

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

in His Healing Steps

Spring 2017

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Editorial



Being a football fan, I always enjoy watching my team work together in order to produce the best possible result. The aim of every game is of course to win, but that can never be possible unless the whole team looks out for their fellow team mate and work in a cohesive way with each other. If a player plays for their own ambitions and glory, then that team wouldn't be very successful at all! In Philippians 2:3-4, the apostle Paul tells us, *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

Anyone who has stayed at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre will have experienced first hand how well all the teams combine to ensure that every guest has the best stay possible. They are a dedicated and hard working team so it's good when they can take time off and use the Centre's facilities for fun and relaxation.

In November last year, Senior Chaplain, Steve Gendall, spent a week 'mucking in' with all the different teams. He turned his hand to anything and everything and was popping up all over the place, surprising many guests! (See pages 4 & 5.)

together everyone
TEAM
achieves more

Moving on

At the end of 2016, three team members stepped down from their roles. Martin Granger retired as Chairman of the Trustees, Penny Button from her role as Associate Chaplain and Rosemary Froggatt from the Bookstall (see pages 8 - 9). The good news is that Martin will continue as a Prayer Partner, Penny as a Prayer Minister and Rosemary serving teas and coffees after the Thursday morning Healing Service.

In July this year Steve Clark will be retiring (see his retirement notice on page 5). Many folk will have benefited from his ministry and there will be an opportunity on Thanksgiving Day to say goodbye to him and his wife, Hilary. (Steve C will be our preacher on the day.)

Finally, a very big thank you to all those who contributed to the staff donation box - from all the staff and volunteers, with whom it is shared.

Every blessing, Mary



Steve's letter

Christmas had been packed away, the last of the feasting had been consumed (there are only so many ways you can rehash turkey) and we were breathing a collective sigh of relief! At a prayer meeting early in January, one of our Prayer Ministers surprised me by saying; *"I just had a picture of Jesus with a huge smile on His face putting the decorations back on the Christmas tree!"*

We are in danger of losing the awe and wonder we enjoy around the crib of the Christ child when we rush into each New Year. There seems every new year to be more and more to distract us and to cause us anxiety, particularly this year with so much uncertainty around. But it's the incredible truth of God coming to earth that we're in danger of crowding out. God said, *"I have come down to rescue the people of Israel."* (Exodus 3.8). We find Jesus used these same words too. (John 6.38) Jesus goes on to say why He came down; *"to do my Father's will, that I shall lose none but raise them up on the last day."* Jesus then uncharacteristically points the signpost on Himself when He says, *"My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him (**who looks to me and believes in me**) shall have eternal life."*

God continuously desires to seek and to save the lost, that we may live with Him forever and ever, and He initiates this by 'coming down'.

For the Son of Man
came to seek and save
the lost Luke 19:10

During late November I spent some time working in the different departments of the CCHC. Leaf clearing with Des and Cliff seemed never ending! I learnt things about leaf decomposition as well as the stamina of older men!

During housekeeping duties, a guest found me in her shower, where Abigail was teaching me to polish and shine, making things look new. She exclaimed, *"I've never found a Chaplain in my shower before!"*



In the office, Esther patiently, methodically and repeatedly walked me through the process of booking in guests over the phone and on-line, which literally left me shaking after a few hours of trying to remember the multiple details the operation requires. (It was a chuckle hearing the surprise of guests when they worked out they were speaking to me on the phone "Oh, it's you!")



What valuable experiences - I enjoyed them all - well, most of them!

Steve and Hilary Clark are moving on

Here's the point. We can all take on the experience of someone else, more or less; but who can compare with our Creator God coming down - to live as one of His created, and then to do all that is necessary to guarantee we can be forgiven, and live forever when we trust in Him and what He has achieved for us on the cross?

At Christmas we celebrate. We feast, we share generously with families and friends, we play games, we have time off, we sing the wondrous story (again and again), we probably go to Church more than usual, we ponder and party and most importantly of all - we gaze in love and wonder at Jesus.

No wonder Jesus was seen to be putting the decorations back on the tree!

May this year be sprinkled with 'Christmas moments' for you and not least of all, gazing in love at Jesus! Know that our Lord's face is always turned towards you with love and joy.

Be blessed with joy.

From us all at CCHC, *Steve*

Commissioning of Suzanne Owen

Former Trustee, Suzanne Owen, has taken on the role of Full Time Associate Chaplain and on Thursday 24 November at the Healing Service, was specially commissioned. We pray for God's blessing on her in this new ministry.



Steve C writes:

After a wonderful and fulfilling five years, where we have broken new ground at the CCHC, I shall be retiring in July when I am 65. The CCHC is a very special ministry where Christ continues to encounter, heal, and bless people and it has been an enormous privilege to be part of the Crowhurst story.

Hilary and I feel such warmth and love towards those we have been alongside during this time and it is always the people that make leaving hard. We do believe that God is calling us into the next chapter of our story with Him. It's always an adventure story! We know that when the time comes, we will miss you all very much - but we have several months still; we're not going just yet! We just wanted you to know what our plans are, Deo Volente (God willing!)

Please pray for Steve and Hilary as they prepare for this new adventure and pray for us as we make the huge adjustment to continue the Lord's vision here without them. I'm pleased to say Steve will be preaching on Thanksgiving Day (July 1st) we will take time during the afternoon tea to say thank you and to release them from the ministry here. *Steve Gendall*

Putting Christ into Christmas: A very blessed Christmas Celebration!

What a BLESSING this time was! And the more I look back on it, the more this theme of blessings comes to mind.

What about being blessed by God through others? It was fun meeting up with friends but good to meet new people too. There was certainly a lot of laughter shared ... fun and fellowship throughout all three days.

And being blessed by all that delicious food! Thank you to all those who prepared our Christmas lunch, our wonderful evening buffet and that beautifully decorated Christmas cake (lemon drizzle cake was very welcome for those of us who don't eat Christmas cake - thanks Ian!)

The Christmas trees in the lounge and dining room, and all the other decorations made the whole place very festive.

We always receive such a warm welcome from the office staff but the sight of the knitted Nativity scene was an added blessing.

Our craft time in the Art Room was another blessing. Led by John (Chapel projector operator on a Thursday morning), we were involved in many interesting things, including decorating crackers. We all wrote a blessing to be put inside each cracker and also assembled a small notebbox, which will be handy to use somewhere at home.



Decorating our individual mini Christmas cakes was fun. Crowhurst is certainly blessed with amazing chefs!

After the buffet on our 'Christmas Day' evening, we had carols and quizzes and as part of the entertainment, seven of us took part in the Snow White sketch. I will certainly remember being the 'mirror'! If interested, the video clip can be seen on the Crowhurst Facebook page.

As always, the biggest blessings were the services. The service on the Wednesday morning (our Christmas Day) was fun as well as reflective. The two Steves and John dressed up as shepherds will certainly stick in our minds. **GOOD NEWS!**



It was also fun to see the 'Bethlehem Rhapsody' (a puppet presentation of the Nativity). This can be viewed on YouTube if you can do so - it is well worth a look!

At the beginning of the Thursday morning healing service, we all stood and shouted **GOOD NEWS!** (which may well have startled a few people attending the service. Ho Ho Ho!)

Over these days in mid-December, at Crowhurst, and in our individual churches actually at Christmas, we celebrated the greatest blessing of all time - hidden in a stable but later revealed to us all - the blessing of Emmanuel, God with us.

This Christmas Celebration was a truly blessed time. As I write this, at the end of 2016, I wonder what blessings you had during the year; how you were a blessing to others and what blessings are to come, to all of us, in 2017. A huge thank you to everyone for making these days so special. *Helen Smith*



Staff Christmas Party

On the Tuesday before Christmas, a party was held for members of staff, Visiting Chaplains, volunteers and Trustees.

Before the festivities began, we all assembled in the Chapel for presentations to three long serving members of our Community - Martin Granger, Rosemary Froggatt and Penny Button (see pages 8 & 9).

The dining room was full as we fellowshiped together and enjoyed a delicious buffet supper; after which the entertainment began in earnest!

After all the lovely food, it was time to switch on the brain cells! Each table was given an abbreviated list of Christmas carols and songs and in two teams per table, we had to work out their full titles. It was tricky because we were mainly thinking of Christmas carols, when actually there were general Christmas songs too! Many of the songs were from ages past so the memory banks were called into action! Our table did really well, but we were pipped to the post by another! There were a few answers that we just couldn't get, and yet when we heard what they were, there were groans of, "oh yes; of course!"

After the quiz, Chrissy from the house team, accompanied by Stephen on keyboard, had us

all laughing as she sang one of her amusing little ditties. This one was set to the tune of Frosty the Snowman and the words were based on the Crowhurst team!

Following Chrissy's song, we were treated to a short, 'Crowhurst style' panto of Snow White. The actors all deserve medals for keeping straight faces with their 'dead pan' performances in front of the chuckling audience!

We rounded off the fun filled evening singing Christmas carols.

It was a brilliant party and a great way to all come together and celebrate a wonderful year at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.



Thank you to three good and faithful servants!

Before the presentations were made to Martin, Rosemary and Penny, Steve G gave thanks and praise to God for a 'very good year at the Centre.' He thanked everyone for their contributions at the CCHC, including those 'behind the scenes.' They were, he said, the Lord's hands, feet, eyes and ears and make the Centre the place that it is.

Trustee, Jane Thomas, paid tribute to Martin. She thanked him for his prayerful leadership, love for the CCHC, calm demeanour and his sense of humour, (though he did apparently have some awful jokes at times!)

She concluded with a humorous poem by Roger McGough!

"I have outlived my youthfulness, so a quiet life for me. Where once I used to scintillate now I sin till ten past three!" Jane added if Martin were to sin, he would know where to come and get it sorted!

After receiving his gifts, Martin said how much he loves Crowhurst and that we are all part of a community. *"The staff are amazing; the accommodation is beautiful and you feel you are loved just by walking into a room."* He said it had been lovely working with the Chaplaincy Team as they always want the best of what God has for this organisation.



Next to be honoured for her seven years running the bookstall, was Rosemary. As Jayne from the office read her tribute, we heard that Rosemary's nickname was 'our little Shirley Temple', and that she was a 'bit of a Thespian' on the quiet, causing much laughter on a number of occasions with her quick wit and whimsical sense of humour!

Whenever Rosemary was seen wearing her pink, fluffy slippers, any book talk was out of bounds because she had her guest's hat on!

We learned that Rosemary had a romantic nature and would have enjoyed living in the Middle Ages surrounded by dashing knights in shining armour! Apparently, she would have been quite at home residing in Kent's Bodiam Castle! And on this note, Jayne finished her speech by asking us all to put our hands together and say an enormous big heartfelt thank you to 'Lady Rosemary'!

After receiving her gifts, Rosemary said a few words of thanks for the support she had been given over the years; particular thanks went to the office team for their invaluable help with much needed space for her book sorting!





the Centre, and of those she had worked with during her time as Associate Chaplain, all of whom had been called by the Lord. *"The CCHC is a place where we see God transform people from day to day. He calls each one of us to play our part and we then grow in that service. We learn and He shapes us. We are all part of the Crowhurst story."*

Penny also mentioned the special relationship she'd had with 'the lads' (the two Steves - pictured below), how they had loved, prayed and cried together. She concluded with saying that it had been a privilege and a blessing to serve at the CCHC.

After seven years as Associate Chaplain, Penny has stepped down from her role. Visiting Chaplain Paul Deeming paid tribute to her ministry, which *"she had exercised with great compassion."* He recalled her time as Acting Chaplain, when she held things together so well following Revd Kath Batte's retirement. *"Our Mrs Barnabas,"* he said, *"had a great gift of encouraging everyone she met, be they guests, staff or volunteers."* He mentioned her vision three years ago for the prayer rooms, a vision that was caught by everyone and which are now such a blessing.

Paul concluded his speech with a reading from Philippians 1:7-8 (Message version), which he had specially adapted for Penny.

"It's not at all fanciful for us to think this way about you. Our prayers and hopes have deep roots in reality. You have, after all, stuck with us all the way. All along, you have experienced with us the most generous help from God. He knows how much we love and miss you these days. Sometimes we think we feel as strongly about you as Christ does."

After being presented with her gifts, Penny spoke of her privilege of serving the Lord at



Take it to the Lord in prayer



Prayer underpins the life of a Christian and it is at the very heart of the CCHC. Indeed this special place of Christ's healing came about **because** of healing prayer! In 1925, our founder, Revd Howard Cobb, was healed of the usually fatal sleeping sickness after he received the laying on of hands by Revd James Moore Hickson. After recovering he felt called by the Lord to start a Christian home of healing (see our website for further details of the Centre's history).

Staff prayers are held at the CCHC three times a week and if they wish, the staff can use the old art room (now Shalom) for private prayer during their breaks.

The Centre has many faithful folk praying daily for its needs. There are over two hundred Prayer Partners, six Trustees and a good number of Prayer Ministers.

We also have our Intercessions Book, in which a list of names is added daily from phone requests or from folk who have written on the slips of paper in the Chapel corridor. The typed up list of names is read out at the evening services or night prayer and then inserted into the book, on which a Minister lays hands in Jesus' name each evening over a three month period.

Our twice weekly Healing Services offer an opportunity to come to the rail for prayer and the laying on of hands. Sometimes when it's difficult to pray, it can be helpful to have some spiritual guidance and prayer from trained Prayer Ministers. We have a wonderful team who can offer you prayer ministry either in person or by phone, and every Wednesday, between the hours of 2.15 - 3.45pm, Prayer Ministers are available in our Prayer Rooms; there is no need to book.

Prayer is a conversation with the Lord; He is always there to listen, day or night. Jesus tells His disciples in John 15:15: "*I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*"

Joseph Scriven, the author of the hymn, 'What a friend we have in Jesus', knew much sorrow and loss in his life, but out of his experiences came these wise and comforting words:

"What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!"





Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

Spring Prayer Requests

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

Spring Prayer Requests

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 12:12 & 13

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever."
Psalm 86:12

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's provision for all our needs during the past year. Pray that we will be obedient to the Lord's leading in 2017. May we have listening ears and open hearts to do His good and perfect will.
- Give thanks for two new ventures of "Putting Christ into Christmas at Crowhurst." The first was a Christmas celebration led by the Crowhurst team. The second was entitled "People of the Nativity - a journey and reflection", led by Colin and Diane Crook. Both included traditional Christmas lunch and cake, carols, crackers and a Christmas tree. It was a great opportunity to enjoy CCHC hospitality in preparation for Christmas.
- Give thanks for the 'drop in' prayer opportunities in the prayer rooms on a Wednesday afternoon. We are so blessed by our host, Jane Ingram, who meets and greets any visitors who drop in, making them a drink and letting them know whether or not the ministers are available. We would like to extend drop in prayer times in 2017. Pray for more ministers to be available for a weekly commitment.
- Rosemary, our bookstall lady, retired at the end of 2016. Pennie Hayes has taken over from Rosemary. Please pray for her as she serves the Lord in this new ministry.

".... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:10-11



March Prayer Focus

"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18

MARCH

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Ash Wednesday: Guided Quiet Day
'Sackcloth and Ashes?'
Some Lenten thoughts
Led by Colin Crook |
| 3 - 5 | Church Retreat (House closed) |
| 9 - 14 | Silent Lent Retreat
Led by Revd Canon Clare Edwards
of Canterbury Cathedral |
| 17 - 19 | Healing Weekend |
| 22 | Ministry Day:
'Being a Grandparent: Joy or Pain?'
Led by David & Judith Barnes |
| 31 Mar -
2 Apr | Ordinands Retreat
House closed |



April Prayer Focus

"He is not here; He has risen." Luke 24:6

APRIL

6 - 9 **Living Well Retreat (House closed)**

13 - 17 Easter Celebration
Led by Steve Gendall and
Suzanne Owen

21 - 23 Healing Weekend

29 Apr House closed

May Prayer Focus

"The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26

MAY

13 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Suzanne Owen

27 - 29 Families Weekend, including
Families Day on 27th
Led by Revd Steve Gendall and
Revd Sally Clarke

Grand-parenting, a joy or a pain? Or ... 'The Mary Berry effect!' Wednesday 22 March 2017

The woman's a marvel! There is Mary Berry on TV, immaculately groomed, with smiling grandchildren around her, cooking a magnificent meal, then sitting with all her smiling happy family laughing and joking as they eat the feast. For some grandparents life is not like that and with an aching heart, they switch off the TV.

If any of this resonates with you, there will be an opportunity during this Ministry Day:

- to share in a safe non-judgmental environment some of the difficulties and pain that may be experienced;
- to begin, or continue the process of, forgiveness and healing; to find a way forward and in the process encounter afresh the Father God who loves us.

The cost is £12.00, which includes refreshments & lunch. Donations are also invited towards the cost of the day and use of the Centre.

Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- During the staff Christmas party, we said our official farewell to Martin Granger, who has retired after six years in office as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. On our behalf, Jane Thomas thanked him for his years of devoted service and for the great love he has for the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre.
- Please pray for Nigel Thonger as he takes over as the new Chairman of the Board. We give thanks for new trustee, Revd Denis Smith, who joined the Board in January. Denis is one of our Visiting Chaplains so knows Crowhurst well. We pray that the Lord will bless him in his service.
- 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.
- We give thanks for the generosity of all those who continue to financially support the work of Christ's healing love at the CCHC. Please continue to pray for the Lord's leading in all we do, and may we be obedient to His perfect will and timing.
- Pray for our new interactive online e-learning course that explores the place of healing in the Good News of Jesus, 'then and now.' Part 1, which started in January, uses Scripture to recognise the place of healing in Christian experience today. Part 2 (later this year) prepares people to pray for others and concludes with a residential weekend at the CCHC.

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

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality." Romans 12:12 & 13

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Suzanne

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

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Desmond, Cliff and David

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

"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

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.

Silent Advent Retreat 24 - 27 November 2016



On the Friday evening, about twenty of us were sitting at the tables in the dining room waiting for the meal to be served.

I looked around and noticed a few people with their eyes closed and others with heads bowed. I mused, *"I wonder what the Lord thinks of us, sitting here in silence."* I felt I wanted to giggle but then a feeling of excitement took over. We were here to meet with the Lord and the silence took on a special significance for me. As the weekend progressed, this shared silence seemed to bring a peace and quietness to the whole house.

Steve and Veronica both shared something of their own spiritual journeys and we were offered handouts with some questions we could ponder if we chose. Some words that Steve and Veronica said, even in passing, had special meaning for me. I was aware of the Lord speaking into my circumstances and helping me as I journey on with Him.

Margaret Barham

During the same meal time, another guest had an amazing and unforgettable experience!

"During dinner this evening, the music faded away and the Holy Spirit danced around the tables with a haze of colour, ministering to all those in need. It was a wonderful and very meaningful sight, the highlight of a very thought provoking Silent Retreat!"

Silent Lent Retreat: Thursday 9 - Tuesday 14 March 'Be Still and Know'

During this retreat there will be ...

A time to be, no demands or expectations.

A time to be still, open to God's loving presence.

A time to know, and let God be God, in our hearts as well as in our minds.

A time as the days 'lengthen' and we begin Lent, to invite God to be at work in the gardens of our lives.

If you are new to this sort of retreat, you may be asking, 'will there be no words spoken at all?' There will be words in our worship, in our daily Eucharist, in music and singing, in the led sessions twice each day, in our shared reflections and of course in your own conversations with God. We will simply be choosing not to 'chatter'! We will be released from the need to make conversation and focus all our attention on God.

The Retreat will be led by Canon Clare Edwards from Canterbury Cathedral and the cost is £430 en-suite, £380 non en-suite.

"Settle yourself in solitude and you will come upon God in yourself." (Teresa of Avila)

In 2014, I attended the first ever Silent Lent Retreat at Crowhurst. It was a special and moving experience and I found it very spiritually uplifting.

Sitting at mealtimes without conversation takes some getting used to at first, but music is usually playing in the background, so it's not completely silent. The music makes for a peaceful atmosphere and helps to keep your focus on the Lord.

I stayed on for a few days after the Retreat ended, as did a few others, and it was interesting that when we ate our first meal after the silence was over, no one actually wanted to talk and the meal time was very quiet!

New Year Celebration - 'Transplanted for life'



On 30th December, sixteen of us gathered at the CCHC to celebrate the end of 2016 and journey together into the start of 2017.

While for some this was an opportunity to catch up with old friends, there were others for whom this was their first visit to the Centre.

We became a community for the duration of our stay, sharing stories of God's nudging, prompting and encouragement; laughing over card games, being challenged by the evening quiz and enjoying film and music evenings together.

Steve C and Suzanne led us through various 'heart' reflections and worship opportunities alongside different creative expressions. We sanded, waxed and polished wooden hearts, sewed small material hearts, bound up painted hearts, were challenged to write or paint a lament and many enjoyed the art room on a daily basis.

Walking round the Prayer Walk, the local wood and further afield into Battle and Bexhill allowed us to enjoy the frosty mornings, the sun and clear skies with or without the wellies from the front door!

The hospitality team surpassed themselves as we enjoyed delicious meals together. As well as the usual tasty meal choices, we celebrated on 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!

For those with a bit more stamina, Suzanne led us in prayer together at 11:45 before we watched on TV the midnight fireworks from London to welcome in 2017.

In our final service, we were each given a small white heart with the verse of a promise or blessing written on one side and on the other the word 'hesed' - *loving kindness* - which we had explored at the start of our time together. Each was different and mine was exactly what I needed to take with me into 2017 - Psalm 46.

Thank you to Steve C, Suzanne, Stephen, Maggie, Pippa, Vivien and the hospitality team for enabling us to end one year and start another 'transplanted for life' in 2017.

Judith Rigby

Songs of Praise: Break now the Bread of Life

Thank you to Sue for sending in her favourite hymn, the words of which mean so much to her, that she wanted to share it with others. Sue writes:

As I stood on the shore of Lake Galilee, near the Byzantine Church in Tabgha, the words from this hymn came into sharp focus and drew from me the longing to know Jesus' complete peace.

The famous 'loaves and fishes' mosaic in the Sanctuary, sum up the Church's theme, where all creatures are being fed by the hand of God. In the mosaic there are only four loaves of bread; the local people say this is because the 'fifth' loaf was broken and shared by Jesus at the Last Supper.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34)

Sue Armstead



Sue was unsure of the hymn's origins so I did some internet research and found the following potted history from a website called 'Sermonaudio.com'.

The hymn was written in 1877 by Mary Lathbury, the daughter of a Methodist Minister. She was a professional artist, poet, and author and was inspired to write it after reflecting on Jesus' feeding of the multitude (Matthew 14:12-31). She wrote the hymn on the shores of beautiful Lake Chautauqua, a wooded state in New York. The music was composed by William F Sherwin, when he was the music director for the Chautauqua Institution.

Those who knew Mary best tell of her gentle Christian character and the influence for good she had on other people because of her dedication to the Lord.

She founded a club called 'The Look-Up Legion', which attracted thousands of boys and girls to Christianity. The foundation rules were: 'Look up and not down; look forward and not back; look out and not in; and lend a hand in Jesus' name.'

*Break Thou the Bread of Life, dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page, I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word.*

*Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me,
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live with Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art Love.*

*Oh, send Thy Spirit Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes, and make me see;
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,
and in Thy Book revealed I see the Lord.*

*Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall,
And I shall find my peace my All in all.*

*Taste and see
that the
LORD is good.
Psalm 34:8*

While enjoying a three night stay at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in November last year, I felt prompted to write this little piece about 'God's Book Club'.

Almost everyone had read the book, (The Shack by W M Paul Young) - except for me of course! I picked it up and read the back cover, it seemed very interesting and something was pulling me towards this book, but it cost £7.99; Christmas was coming and I was watching my pennies so I put it down and vowed to keep away from the book corner!

I love browsing in charity shops so after a blast of sea air, I allowed myself this guilty pleasure. As I walked into the third shop, Cancer Research, an idea popped in my head - to have a quick look at the bookshelves, as the book I had bought with me to read during my stay I was finding difficult to get into.

Later over dinner, I recounted my tale to Steve G and his wife Veronica. Steve smiled and said he too had a similar story about 'The Shack'. When the book was first published, he was given three copies in the space of one week. The first copy was given to him by a Methodist Minister, but the book remained unread. The second copy raised some interest but only when the third copy arrived by post, did our dear Steve realise that this was a book to be read!

Why not take a minute to sign up for God's Book Club yourself? Ask what He would have you read and see what books turn up in your life. Don't be surprised if something arrives unexpectedly through the letter box!

Janet Limb

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Book Review: 'The Question that never goes away, by Philip Yancey'

Back in 1977, a 21 year-old Philip Yancey wrote **"Where is God when it hurts?"** The book dealt with the problem of pain and why a good God allows bad things to happen to Christians. It touched many lives.

Written nearly thirty five years later, **"The Question That Never Goes Away"** continues with the theme of pain and suffering. Philip Yancey looks with compassion at the effects of great traumas on individual people. He followed in the wake of the Japanese tsunami, the terrorist attack on the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai, mass shootings in Sarajevo and various mass shootings in the USA.

Pain and suffering are part of life. People want to know why there is suffering - that is natural. There are no easy answers in this book, yet despite accounts of terrible life-changing events, ultimately this is a book founded on hope and encouragement, viz -

"I'm not sure what I'd say to you", remarked a father of a girl who died at Columbine.

"I found out that sometimes it's better for people to say nothing because you're so deep in pain that you don't want to hear anything except something that brings your child back to you." He added, "but if you were to ask me, I would offer this: over time the pain becomes less. Over time, although you'll never forget, never get over it, you can move on. And although it seems so distant now, you will feel joy again."

The stories of how bystanders rally round and provide help and comfort in tragic circumstances are remarkable.

Yancey also gives examples of groups and individuals who help rebuild lives and communities long after the rest of the world has forgotten them. He dismisses time and again the claims of militant atheists of a 'selfish gene'. I recommend this book.

Colin Crook

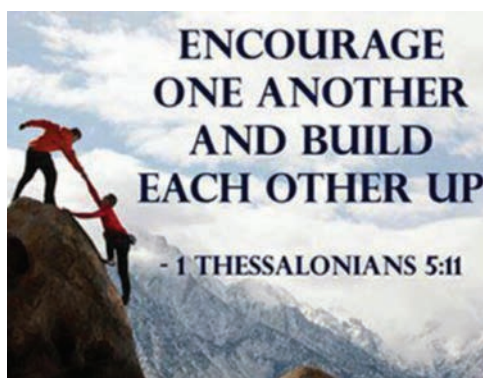
Encouragement is contagious!

The word 'encouragement' has been on my mind quite a lot since Visiting Chaplain, Paul Deeming, referred to Penny as 'Our Mrs Barnabas' (page 9). The name Barnabas means 'Son of Encouragement' and this got me thinking how we can all sometimes try to be a Mr or Mrs Barnabas!

As Colin says in his book review, pain and suffering are part of life and there are no easy answers but very often a kind word, gesture, card, text or email telling someone you are thinking of them, might just make all the difference to their day. And even if we can't make contact with the person, we can let them know we are praying for them; this will give them encouragement.

And encouragement can be catching! How often have you prayed for someone and they have later told you how much they had been encouraged and uplifted by your prayers? This happened to me recently. I had been praying for someone and because she had felt encouraged and supported by my prayers, I then felt encouraged by her encouragement!

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



Grounds news from Kim

The weather since the beginning of this year has gone from a fairly mild winter to a very cold, frosty and at times quite foggy one! Now that all the leaves are finally down and cleared away by our hard-working volunteers, Cliff and Dave, the daffodils and tulips (all 450 of them) are starting to show signs of life. By the time this magazine is printed, the grounds will be covered in beautiful spring flowers like these below. Here's hoping that we don't have too hard a frost!



The main news is that the fire escape at the front of the building was replaced at the end of January. This will be a huge improvement for the look of the front of the Main House and will also comply with current fire regulations.

The other news is that the inside toilet in the wing corridor will be accessible from outside in due course for those using the Prayer Rooms.

The area where the door will be situated has been cleared of shrubs and these have been replanted elsewhere in the grounds. This includes the *Cotoneaster Horizontalis* which has been replanted outside the large chapel. A footpath will then be created across to the car park.

The path down to the station that was damaged by vehicles driving on it has now been repaired and looks good!

A new shelter has been installed across from the main house for those smokers wanting to stay dry when it rains.

Desmond (pictured below) is still hard at work lopping the hedge to the side of the bungalow and down towards the bottom gate. His plans over the next few weeks are to cut back, rake up and burn the brambles near the prayer walk, as well as cut the tops of the hedges and continue clearing the Drovers road.

There are exciting times ahead with all the works to be done!

Blessings, *Kim*



Favourite places at the CCHC

Esther from the office has been asking some of the team about their favourite spots at the CCHC. In the winter issue, volunteer gardener, Cliff, chose the front entrance; several folk on Facebook agreed with his choice.

"O yes, I still remember the awe of the first time I walked in! How wonderful to be there every day." Margaret

"So agree with Cliff; that memory of the first time you walk through that door will always remain with me." Sheila

It is interesting to hear of other folk's favourite places in the Centre. Some are in the house and some in the grounds. Here are a few of the favourite outside places.

Brenda Russell, one of our regular Visiting Chaplains loves the pond with its broken tree, and here is why it means so much to her.

"My first visit to the Centre in 1994 was at a time when I had a very real need of healing. The broken tree and the pond, which was green and unhealthy looking, reflected how I felt.

During my visit, especially whilst receiving prayer ministry, sharing in worship and sitting by the pond, the Lord spoke to me and assured me of His love, brought healing into my life and gave me a very real sense of peace and joy. Hence sitting by the pond remains very special for me."



Steve G's wife, Veronica, loves this spot in the fields. She says that walking is her time to pray and muse and she regularly walks through these fields. When she reaches this line of trees she enjoys spending a few minutes looking at the view. Her eyes are always drawn to the bendy tree (the one she is standing near) which reminds her that Creation isn't always perfect.



Prayer Minister Dee likes relaxing under the gazebo, from where she can see the pond. She likes sitting here because there is water close by and she can watch the ravens soar.



It would be lovely to hear of some of your favourite places at the Centre. Do write in and share them, giving your reasons why a particular place means so much to you; photos would be good if you have any. Email marys56@hotmail.co.uk.

Families Weekend: 27 to 29 May 2017



Our Families Weekend this year will be led by Sally Dryden and Steve Gendall. There will be all the usual fun and games, singing, eating, arts and crafts, and lots of time to think about Jesus!

The weekend begins at 10am on Saturday 27th and concludes after lunch on Bank Holiday Monday 29th. The cost is £150 per adult, with children FREE. If you are unable to make the whole weekend, you don't have to miss out on all the fun as you can come for the day on the Saturday. Cost is £25 per adult, with children FREE.

Some comments from last year's weekend:

"So many people but still so peaceful; meeting and making new friends; being with family in a God centred environment. Seeing children being a fully included and inclusive part of 'the church'. Church as a normal fun part of life. Food. Fun. Friends!"

"I felt we had time and space out of our every day life to worship, pray, hear the Word, play together and 'be', and enjoy God's creation in the beautiful grounds."

These weekends are a lot of fun for children and their parents; grandparents can join in too as you can see from the photo below!



New Trustee: Revd Denis Smith



On behalf of the Trustees of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, I am very pleased to announce that Reverend Denis Smith was appointed as a Trustee from January 2017.

Denis serves at the CCHC as a Visiting Chaplain and has links with the Christian Healing Mission and Harnhill Christian Healing Centre. He has taken early retirement from Parish Ministry to focus on Conflict Transformation and the Healing Ministry. We welcome him to our community and ask the Lord's continued blessing on his work here.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Teaching Day: 'The Truth in Love'

Saturday 3 June 2017

The theme of this Teaching day, led by Steve Clark, will be 'An exploration of Truth'.

Steve writes:

In 2016, Oxford Dictionaries declared "post-truth" as its international Word of the Year, reflecting what it called a "highly-charged" political twelve months! Its selection followed Last June's Brexit vote and the US presidential election.

But Jesus comes as 'The Truth' and this day will explore a radical Christian way of truth laid out in Scripture, how it might be linked to Love and how truth telling can be healing and life transforming.

Steve has led several interesting and thought provoking teaching days during his time at the Centre. This will be his last before he retires, so do take the opportunity to hear him deliver what will be a powerful message!

Thanksgiving Day: 1 July 2017

Do make a note in your diaries for our annual day of thanksgiving. Tea and coffee will be available from 10am and the morning service will begin at 11am. As with the last two years, the CCHC will provide a simple snack lunch, which can be enjoyed in the lovely grounds. Steve Clark will be our preacher and we will once again have a marquee.



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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



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