
in His
Healing steps
Spring 2014



*God is our
refuge and
strength, an
ever present
help in trouble.
Psalm 46:1*

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

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Editorial



Technology! What a wonderful thing ... until it goes wrong - then chaos!

Learning on a manual typewriter at school, I really enjoyed typing from the outset. I can still remember the rhythmical sound in

the classroom as we all whizzed along our typewriter keys, and the musical ring of the carriage returns at the end of every line.

As technology progressed, electric typewriters replaced the manual ones, word processors replaced the electric machines and then computers came into their own. I will always be grateful to the manual typewriter on which I learned to type, but I am very thankful for the invention of the computer as I can't imagine trying to put this magazine together without one!

You may wonder why am I writing about technology in my Editorial? Well, because my computer 'crashed' just prior to the deadline date for the first draft of the magazine and I did wonder whether I was going to be able to finish it in time. While trying to fix the computer, I tried to 'Keep calm and carry on' but most importantly I gave it all to the Lord, trusting that He would deal with the problem. Later in the day, I had a breakthrough and got it half working (amazingly, this enabled me to do the magazine but not much else! God is good!).

It was a real concern when my computer seized up so near to the deadline date for the magazine, but after it started to work again, I thought about how God so often breaks through into our circumstances. I know computer problems aren't on the same scale as other more serious issues that we all face, but it did make me think of how we need to keep our focus on the Lord, especially when we are going through very difficult times. This is highlighted several times in some of the articles in this issue.



God knows the bigger picture; He is the bigger picture and nothing is impossible for Him to deal with. Like the little Blue Tit in the photo, we just have to hold on tight and believe that He will uphold us. It may not be how we might envisage or even want at the time but we have to trust that it will be for our good. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."*
Romans 8:28



Hold on! God knows what He is doing

Thanksgiving Day: 19 July

We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual day of thanksgiving, when we come together to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him for His daily provision for the Centre. As last year, those who would like to, are once again invited to join in with prayer and fasting during the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day. More details of this and the final programme will follow in the summer magazine.

Bookstall

The bookstall now stocks some children's books, so do have a browse next time you are at the Centre.



It is with much sadness that we report the deaths of two former members of staff - Martin Sully, one of our visiting chaplains, and Eileen Dacke, former cook. We thank God for the lives of Martin and Eileen and extend our thoughts and prayers to both families at this difficult time. Colin Crook and Brian Coward have written tributes to Martin and Eileen respectively.

Your stories and testimonies

If you took part in January's Devotional Weekend with Jen Rees-Larcombe, 'Moving Deeper into God's heart' and would like to write about it, please do send in an article either by post to the office or directly to my email address: marys56@hotmail.co.uk.

Before I was magazine editor, I always looked forward to receiving the magazines. The testimonies and articles that folk wrote were always so encouraging, and whenever I am staying at the Centre, I chat to people about how they first discovered this special place. and how blessed they have been from their visits.

Many of you have your own stories to tell - I know because you tell me when we chat at mealtimes - so why not write in and share them with our readers? You don't have to be an experienced writer; just put your thoughts down on paper (or in an e mail) and I will do the rest. Any photos you have taken during your stay are also very welcome.

By the time you receive this magazine, spring flowers will be adorning the grounds of the CCHC, the trees will be

in blossom and little lambs like these five will be gambolling around. What a lovely thought!
With every blessing, Mary



Our Senior Chaplain Writes ...



Dear Friends,

I read the following paragraph in a book called 'Salute to a Sufferer' by Leslie D Weatherhead.

"God may be thought of not only as Father but as the great Artist, an Artist who has not yet completed His work but still labours at His task. As Jesus said, 'My Father has never ceased his work, and I am working too' (John 5.17 NEB). God is hindered in that ceaseless task because He has chosen, in so many situations, to work in co-operation with man. When He makes a sunset He does it alone, but when He makes human health He puts up with man's interference, is hindered by man's ignorance, folly and sin, and waits for man's co-operation. But this does not alter His desire, or deny that His will is perfect health".

God-willing, this year will see our new Art Room built and host a couple of Prayer and Painting Retreats, and many visitors to the Art Room will continue to encounter the great Artist who uses every opportunity He can to make a Masterpiece of us.

God is good all the time and my faith in His ability to finish what He started with me and you is great! But as the quote above states, we do so often hamper His workmanship. We do well to be ever vigilant and alert in surrendering and submitting to Him by repentance and confession, by listening to and watching Father, by reading Scripture and not resisting the Lord, the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord loves our co-operation and here at the CCHC we love and delight in Him. It is a joy to watch Him touch people's lives at every level, physically, emotionally and spiritually; healing and freedom are a real and regular experience.

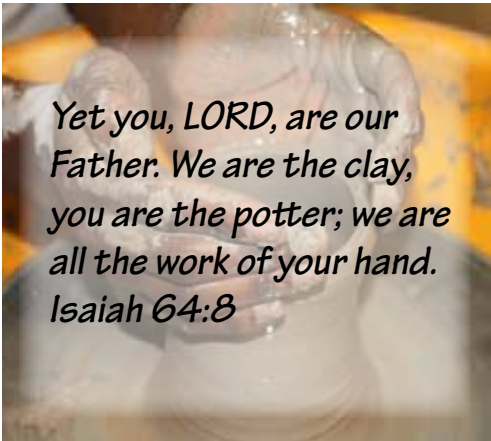
For me the extraordinary thing as we start the year is the knowledge that with each prayer we offer, with each hand laid, with each word, picture or feeling shared, God is present, waiting, watching and working to transform us 'from glory to glory'.

I say these things in the knowledge that for some there are doubts and questions; there is pain and fear; there is anger and resentment. I say these things having experienced the suffering of my father in Zimbabwe in November for three weeks, whose wailing and weeping tore into my heart and mind each day. I say these things because my faith in God is great. He is not a man, not a liar and even now is working for us. I believe it and like Leslie Weatherhead, I salute all those who are suffering in any way.

Be assured of our prayers and be very confident in the great Artist's ability to make a Masterpiece of you.

With our love from all at CCHC,

Steve



Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

Lent with Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

Reviewing your Rhythms

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the forty days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for forty days. Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after His death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome, which is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.

Special Lent offer

Attend three Lenten Quiet Days and get the fourth free.

Drawing from The Sermon on the Mount, other Scriptures and resources, Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is offering a unique Lenten opportunity.

Join a variety of experienced Christian Pilgrim guides, including the Crowhurst Team, to Review your Rhythms. We are hosting four Quiet Days (see below) and a four day Silent Retreat from Monday 17 to Thursday 20 March.

1. Ash Wednesday - 5 March
Fasting and Feasting
Paul and Olive Deeming
2. Wednesday - 19 March
Got, Getting, Giving.
James Bamber
3. Wednesday - 2 April
Exploring different ways to seek God in Lent.
Janice Yonge
4. Saturday - 12 April
Healing Relationships - Love for our enemies.
Peter and Pat Lockley.

Jesus is tested in the Wilderness

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."



Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
Matthew 4:1-4

Silent Retreat: 17 to 20 March

During Lent, our Silent Retreat will provide you with the perfect setting to *Stop, Look and Listen* to what Father wants you to see and hear. The theme will be **'Reviewing your Rhythms'** and you will have time, space and silence in which to consider your Inward, Outward and Body Rhythms. Psalm 42:7 reads *'deep calls to deep'* and sometimes a hunger and thirst from within urges us to launch out into different and new ways of growing our relationship with Father.

We hope you may find something in our Lenten programme that will help you respond to the nudges of the Holy Spirit.

To God be the glory!



I feel that God has been leading me to write something for the magazine about the last year.

2013 was a very, very difficult year for me health-wise, physically, emotionally,

financially; in every way really. I felt very alone, and yet somewhere inside I've always known that God is there. Through the prolonged time I had to take off work, because I was unable to do anything more than get up, which would take such a long time to do and totally exhaust me, I would constantly be thinking "Where are You God?" in one breath, and in another, "I know You're there, so what's going on? I know people are praying so why Lord, is nothing happening? Oh Lord, I don't understand, where ARE You?"

Then I'd sit quiet for a moment and remember. Deep down inside me I knew He was there, but in the everyday struggles, with my health being up one minute and down the next, and the length of time it continued without much progress in finding out the root cause, I was in despair.

Then just as I was improving, and hoping to get back to work full time, I had a car accident, and again I thought "Where are You, God, where are You? Why just now?" I know God doesn't cause accidents, and deep down inside I also know He can bring good out of these things, but at the time I couldn't see that; it was the last straw. Seeing the impact on my already difficult financial position, and waiting for what seemed ages to get things sorted out, especially physiotherapy for the whiplash injury I had suffered, I went deeper and deeper into that dark place. But once the physiotherapy started, and things began to move, something changed and I began to feel God again.

In the first session the physiotherapist did a small amount of work on my neck. Previously I have never allowed anyone to touch my neck, but I was amazed at how I was able to allow her to work on it with total acceptance. She explained everything she was about to do, talking me through it all, and I was able to have total trust. It's strange, but it felt like God's hands on me. Each time she needed to work on a part of my body, I was very much aware of the fact that I was praying to the Lord to help me allow her to do what she needed to. It reminds me of a picture I was given a long time ago at Crowhurst, when I had prayer at the altar rail. In the picture I am a child again, in a boat with Jesus. Jesus is poling the boat along and I am just lying back, relaxed and happy for Him to take me where He wants to.



Diane's picture, painted by Maggie, our resident artist.

That's how I felt allowing the physio to work on every area she needed to, including my neck, even though at times it was extremely painful. I feel this was a direct answer to prayers, and I want to thank God, and everyone who has been praying for me.

I was given a calendar for Christmas, and when I opened it, the verse for January was

Prayer Partners

one which I have been given many times: "Be still and know that I am God." I feel this is another sign that God is in control of the situation.

Even though I have continuing health problems and struggle at times to keep going, I need to keep cheerful and stay focused on Him.

I love working at Crowhurst, and especially my job in the kitchen. My aim with every menu and meal I prepare and cook is to set a feast of wonderful, enjoyable food before the King and all His guests. So this is why I would like to have your continued prayers.

Thank you, in our Lord Jesus Christ's name, because He gave His life willingly for each one of us that we may stand before God pure and clean, and without sin, for Christ has borne all our sin.

Diane

Finding God in Chronic Illness

19 to 23 May 2014

This weekend, led by Helen Warwick, is especially for those who are going through chronic illness, to take time out to review what is happening in their lives, and to connect to God within those situations. There will be creative opportunities to explore personal journeys and to seek God within the suffering. The week will be a mix of talks, meditation, creative exploration, rest and prayer, all within the calming and healing atmosphere of the CCHC. Many of the sessions will take place in the comfort of the lounge.

Helen Warwick is a spiritual director, a published author and has previously worked as an Occupational Therapist. She works with people going through suffering and chronic illness. Her passion is to help others with their journey through life using a creative approach.

When folk come to the CCHC, they speak of the peace and presence of God; this is because the whole place, including the grounds, is prayed for daily by our Prayer Partners. And twice a year they meet at the Centre to spend time to discuss and pray for the Centre's particular needs.

Their retreat in November last year also incorporated the annual 'Beating of the Bounds', where they prayed around the house and grounds, right up to the boundaries. Colin, a former member of the Ministry Team, who used to regularly take part in the 'Beating of the Bounds', remembers one occasion when they rescued a sheep that had become entangled in the thicket and was trapped with barbed wire all round its neck. So on that day it wasn't only the Centre that benefited from their prayers!



Two of our Prayer Partners braving the weather to 'beat the bounds'.

Prayer Partners Retreat: January 2014

Due to printing deadlines, I have 'borrowed' Esther's words from the CCHC's Facebook page but hope to have a full article for the summer issue.

"The Prayer Partners met in January and their focus was 'Waiting on the Lord' - encouraging words for all of us. How quickly do we forget what God has done and how patient are we to seek and wait for His will to unfold?"

"But they soon forgot what He had done and did not wait for His plan to unfold."

Psalms 106:13

Thanks to everyone who prays for the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. It is such a comfort and encouragement to know you uphold us in your prayers."

Journeying ...

On 12 July 2012 at 6.15pm, a week before I was to begin my longed-for, and dare I say well-earned, retirement from teaching, my life was to change suddenly and without warning. My husband, Kevin and I had shared his favourite lunch, and we were going to different garages that afternoon to sort out our cars in readiness for a visit of my younger son and his daughter from Zambia.

Kevin was, as always, singing and whistling as he cleared away the lunch things, and at 2.30pm we said our goodbyes and set off.

Little did I know this was the last time I was to see him. His death from a massive heart-attack shocked all who knew him, and somehow the family and I had to find a way to go on without him. 'How could an apparently fit and healthy man be gone from this world so suddenly and finally?' was a question which still haunts me today.

During the dark days that followed his death, family and friends supported me, but gradually things had to return to 'normal' for them._

On November 1st 2012, I 'met' Margaret and Michal (we know for sure the Lord had a hand in this – another story!); it was they who brought me to the CCHC – and I daily thank and praise the Lord that they did!

The hardest thing for me without Kevin was that I did not feel like 'me' any more – life as I knew it had gone, as had all the hopes and dreams for our future together. I felt detached from life – an outsider.

It was during my first time of prayer ministry at the CCHC in January 2013 that I was able to share this, and as we prayed it seemed that the Lord was putting the idea of a group for bereaved folk in our minds. This would provide a safe time and place for people like myself, who had lost a close family member, to come to Crowhurst, and just 'be

ourselves' with others who might be feeling the same.

And so, on 11th September 2013, the group met for the first time – just five of us. How well the Lord knew what we needed – any more than five and we would not have been able to get to know each other as we have during our meetings each month.


For this first meeting we walked in the beautiful gardens and just chatted, and then shared our stories. A bond of friendship and support was felt immediately by all of us, and how we thank the Lord for drawing us together in the way He did.

Each session began with Holy Communion in the small chapel, which most of us attended, and then we got together over coffee, after which it was down to business!

We all agreed that we did not want to dwell on our loss too much at the meetings, but we did spend a helpful session with Wendy, who very gently led us through some thoughts about the 'Pathways of Grief'. A new member joined us for this session and she immediately fitted in - we felt we had known her for ages.

What a relief it was to know that we were all experiencing similar feelings, and to be reminded that '*The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms*' (Deuteronomy 33:27) – a God who is truly able to enter and share our grief, wherever we are on the journey, and right now.

We were all rather dreading Christmas so decided to celebrate early with each other. We set about in true 'Blue Peter style' making and embellishing a cracker (though I did cheat a bit and buy kits for us – it's not as easy as it looks!), in which we each placed a small gift that we had brought. After our usual shared lunch, Steve C distributed them to us, and we excitedly took them home to discover the delights of a gift, just for us.



Teaching Day: 30 April 2014

Comforting the Sorrowing

Led by Steve Clark

At this session we had two 'puppet visitors' in the shape of Harry and Rebecca, accompanied by some of their animal friends (puppets which Frances and I brought). We had fun speaking through our puppets, and were able to acknowledge during this time that for each of us someone special would be missing at our Christmas celebrations.

We were all so pleased to meet up again for our January meeting, and for this we went to the art room, much to the delight of us all! Maggie asked us to make a collage with pictures which 'jumped out at us' from magazines. I have to confess to feeling anxious about this, but after Maggie prayed with us, and urged us to again allow the Holy Spirit to lead us, we spent a wonderful couple of hours cutting and sticking in companionable quietness, and the results were again truly amazing. Mine seemed to speak about where I am now on my journey.

We spent two lovely mornings in the art room, and experienced Maggie's wonderful gift of encouraging us to allow the Holy Spirit to lead our creations – a truly blessed time and such satisfying results!

How gracious is our Lord, and true to His word - He does supply all our needs! He knew how much I needed to find a tranquil place, to get away from it all, and to allow others to support and look after me. How blessed I am to have met Frances, Jean, Joyce, Marion and Rebecca, and I pray that the Lord will bless them as much as He has me. I pray also that others who have been bereaved may also find the comfort and love which I have experienced from the ministry team and so many folk at CCHC, without which I would not have got through these last eighteen months.

Chris Luker

"I just didn't know what to say to him".

"These friends from church saw me shopping in town and crossed over to the other pavement, pretending that they hadn't seen me."

The above comments are not uncommon when someone has died. This teaching day will discuss some of the ways in which we can help comfort those who are grieving for the loss of a loved one.

The day will begin at 10 am with arrivals and coffee and will finish at 3.45pm with tea. Cost, inclusive of lunch is £35, or by donation for guests staying in the house.



*'The eternal God
is your refuge and
underneath are the
everlasting arms'
(Deuteronomy 33:27)*

In the stillness ... of Crowhurst



Jenny had been visiting the Centre for many years, but had never stayed before. Last year, she and her husband Les decided to try one of the free Taster Retreats and as you can read below, they had a very blessed time.

Every time Les and I have come to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, there was always an air of expectancy, and we were never disappointed. Peace is there to greet you from the moment you enter the place.

Having never stayed at Crowhurst before, we booked last September for one of the free two day Taster Retreats. This was to be a time that I would never forget and I will be forever thankful to all the staff for making us feel so very special.

As we sat in the chapel before the service began, in the quietness I sensed the Holy presence of God and I found myself saying to Him, "Lord if only I could hold your hand right here." I heard a voice say, "As you hold another's hand, you hold mine." Those words were to have a real significance later that day when we were at lunch.

I got chatting to a lady on my table, who seemed to have such a peace about her, despite difficult and challenging circumstances, and I saw something in her that I would like to have in myself. I heard



the Lord's voice saying, "You have love." I felt that I wanted to argue but the voice repeated, "You have love", and I was greatly encouraged.

Two weeks later, I was to be nursing Les before he went into hospital. While those days of stress and weariness went by, I came to know much of God's grace. As I was washing and drying his hands one day, I remembered Crowhurst and what the Lord had said, and I felt very humbled.

A friend called in and I said to her that it would be good to have Holy Communion. She went home, brought back flowers, wine and some unleavened bread.

We enjoyed those moments more than once. Later I dried one of the roses – which I still have – and



was prompted to write my thoughts down in a poem, which has been placed in the 'Treasury of Poems' in the Centre's library, should anybody like to read it.

I am sure the CCHC softened and moulded Les' heart over the years. He gave his life to Jesus eighteen months ago and never missed church after that.

Jenny

FREE TASTER RETREATS

If like Jenny you have been on one of the Taster Retreats and would like to submit an article for the magazine about your stay, we would love to hear from you. If you have never stayed at the CCHC before, do consider one of these Retreats. Please ring the office for further details.

Prayer Requests for Spring 2014

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Spring 2014

PRAYER FOCUS

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

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

PRAYER

- Sadly, Steve G's father died in November. Pray for Steve and his family in their time of bereavement. We give thanks that he was able to take three weeks compassionate leave to be with his father in Zimbabwe.
- We give thanks and praise for Steve C and the visiting chaplains who took on extra duties so graciously during Steve G's absence.
- Give thanks for the increase in numbers of guests. Praise and bless all those who prepare and lead courses, retreats and quiet days - a vital part of the ministry at the Centre.
- Pray for the Taster Retreats, which were introduced in July last year. We have increased the number for 2014 to forty four. Pray that those who come will experience the presence of Christ's healing love.
- As the numbers seeking ministry increases, so does the need for Prayer Ministers. Pray for those who are currently in training to become part of the ministry team.
- Give thanks that Diane is back on the cooking rota for the first time in over six months. Give thanks for the way in which the staff covered her duties.
- Pray for Clare as she begins maternity leave. Pray for Dean who has taken over her duties in the kitchen.

"Let your light shine before people so that they will see the good things you do, and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

March Prayer Focus

"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near." Isaiah 55:6

MARCH

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5 | Lent Quiet Day 1
'Fasting and Feasting'
Led by Paul & Olive Deeming |
| 7 - 9 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 11 | Trustees Meeting |
| 17 - 20 | Silent Lent Retreat |
| 19 | Lent Quiet Day 2
'Got, Getting, Giving'
Led by Revd James Bamber |
| 21 - 23 | Ladies' weekend
with Julie Sheldon
'Allowing the Dove to settle' |

*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1*



April Prayer Focus

May Prayer Focus

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power and that He had come from God and was returning to God.” John 13:3

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” Isaiah 26:3

APRIL

MAY

- 2 Ed Board Meeting
- 2 Lent Quiet Day 3
‘Exploring different ways to pray, seek and listen to God in Lent’
Led by Janice Yonge
- 4 - 6 Ordinands Retreat (House closed)
- 12 Lent Quiet Day 4
‘Healing Relationships - Love for our enemies’
Led by Peter & Pat Lockley
- 17 - 20 Easter Celebration
- 24 - 27 Teaching Retreat
‘When God’s answer doesn’t match mine’
Led by Revd James Bamber

- 9 - 11 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 13 Trustees Meeting
- 14 Guided Quiet Day
‘Known and longing to know’
Led by Kay Smith
- 15 - 18 Mens’ Weekend
Led by ‘Authentic Mens’ Weekend’ Team
- 19 - 23 Retreat led by Helen Warwick
‘Finding God in Chronic Illness’

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

“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide, even to the end." Psalm 48:14

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Give thanks for the life of Martin Sully, one of our visiting chaplains, who died in November. Pray for his wife, Wendy and the family in their time of bereavement. May they know that *"The Lord is close to the broken hearted."* (Psalm 34:18).
- Give thanks for all those who contributed so generously to the new Art Room appeal. Pray that all will go well with the planning and the actual building. Our hope is that the Art Room will be ready for Thanksgiving Day.
- Give thanks for the Lord's provision for all our needs, and for all those who regularly support the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre.
- The recent Quinquennial report revealed some areas that need attention. Pray for wisdom and discernment in deciding those that are most urgent.
- With the increase in numbers, pray for guidance in creating more parking spaces.
- Give thanks for the 2014 programme. It is full and will be busy. Please use it as a guide in your prayer times.
- Please continue to pray for new trustees to join the board. With Colin's retirement, we are down in numbers. It would be good to have two or three more members with management skills and a heart for the healing ministry.

"Do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing." Isaiah 43:18 & 19

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"May the favour of the Lord rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us - yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

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

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Geof, Brian, Cliff and Desmond

MAGAZINE EDITOR & DESIGNER: Mary

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight". Proverbs 3:5 & 6

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

Ring out the old, bring in the new!

Staff Christmas Party

On Thursday 18 December, the last Healing Service of the year took place and in the evening everyone got together for the staff party. Chrissy did an amazing job keeping everyone entertained. There was a quiz, a song written by Chrissy about the last year at Crowhurst, wonderful food, a staff choir and carols - and - Clare was *Secret Santa*! You can see the video of the choir on Facebook. Who knows, maybe they could be the next X Factor or Britain's Got Talent winners!



Congratulations to the winners of Chrissy's quiz, which was to work out Christmas carols from abbreviated letters. If you would like to have a go, log onto our Facebook page.

New Year Retreat

Our ever popular New Year Retreat was shared by friends old and new. There was fun, fellowship, prayer and song. I wonder what the joke was between the two Steves?



The food, as usual, was a wonderful spread. After a roast dinner on New Year's Day, Diane and the kitchen team produced this wonderful buffet spread for the guests. New



Year at the CCHC is definitely not a time to contemplate a diet, but then again neither is any other time because the food is always so plentiful and delicious!

Advent Retreat - We are bold to say ...

I had never been on an Advent Retreat before but after taking part in this one, I would definitely do so again. Being away during the Christmas build up, which seems to start earlier in the shops every year, really helped me to focus on the real 'Reason for the Season', the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our programme was entitled 'We are bold to say', which was an intriguing statement! Bold to say what? I wondered, when I saw this title. Well, that soon became clear as we started to unpack the prayer which Jesus gave His disciples after they had asked Him how they should pray.

I found the retreat very challenging, thought provoking and actually quite life changing in respect of my prayer life. As Steve Clark told us on the first evening (the Tuesday evening Healing Service), the Lord's Prayer can so often be said at breakneck speed without really thinking much about what each sentence means. This touched a chord with me and I know in the past I have been guilty of saying it through quickly without actually pondering on the words enough.

Each sentence of the prayer is equally important but what particularly spoke to me was 'Thy Kingdom Come', 'Give us this day, our daily bread' and 'Deliver us from Evil' (or as we reflected in one of the sessions, 'Deliver us from the **Evil One**' because it is Satan who is at the root of all evil!).

On the Advent Quiet Day, we reflected on the words 'Kingdom Come'. When we say *Thy Kingdom Come*, we are praying for the *humanly* impossible. This really helped me because on a human level we can often be so overwhelmed by our own, or others' sometimes seemingly insurmountable problems and of those around the world, which the media regularly bring into our lives. Praying *Thy Kingdom Come* is asking, trusting and believing that God will work His purposes out in ours and others' lives. With these words, we are handing everything over and trusting Him to come into a particular situation.

There is a very lively and powerful music track called 'Build your Kingdom Here' by a Northern Irish Christian worship band, the Rend Collective Experiment. It's a great song and speaks of God bringing His Kingdom upon the earth. This is the chorus:

Build Your Kingdom here, let the darkness fear. Show Your mighty hand, Heal our streets and lands.

Set Your church on fire, win this nation back. Change the atmosphere. Build Your Kingdom here, we pray!

The sentence, 'Give us this day our daily bread', helps us to really focus on living one day at a time and to believe, and trust, that God will supply us with what we need for that particular day. How true that is; when life's difficulties seem really daunting and overpowering, taking life one day at a time can help to keep the mind calmer. Looking ahead and dwelling on tomorrow's problems can often be too overwhelming. After all, Jesus does advise us ... "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34.

The Retreat helped me to see Jesus' Kingdom coming not only for Advent and Christmas, but at all times and by praying the prayer that He gave to His disciples, I do now feel bold to say it with much more confidence, belief and trust that the Lord will act. Thank you Steve C for this challenging and life changing Retreat!



We were all bold enough to partake of these delicious treats, which Diane made for us!

Tribute to Martin Sully

25 March 1944 to 16 December 2013



After his retirement as Rector in Lewes at St John Sub Castro (St John under the castle), Martin became a much loved and appreciated Visiting Chaplain at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Martin married Wendy about 32 years ago and they raised a son and two daughters. Like many clergy Martin first had another career, that of a quantity surveyor. In this capacity he worked in Tanzania and Zambia.

At a moving thanksgiving service at Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells on 11th January, Penny Button and I were privileged to hear moving, powerful and at times humorous testimonies of Martin.

One of Martin's outstanding qualities was that of his gentleness. He was a gentle man who it was so easy to take to on first meeting – that was certainly my own experience. He had the deep capacity for friendship and loyalty. But he was no walkover - under that open exterior was a steely person, who was physically and emotionally strong. There was a tough determination in matters of faith, and many can testify of how the Lord used him to bring people into a living relationship with Jesus.

Arising out of Martin's self-effacing persona were at least two other talents. One was music. Martin loved music and as a teenager in London he was part of a quartet called the Crusader Four - his instrument was the guitar. When he attended the cathedral in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, modern choruses appeared among the ancient and modern hymns! He was always willing to encourage and teach others music. The other thing that always quickly rose to the surface when Martin was around was laughter.

There is no doubt at all that in the parishes where he serviced, with his family and

friends, and here at Crowhurst, we have all been enriched by his presence. He is now in the nearer presence of the Lord he loves, and our prayers are with Wendy and the family during this time of sadness for them.

Colin Crook

Easter Retreat: 17 - 20 April 2014

Join with us as we journey with Christ on His last few days on earth. We share the intimacy of the Last Supper, the emotional intensity in the Garden of Gethsemane, the painful road to Calvary and the horrific crucifixion, watched by His mother, His followers and mockers alike.

Then in the early hours of Easter Sunday morning, we gather together to hear about the wonderful moment when



Jesus' empty tomb is discovered "When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene." (Mark 16:9)

After exchanging Easter greetings with one another, we have a warm drink and hot cross buns in the lounge, and later in the morning assemble for a joyful Holy Communion Service as we celebrate Jesus' glorious resurrection.

From sorrow to joy in a few days! Christ's resurrection gives us hope in the knowledge that life does not end in death. As one of our previous retreatants comments, "What a wonderful journey from sorrow to joy. The peace and love was overwhelming as was the closeness to Jesus."

At the time of print, there were still some places available so if you would like to come, don't leave it too long to book.

Tribute to Eileen Dacke

Eileen Dacke was a former cook at the CCHC. Many of you will remember her lovely smile, wonderful cooking and fabulous 'high tea' spreads that were once served each afternoon. Thank you to Brian Coward, former Chaplain, who has kindly sent in this tribute of Eileen. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Bill, and daughters, Heather and Louisa, all of whom also worked at the Centre.

I was Chaplain at Crowhurst for almost ten years, where my wife Eileen also served on the ministry team, and for seven of those years, Eileen Dacke was our cook. We really enjoyed her company and friendship over that period and since.

She joined the staff in 1994 when Revd Ray Jones was Warden. The earliest thing I remember was about Eileen's care and delight in doing something special for someone.

There are two services a day at the CCHC, which are relayed by loudspeakers from the chapel into the dining room, lounge and kitchen, so staff are able to worship with us as they do their work and prepare the meals. One day I was preaching about David, and how God called him "a man after my own heart", encouraging the congregation to become the same – people after God's own heart. I suggested that a person after my own heart would be someone who liked autumn walks with the slight haze of wood smoke in the air, beautiful colours in the trees, cosy log fires, and steamed syrup sponge and custard. A day or so later, what was served as pudding at dinner? Steamed syrup sponge and custard! Eileen had been listening to the sermon in the kitchen and decided that she would please the Chaplain. You should see how the guests lapped up this surprise treat! All the weight watchers, so concerned about diets etc, tucked into this pudding with great gusto, so it wasn't only the Chaplain who was delighted!

But that was Eileen; always ready to take extra care, thought and effort to do a good job. Nothing was too much trouble; the kitchen was always immaculate, the food was well presented and on time, and she would not allow anything to leave the kitchen unless it was near perfect. She always arrived early for work and was generous with her time.

She had a great sense of humour, full of fun and with an infectious laugh. Eileen's cakes were amazing; no doubt many have sampled them!

A staff member's birthday was an opportunity for Eileen to show her skill and thought, usually decorating the cake with items personal to the one celebrating. Even after we had retired and moved away, we invited Eileen and her husband, Bill, to join the celebrations for my 65th birthday and asked her to make a suitable cake. This she did, decorated with tiny woodworking and gardening tools, walking boots, Bible, photo album and tiny, tiny photos of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and four small children (representing our four grandchildren). Such loving care went into that cake – the cake is long gone, but I still have all the decorations.

Eileen was always ready to share her faith and she had a lovely singing voice; the first time I heard the song "Faithful God" was Eileen singing it, and I think of her every time we sing it at our church at home.

It's been a privilege to share with you a few thoughts and remembrances of Eileen, and we shall continue to remember her with love and gratitude.

Revd Brian Coward



New Art Room - Update

Much has happened since my last update about the new art room!

We have now engaged a company who will build the art room, and the planning team have met several times to discuss the design and specification. However, we have been advised that for many reasons, not least the proximity of beautiful mature trees, that we should not build on the existing art room or polytunnel site. This led to some serious praying, and the decision has been made to locate the new art room on the Poustinia site. Poustinia, like the present art room, is in poor repair but the site has many benefits from a practical point of view, having water, power, drainage, etc. close by.

Access will be easier, and there will also be stunning views from the floor to ceiling windows over the grounds, and towards the fountain and fields beyond. The picture below will be one such view from the new building.



The Chaplains know how much Poustinia is appreciated and it is our intention that 'new Poustinias' be provided in the grounds.

We have approached our local planning authority for pre-planning advice, and the response has been positive, so we would value prayer that when the full planning application goes in, it will be approved.

Thank you so much to the many, many people who have so generously given to the art room appeal. At the time of writing the fund (including gift aid) stands at £74,889.50. This is so encouraging, and gives us confidence to progress the project, praying that the Lord will provide the remaining finance we need.

Steve Gendall, Hilary Clark

THANK YOU

I saw this lovely comment on our Facebook page, which was written by one of our guests after a stay at the Centre.

"I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff members and the prayer ministry team.

It was such a peaceful perfect time of rest in the Lord. I truly enjoyed finding Him in the quiet, still place, laying it all down at the cross and letting go. I discovered the opportunity to express the artistic creative side of me through my artworks.

The art room was a place for me to come to Him in a childlike spirit, releasing myself in complete surrender to Jesus. A big thank you to you all who made my time worthwhile."

Ngozi



Crowhurst Railway Station Disabled access

Some of you may remember the threatened closure of the Crowhurst station back in 2009, and how after a two year campaign by the local MP, Greg Barker, (and much prayer!) the planned closure was dropped. Well now we face a new battle - disabled access from the station to the Centre.

At present, the only way off the southbound platform is via a flight of steep steps, with no railway staff available to assist passengers, making it extremely difficult for those with mobility problems or for



folk carrying heavy suitcases up the steps. We have written a letter to Mr Barker and would ask as many of you as possible to support us in our campaign. I have extracted part of the letter for the purpose of this article:

"... At the moment Railtrack are repairing the track and the platforms at the station. In order to assist the workforce, a ramp has been constructed ... Staff at the Centre have asked both Railtrack and Southeastern Railways if this ramp could remain in place, thus allowing access for all onto the platform. Both have replied that the ramp is only temporary and will be removed when the work is finished ..." (see the complete letter on Facebook).



The whole letter can be printed from the Crowhurst Facebook page, or if you don't have access to a computer, please telephone the office and they will send you a copy to sign and send to Mr Barker.

Ladies' Weekend with Julie Sheldon Allowing the Dove to settle March 21-23 2014



'.....He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him' Matthew 3.16

As we make space to allow the Dove to settle, this weekend will be a time for encouragement and hope as we acknowledge we are 'Ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven'.

In 1989 former ballet dancer, Julie Sheldon, received a remarkable healing from an incurable neurological illness. The subsequent years have been spent speaking about God's healing and love through many life difficulties.



Julie has been an international speaker/evangelist for over 23 years with a particular calling to the healing ministry. The account of her healing is written in the book 'Dancer off her feet' (Hodders). She is married to Tom and they have two daughters and a grandson.

Cost for the weekend is £190 full board en-suite (£170 non en-suite) or if you would like to come as a day guest only, the cost will be £90, which includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, Sunday lunch)

To book, ring 01424 830033 or 01424 830204.

Authentic Mens' Weekend

A Conference especially for men: 15 -18 May 2014

In May this year, the CCHC will be holding its first ever 'men only weekend'. The Authentic Mens' Weekend is specifically designed for men and is based on the message of the book, 'Wild at Heart' by John Eldredge. If you would like to take part, or if you know someone who might be interested, do pass on the details to them.

The weekend is delivered by a group of men from Kenilworth, Warwick, Winchester and London, who say:

"We are running 'Authentic' because each team member has been personally transformed by the experience of a similar event. Our hope, prayer and belief is that Authentic will powerfully impact the lives of those who come.

You will have time out to focus on your unique story and the key issues men face. We know that being a man is never easy. The name Authentic resonates with our desire to do more than scratch the surface. Our team of speakers aim to inspire you with life changing material rooted in the Bible."

Testimonials from previous participants:

"This weekend has put the gospel in a new context for me, one I can connect with."

"I have heard so much from God over the last few days and have really valued the space and time away to listen, think and pray about areas of my life that need some work doing to make things better."

"God has met me precisely where I am at and used the messages of the weekend to move me on. Thank you so much!"

This weekend could be one of the most liberating experiences of your life! Authentic is a unique and life-changing journey into the heart of a man. We will process life's big issues with freedom and honesty, such as fatherhood, sonship, calling, wounds and our relationship with God.

The weekend starts on Thursday 15 May with a meal together and the programme kicks off at 7pm. If you are arriving late, we can keep a meal for you.

Each day will be a balance of seminars, personal space and some time to unwind. Most evenings, we will have an outdoor log fire going.

To take advantage of the outdoor opportunities in this beautiful setting, it is recommended that you bring suitable outdoor walking equipment, including walking boots and waterproofs."



Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided and the weekend will finish after lunch on Sunday.

If you need further information please contact the office on 01424 830033 or go to www.authenticmen.org.uk for more information.

Garden News

Des writes:

I have been clearing away any remaining fallen leaves and twigs, removing any dead branches from trees and ensuring that the ditch is as clear as possible from leaves etc. I removed as much ivy as I could from the various trees, sprayed roses with Jeyes Fluid and treated the moss with spray. During the later winter months, hanging baskets were washed out and Jeyes Fluid was used for thorough cleansing. Where applicable, bramble around the inner perimeter or sheep fields and other areas was cut down.

As always, careful planning plays a very important part in the preparation for spring. All the hanging baskets will have had a second application of Jeyes Fluid and when the winter flowering is finished, the used pots will be thoroughly cleansed in readiness for spring planting. During the spring all the roses will have to be watched carefully to make sure that Black Spot does not become a problem.

During spring time I will also be planning for summer bedding and hopefully planting up some seedlings. Spring also means that the hedges will require attention and the Hydrangeas will need to be pruned. Strimming will be carried out fairly frequently.

With all the rain that fell around late autumn, it wasn't easy to work in some parts of the grounds as areas became flooded and very squelchy, but fortunately the planned tasks were able to be carried out.

With kind regards to you all.

Desmond

And from Cliff

Gardening tools here will never remain idle! The clearing of leaves dropped by the Sycamore tree opposite Poustinia has finally finished for the winter season. This means the worst job of the year is now over for Des and I and as the ground is prepared for spring and summer planting, I can enjoy the company of a robin or a blackbird while they await their 'takeaway meals' of worms or insects!



The challenge as I write this article is to restore areas of the grounds which have become overgrown over the winter, so one or both of us will be seen around the grounds, gardening equipment in hand, tackling our latest task.

It's good to be here.

Blessings, Cliff



Our 'Dynamic Duo' are pictured here, with tools at the ready! If anyone would like to come up with a caption for the picture of them both, please feel free to write in with one!

New Website

After eight years, a new website for the CCHC is underway and being re-built as you read your magazine!

As we all know, 'technology' changes rapidly and the new website will reflect this. The appearance and feel will be very different from the present site. With a fresh and improved look it will incorporate a host of new features, including a welcome video from both Steve Gendall and Steve Clark. There will be a virtual tour of the house, prayer walk and gardens, which will help to bring the Centre to life, showing just how beautiful and special it is.

The new website will enable the downloading of brochures and literature, the ability to listen to sermons, plus the option for online booking and payment of donations. All these features will add up to a stimulating blend.

The emphasis of the new website is on interaction, so keeping the site user friendly and easy to navigate is paramount. Not all the new features will be instantly available, but in due course, and as time progresses, all these aspects will be incorporated within the new website, enabling future development as the need arises.

The new website will support the growth of the Centre as we move forward, communicating what the CCHC has stood for over the past eighty something years and reflecting the Centre's vision for the future. It will enable people to see exactly what its core values are, reaching out to people not just here in the UK, but throughout the world. The present website will of course stay LIVE until the new one is ready. The domain name will remain the same, www.crowhursthealing.org.uk. We are hoping to launch it in time for the summer magazine so watch this space!

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 5 **Lent Quiet Day 1**
'Fasting & Feasting'
Led by Paul & Olive Deeming
- 7 - 9 **Healing Retreat Weekend**
- 17 - 20 **Silent Lent Retreat**
- 19 **Lent Quiet Day 2**
'Got, Getting, Giving'
Led by Revd James Bamber
- 21 - 23 **Ladies' weekend**
'Allowing the Dove to settle'
Led by Julie Sheldon

APRIL

- 2 **Lent Quiet Day 3**
'Exploring different ways to seek God in Lent'
Led by Janice Yonge
- 4 - 6 **Ordinands' Retreat (House closed)**
- 12 **Lent Quiet Day 4**
'Healing Relationships - Love for our enemies'
Led by Peter & Pat Lockley
- 17 - 20 **Easter Celebration**
- 24 - 27 **Teaching Retreat**
'When God's answer doesn't match mine'
Revd James Bamber

MAY

- 9 - 11 **Healing Retreat Weekend**
- 14 **Guided Quiet Day**
'Known and longing to know'
Led by Kay Smith
- 15 - 18 **Mens' Weekend**
Led by 'Authentic Mens' Weekend' Team
- 19 - 23 **'Finding God in Chronic Illness'**
Retreat led by Helen Warwick



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Healing^{in His}steps