



In His Healing Steps

***We are the clay, you are the
potter; we are all the work
of your hand. Isaiah 64:8***

Autumn 2017

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Editorial



The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 13 to give thanks in all circumstances and when Steve began Thanksgiving Day's service asking us if we thanked God enough, it got me thinking about Paul's challenging message. The key word for me is that he is saying **IN** all circumstances, not **FOR** them, which makes this Bible passage slightly more manageable!

We hear and read so often in our daily news reports of tragic events and if we dwell solely on the grief and sadness, then we would see no hope for those affected or for our world. Good can come out of bad and that's when giving thanks **IN** the circumstances is so important. When tragedy strikes, people are often so quick to rally round and help. During times of natural disasters, or deliberate acts of violence, we see people selflessly wanting to help others, sometimes with no thought for the safety of their own lives. And in deliberate acts of violence, for every person intent on destroying life, there is always another ready to step in and help in whatever way they are able.

Two Old Testament characters who suffered greatly were Joseph and Job. Both went through awful events in their lives, but God brought so much good from their suffering. Joseph became an unlikely Prince of Egypt and saved the country from famine, while Job was given back far more than he lost!

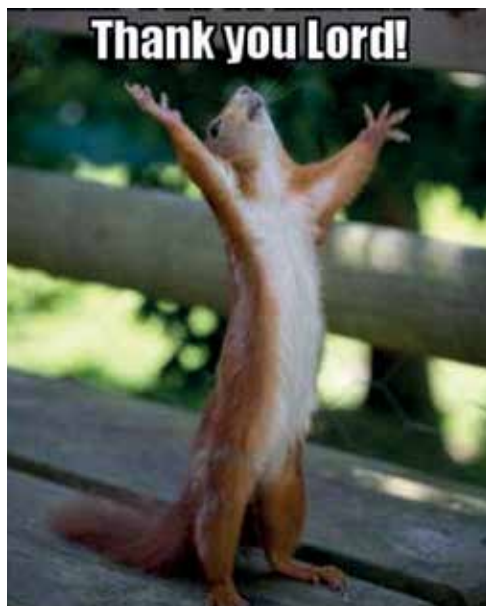
In the Book of Joel, God says, "*I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten*" (Joel 2:25) and it's only when we look back that we can see how He has restored areas in our lives that have been damaged or broken.

Giving thanks needs working at - it doesn't come easy - but it is Scriptural and there is usually always something to be thankful for at the end of each day!

On Thanksgiving Day we gave thanks to God for His continued provision and also to Steve and Hilary Clark as they retired from their ministry at the CCHC after five very fruitful and happy years.

We are all thankful to God for Crowhurst, and especially for Howard and May Cobb who began this healing centre eighty nine years ago, to all who have faithfully served here during that time and to those who have so generously donated financially over the years. Hallelujah!

Every blessing, *Mary*



Steve's Letter

Dear All,

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.'
(Hebrews 13.8)

From the Old and New Testaments of our Bible we learn of the transforming difference Jesus makes.



There are many different references on seven subjects in the Prophet Isaiah's writing that have a Kingdom of God theme and these are seen in the person of Jesus and also through the Church's ministry. The seven are; salvation (or deliverance), righteousness (and justice), peace, joy, God's presence, healing and comfort. So, for example, when Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit is at work and the result is peace and joy, we can safely conclude that the kingdom of God is present. Or when the Church (or CCHC), in the power of the Holy Spirit is at work and the result is healing and comfort, we know the kingdom of God, Jesus, is present!

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians teaches us how Christ holds all things together; *'We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels - everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, He organises and holds it together, like a head does a body. He was supreme in the beginning and - leading the resurrection*

parade - He is supreme in the end. From beginning to end He's there, towering far above everything and everyone. So spacious is He, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in Him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe - people and things, animals and atoms - get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of His death, His blood that poured down from the cross. (Colossians 1:15-20 - The Message (MSG).)

It begs the question, doesn't it, that while Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever, can anything that comes into His presence stay the same? The truth is some people can resist that change (the Bible calls them 'stiff-necked') but I am thrilled to see people touched and changed by our Lord here and I desire to cooperate with Him as He continues to transform me and the CCHC, more and more into His likeness.

The Centre has seen much change over the years and we long to be a beacon of all that our Lord is, for you and for His Church. Please pray for us in these times of change, that the evidence will be to see more of Jesus in all we are and do!


I leave you with some lines of Charitie Bancroft's uplifting hymn, Before the throne of God above;

'One with Himself I cannot die, My soul is purchased with his blood'.

How is that for being changed? Thank you Jesus, I am free indeed. In Him, in His love, we live and move and have our being.

With love and blessings from us all at CCHC.

Steve



Celebrating our Volunteers!

For the National Volunteers Week in June, our volunteers were treated to fish and chips on Hastings Pier, followed by a round of Crazy Golf. Because of the large number, they split into teams of three and played on different courses. Several managed 'holes in one' and lots of fun was had by all.



Healing Week with Elaine Storkey: May 2017

Eighteen months ago, my husband and I attended a Christian Healing week at the CCHC. We were pleased to be coming again because we were now almost totally different people than the ones who came before. At that time we arrived filled with sorrow and brokenness, though we left healed in the most complete and wonderful way!

As before – even in the car park - we were immediately aware that Our God was welcoming us and was present in this place. We began to lay down all the stresses and busyness of life as we checked in and went to our room.

Every day had a full programme; ministry from the Crowhurst team, teaching from Elaine, opportunities for group sharing activities, times for reflection on all we had experienced and heard, and a time of ‘Drawing together’, where Elaine summarised and ministered.

The course was divided into three sections:

Healing Individuals
Healing the Church
Healing the Nations

HEALING THE CHURCH

Elaine emphasised right at the beginning of her teaching that all healing is from the love of God for us through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. She took us through some of the passages in the New Testament where Jesus and His disciples healed people, and covered the many reasons for the difficulties that we have as individuals in asking for healing. These included fear of not being healed, denial of our need of healing, memories of past hurts that go deep, bitterness and regrets.

She covered all the many ways that Jesus healed and I was particularly struck by her teaching on Jesus and the Samaritan woman,

which she brought to life in a different way for me. She spoke of Christ’s compassion for the woman, His insight into why she was at the well at that hour, and her history - she needed healing from a life of rejection. Elaine brought out how this woman’s life had led her to being rejected - she had built up walls around herself and become isolated. Jesus told her that He had come to bring His love and forgiveness, and thus His healing to a broken life and to past places of hurt. He wanted to teach her that God now wanted worshippers in ‘spirit and in truth’; worship through renewal, forgiveness and love, rather than sterile protocols that created barriers to worship.

HEALING THE CHURCH

Elaine took us through passages in the New Testament, bringing us examples of how ‘human’ were the men who Jesus chose and called to be His disciples and friends, highlighting some of their squabbles, competitiveness and self-seeking behaviour. They were not ‘moral elites’ and something Elaine said has really stuck with me - ‘God recruits from humans!’ He loves US, not the law. Being reminded of all this obviously helps us to live more effectively in loving fellowship in our churches.

She emphasised one of the many metaphors that St Paul uses for the church – that of the body, which is the church. She spoke both of how the church looks when in ‘ill-health’ and the way the body looks when it’s in ‘good health’. She talked about the ‘enemy’ of God’s body on earth as described in the Book of Ephesians and encouraged us all to play our part in going on with forgiving, compassionate hearts. Teaching from Acts 15, she showed how even after a bitter dispute, God can bring blessing to all parties.

During the discussion time we shared how it is in the churches for those of us there.

There were mixed stories of healthy bodies and not so healthy bodies - again, not so strange, because God recruits from humans!

HEALING THE NATIONS

It is very difficult to describe the powerful challenge to us as Christians that this day's teaching had. I made notes of some of the methods used by those in power who have financial control over the people. These include unjust trade tariffs, forced labour and slave labour, child labour and child and people trafficking, the arms trade, tax loopholes and tax avoidance that impoverish the poor and enrich the rich.

Elaine spoke of the degree of injustice that exists in the world, which she has personally witnessed.

She helped us to understand that every little thing we do for the nations does count. We should do our best to live and work for peace and justice through any of the many Christian organisations that are working for social justice throughout our world.

The week was very challenging and went to the heart of issues that Christians are involved in every day. The amazing personal thing for my husband and I, (the miracle for us) was that we were interested in the world 'out there', both for churches and the nations, as opposed to how we had been in our previous visit to the CCHC. Then it was all about the brokenness that had stolen our joy and effectiveness in living each day for Christ. Now, we were not particularly interested in healing for ourselves – not that we don't any longer have pain and regrets etc - but we now deal with things in the power of the Holy Spirit in the way that God had shown us and gave to us, and continues with us.

Anna



If you are struggling in a personal conflict, or with the conflicts of others, in your church, work or community, this could be the day for you!

If you hear the word ‘conflict’, what word or image comes to mind? For most people it is something negative but conflict is all around us; it’s in many Bible stories and church life today does not escape it! Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, so how can we work to transform conflict and further the Gospel in our own situations?

This teaching day will look at how we have reacted and do react in conflict. In considering our personalities and the situations in which we are placed, it will give some pointers as to how to work positively with conflict.

We will look at conflict in the early church, describe and demonstrate some modern conflict transformation skills and emphasise the need for healing prayer and reconciling action.

The day, which will be led by Visiting Chaplain and Trustee, Revd Denis Smith, starts at 10am and ends at 4pm. The cost is £12 and includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. We also invite donations towards the cost of the day and use of the Centre.

Families Weekend: May 2017

At the end of May, the CCHC held another fantastic fun filled Families Weekend, which was led by Revd Sally Dryden and Steve Gendall, with the help of several volunteers. The children, parents and grandparents had a wonderful time as you can see from some of the feedback on page 10. The weather was fine and there was plenty to entertain everyone - from indoor activities, including arts and crafts in the art room - to outdoor fun with barbecue, marshmallow toasting, water games and a skirmish in the nearby Forewood, where the children made a den, climbed trees and looked for bugs. There was a lot of team activity over the weekend, which helped the children to bond and work with each other.



David Barnes, one of our Prayer Ministers, constructing a Lego tower. David and his wife Judith were able to share the weekend with their daughter and grandson.



During morning worship and Holy Communion on Sunday morning, the story of Creation was told by Sally in a fun way which really got the children's attention.



During the skirmish to the woods, one of the tasks was to create a den. This one should keep the rain out!



The always popular marshmallow toasting!

The 'prize' for the winning team in all the water games was to throw a cup of water over the opposition!



The water games were so much fun, involving various methods of getting wet, including water filled welly boots!



Movie night in the small chapel. Toy Story was a big hit with everyone large and small!

Below are some of the families' feedback on their best bits!

From the children:

😊 Going in the forest because we had to look for treasure – climbing the tree, the water fun.

😊 Throwing water at each other, searching for eggs in the forest. Watching the Toy Story movie; I loved playing outside in the garden and having fun with other children.

😊 Making a person. Time together outside as a family. I enjoyed the silly water games and the crafts activities.

😊 My best bit was creating our 'human together' – the tasty marshmallows, the water games and the woodwork.

From the parents and grandparents

😊 I loved meeting other mums, and having a positive chat about our children. It's been nice telling each other what good mothers we are!

😊 Meeting people and talking about their journey. Having time to watch the children play and also playing with them.

😊 The water games, art room and activities. Communion and church service. Food, staff. Children playing and games for children. No TV or outside world. All the families together and children getting on quiet and peacefully.

😊 Church, fellowship time, water fun. Being with others; watching my child have fun. Prayer ministry.

😊 Being grandma and grandpa, allowed to throw water over people and get really wet! Having family fun time together with our grandson.

The most creative task of the weekend was to construct a 'humanoid' from recycled materials and what a lot of excellent creations came out of them! They were put on display at the service on the last day.





Crowhurst

Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

*Autumn 2017 Prayer Requests
Please pull out and keep for the coming months*

Autumn Prayer Requests

PRAYER FOCUS

"But now, this is what the Lord says; "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song." Psalm 95:1 & 2

PRAYER

- Give thanks for all the volunteers who contribute to the smooth running of the CCHC. During Volunteers' Week, twenty-seven of them were treated to a delicious fish and chip lunch on Hastings pier, followed by a round of Crazy Golf, which caused much fun and laughter. It was a very special day indeed. Give thanks and praise to the Lord.
- Thanksgiving Day began with the morning Communion service, with Steve Clark the preacher. This was a very poignant day, and the afternoon included a time to say farewell to Steve and Hilary as they retired from their ministry at the Centre. Give thanks and praise for their dedicated service at the CCHC and pray that the Lord will bless them in their new home.
- During the service, all those involved in ministry at the Centre were prayed for and anointed for their on-going work to the Lord in this place.
- Give thanks for our two e-Learning courses, ongoing development of outreach and our on-line presence.
- Give thanks for the many new faces at our services and visiting church groups.
- Give thanks for Steve Gendall, Suzanne, the Chaplaincy Team and the Trustees.

"Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth ... I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, I will glorify your name forever." Psalm 86:11 & 12



September Prayer Focus

"The Lord will keep you from all harm - he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore." Psalm 121:7 & 8

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9 | Guided Quiet Day'
'That you may have life.'
Led by Pat and Peter Lockley |
| 13 | Teaching Day
Christians in Conflict
Led by Revd Denis Smith |
| 15 - 17 | Healing Weekend |
| 29 Sept -
1 Oct | Ladies Weekend
Led by Veronica Gendall and
Suzanne Owen |



October Prayer Focus

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."
Hebrews 12:28

OCTOBER

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 4 | Guided Quiet Day
<i>Come dine with Me</i>
<i>Food for the soul</i>
Led by Gill Payne |
| 13 - 15 | Prayer Partners Retreat |
| 20 - 22 | Healing Weekend |
| 31 to
4 Nov | Prayer through Painting -
Creative Arts Week |

November Prayer Focus

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:17 & 18

NOVEMBER

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 8 | Guided Quiet Day
<i>'Twas on a Monday morning....'</i>
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor |
| 15 | Teaching Day
<i>Remembrance and the journey of grief</i>
Led by Suzanne Owen |
| 17 - 19 | Healing Weekend |

Autumn Special Offer

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. (Except for programmed events)

1 - 17 November

19 - 30 November

Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Nigel Thonger (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Vivien Drakes, Paul Raynor, Revd Denis Smith and Jane Thomas.



From right to left: Paul Raynor, Vivien Drakes, Nigel Thonger, Jane Thomas and Denis Smith. Due to ill health, Jim Beveridge was unable to attend Thanksgiving Day when this photo was taken.

- Pray for the Trustees as they begin the process of interviewing the candidates for the post of Chaplain with Outreach Oversight. Each one will have a short placement to familiarise themselves with the vision to grow the Kingdom of God by continuing the healing, preaching and teaching ministry at the CCHC and in the wider context of the Church of Christ.
- Pray for Veronica as she develops the new role of Intercessor.
- Pray for Esther in her new role as PA to Steve Gendall. This will give Steve more freedom to be available to guests and those who ring in for prayer ministry.
- Pray for Maria, our bookings secretary, who is now working from Monday to Friday.
- Please continue to pray for Jim Beveridge and his wife, Jenny. May the Lord bless, strengthen and uphold them and provide for all their needs at this challenging time.

"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

Prayer for staff at The Centre

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

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Suzanne

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

OFFICE

Chris, Jayne, Diane, Esther, Jackie, Jenny, Juliette, Maria, Pennie

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Desmond, David

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." Nahum 1:7

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.

Healing through Music



We are very blessed to have such a spirit filled music team at the CCHC; their combined God given gifts really lift the worship.

There are some wonderful Christian artists around today; as with hymn writers of old, they write from the heart and from personal experiences. Praising God through song can be very healing and releasing, touching and lifting a downcast spirit in a really powerful way. Singing worship songs or hymns, either at home via Christian Radio or CD's, or at church services, can help bring us closer to the Lord. King Saul suffered with terrible depression but David's beautiful harp playing so often lifted his mood.

In the book of Job, we read that even the stars sang! .. *"the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy."* Job 38:72

We read in Acts of Paul and Silas's dramatic release from their prison chains, due to an earthquake brought about by them singing praises to God in the most difficult of circumstances! Acts 16:26-27

We may not face physical chains but there are often situations in which we can feel emotionally or spiritually trapped. Charles Wesley's timeless hymn is a good example of the power of Christian music ...

"My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed thee!"

Release from Strongholds

Many of you will know the song - *"We want to see Jesus lifted high." ... 'Step by step we're moving forward, little by little taking ground, every prayer a powerful weapon, strongholds come a tumbling down and down!'*

Here at Crowhurst, the team see many people released from strongholds that may have dominated their lives for years. Before going back home, there is an opportunity to share their experiences on the feedback forms, testimony sheets in the lounge or in the Signs of the Kingdom book that is situated outside the large chapel.

The following is from one of the testimony sheets in the lounge:

"This is written for anyone who is feeling discouraged:

I've been in so much need of healing and came here after a last minute cancellation. I've experienced kindness, empathy and warmth from the staff, as well as inspiration. I have been able to turn a corner this weekend and start to know and experience the real presence of Christ who before was for me purely spiritual. And now for the first time I'm meeting the 'human Christ' and I am excited about life once again.

*Good food, restful and lovely weather, and being promised **confidentiality** was so important. Nothing is shared outside the Ministry room. Thank you."*

Christine

This magazine is also an ideal vessel to share your testimonies, so if you feel led to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, please do send them either to the office, or to me at marys56@hotmail.co.uk. You don't have to be an accomplished writer; just put your thoughts down and I will do the rest!



Thanksgiving Day 1 July 2017

Around two hundred people attended this year's Thanksgiving Day, which was a mixture of fun and sadness as we said goodbye to Steve and Hilary Clark on their retirement from the Centre.

As always, it was good to catch up with friends old and new and once again the catering team provided us with a delicious picnic lunch.

The morning worship was wonderful, the banter and laughter between the two Steves as comical as ever, and the teaching from Steve C was inspiring.

The large Chapel was decorated with posters of thanks for:

- *The Freedom garden, which was dedicated during the Easter Celebration.*
- *Our on-line presence, enabling folk from around the world to access courses on Christian Healing, and CCHC media clips from Facebook and YouTube.*
- *Restructuring of the Chaplaincy and for all that our new Chaplain, Suzanne, has brought to the centre.*

After thanking the Trustees for all they do, Steve shared how Gift Aided donations had brought in £20,000 and that £700,000 had been bequeathed in legacies over the past year. God is very good, he said, and we pray for wisdom and discernment as we use this money so generously given. The miracle of Crowhurst continues praise the Lord!

The staff and volunteers were all anointed for their work in various roles.

Steve spoke about the importance of intercessory prayer and how it brings heaven and earth together. Veronica Gendall (pictured below) is to take on a new role of Intercessor and during the service she was anointed by Nigel (Chair of Trustees), with several folk gathering round to pray for her.





After the service, the guests were treated to a lovely picnic lunch, laid on by the Housekeeping Team.



Pennie, our new bookstall volunteer, brought her dog Bailey to the day. He was on his best behaviour as he sat outside the Chapel and even chipped in with a couple of woofs at perfectly timed moments in Steve C's sermon as if to say "Amen" or "Hallelujah!" Bailey is pictured with Barbara, one of our regular Thursday morning visitors.

As he concluded the service, Steve C said there was a sense of Crowhurst being led forward into new things just as he and Hilary are being led forward to another adventure and mystery, and appropriately, the hymn, 'Be Thou my vision' brought the service to a close.



The Cobb family (Howard and May Cobb's grandchildren and great grandchildren - pictured below) 'just happened' to be passing by and came across our Thanksgiving Day celebrations. (Howard and May Cobb were our founders and next year we celebrate our 90th anniversary! More on this in the winter magazine.)





Farewell to Steve and Hilary

After Nigel had given thanks to all who serve at the Centre, Steve paid tribute to the Clarks for their ministry. He spoke of Steve and Hilary being faithful to their calling five years ago to come and serve the Lord at the CCHC. They had been obedient servants and had served generously, and it had been such a joy to watch Steve 'fly' in this place.

Their resourcefulness, he said, was extraordinary. If you needed something they had it - just like Mary Poppins!

He said that Steve had the ability to mix theology, rural science, humour and plain old logic into a message of Jesus as Complete Saviour - describing him as a truly anointed preacher and teacher. Hilary's 'fingerprints', he said, are in every department around the house - from Minutes Secretary for the Trustees, to helping to produce the yearly programmes.

Suzanne read some of the post-it notes that folk had written for Steve and Hilary. They ranged from giving thanks for Steve's gentle, yet powerful preaching, which will be much missed, to Hilary's displays promoting the CCHC. One message referred to them as 'a couple of pure diamonds'!

Another note said, "I will remember you Steve, arms open wide at the communion table, a clear invitation for people to come and receive from Father. You and Hilary both have such open hearts of love." One humorously

said, "I called you the quiet Steve at first but soon learned otherwise!"

Steve G spoke of the role of the on-site Chaplain being a sacrificial ministry, which began with the Cobb's serving twenty two years. He said, "you offer yourselves as residential couples to work here and sometimes the cost of the ministry is great - especially if we're not in tune with God."

In the photo below, Steve and Hilary are anointed and 'released' from their Crowhurst ministry.



Steve C gave thanks that he and Hilary had been part of a community which had grown over the last five years. He said, *“it had been amazing to work here because you are so enriched by guests. People come and share their stories and you realise that God is at work across the country. It had been a joy to work with Steve, Penny and Suzanne - the ‘dream team’! There had been ups and downs, tears shed, heartache and joy – all part of life! Through the ministry of CCHC we will have grown through that. As you teach and explore, it’s you that grows as well as everybody else.”*

He said he’d heard people say that they like coming here because it’s fun. *“Christian Faith, he said, is the most serious fun ever!”*

A variety of gifts were presented to Steve and Hilary. These included cash donations from guests and two garden planters, (which have since been seen on Facebook occupying pride of place either side of their front door!) As a parting gift, Steve C presented the Centre with a wooden bowl he had made, describing it as unique and representing us all because of its cracks!



Who can come up with a caption for this!

Through the changing scenes of life:

Quiet Day 21st June with Dr Rachel Fawcett



I received so much from this day, horticulturally and spiritually! We looked at all four seasons and the changes they bring; Rachel linked together so well the changing scenes that arise, in our gardens and in us as we journey through the seasons of our lives.

After morning worship, beautifully led by Penny, the sessions began with looking at spring, in the garden and in our own lives. We thought about the soil in our garden. Is it stony, full of weeds, rich and fertile or hard baked? And what about our spiritual soil?

As we talked about spring, Rachel asked us to think about the 'heroes' in our lives, those people who had helped us in the spring of our walk with God. We were invited to take one 'Hero' chocolate in memory of every person who had encouraged us when we were new Christians, to pray for them and ask God to bless them. Perhaps we too could be a hero or encourager to someone in the spring of their relationship with the Lord.

In the second session, we looked at summer, and thought about roots. How firm are our roots; who are we in Christ? Just as plants need deep roots to thrive and be strong, so God's Word tells us that a good, long root will keep us stable and that we must be rooted in Christ (Ephesians 3:17).

We also thought about the importance of a water supply for our plants, and for ourselves. Where was ours? How are we drawing

strength from God day by day? Do we just rely on Sunday for our 'water supply'? We need to soak ourselves daily in God's Word and drink His life giving water. Water is so important, physically and spiritually!

Storms and severe weather can occur during any season, often without warning, but autumn and winter can bring about some particularly inclement weather which can leave our plants rather battered. During the autumn and winter of our own lives there can be times when we will experience some major turbulence. Losses such as the death of a loved one, illness and unemployment can result in us feeling distant from God, and there may be a 'dormancy' in the garden of our lives. This is a time to rest in the Lord and know that He will never leave nor forsake us while we are in our winter season.

We all look forward to spring, with its brighter and warmer days; the welcome sight of snowdrops and other spring flowers truly warm the heart! New growth is emerging and when our own winter seasons once again give way to spring, we too will experience God's new growth in our lives because 'Great is Thy Faithfulness!'

One of the hymns we sang was 'Through all the changing scenes of life'; the first verse summed up the whole day!

'Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy. The praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.'

As Rachel drew this brilliant day to a close, she asked us, where are we now? Which season most accurately portrays our present life experience? Which of life's storms do we most fear? She suggested that we turn any worries into a prayer. It was a good thought to end the day on and we finished with that wonderful hymn, How Great Thou Art.

(Rachel is one of our Prayer Ministers.)

Forthcoming Guided Quiet Days

Guided quiet days are an ideal opportunity to spend time with the Lord in the peace and tranquillity of Crowhurst. The cost is £25 and includes refreshments, lunch and afternoon tea and cake, which concludes the day. If you've never been to one of these quiet days before, do give it a try. They are like a mini retreat and are a great spiritual battery recharger!

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Saturday 9th September

Led by Pat and Peter Lockley

'That you may have life'

The offer of life is open to all. We will explore together God's desire for us to know it's fullness.

.....

Pat and Peter are two of our visiting chaplains and have led quiet days at the Centre in the past. Pat has a background in counselling and since her retirement she



has felt a calling to walk and pray. Peter has a background in teaching. He helps to run quiet days and offers spiritual accompaniment.

.....

Wednesday 4th October

Led by Gill Payne

'Come dine with Me': food for the soul

So often in the gospels we see Jesus encouraging, blessing, challenging or transforming people in the context of a meal. As our bodies need and enjoy physical food, so too our souls need to be fed and encouraged.

This day is about being fed by our Host, Jesus, our Bread of Life. Come and reflect on some of the encounters Jesus had which involved food and let the Bread of Life nourish you."

Gill is part of our ministry team and has been leading quiet days at the Centre since 2008. She spends a lot of time with her niece and children, exercises with swimming and table tennis and enjoys photography.

.....



Wednesday 8th November

Led by Pam Vale-Taylor

'Twas on a Monday morning....'

"Unlike the Flanders and Swann song when the gas man came to call on a Monday morning, I had the electrician who started a few days of chaos in our house through which the Lord spoke to me about my own spiritual circuits and connections. This Quiet Day might help you to review and rethink your own."

.....

Retired Hospice Chaplain, Pam enjoys singing, watercolour, photography, writing, painting and jazz. She is married to a retired engineer who gives a home to unwanted pieces of wood and



metal and makes some wonderful creations with them. She is also a mother of a 25 year old son who keeps her on her toes spiritually and musically!

Walking with God

The grounds of the Centre are such a blessing to our guests and visitors, especially in the spring and summer months, though each season shows God's wonderful creation.

Jane, one of our volunteers was reminded of the hymn, How great Thou art, as she approached this spot along the prayer walk, particularly the verse below.

She said "It was a special moment and I felt I had to stop for several minutes and soak up the closeness of God."

She was also reminded that there are sometimes detours in our lives and God takes one person to the left of an 'obstacle' and another to the right. Each person has their own path to follow. BUT both are on a 'road' directly to Him.



"When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees ..."

Book Review

The heavens: Intimate moments with your Majestic God.

What a beautiful book this is!

There are 222 pages of stunning photography taken by NASA's Hubble® Telescope capturing striking images of stars, galaxies, cosmic events, planets, and more, accompanied by stirring poetry from the author, Kevin Hartnett, and perfectly chosen Scriptures.

God's wonderful creation always astounds me so this book particularly caught my attention. The front cover alone draws you in, as does the title. 'The Heavens' takes you beyond the world that we so often take for granted and helps us to go deeper into the world that God created. *"Man's wisdom and understanding cannot even begin to compare with God's."* (Page 160).

Each page has a different theme so no matter how you are feeling on a particular day, you will find something to encourage and inspire you. It is an ideal book to use as a Daily Devotional or just to dip into.

There are so many wonderful extracts I would like to share but here's one short poem from page 35, which is entitled **God Omniscient:**

*"He knows the name of every star in heaven;
He knows when sparrows light upon the ground.
Of every atom brought into Creation, His full and caring knowledge profound."*

I can highly recommend this book and guarantee that you won't be disappointed! It is on sale at the Centre's bookstall priced £10.99.



Advance notice for Advent, Christmas and New Year Programme

Many of our Retreats get booked up a long way in advance so if any of the following may be of interest to you, please don't leave it too late to book.

ADVENT

By December, Christmas is already dominating the shops and everywhere is hectic! Advent is an opportunity to take time away from the hustle and bustle, to reflect and prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas.



From Friday 1 - Sunday 3 December, there will be an Advent Retreat, led by the Crowhurst Team and on Wednesday 6 December, Suzanne Owen will be leading a quiet day.

CHRISTMAS OFFER

**Pay for two nights and
get the third night free
3 -12 December and
14 - 22 December
(except for programmed
events)**

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Tuesday 12 to 14 December

This celebration last year was very enjoyable, so book early and don't miss out! As usual, there will be the traditional Christmas tree festive food, good teaching and lots of fun! Here's what one of the guests had to say about last year's celebration:

"What a blessing this time was! Blessed by the food, blessed by Booking Secretary, Maria's knitted Nativity scene (pictured below, which sits in reception throughout December) and blessed as always, by the services." *Helen*



NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

30 December - 3 January
See out the old and ring in the new at the CCHC. New Year is always an enjoyable time at the Centre and after the busyness of Christmas, this is a perfect opportunity to come aside, relax and receive. Good food, good company and always great entertainment! Worship, pray and rejoice together. Here's what one of our guests had to say about last year's New Year's Eve:
"As well as the usual tasty meal choices, we celebrated New Year's Eve with mince pies and fruit punch. Following this there was an early reflective worship and ending to the year for those who needed to welcome the new year in from the warmth of their beds!"
Judith

How to contact us

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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

Registered Charity No. 208738

Who's who



PRESIDENT

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Nigel Thonger

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Gendall

CHAPLAIN WITH OUTREACH OVERSIGHT

To be appointed

CHAPLAIN WITH CENTRE OVERSIGHT

Suzanne Owen

PRAYER PARTNERS CO-ORDINATOR

Shirley Dawson

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary Slater (marys56@hotmail.co.uk)

While this magazine is issued free of charge, an annual donation of £10.00 to cover costs is most helpful. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, this adds another 25p for every £1 you give.

Families weekend - May 2017

