

in His Healing Steps

Autumn 2016



Some of the Crowhurst team singing 'The Circle of Life' on Thanksgiving Day in July

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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.

Editorial



Magazine update from Colin Crook

Dear Friends,

Thank you! Your response to our plea for donations for the magazine has been overwhelming! At the time of writing, over £6,000 has come in, some of which can be gift-aided. This means that production costs for the next twelve months or so are secure.

At the same time we have had so many encouraging comments on the value of the magazine content (see page 9). It clearly fills a need in the lives of the Crowhurst family.

At present we send out about 1,800 copies each quarter, including a sizeable number to countries around the world such as Singapore, Australia, Denmark, Spain and Portugal.

Thank you so much for your generosity and encouragement. May the magazine continue to bless you.

Colin Crook (Chair of Editorial Board)

Our magazine is a window into the Lord's work here at the CCHC. It is always encouraging for folk to read articles and testimonies from guests and visitors, so if you have a story to tell, do please write in with your own experiences. If you have taken any photos whilst staying, these would be most welcome too. Deadlines for submissions to the winter issue will be October 5th. Please send directly to me at marys56@hotmail.co.uk or by 'snail mail' to the office.

I love nursing poorly plants back to life! Over the years, I've rescued many a sick and neglected plant that have been cast aside in the reduced areas of garden and DIY centres. Battered by the weather, or dehydrated through lack of watering, they have been unable to flourish and seemed beyond help, but I could see their potential for something beautiful, to be what they should have been had they been nurtured. A re-pot, a good drink and some plant food saw them transformed in just a few days - amazing!

Many of us might sometimes feel cast aside, and think we have nothing to offer, but the Lord has good plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11). God knows our potential, and even if we have lost sight of it, or perhaps have never even discovered it, we can be assured that God won't leave us on the 'reduced shelf'!

The pleasure I get out of reviving a neglected, wilting plant is nothing to the pleasure the Lord gets from reviving and healing us when we need it! If we go to Him for our spiritual food and drink - the living water that only He can give - He will revive us.

If are in need of reviving, or would just like to take time out of the busyness of life, come and spend some time at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, a place to receive refreshment and renewal in the presence of the Lord.

Every blessing,

Mary



Steve's letter



Dear Friends,

Firstly, a huge thank you for the overwhelming response to our insert about the magazine in the last edition. We received an almost unanimous positive response - an excellent result and very encouraging, thank you!

Healing the nation!

I have been surprised since the Referendum at how often I have heard politicians talking about healing the nation or healing the party. I do wonder on whose terms?

There is a lovely picture in Revelation 22 of the tree of life whose leaves are used 'for the healing of the nations'. Is healing needed in the new heaven and new earth? NO. Rev 21:4 says "God will wipe every tear from their eyes and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain – all these things are gone forever."

The river of life and the tree of life are symbolic - as is so much of the language of Revelation - of something. The tree of life is put forward as the means by which the perpetual health, life and general well-being of the inhabitants are sustained. Health and life will be enjoyed by all, forever.

What about us today and the need for healing nations? I write at a time when Zimbabwe is going through extremely difficult times too, and we could list nation after nation that needs healing.

Here at the CCHC we believe our Lord is still in the business of healing. Jesus said "Seek first the kingdom of God" and we see first-hand His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. We see people find peace between themselves and God - healing from spiritual disease. We see people find peace in themselves - healing from emotional disease. We see people find peace between each other - healing of relationships. Where the kingdom of God is, there is peace, love, joy, salvation and healing.

And here's the point. We can't orchestrate this on our terms. We work in co-operation with the Lord who is the healer. It is the Lord's lead and direction and the Lord's healing hand that transforms people. How is it done? With the help of God!

William Booth, the Founder of the Salvation Army, once said; "*I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God and heaven without hell.*"

Our politicians would do well to see the danger of politics without God as they try to bring healing to this nation. May I urge you all to continue to pray as we journey forward. You and I, in Christ, have an important part to play for this nation, for such a time as this. You are the light of the world - let your light shine.

With our love and prayers,

Steve

Visit from Jonathan & Helene Cobb



It was a thrill for me to meet Jonathan and Helene Cobb, and their friend Jilly, one afternoon in early July. Jonathan is the grandson of Howard Cobb - the man whose healing and inspiration from God, bought about the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre (see right for more information).

They were with their Parish at Ashburnham and decided to visit here, and then go on to visit Howard and May Cobb's grave at nearby St. George's Parish Church.

I was able to share with them the occasion before our October welcome service in 2012, when I too visited their grave. Whilst there I was prompted to ask the Lord what set Howard apart. The Lord's quick response was; *'Howard loved the Lord with all his heart, mind, soul and strength.'* That was enough for me! I knelt down to pray and after a little time, I stood to go. What a surprise when from a clear blue sky there was a very light drizzle - it was quite moving.

As I later shared this with the three visitors, we all got a little emotional. God is good all the time! Thank you Lord.

Steve

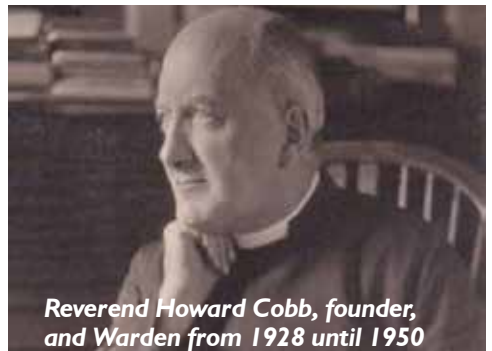
Rev'd Howard Cobb

Howard began his healing ministry at Crowhurst after being healed from the usually fatal sleeping sickness disease. Close to death, his friend James Moore Hickson laid hands on him. Within the day he began to recover and during his period of convalescence, felt called by the Lord into the healing ministry.

Howard advertised to exchange his living at Mill Hill with someone who had a large Rectory. A reply came from Crowhurst and in 1928 he became Rector of the village church whilst taking in guests in need of restoration and healing at the Rectory. He soon discovered that it was impossible to do both jobs so in 1930 resigned as Rector. With his wife, May, he bought the Rectory and gave himself full time to the work of healing.

By June 1930, with incredible speed, a 'new wing' (the present rooms 9 and 10) had been built and 'The Old Rectory' was formally opened, with Mr Hickson giving the address.

From the moment the Cobbs arrived, The Old Rectory became a home of healing. Now he saw the fulfilment of his vision, Howard Cobb borrowed over £9,000 from the bank to finance his work (this was a great deal of money at that time). Despite the depression of the thirties, followed by the second world war, through God's gracious provision the money was paid back and the home flourished.



**Reverend Howard Cobb, founder,
and Warden from 1928 until 1950**

Meeting God in the garden: Prayer & Painting week: 10- 14 May

The theme chose by Maggie for her last Prayer & Painting course was 'Meeting God in the Garden.' Those who participated were sad to learn that this was the last time she would be leading a Prayer and Painting week. She has been a prayerful leader and given inspiration to very many over the years, and she will be greatly missed. Thankfully she is not leaving the Centre but has more time now for Prayer Ministry.

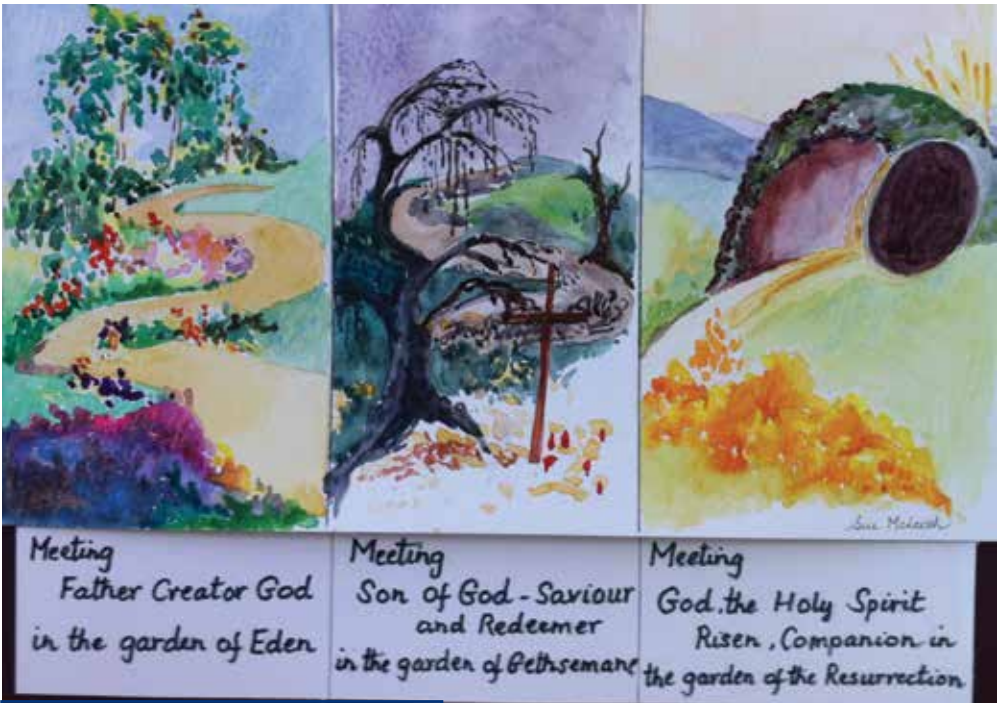
As you can see from the lovely paintings shown here, the garden theme inspired the twelve artists to produce wonderful pictures (I wish we had space to show them all). The teaching, during the daily worship, was also about gardens in the Bible and tied in exactly with what some artists had planned to paint before they came, once the theme was known.

I have been privileged to work with Maggie on the 'Prayer through Painting' weeks for nearly two years now, so I was asked to lead the August one, with Dee's help. I tried not to change too much and kept the programme etc. much as Maggie had run it before. We are trusting the Lord to show us His plans for the art/craft work at the Centre in future and who should be leading it. Please join us in praying about this.

Mavis Williams

.....
Georgina, Joan and Martin share their thoughts and reflections of this special week..

We arrived early on Tuesday morning and as always were made to feel very welcome. It was with a measure of sadness that we realised Maggie, our tutor for so many years, would be retiring after this week.



Meeting God in the garden: Sue McLeish



The three lovely paintings above are from Georgina, Joan and Martin

Mavis assisted Maggie and each of us present felt that we had a personal tutor. We all felt inspired and the three of us produced at least two pictures each.

The food as always was excellent and Steve G was his usual amiable self! We made new friends and were delighted that our pictures would be on display in the large Chapel.

At the end of the week, we all felt God's presence and look forward to next year with our new tutors.

Georgina, Martin and Joan

Our next Prayer and Painting week takes place on Tuesday 25 to Saturday 29 October and will be led by Revd Jill Hartman. See page 10 for further details.



Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: Frances piper



Helen Lewer: Mary in the Resurrection Garden

Maggie's retirement celebration

In the summer issue, we featured an article on the retirement of our resident artist, Maggie. In June, a delicious thanksgiving cream tea was held to celebrate her art ministry at the Centre, and she was presented with a number of beautiful gifts. For the last twenty years, Maggie has used her God given gifts at the CCHC to draw people closer to God through art. Whether you were an accomplished artist or someone who had never picked up a paintbrush before, Maggie would be there to encourage you.

There were many comments on our Facebook page from folk who have been blessed by Maggie's ministry; here are just a few of them.

- I remember braving a visit to the art room! As I was poised with a sheet of paper and pencil, Maggie asked if she could pray for me. I was immediately overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, and was shaking too much to hold my pencil! The picture wasn't great, but my time in the art room was! Thank you also Maggie, for your gentle prayer ministry during communion. I was blessed by her beautiful smile, encouraging words and godliness. Margaret*
- Maggie was always encouraging, no matter how daft I felt my art would turn out. Thank you, Maggie, for your patience in helping me improve my work. Pam*
- I remember Maggie praying for me. I was never able to draw, but what I drew was a bird I think. I was so shocked! I pray God will bless her richly. Karen*
- I am no artist by any means, but I felt so comfortable and encouraged by Maggie, which made it such an enjoyable experience. Thank you Maggie and God bless you in your retirement. Conny*

Maggie continues to serve the Lord at the Centre as she remains part of the ministry team and her husband, Stephen continues to serve as Chapel Warden and Musician.



Magazine feedback

As mentioned in the editorial, we received an overwhelming response to our magazine insert and this confirmed what we already knew - that the magazine is valued and enjoyed by so many of you. Particularly appreciated are the photos of the CCHC, especially for those folk who are no longer able to get there. Here is just a small selection of comments received:

- *The magazine helps to keep me in touch with prayer needs and I love the beautiful photos because I can't get to Crowhurst now.*
- *The summer magazine was particularly good for outreach.*
- *There is a feeling of God's presence shining through the articles, letters etc, and I love the gorgeous pictures.*
- *I like hearing news on the grounds and borders.*
- *I look forward to each issue. It reminds me of happy times.*
- *I am housebound and unable to go to Crowhurst, so the magazine is valued and appreciated*
- *Thank you for the wonderful magazine. Everything seems to go on hold until I have read it from cover to cover!*
- *I recently received the summer edition of In His Healing Steps and found it to be one of the most interesting and encouraging issues that I had read over many years.*
- *To everyone involved with the magazine's production ... blessings, blessings, blessings! It is so wonderful and means so much, thank you.*

Happy memories of Crowhurst

Thank you for sending the magazine. I do enjoy reading it. It is nice to know how things are going. How blessed you are by the Lord. Just a few thoughts on my years of staying at Crowhurst.

In 1988, after four years of retirement, my husband, Norman and I moved to Cornwall. Sadly, Norman was diagnosed with cancer and passed away in February 1989. It was very sad but the Lord was with us all along.

Unfortunately the accountant who was doing our money for us was caught gambling in a very big way. There were lots of employees involved with him and we all lost large amounts of money. Some even lost their homes as he had talked them into taking out a second mortgage.

It was six years later that my minister recommended the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre as he thought it would be very good for me.

It was absolutely the right choice and at the Thursday healing service I went forward for prayer and healing. All the sadness and pain was lifted and God was so close to me. After a good few tears I was feeling much better. The minister prayed with me and I received healing in a painful area, which was wonderful!

I came to Crowhurst for nineteen years. Unfortunately, during my last visit, I wasn't too well and the family had to come and take me home, but I do remember the wonderful times I had there. The Lord has blessed me so much and I am always grateful to all the staff over the years for their love and prayer.

Barbara

Guided Quiet days & Teaching Days

Guided Quiet Days

The cost of our Quiet Days is £25.00, payable at the time of booking and includes, tea and coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. It is by donation if you are a guest in house.

Saturday 10 September

“I AM”

Led by Maureen Stringer

During the day we will consider three aspects of God, the “I AM”. We will remind ourselves that God is holy and what the implications of that are for us. Secondly, God is caring and we will remember some of the passages of scripture that we rely on during tough times, and finally challenge ourselves with how much of a difference it makes to us when we believe that God is with us.

Maureen is experienced in leading quiet days and having retired from a career in education, is now able to devote more time to this ministry.

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Saturday 8 October:

‘Amazing me’!

Led by Peter & Pat Lockley

We will discover together how we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and have an amazing identity in Christ.

Peter and Pat are Visiting Chaplains and Prayer Ministers Centre.

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Wednesday 16 November:

‘Under God’s waterfall’: refreshed and renewed for life’s journey.

Led by Gill Payne

The waterfall is a lovely image of the endless resources of God’s grace, mercy and loving-kindness, which flow down to meet us just where we are, in the challenges and busyness of daily living and whatever may be happening for us.

Gill is involved in various ways in her church and is a prayer minister and Visiting Chaplain at the CCHC. She also takes the Wednesday services there once a month.

Teaching Days

The CCHC have two more Teaching Days this year, both of which will be led by our Chaplain, Steve Clark. Prices are by donation, plus £12 for lunch and refreshments.

Wednesday 12 October

‘Praying for healing within worship’

A day designed for ministry teams and those who have a role praying for people within public worship. A Biblical foundation; safe and effective practice in your church context, followed by praying for each other.

Saturday 3 December

‘Repentance Lifestyle’

Have you ever wondered why Jesus comes ‘proclaiming good news’ and then says ‘Repent’? Discover the depth and freedom of a repentance lifestyle, that is so much more than rubbing our noses in sin!

Prayer through Painting week

25 to 29 October: Led by Jill Hartman



We are delighted to have Revd Jill Hartman leading our October Prayer & Painting week.

Jill has been leading prayer and painting sessions for many years. She says, “it’s so rewarding to see prayer lives deepened and enriched by responding to God through art.”

If you have never been on one of these weeks before, why not give it a try? You don’t have to be a skilled artist as Jill will be there to encourage, guide and help you.

Autumn Prayer Requests



Autumn Prayer Requests

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Autumn Prayer Requests

PRAYER FOCUS

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you peoples. For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever." Psalm 117:1 & 2

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant." Psalm 135:3

PRAYER

- Give thanks for the 'Big Celebration' during volunteers' week. There are fifty-one volunteers who contribute to the smooth running of the CCHC. On their special day, they were invited to a delicious strawberry and cream tea at the Centre. Afterwards they were each presented with a certificate, bearing their name, to thank them for their commitment to the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre. This was a very special day indeed, praise the Lord.
 - Please pray for John, one of our volunteers. He is our projector and sound operator at the Thursday morning healing service. He wrote an article in the summer magazine about a rare condition in his blood. He has returned to hospital for further treatment and will be out of action for a while. Pray that the treatment will go smoothly and that he will be restored to full health.
 - Pray that the November autumn special, when you can bring someone for free who has not visited before, (not during programmed events) will be a time of real blessing.
 - There is also a Christmas offer in December, to pay for two nights and get the third night free (except for programmed events).
- "Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long."* Psalm 25:4 & 5



September Prayer Focus

"Glorify the Lord with me: let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:3 & 4

SEPTEMBER

1 st & 6 th	NO HEALING SERVICES Car Park being resurfaced
10	Guided Quiet Day "I AM" Led by Maureen Stringer
16 - 18	Healing Weekend
21	Ed Board Meeting
23 - 25	'Exploring glory and suffering' Led by Rt. Revd Richard Jackson



October Prayer Focus

“Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds - his name is the Lord - and rejoice before him.” Psalm 68:4

November Prayer Focus

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3

OCTOBER

- 8 Guided Quiet Day:
 ‘Amazing me’!
 Led by Peter & Pat Lockley
- 12 Teaching Day:
 ‘Praying for healing within worship’
 Led by Steve Clark
- 25 -29 Prayer through Painting week
 Led by Jill Hartman

NOVEMBER

- 4 - 6 *‘Rivers of Healing’*
 Led by Revd Mike and Jane Endicott
- 8 Trustees meeting
- 11 - 13 *‘E-Learning weekend’*
 Led by the Crowhurst Team
- 16 Guided Quiet Day:
 ‘Under God’s waterfall’: refreshed and renewed for life’s journey.
 Led by Gill Payne
- 18 - 20 Healing Weekend
- 25 - 27 Silent Advent Retreat Weekend

Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." Hebrews 12:14 & 15

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Martin Granger (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Suzanne Owen, Paul Raynor, Jane Thomas and Nigel Thonger.

- Give thanks for the generous legacy that has made it possible to resurface the car parking area at the front of the house. It is long overdue!
- Please continue to pray for Jim following his severe stroke last December. He is making steady progress. Pray that he will regain more movement in his left side and be able to use his hand again. Pray for Jim and Jenny, that the Lord will strengthen and uphold them day by day.
- During the past months, other members of the Crowhurst family have also had health problems. Steve Clark developed a severe cough and loss of voice and was unable to work. Hilary, his wife, also succumbed to the virus and was very poorly indeed. They were diagnosed as having whooping cough! It was a very trying time for them both. Steve's voice is greatly improved and he is able to take services again. Hilary is still not fully recovered. Pray earnestly that the Lord will restore them to full health.
- Give thanks for the Visiting Chaplains who were able to come to the CCHC and cover Steve Clark's absence.

"Pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 9:12

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Penny, Andy, Brenda, Carole, Chris L, Colin, David B, David F, Dee, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegard, Jan, Jenny, John, Judith, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Pam, Pat, Paul, Pete, Peter, Phyllis, Pippa, Rachel, Roland, Stephen, Vanessa, Veronica, Vivien, Yvonne and Visiting Chaplains

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Desmond, Cliff and David

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10



Bible Study: Why settle for less?



David and Judith Barnes are two of our Prayer Ministers; David has an important message for us to reflect on!

A mother and her daughter went into a church to pray. The mother's prayers were soon ended, but the little girl lingered in the children's corner. At last the child came to her and her mother commented, "You were a long time saying your prayers; what were you doing?" Her daughter replied, "I just knelt down and said 'Dear Jesus,' and he said, 'Dear Debbie,' and then we just loved one another".

In Luke 10, we read the familiar story of Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha. Martha, the activist was concerned to be the perfect host and give Jesus, and a house full of guests, an excellent meal. Mary, the more contemplative, was content to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen in rapt attention to Him. In this story it was Mary that was commended. What Jesus wanted was fellowship rather than food; He wanted peace and quiet, rest and relaxation in the company of the two women He cared for.

However in other places in the gospels, Jesus commends the activist, calling and commending all who would be His followers to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothes to the naked, and to visit those who are sick or in prison. In so doing we are told, we are doing

it for Him. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be involved with God's world on the one hand and to develop intimacy with God on the other. To be both a worker like Martha and a worshipper like Mary. Those of us who tend to be activists need to remember that what we do **with** Jesus is more important than what we do **for** him, that our love is more important than our labour.

Unless we make time for intimacy, we find ourselves, busy but not blessed, weary but not refreshed. Draw near to Jesus and He will draw near to you. That's what the Bible promises. Why settle for less?

David

Psalm 23 for our modern world.

I recently came across this version of Psalm 23, which was written by a Japanese writer called Toki Miyashina.

*The Lord is my Pacesetter, I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet
intervals. He provides me with images of
stillness, which restore my serenity.*

*He leads me in ways of efficiency, through
calmness of mind; and His guidance is peace.*

*Even though I have a great many things to
accomplish each day, I will not fret, for His
presence is here.*

*His timelessness, His all-importance will keep
me in balance.*

*He prepares refreshment and renewal in the
midst of my activity, by anointing my head
with His oils of tranquility.*

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

*Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the
fruit of my hours.*

*For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord, and
dwell in His house forever.*

Volunteers' Week: Celebrating our volunteers!



In late June, during National Volunteers Week, a delicious afternoon cream tea was laid on for the many volunteers who so generously give their time to help with the running of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. There are fifty one Crowhurst volunteers in total and around twenty five were able to come along and share fellowship. Steve thanked everyone for their individual ministries, before handing out special 'Thank You' certificates to each one present.

After the lovely tea of scones, jam, cream and strawberries, everyone gathered around the Thanksgiving Cairn as Steve placed a special stone of thanksgiving for all our wonderful volunteers.

It was a very special afternoon, chatting to folk about how they came to volunteer at Crowhurst. We thank each and every one of our volunteers, past and present, for all that they have done over the years and continue to do to help with the running of the Centre. They are such a blessing from the Lord.

Each person has a story to tell of how they came to volunteer at the Centre. These are just a few of them. Perhaps I can share more in future issues if anyone like to 'volunteer' their stories?



Shirley Dawson

Retired teacher, Shirley, told us how she discovered Crowhurst in the early 90's. One day, while in the middle of teaching a lesson, she was interrupted by her late husband, Fred, knocking on the classroom window. He had a huge smile on his face, and was a totally different person to the one she had said goodbye to earlier that day!

Fred had recently been diagnosed with cancer and was understandably feeling quite low. He had been told about the CCHC by a lady from their church, who had invited him to come along to the Thursday morning healing service. Fred was greatly blessed at the service and couldn't wait to tell Shirley all about it, hence the excited knocking on the window that same afternoon!

The following Sunday Fred went to help with the afternoon teas, and it wasn't long before he had persuaded Shirley into joining him. The rest, as they say, is history!

Shirley later became a Trustee, a position she served for twelve years, before retiring in 2013. She continues to serve tea and coffee on a Thursday morning after the healing service, and also writes the prayer pages for the magazine. She describes the CCHC as a powerhouse!



Shirley and Steve laying a stone of thanksgiving in honour of our volunteers

Rosemary Froggatt



Having stayed at the CCHC on several occasions, Rosemary became a volunteer in 2009, thinking she would be helping to serve teas and coffees after the Thursday morning Healing Services. Instead, Peter McIntosh, the Senior Chaplain, asked her to help his wife, Kay, run the Centre's bookstall, handing the job over to her completely when he and Kay retired later that year. Rosemary is usually at Crowhurst two or three times each week, checking stock, compiling orders and unpacking and pricing books, CDs and DVDs. For the past few years, she has also been welcoming people to the Thursday Healing Services, serving teas and coffees afterwards, as part of Shirley Dawson's team.

Cliff Poole



Cliff's first encounter with the CCHC was in 1997, having heard his neighbour 'singing its praises'! On his very first visit, he met a former work colleague, Fred Dawson (Shirley's late husband). Fred and Cliff had been telegram boys together in 1959 - talk about a small world! Cliff was made to feel very welcome and he started regularly attending the weekly healing services.

Five years ago, Cliff saw an article in one of the magazines saying that extra help was needed in the grounds, and since then he has spent two days a week doing whatever is necessary to help keep them in tip top condition.

And so the journey continues: Chris Luker



Four years ago I would never have imagined that I would now be serving as a volunteer at the CCHC - praise the Lord for His goodness to me!

In July 2012, my life had been tipped upside down with the sudden and unexpected death of my lovely husband, Kevin, a week before my planned retirement. I wrote an article about my experience in the Spring 2014 Magazine in which I mentioned that there was 'another story' ... so here it is.

On the morning of Saturday 1st November 2012, I was out shopping in the Co-op and saw two friends, who waved at me to join them in the coffee shop. I wasn't in the mood for chatting, but decided to join them - thank the Lord I did!

As I was waiting in the queue to order my coffee, a lady standing next to me smiled and we got chatting. She introduced herself as Margaret and invited me to come and meet her husband, Michal. As we chatted, it transpired that they had come to Heathfield to shop in Sainsbury's, but decided on the spur of the moment to come to the Co-op for a coffee! Coincidence? No - most definitely a God-incidence!

As we continued to chat and I shared my story, Margaret suggested I come to the CCHC with them the following Thursday. I agreed, though had no idea what I was letting myself in for!

We arranged to meet at 9.45 in the Centre's car park and Margaret provided me with a cup of coffee before we went into the service. Bless Margaret and Michal for their discernment and understanding of my situation, and how anxious I was feeling about going in.

Well, that's where it all started; we know for sure that the Lord placed Margaret right beside me in the Co-op when I was at probably the lowest point of my life, and frankly saw no point in living.

Margaret suggested I stay over for a night at the CCHC which I reluctantly agreed to do - how well the Lord showed her what I needed. So I booked in and they booked into the room just across the landing - it was just like having 'mum' and 'dad' there. One more hurdle crossed - it was the first time I had felt confident enough to spend a night away from home.

How I praise and bless the Lord for bringing them into my life, as I can honestly say I'm not sure where I would be now had I not met them - but He knew! They knew just how to support me, but more importantly when to let me find my own way. We still keep in touch, and I know they will be faithfully praying for me as I journey on.

The next surprise was being asked by Steve C to facilitate the 'Journeying' group for the bereaved, which began in September 2013. My jaw literally dropped when he asked me, and I protested that "*I couldn't possibly do that.*" Steve very gently said that they thought I could, so with great trepidation I agreed.

What a blessing that group was to us all as we met monthly for ten months, ending on my birthday in 2014! The Lord knew what I needed to help me get through the dark and sorrowful days following Kevin's death. How I thank Him for prompting us to form this group, and for bringing the lovely girls and Steve C into my life during that year.

I continued to go to the Healing Services and gained in confidence to attend some of the

Thanksgiving Day: 16 July

residential days and weekends. Probably the turning point for me was meeting Jennifer Rees-Larcombe at a weekend retreat, and pouring out my heart to the Lord in a Psalm I wrote. This was a truly healing process, and I began to see that there was a future for me without my husband.

The Lord has revealed such love and care for me during these last four years by putting alongside me such loving, compassionate and supportive family and friends.

BUT He had further plans for me at the CCHC ... He hadn't finished with me yet! I felt prompted to offer my services there, but wasn't sure what form that would take. All I felt I had to offer, following my own experience, was a listening ear and a compassionate heart - which was what I needed most during my darkest days of the last four years.

After several meetings with the Chaplains and much prayer by us all, I have been appointed as an 'Informal Listener' at the Thursday morning Healing Services. This has now extended to assisting Rosemary with greeting. So for those of you who attend these services, you will meet me on your arrival and then circulating in the lounge throughout the day, ready for any who are in need of a listening ear to hear their story. I can only attend alternate Thursdays at the moment but hope to come more often as time goes by.

And so here I am - a volunteer at the CCHC - Praise the Lord! I would like to say a big thank you to all the lovely people at the CCHC for helping and supporting me these last four years.

The verse I was given when I was converted at the age of nine, and is still my daily encouragement when I feel like giving up, or when life is tough is Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Chris Luker



Our annual Thanksgiving Days always have a family feel to them and this year was no exception. The whole team ensured our day was a special and memorable one, and we were also blessed by beautiful weather. Because of a tight printing deadline, this is just a 'taster' of the day and a full spread will be in the winter issue.

'We are family' ... was a popular song back in the eighties. Perhaps we should sing this at Crowhurst because of the strong family atmosphere there, which was clearly experienced by a visitor who came to this year's Thanksgiving Day.

"I thoroughly enjoyed Thanksgiving Day and was very impressed by the atmosphere of there being no hierarchy within Crowhurst. Everyone is valued equally as part of doing God's work. The time of blessing for all those on the staff was particularly moving. The day felt like a coming together of a family. Thank you for all the work involved in bringing it together."

The speaker at the morning Communion service was Burrswood's CEO, Angela Painter, who gave a stirring talk on 'giving thanks for large and small, counting our blessings and having an attitude of gratitude.'

In the afternoon, some of the team entertained us with a brilliant rendition of the 'Circle of Life' from the Lion King, which would have wowed even the Britain's Got Talent judges!

To be continued in the winter issue!

Sally Wallace-Jones: Placement



I have recently been privileged to spend four weeks working at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre as part of my training for ordination.

My first experience of Crowhurst's special atmosphere came courtesy of an online course about Christian healing, which was run by one of the Chaplains, Steve Clark. At that time I had never heard of him, nor of the CCHC, but it didn't take long for me to realise that I had encountered something very special, and I rapidly became intrigued by both the CCHC, and by Christian healing.

In October 2015 I began 'vicar school' in Cambridge, and as soon as the word 'placement' was mentioned, I knew that I wanted to spend that placement training time at the Centre. Initial contact with Steve Clark led to my husband John and myself spending a few days there in February this year. This confirmed my feeling that not only had I discovered somewhere uniquely special, but that it was somewhere that I wanted to spend time and make a contribution, however small.

Since arriving to begin my placement I have laughed, cried, painted, sung, prayed and experienced prayer ministry. I have participated in, and led, services, and I have known healing times of immersing myself in Crowhurst's beauty and atmosphere of prayerful calm.

Before arriving I had read about the CCHC as being a 'thin place', where the presence of God is often experienced with breath-taking clarity and power, and this has been my experience even in just the short time I have been here.

I have been very privileged to minister to, and walk with, people on their healing journeys, and to experience the presence of God myself in a way which can be difficult to do in the busy world of essays, and tutorials. The kindness, humour, dedication, encouragement and support I have experienced in everyone has been a true blessing. The Steves, and Penny in particular, have worked incredibly hard and shown so much grace in teaching me and allowing me to participate in ministry. I have been entrusted with so many responsibilities, all of which will make a huge difference to how I approach pastoral care in the future.

I am so grateful and feel very blessed to have been a tiny part of such a wonderful place. It is not possible for all ordinands to have such a placement but in an ideal world they would, because the experience I have had in both giving and receiving will help me to minister with better understanding, humility and love, all of which have been reflected in this very special placement experience.

Sally



*Look to the Lord and His strength,
seek His face always. Psalm 105:4*



Here we are in July. The perfect weather conditions are causing the grass to grow much quicker and as a result, the lawns are being cut weekly instead of fortnightly.

The gazebo near the pond has now

been repaired and repainted to enhance the pleasure (and safety) of those using it. We hope the weather stays good to be able to make use of it, or at least provide shelter when the weather turns.

The well is due to be repaired soon. This will mean taking the roof off, lifting one of the posts and then replacing the wooden tiles. A big job, but it should be ready for the autumn.

The Prayer Room, constructed from the old games room, has new uPVC windows, and there are plans to repaint the wood soffits and replace the guttering this year.

The big news is that both car parks and the link path are to be resurfaced at the beginning of September. This is very exciting as it will make a huge difference to the look of the grounds. New parking bay markings are planned, which will hopefully help the current parking situation. Desmond and the volunteers have worked very hard as usual in keeping the grounds so beautiful. Desmond is kept busy with strimming the grounds and generally making sure that the grounds are looking their best, with the help of Cliff, whose lawn edging work seems never ending! Volunteer Dave is always trying to think of new projects we can do together. What a team!

As I write this, everyone is working flat out in preparation for Thanksgiving Day. There is never a quiet moment here at the CCHC!

Blessings to all, *Kim*

Our Prayer Room, 'Shalom', is now in regular use and we also have two other prayer rooms available, which were created from renovating the old games room. This prayer space has been so lovingly and prayerfully thought out; it is bright, welcoming and extremely peaceful.



On a Wednesday afternoon between 2.15 - 3.45pm, there is an open invitation for folk to drop in for prayer ministry, without the need to book, so if you're local, do take up this opportunity.



It's amazing to think that our prayer rooms were part of the vision shared by our Chaplains on Thanksgiving Day three years ago and here they are, now in full use. God is so good!

The Bulletin Board

TEMPORARY CENTRE CLOSURE

Due to the car park being resurfaced, the CCHC will be closed to guests and visitors from Tuesday 30 August to Wednesday 7 September and there will be no healing services during these dates.

CANCELLATION

The Healing week which was to be held from Monday 17 to Friday 21 October has unfortunately had to be cancelled.

AUTUMN SPECIAL OFFERS

On the following dates in November, you are invited to bring FOR FREE, someone who has not stayed at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre before.

Tuesday 1st - Thursday 3rd

Sunday 6th - Thursday 10th

Sunday 13th - Thursday 17th

Sunday 20th - Thursday 24th

Sunday 27th - Wednesday 30th

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFER

Pay for two nights and get the third night free during December (from Thursday 1st to Wednesday to Thursday 21st December (except for programmed events and not including 22 - 31 December).

BOOK EARLY!

New Year Celebration

30 December - 3 January

After the busyness of Christmas, our New Year retreat provides a time to come aside and relax. Good food, good company and always great entertainment! Worship, pray and rejoice together.

AUTUMN RESIDENTIAL EVENTS

'Glory and Suffering:

Exploring the paradoxes of life, the universe and providence'.

Friday 23 to Sunday 25 September

Led by Bishop Richard Jackson

"Our understanding of God must always remain a mystery because He reveals himself to us in ways that on the surface appear contradictory: three persons, one God: Jesus fully God and fully man, to name but two. One aspect of God's dealings with the world we struggle with most is the mystery of suffering, particularly if we believe in a God who intervenes in human affairs."

'Rivers of Healing'

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 November

Led by Revd Mike and Jane Endicott

"Jesus instructed His disciples to preach the kingdom and heal the sick. It now transpires that this defines a partnership deal with God, worked with Jesus and His disciples today. We proclaim and He heals. Mike will teach us to pray the Kingdom way, in harmony with Christ."

The Lord promises to be with us wherever we are. Thank you to Roger, one of our Prayer Partners, for sending this lovely Northumbrian prayer to remind us of this. Perhaps we could call it 'The Crowhurst Prayer'!

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you. May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you. May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you always. Amen.

Putting Christ into Christmas!



Enjoy CCHC hospitality as you prepare for Christmas with these special events

Silent Advent Weekend

Led by the Crowhurst Team
Friday 25 to Sunday 27 November
£180 en-suite room
£160 non en-suite room



Advent is a wonderful opportunity to take time to reflect and prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas.

Many of you will know the meaning behind the Advent candles that are lit each week through Advent, but for those who may not, the following might be helpful.

The candles are traditionally lit in the following order: purple, purple, pink, purple, white. The first is called the **Candle of Hope**. It symbolises faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is called the **Candle of Preparation**, reminding Christians to 'get ready' to receive God. The third candle is the **Candle of Joy**. It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the **Candle of Love**, reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. The 'Christ Candle', the white candle in the centre, stands for Jesus Christ Himself.

If you like silent and reflective retreats, then this weekend is for you. An ideal time to come away and spend a quiet and prayerful time in the Lord's presence, as you prepare for the busy Christmas period.

Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15 December

This event, which incorporates the Tuesday evening and Thursday morning Healing Services, will be led by the Chaplains and the Crowhurst team. It will include a traditional Christmas lunch and cake, carols, crackers, Christmas tree and various inspiring activities to help us turn our eyes towards Jesus.

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 December

The people of the Nativity - a journey and reflection. Travel with us to Bethlehem in the Scriptures.

This celebration will be led by Colin and Diane Crook and will also include traditional Christmas lunch and cake, carols, crackers, Christmas tree and those things to help you turn your eyes towards Jesus.

The prices for each of these special celebrations are £170 non en-suite. £190 en-suite.



How to contact us

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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

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Martin Granger

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Clark

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MAGAZINE EDITOR

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