What a week you had in store for us! How we all prayed together. We had the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday and early Sunday morning some people woke very early to go to the tomb. And I must not forget to mention Yvonne, who danced for us during the Easter Sunday Holy Communion service, using the beautiful silk banner, worded 'Jesus'. Thank you.

Thank you also to all the staff who gave up their Easter to be with us.

And now I'm back home, to re-live it all again! So thank you so much to you all at Crowhurst. Until next time!

Hilary Booth



# Weekend Healing Retreats

These retreats provide an opportunity to come aside for personal reflection and renewal of body, mind or spirit. They are open to those of any church denomination, or of none, seeking Christian healing and wholeness.

The retreat begins at 3.45pm on Friday with welcomes and introductions, although you are welcome to arrive any time after 2pm. There is a time of quiet worship to settle you into your time away. After an evening meal we have an hour in which we explore what is meant by Christian 'healing', looking in particular at the variety of healing stories and events told in the Gospels so that we might be able to identify our own healing needs today.

On Saturday morning there is an optional Communion service before breakfast, then we look further at the need for healing and what can rob us of wholeness in our life experiences. After coffee there is a guided meditation in which we are given opportunity to relax in the presence of the risen Jesus.

Saturday afternoon is taken up with prayer ministry when retreat participants are given the opportunity to pray confidentially with a member of our experienced ministry team so that issues can be addressed and healing found. There is also time 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.

After dinner the day ends with Night Prayer and a reflection on anointing as we prepare for the healing service on Sunday morning. The weekend concludes after lunch on Sunday.

Numbers taking part are usually held to about fourteen to give plenty of opportunity for personal space and peace.

# Calendar of Events

## June

- 7 - 9 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 11 - 15 Prayer & Painting Week
- 19 Guided Quiet Day:  
***The joy of the Lord is your strength***  
Led by Sister Elizabeth Ewen
- 22 Day of Dance & Worship  
***Creative Movement in Worship***
- 28 - 30 Finding Personal Wholeness

## July

- 5 - 7 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 13 Teaching Day:  
***Dealing with Disappointment***  
Led by Steve Gendall
- 16 Trustees AGM
- 20 ***Thanksgiving Day***
- 24 Guided Quiet Day:  
***Mountain Views & Valley Paths***  
Led by Gill Payne

## August

- 6 - 9 Be Creative Retreat
- 17 Guided Quiet Day  
***Rest in my love***  
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
- 23 - 25 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 31 Teaching Day:  
***Release the Captives***  
Led by Jim Beveridge



## 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 Secretary



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[@Crowhurstchc](https://twitter.com/Crowhurstchc)



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## Who's who

### **PRESIDENT**

Rt Revd Nicholas Reade

### **CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES**

Revd Colin Crook

### **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

*in His*  
**Healing**steps