

in His
Healing steps
Autumn 2014



*In his heart a man plans
his course, but the
LORD determines his
steps. Proverbs 16:19*



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I am writing this a few days after our annual Thanksgiving Day which took place on July 19th. The day is always a wonderful occasion of celebration and

thanksgiving and this year was no exception! Friends old and new came along and the weather was perfect! Very unexpectedly warm and sunny with a slight breeze, and none of the thunderstorms and rain which had been forecast. The heavy rain came during the night instead, and there was even a mini tornado, which I managed to capture on my camera before getting blown indoors!

So memories of a wonderful Thanksgiving Day are very much on my mind as I write this editorial! The photos below are just a selection of many happy snaps that were taken on the day. See more on pages 16 - 19.





Thanksgiving Cairn

In the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day we built a Thanksgiving Cairn, using the stones which had been dug out from underneath Poustinia. We look forward to watching the Cairn grow as folk add their own stones. Steve C had already etched 'Ichthus' onto the largest stone, which is placed in the centre.



New website

The website is now live! We are grateful to Steve C, who has spent many hours designing this, with assistance by Esther and Jayne from the office. It has been created to be an easy to navigate site, accessible by Iphone, Ipad, computer and even TV! There are still some adjustments to be made, and evaluation forms are available from the office for folk to provide their feedback about ease of use. All comments will be really helpful in making sure that the website works well. Half the people who come to the Centre for the first time do so as a result of our website, so it is really important to have it as user friendly as possible. It is hoped that in time, some audio teaching from the CCHC will also be available on the website.

Poustinia - A Good Ending

Many of you will know that Poustinia has had to be taken down to make way for the new art room. A short service took place in June to thank God for all the many blessings folk had received during time spent in this place of peace. For those of you with Facebook access, you can click on a video and watch some of the service. See page 5 for more.

Art Room Project

On Thanksgiving Day, Hilary brought us up to date with the progress of the new art room (pages 20 - 21).

Endings, new beginnings, thanksgivings - the ever changing pattern of life! What became clear on Thanksgiving Day was that Jesus must always be our focus, especially here at the Centre. The Chaplains reminded us that Crowhurst is not about the building, the grounds, Poustinia, the old or new art rooms, the Prayer Walk etc - it is about the Lord who is working in this place; we must always keep our eyes firmly fixed on Him and what He is doing here. To God be all the glory!

During a very blessed stay this week, through the different services, the beautiful grounds and on Thanksgiving Day particularly, I have become more aware of how Jesus' Kingdom is with us here and now. On the day itself, we sang several songs which remind us of our Lord's sovereignty - *Jesus is King*; *We want to see Jesus lifted high*; *Come and bow before our mighty God and Maker*, (written by Stephen Freeman, our pianist/photographer and songwriter), *The Splendour of the King*, and *Jesus, what an awesome wonder you are!*

During her Sunday morning sermon at the communion service, the day after Thanksgiving Day, Brenda Russell, one of our visiting chaplains said that we should celebrate what God did for us because of His great love for us. He became one of us to show His love; He is still at work in our world today so we should give thanks and praise to Him every single day of our lives.

Jesus, what an awesome wonder you truly are; we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise for all you have done, and all you will continue to do here at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Amen.

With every blessing, Mary Slater

Our Senior Chaplain Writes ...



Dear Friends,

Ask, Seek, Knock

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to

the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Matthew 7:7 and 8 (NIV)

Sometimes the Word of God seems more refreshing than at other times, even when it is the old familiar verses like the one above, which I recently read in a Morning Prayer time. It warmed my heart. There are many people we see, and I guess you do too, that need persevering prayer and these verses are such an encouragement for us not to give up.

I love the fact that the healing story of Howard Cobb (our founder) is one of daily asking, seeking and knocking. The healing didn't happen overnight but came after many months to a man they believed would die. God is good. Yes, it is true there are many more stories that don't end that way but Jesus exhorts His followers to continue praying. The more we pray, the more chance we can expect to see an advance of the kingdom of God and may those occasions stir our faith, increase our focus and make us even more determined to follow through.

As I write, there's a feast of sport on television to entertain. Doing my ironing and watching Wimbledon one afternoon, I heard an interesting thing. It was during a ladies game between the 2014 winner of the French Open and a 'wild card', unseeded, unknown British player. Both players had won their first service games. The commentator said, 'The unseeded players

give so much to win their first service game on Centre Court but don't give as much intensity to the next. They should be equally determined for all'. That could be true for many reasons and not least of all, lack of experience, nerves and lack of belief. It made me wonder if we sometimes approach our Lord feeling like 'wild card', unseeded and unknown pray-ers suffering from inexperience, fear and doubt. Lord, help us to always pray with persevering passion, in the power of your name and for your glory. Amen.

Remember this; you are a beloved child of God whose prayers are heard and acted on, again and again. Keep on asking, seeking, knocking until as the Lord promises, you receive, you find and the door is opened for you.



Remember also, it is as important to listen after you have asked; to keep your eyes open as you seek and to keep your doors open as you knock on His. It's not just about our getting, but more to the point, it's about His giving - the giving of Himself. He wants us to persevere in prayer to experience what He wants to give, not what we want to get.

From us all at the CCHC with prayers and love,

Steve



Poustinia - A good ending

For many years Poustinia was a place of peace and prayer, plus at times accommodation for several Old Rectory staff and locums. Much heart-felt prayer has been poured out to the Lord here and on a sunny Thursday afternoon in June, folk gathered together for a short service, led by the two Steves and Penny, to give thanks for this place of peace and solitude.

Steve G read from Joshua 4:1-8

'When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, "Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. Tell them, Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight."

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen - one from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, "Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder - twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' Then you can tell them, 'They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the LORD's Covenant went across. These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.'"

Steve spoke of how the stones underneath Poustinia will be used to make a Thanksgiving Cairn on Thanksgiving Day

so in effect, some of this Cairn will be a memorial to the work that God has done through this little hut of God's peace.


Steve gave thanks to the Lord for inspiring the team to make a good ending for Poustinia, and said as God has met with His people there over the years, He will continue to do so - today, tomorrow and in the weeks, months and years ahead in the new sacred space that the Thanksgiving Cairn will provide.



Stones for the Cairn, taken from underneath Poustinia



Prayers of thanks are said for Poustinia

A photograph of four men standing around a campfire at night. The fire is bright and burning in the foreground. The men are standing in a circle, talking and looking at each other. The background is dark, suggesting a wooded area.

Authentic Men's Weekend

15th to 18th May

In January this year we had just three men booked on this weekend and I was in danger of thinking it would not work! Come the day though, we had thirty two guys, including the leaders, filling the house and the weekend exceeded our expectations! I can honestly say that I would not hesitate inviting any of my family or friends, (Christian or not) to another Authentic weekend. I would strongly exhort you to be praying for any future Authentic weekends for men, and encouraging guys to book when they are advertised.

I could tell you about the bacon butties, drinks around the bonfire and brilliant film clips that punctuated every talk with real life stories of men who have come through real brokenness and darkness, but there is no better way to say how the weekend went than to hear from the guys themselves.

So, let the guys do the talking!

- *It has been a very valuable time to meet with God, hear from Him, share with others, seeing how God is working in so many different people's lives.*
- *I have received better clarity and understanding of my story in the context of God's bigger story.*
- *I need to take on the message of God's Fatherhood deeper and deeper.*
- *It has been great to hear real life stories of lots of real men. How God has spoken to them in their weakness and failure and has given them strength and direction. God has used their openness, honesty and vulnerability to speak into my own life. I know that my Father is giving me strength and hope to be the man He called me to be.*
- *I have more understanding of what I have lost as a man, and fresh hope as I've been reminded that God wants to restore it in my life.*
- *All the sessions on the Battle, Adventure and Beauty were very powerful and insightful. Each presentation was very real and helpful.*
- *I've drawn closer to God and begun to be able to discern His voice better. I've also*



learned much about the battle we are in and just how easy it is for us to be taken out. The battle is won but we still have to actively fight to avoid being taken out.

- *I crawled to the weekend, tired, passive and somewhat beaten. I feel my spark has returned. I'm leaving feeling inspired, challenged, healed and excited to see my family and I feel like I've been given a second chance to step into the man, husband, father and friend God has created me to be. I'm aware the battle has now stepped up a notch but I want to fight it – full, alive and free in who I've been created to be. Bring it on!!*



Yes indeed, bring it on! We are hosting a weekend for men on 26 - 28 September called 'A Brave Heart' (see below), which will be different to the programme, format and material that Authentic use. Please pray for this next weekend.

Steve Gendall





Practice makes Perfect – The Diocese of Rochester and Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre Conference

After the success of last year's conference at Crowhurst, Bishop James Langstaff (Bishop of Rochester) was keen for an opportunity to offer more training in the Healing Ministry. Andrew Proctor, Steve and I, as organisers, were keen to give people the opportunity to actually 'do it' and so the appropriate name of 'Practice makes Perfect' was born.

The Conference began and ended in typical Crowhurst style with plates full of delicious cooked food. The first evening session was with Steve C teaching on 'Not quite Perfect', giving the full house much food for thought on our own weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

On Saturday morning there were two sessions on Good Practice in the Healing Ministry; caring for self and caring for others. The first, led by Andrew and Elizabeth Procter, focused on the dangers of Burn Out and what to look out for in the lead up, which they call Brown Out. Beware of the dangers of being too busy. (The Proctors have written books which are worth reading.)

Steve C and I led the second session, which focused on the practicalities of providing a safe, welcoming environment and also what is required to have safe people as ministers.

In the afternoon Bishop James shared some reflections before we had a carousel of workshops teaching three different aspects of healing ministry opportunities; Rail ministry; On-going Context ministry and Casual Conversation ministry. The day began and ended with worship.

Sunday morning was the moment I think people were really waiting for; doing it - praying for each other. In groups of threes, using the Crowhurst prayer ministry model and supervised by the leaders, the thirty people were all prayed for and prayed for each other. There was a real sense of breakthrough, excitement and learning as this was done.

The Conference concluded with a service of Holy Communion conducted by the Bishop and including testimonies.

Here's what some of the delegates have said:

- *Thank you all for making this weekend so special. We have learnt so much from Practice makes Perfect, from all the lectures so well prepared and the wonderful times sharing with each other and with God. But we also benefited so much from the way you all work together, from the fun and laughter we have had, and from the real presence of God in the Centre.*





Guided Quiet Days

Guided Quiet Days are held at the Centre throughout the year and are led by a variety of experienced leaders. These days are a good opportunity to take time out if you looking for a space to recharge your spiritual batteries.

The day includes a guided reflection on a theme, worship, time for personal prayer and includes a silent lunch. It begins with coffee and registration at 10.00am, finishes with tea at 3.45pm and is open to a maximum of 25 people.

The programme ensures time to enjoy the peace and quiet of the Chapels and the beautiful grounds. There is a fully equipped art room available to help you to express through painting or drawing what cannot readily be expressed through words.

The lounge and library also provide comfortable places of quiet for your own relaxation.

The next Guided Quiet Day will be held on Wednesday 17th September. The title is 'In the light of God's presence' and will be led by Gill Payne, one of our ministry team.

Then on 1st November, which is All Saints Day, Revd Colin Crook is leading a quiet day called 'Saints Alive'.

The last Quiet Day of the year is on 29th November and will be led by Canon Clare Edwards from Canterbury Cathedral, who will also be leading the Advent Silent Retreat from 28th - 30th November.

So if you have never tried one of these days before, do take the opportunity to do so before the end of the year.

Here is one lady's experience:

I enjoyed the quiet day; it was brilliant and I will come again. Praise the Lord! Amanda.

- *A note to say a huge thank you for the wonderful weekend. Everything was perfect so you must have been practising to make it so! In my extremely busy life there are very few opportunities to relax, recharge, meet nice people and learn at the same time.*
- *Just want to say a big "thank you" for a wonderful weekend. The conference was so well organised; we were made to feel so welcome; the food was delicious; God's presence was tangible! Amazing love ... thank you.*

I bet you're sorry you didn't register!

One of the exciting things about this conference is that it has given Steve and I a feel for how we may best resource churches and individuals next year. We are planning to hold a series of teaching events called 'Signs of His Kingdom' and our aim will be to help churches and individuals 'do it'.

Watch out for details and don't miss the opportunities when you see them. Practice really does make perfect!

Steve Gendall



The Old Art Room: A good ending

The old art room has been very popular over the years, for Quiet Days, Creative Days, Prayer and Painting weeks or just as part of a guest's stay. Many folk, some for the first time, have been inspired to paint, draw or sculpt and so, as with Poustinia, prayers of thanksgiving were said in the old art room at the last Prayer and Painting week.



Many folk write and tell us how God has ministered to them through art at the Centre. Here are just a couple of comments:

Thank you Lord that during the week of Prayer and Painting I have been rested in this environment. You have spoken to me through painting, sermons, in the night and in the guided meditation. Thank you for the release and healing you have bought and for changing my mindset. I have been rested, renewed, rejuvenated and set free. Glory to your name. Shirley B.

A very peaceful, gentle and quiet weekend of retreat and of meeting with God in a new way. I praise Him for the studies, the worship, the prayer times and the ministry session – not forgetting time in the art room too. That was so special. It's truly amazing how the different strands of thought over the weekend came together during the service of healing and anointing. God bless you all for your sensitivity and openness to the holy Spirit. I have been greatly blessed! Val D.

You are special!

At one of the Thursday healing services early in June, Steve Clark shared that he had seen a picture that impressed him, whilst out walking in the woods, and he wondered if it meant anything to anyone.

He described seeing an area of light penetrating the woods, enhancing the bright green of the freshly grown bracken but what took his eye was a single tall spike of foxglove, higher than the rest. I could vividly imagine this picture and since the service I believe this is the interpretation which I want to share with you all.



The Lord says that each one of us is special, like that foxglove, and he loves us as if we were the only one. He bathes us in the light of His love and sees us as beautiful. We can stand up tall, as we gaze on Him, knowing that our past is forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We are Father's special child who has His full attention. Help us Lord to really believe this, and rejoice in You and Your great love for each of us individually.

Mavis Williams

Prayer Requests for Autumn 2014
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Autumn 2014

PRAYER FOCUS

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done." Psalm 78:4

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." Psalm 100:4

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for all the blessings of the past year and for the Lord's continued provision for all our needs.
- Give thanks and praise for the completion of the new art room. Guide us Lord as how to best use the old building as part of the facilities at the Centre.
- Give thanks and praise for the updating of our website. We give our heartfelt thanks to Steve C for the many extra hours he has given to creating this valuable asset. We will now be able to reach out to people throughout the world with the good news of Christ's healing love.
- Ian Wales, one of our Visiting Chaplains, is moving to Lincolnshire. We thank him for the many years he has been part of the ministry at Crowhurst. May the Lord bless him and watch over him and continue to use him in the ministry of Christ's healing love.
- Gill, one of the office staff, is unwell and unable to work at present. Pray that the Lord will place His healing hands upon her and restore her to full health.
- Pray for Chris, our Treasurer, whose wife died in July. Pray that the Lord will comfort and console the family in their time of bereavement.
- Pray for all who work at Crowhurst, that the Lord will bless, strengthen, uphold and protect them from all assaults of the evil one.

"The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalm 46:11

September Prayer Focus

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation." Psalm 12: 5 & 6

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 5 - 7 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 10 - 13 | Ordinands' Retreat (House closed) |
| 17 | Guided Quiet Day
<i>"In the Light of God's presence"</i>
Led by Gill Payne |
| 19 - 21 | Where is God in Dementia?
Weekend of info and support for those caring for dementia sufferers.
Led by Elizabeth Milwain |
| 26 - 28 | Men's Weekend:
<i>'The Brave Heart'</i> |

"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you." Psalm 55:2



October Prayer Focus

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

November Prayer Focus

"I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 9:1

OCTOBER

- 1 Editorial Board meeting
- 6 - 9 Franciscan Retreat: (House closed)
- 10 - 12 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 14 Trustees Meeting
- 17 - 19 Prayer Partners' Retreat
- 20 - 24 Prayer & Painting Week
- 25 Teaching Day:
"Transforming my thinking to be like Jesus."
Led by Angela Seaton-Mills

NOVEMBER

- 1 Guided Quiet Day
'Saints Alive!'
Led by Revd Colin Crook
- 3 - 7 Week with Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson
- 7 - 9 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 14 - 16 Weekend with Adrian Plass
'An honest Gospel of Laughter & Tears'
- 19 Teaching Day
Led by Revd Pam Vale-Taylor
Walking with grief - caring for those who are bereaved
- 28 - 30 Advent Silent Retreat
Led by Canon Clare Edwards
- 29 Advent Quiet Day
Led by Canon Clare Edwards

"I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation." Psalm 13:5

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



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles: you display your power among the peoples." Psalm 77: 13 & 14

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Give thanks that Jane Thomas' situation has changed and she will now be able to continue as a member of the Board of Trustees. Praise the Lord. Please continue to pray for new members to join the Trustees as we need to increase in number to allow for absences that occur from time to time.
- Give thanks and praise that work began on the new art room in July. Give thanks for the sensitivity of the workforce in keeping the noise disturbance down to a minimum. The worship, ministry and general life at Crowhurst was able to continue with minimal disruption.
- Give thanks for all who contributed so generously to the project. We have not yet covered the full cost of but continue to trust in the Lord's provision for all our needs, and pray that by the time the September magazine arrives, the target will have been reached. Praise the Lord.
- Give thanks and praise for the patience of guests and staff in coping with the parking restrictions during this time. We look forward to a very special Prayer and Painting week in October.
- Continue to pray for the Lord's leading in all we do. May we be obedient to His perfect will and timing.

Praise be to the lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds. Praise be to His glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory." Psalm 72: 18 & 19

Prayer for staff at The Centre

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

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

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

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Geof, Brian, Cliff, David, Desmond and Ronnie

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mary

"Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, you servants of the Lord, you who minister in the house of the Lord." Psalm 135:1 & 2

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.

Signs of the Kingdom

We have a 'Signs of the Kingdom' book outside the large Chapel, in which folk can write short testimonies. It is wonderful to read how the Lord is at work and I have extracted just a few testimonies to share in the magazine. The first three were left following one of the healing weekends in June.

- *Having been spiritually directed to this place, it is so evident that those who were commissioned to pray for me before my arrival, did so with such faith and passion. It was as if those who ministered to me, knew me completely. To me this means that this retreat is led entirely on prayer, faith and truth. I am strengthened, Amen.*
- *To get two people with the same picture meant God was on my case though I'd only come to escort a friend. I realised that I had placed a barrier in my relationship with God. Using prayer and art that has been demolished, and my relationship with God is being restored.*
- *Thank you Lord for this place on earth where you dwell so richly - so radiantly - so powerful in love. People blossom and grow in the wonderful atmosphere. Surely a blessed foretaste of our heavenly home.*
- *I visited Crowhurst last year in October. I have suffered from a degenerative disc disorder in my spine for over twenty years. I have had treatment over several years and was told that the condition would never improve, but had to be 'maintained'. After my weekend healing retreat at Crowhurst, although it was not my specific intention to seek healing for my back, God had healed me. I went on to do many activities which would have been difficult and now feel I have the back of an eighteen year old (I am 53!). Praise and glory be to God and the spirit of His healing. Amen.*
- *Thank you all at Crowhurst for your love and concern for our needs – physical and spiritual – from the moment we arrive here until we go back home renewed and restored.*

- *I arrived at Crowhurst feeling very bruised and broken, carrying immense emotional and psychological pain, surrounding hurtful words which had been spoken to me. In the ministry time I experienced the healing touch of Jesus, who reached out and held me close, telling me that He had experienced rejection too and He took that upon Himself on the cross. The words which I will treasure from this weekend are, 'You are mine.' Thank you Jesus.*
- *This has been my first visit and has given me the space and time to relax into God's rhythm. I hope to come again.*
- *It is the first time I have been here but the Lord has taken away all the hurt I have carried for many years since childhood. Thanks and Praise the Lord!*

And from one of our former Wardens, who wrote this on Thanksgiving Day

We came earlier this week for a holiday in Eastbourne and so incorporated coming to the CCHC on Tuesday evening, Thursday morning and Thanksgiving Day. On Tuesday evening, praying for those who went forward for healing and sitting here, I asked the Lord if I should go forward and He said to sit and receive. I have recently had a lot of discomfort and pain in my legs and they were hurting now, especially the right leg. Suddenly all the pain seemed to drain out and go. This week I have slept at night, without pain. Praise and thanks to the Lord.

Thursday: Thank you God for all prophecies and words that have come to fruition here over the years, through the healing work and miracles, and the incredible ways in which He has touched so many people. The new art room is a dream come true and the Rock Cairn a powerful witness. Glory on your house!

Trevor and Pamela Blackshaw

Thanksgiving Day: In praise of our King!

Morning worship began with the enthusiastic singing of *Jubilate Everybody*. This was followed by two songs that focused our minds on Jesus as King; *O Lord our God, how majestic is your name* and *The King is among us*, and He most definitely was among us as we worshipped, gave thanks and prayed together in His holy name!

The clear message from the Chaplaincy Team was that Jesus is King and at the centre of all the visions and plans for Crowhurst. His Kingdom is here with us now, today; healing comes through Him and His love never fails. Many folk have received the healing touch of Christ since the place began under Howard Cobb's leadership in 1928.

During her talk, Penny, our Associate Chaplain, stressed the importance of giving praise and thanksgiving for healing. She read out the last verse of the song, *Praise you Lord for the wonder of your healing ...*

'Praise you Lord, you have turned our thorns to roses; glory Lord as they bloom upon your brow. The path of pain is hallowed, for your love has made it sweet, praise you Lord and may I love you now'. She held up a red rose, which so powerfully reflected those wonderful words.

Penny spoke of all the people who have come to Crowhurst to receive God's healing touch. There are always new beginnings, and new hope, she said. People regularly write in to say how things have changed for them since meeting with Jesus here at the Centre.



During the service the Trustees and all those involved in ministry were anointed.



Trustees and Ministry Team are anointed

Following the anointing, there was a time of open prayer, with people encouraged to pray just one sentence for the CCHC. Steve C concluded this time by asking the Lord to be a shield about us and gave thanks for all the people who have served here over the years, thanking the Lord for all He has done. That it is His glory we seek, not Crowhurst glory, but the Lord's glory.

As we prepared for communion, we sang the song, *Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away*, a song that reminds us we are sharing the Bread of Life with one another as a sign of our bonds of peace, love and grace around the table of the King, and one day we will join in the feast of heaven with Him!

After communion Steve G said that Crowhurst is a healing centre and Jesus is the healer. He





asked if anyone felt the need for healing at this time. It seemed as if most folk raised their hands and there followed a special time of laying on of hands by each other as we sat in our seats. Both Steves led prayers and Steve G concluded by saying ... 'We are all beautiful people and that the Craftsman who is working on us doesn't make mistakes!'

For our final hymn it almost sounded as if we were 10,000 voices singing Matt Redman's 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord O my soul)! Lunch followed the service, with a delicious buffet for invited and house guests, which had been prepared by our hard working kitchen team.



Other folk, who had brought picnic lunches, shared fellowship in the marquee, or at tables around the grounds.



Before we gathered together again in the large Chapel to prepare for our Thanksgiving Cairn, we had each chosen a stone, on which we had written a message of thanks to God and with our focus still very much on Jesus, we began our short service with the hymn , '*Jesus we enthrone you, we proclaim you our King*'.

It was now time for the eagerly awaited building of the Thanksgiving Cairn. Steve C said that folk who were unable to be at Thanksgiving Day had been sending in messages to be put on their stones.



Folk write words of thanksgiving on their stones

The Cairn will steadily grow as folk come and lay their own stones, with messages of thanks for God's blessing to them here.

Fittingly, we sang *Faithful one, so unchanging. Ageless one, you're my rock of peace*, and Steve C read from Joshua 4. He said that the Cairn is something tangible, like it was for the children of Israel as God led them over the seemingly uncrossable River Jordan. The stones were a reminder, a memorial to them and generations to come, of God's goodness and our stones too will be a reminder to us of all God's mercies and blessings.



At the end of the service, we all made our way to the area set aside for the Cairn.

There were already some stones in place, on which the names of memorable people or places connected with the CCHC had been written. In the middle was the largest and most important stone, our 'Foundation Stone', on which Steve C had engraved 'Ichthus'.

He prayed and gave thanks for all those who have been blessed at the Centre over the years. We were then invited to place our own stones around the Cairn and it was a very special moment as everyone stepped forward to do so. (Video clip can be seen on Facebook.)

By Thanksgiving Day next year, the Cairn will no doubt have grown considerably and will be a visible reminder of how God has blessed His people through His healing touch, here in this place.

Afternoon tea and a selection of delicious cakes followed, served with the usual smiles by the hardworking Heidi, Julian and Chrissy, with fellowship shared in the lounge and outside in the beautiful sunshine.

It had been another lovely Thanksgiving Day, and all the praise and glory goes to our bountiful God, whose mercies are new every morning. Alleluia!

Some of you were quick to put your thoughts of the day onto Facebook ...

What a fantastic time at Thanksgiving today, so good to catch up with friends not seen for a while and carry on just where you left off! Weather was perfect, worship inspiring and Spirit filled; cakes delicious and the Thanksgiving Cairn just amazing! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make all this possible; the new art room is really coming along well, can't wait to use it! Feeling very Blessed. Sheila

I also asked Ian Wales, one of our Visiting Chaplains, for a brief summary of what the day had meant for him. Here's what he said;

Thanksgiving Day was very powerful, yet peaceful and unhurried. In worship, we were focused on Jesus and His Kingdom and gave thanks for signs of the Kingdom breaking in here at Crowhurst as we praised and prayed. The building of the Cairn was very moving as we laid down our thanksgiving stones - permanent reminders of how good God has been for us.



Smile please! Who's photographing who!



Building the Thanksgiving Cairn



Carrying stones to the Cairn



Steve C points to the Ichthus Stone



Steve C offers prayers



Folk gather around the cairn to lay their stones of thanksgiving



New Art Room ...

As I write this article on 12th July, excitement is mounting! Geof, assisted at times by several other staff, has worked so hard to get the pre-groundworks completed - from the power company up the pole, to digging trenches and sorting electrics.



All was then ready for the groundworks team, who arrived on 30th June and the groundworks were completed and approved by the Building Inspector by July 8th.



Both Steves helped with digging and water to the bungalow was only cut off a few times (just once by them though)!



It's nearly here!

The construction team arrived on Tuesday 15th July and as you can see from the two photos below, it was a very tight squeeze to manoeuvre their lorry down the side of the wing!



The rest of the building arrived on 17th and because the fir trees were too high for the lorry, sections of the building had to be lifted off by crane!



Despite the extremely hot weather, the men worked really hard to put together the shell of the building within a couple of days. Amazingly the noise was kept to a minimum, with just a small amount of hammering going on during one of the Thursday morning healing services, which Steve C referred to as 'extra percussion!'

We are all really looking forward to seeing the plans we have been making for months turn into reality. What a privilege.

The art room at the time of print is shown below. In the winter magazine, we will have pictures of the completed project, together with photos of folk enjoying this lovely new art room.



We continue to be thankful to all those who have donated to the Art Room Appeal – over £80,000. We just need £20,000 to cover all the remaining costs and pray that the Lord will provide all that is necessary to complete the project.

It won't be long now before Maggie will be able to welcome you to the new art room! The next Prayer and Painting week takes place from Monday 20th to Friday 24th October and we will also be holding a 'Prayer, Painting & Preparing for Christmas' week from 1st - 5th December.

If you have a floor standing or table easel in good condition that you no longer need, Maggie would really appreciate them. *Hilary Clark*

Garden News



During the summer, I have been kept busy with all the hedge cutting and keeping many areas of the grounds as tidy as possible with regular strimming. Roses required

spraying to help reduce black spot and various areas where moss was a problem were sprayed. Weather permitting, I was able to cut down intrusive brambles, and the summer bedding and hanging baskets received their usual attention.

With the arrival of autumn leaves beginning to fall, thus heralding a busy few months of leaf clearing, strimming will continue. Work on the hedges and any necessary pruning of various plants will also be planned.

With a lot of clearing needing to be carried out, bonfire smoke will drift around the grounds, although I do try to make sure bonfires are not lit when the wind blows the smoke away from the Centre.

Looking ahead, as usual, next year's spring flowers will need to be thought about. It's a very busy life for us gardeners!

In closing, may I say what a pleasure it is to work in the grounds. To listen to the birds singing, see the wildlife and to wonder at God's wonderful creation.

With kind regards to you all,
Desmond

As I write this piece during a very dry spell, the power of prayer here was brought home to me whilst watering the hanging baskets above the main door. Steve G appeared and thought it was raining, but someone pointed out that it was just me! I jokingly asked whether he could include in the evening service, the words 'send cool refreshing rain.' Within half an hour the sky had darkened and it did indeed pour down for a while; neither of us could quite believe it!



During summer there has been the usual flower beds and lawn edges maintenance to do and with Thanksgiving Day only a few weeks away at the time of writing, there is no slacking! Like the bees, it keeps me 'buzzing'!

Blessings, Cliff



Our beautiful grounds give people so much pleasure and on Thanksgiving Day, there were many comments on how lovely they looked, so thank you to all our hard working gardening team for making them such a picture!

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 5 - 7 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 10 - 13 Ordinands' Retreat (House closed)
- 17 Guided Quiet Day
'In the Light of God's presence'
Led by Gill Payne
- 19 - 21 Where is God in Dementia?
Weekend of info and support for those caring for dementia sufferers
Led by Elizabeth Milwain
- 26 - 28 Men's Weekend:
'The Brave Heart'

OCTOBER

- 6 - 9 Franciscan Retreat:
(House closed)
- 10 - 12 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 17 - 19 Prayer Partners' Retreat
- 20 - 24 Prayer & Painting Week
- 25 Teaching Day:
"Transforming my thinking to be like Jesus."
Led by Angela Seaton-Mills

NOVEMBER

- 1 Guided Quiet Day
'Saints Alive!'
Led by Revd Colin Crook
- 3 - 7 Week with Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson
- 7 - 9 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 14 - 16 Weekend with Adrian Plass
'An honest Gospel of Laughter & Tears'. (Day places still available.)
- 19 Teaching Day
Led by Revd Pam Vale-Taylor
Walking with grief - caring for those who are bereaved
- 28 - 30 Advent Silent Retreat
Led by Canon Clare Edwards
- 29 Advent Quiet Day
Led by Canon Clare Edwards

WHERE IS GOD IN DEMENTIA?

19th - 21st September

£190 full board en-suite (£170 non en-suite) £90 day guest (includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, and Sunday lunch).



There are still some places available for this weekend. If you would like to know more about dementia, whether caring for, or supporting a family member or friend, or would like to know how, as Christians, we can support those in our communities who are affected, don't miss this opportunity to listen to Elizabeth Milwain, a psychologist who has been working in this area since 1996.

Key topics are the understanding of dementia and supporting people with dementia within a context that allows for sharing experience, and discussing spiritual aspects of the condition.

NEW YEAR RETREAT

29 December 2014 to 3 January 2015

This is always a joyful and uplifting time, but also reflective and prayerful. It is a great way to see out the old year and bring in the new. £360 (residential) £320 (Non-res.)



How to contact us

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Bookings: 01424 830033

Email: bookings.cchc@btconnect.com

Email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

The office is open from 9am - 6pm

Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday

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



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

Who's who

PRESIDENT

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Martin Granger

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

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