



Spring 2018

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2018 — A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Many of you will

know that 2018 is a very special year as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary. A number of exciting events have been planned — the first takes place from 6 – 8 April when we are holding a residential '**Weekend with Former Chaplains**'. We look forward to hearing all the different stories of God's faithfulness at CCHC over the years and on the Saturday 7th, there is an open invitation to come to morning worship (11am), followed by fellowship over a buffet-style lunch — provided by CCHC. The day will conclude with afternoon tea. For those of you unable to attend, parts of the event will be streamed live via Facebook.

On **Thanksgiving Day, Saturday 7 July**, we welcome John and Gillian Ryeland, who will be our speakers. John is the Chairman of Christian Healing UK (an affiliation of Christian healing organisations and healing advisors across the UK.)

Thanksgiving Day is always such a joyous occasion, and an opportunity to meet friends old and new. Come early for coffee and ensure you get a seat in the Chapel for the morning Communion service. The housekeeping team will be providing a buffet lunch for everyone after the service and the day will conclude with afternoon tea and cake.



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

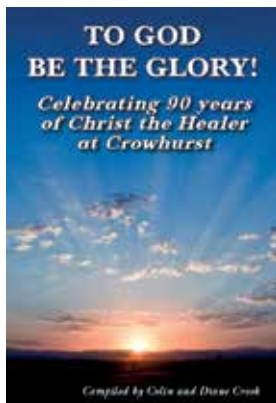
We do indeed give God all the glory for His presence and provision over the last 90 years at Crowhurst, and to those who have faithfully served in this wonderful place of Christ's Healing.

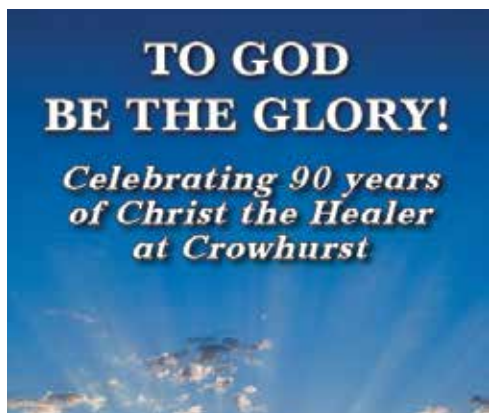
And to coincide with our celebratory year, Colin and Diane Crook have compiled a special book called '**To God be the Glory!**' which shows the development of the healing ministry in the early twentieth century, and how Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre played a significant part in that under the guidance of God. Using the extensive resources of the archives as well as individual testimonies, the book contains nearly 80 photographs as well as information on the life and the work of the Centre.

This fascinating book is available at CCHC for the price of £6.00 so do pick up a copy next time you visit. Alternatively please ring the office, who would be pleased to send you one (postage and packing will be extra).

We are all very excited about the year ahead as we celebrate God's Faithfulness and give Him all the glory!

Every blessing, *Mary*





Dear All,

In Zimbabwe, a greeting among the Shona speaking people at new year is; 'Makorgoto, gore itsva'. Literally translated it reads 'Congratulations, year new'. The sense is to express praise for the achievement of reaching another year so in other words 'well done, you made it'. My understanding is that the emphasis is on the success of having come through the past year (which may have included transfiguring mountain top and dark valley experiences), rather than a blessing for the future.

At the beginning of this year, Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre said, 'Congratulations, year 90.' We have travelled a long 90 year journey and by God's grace and favour we have made it to this point. The past years have seen many remarkable miracles in the life of the Centre and in individual's lives where our Lord has so obviously been at work that it is not possible to give credit to anyone else. But the years have also seen periods of barrenness and darkness. This is life.

As I sit and ponder (so soon after Christmas) I am reminded that after nine

months the Son of God was born and we see revealed in Jesus, true light, abundant life, and perfect love — the announcement that the kingdom of God is near. I also wonder with hope that our 90th year be a birthing year and that we may see the kingdom of God advance more than ever before in Jesus — true light, abundant life, and perfect love. We see an exciting moment in Scripture when Sarah turned 90 years old. God fulfilled his promise to Abraham and Sarah and gave them the promised child (Sarah was 90 years old — Genesis 17:15-19). Let us give thanks in faith and seek Him so that the Lord will fulfil his promises to CCHC — that the latter days will be more blessed than the former. Thank you Lord.

May it be so for staff, volunteers, all those we encounter on the way and those who come to CCHC seeking the glorious face and healing hand of our Lord.

A simple prayer for us this year might be:

.....
Dear Lord, help me, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to capture again the simple truth that Father God is good and faithful all the time. May I see this in my own experiences and the faith building stories of my past, and may this year be a springboard to the greater works the Lord has prepared for me, that I may increasingly be free to be all that the Lord created me to be, in the name of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.
.....

C'mon and celebrate!

From us all at CCHC, *Steve*

Church Weekend (Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead) October 2017

What better way to start a weekend away than with a delicious lunch, a comfortable bedroom and a view across the autumn tinted garden to the sun shining on the sea in the distance? (Apologies to those without the view!)

I arrived at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre on Friday morning feeling excited and anticipating an interesting and relaxed weekend; it certainly was interesting and full of fun, fellowship and laughter.

We were led by the Chaplains, Steve and Suzanne, who, with her gentle encouragement, complements Steve with his wonderful sense of humour. Their deep faith in God was obvious in the way they both led the weekend with the certainty that God was present with us, encouraging us to think deeply about the meaning of health and healing and how we can pray for others who desire that healing and wholeness which comes through Christ Jesus.

What did I learn from the weekend?

1. That healing is available to all who ask, not always in the way we ask or expect.
2. We don't need to pray long prayers; Jesus didn't.
3. How important it is, when praying with others, to listen and wait to hear from God through His Holy Spirit.
4. To ask God to release those who have been praying, from anything that wants to cling to you i.e. lingering thoughts or anxiety about the person you have prayed for, and to hand those thoughts to God and trust that He will answer your prayers.

What did I enjoy about Crowhurst?

1. God's presence everywhere.
2. The beauty and tranquillity of the place, especially the large Chapel.

3. The very emotional (for me) healing service on Saturday evening.
4. The well equipped art room and three (short) opportunities to draw with oil pastels.
5. The five star food; don't go to Crowhurst if you're on a diet!
6. Being able to spend quality time and get to know and pray with others from Trinity; thank you to you all. *Norma*

What Crowhurst means to me by Revd Michael Bateman

Five or six years? I really can't be sure but one thing I am certain of is that the good Lord was offering me a respite from the fray at a time when the scenery around me was changing with alarming rapidity. Issues of mental health were surfacing in a way that could not be ignored and much suffering was experienced by many people of good will. It is here that Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre with its gentle Christian spirit came into its own.

Here I would make the general point that the Lord in His providence goes before us in our journey of faith to help us sustain and hopefully grow through what can be a very testing time.

The other point, equally important, is that by giving us a very small portion indeed of His Cross, we can learn the redemptive value of such things in helping each other.

Of course, without the gift of faith and the loving support of those around us, this must sound gibberish, but Crowhurst, carry on, you are doing a great job!

David Howell Chaplain at CCHC 1981 - 1989



David Howell, former Chaplain at Crowhurst died on 11 November, aged 88, so sadly did not live quite long enough to see the 90th anniversary celebrations at CCHC.

David served at Crowhurst from 1981 to 1989 under David Payne and John Simmonds. So far as is known, he was the first stipendiary appointment as Chaplain — others had served before in an honorary capacity.

David moved from a parish in Deptford where he had led healing services. He had a love of liturgy and tradition and enriched the services in these areas. David's blend of teacher and pastor with his vivid preaching style gave a vitality to his ministry. This complemented the gifts of the two Wardens with whom he worked. Unusually David was the only Chaplain to be the Director of The Divine Healing Mission.

During his tenure his first wife, Madeline, sadly died. He later married Elsie and they had many years together.

Colin Crook

Crowhurst Timeline

In the book, '*To God be the Glory*', referred to in the Editorial, there is a Timeline at the back which shows the history of the building and how CCHC came into being. Because this is our 90th anniversary year, I will be including some extracts from the Timeline in this year's magazines. Of course you can always buy the book and then you will see it in one reading!

The building goes back to the year 1742 and the photo below shows what the original rectory and cottage looked like back then, (courtesy of Mavis Williams' painting).



- 1928 Revd Howard Cobb became Rector of Crowhurst.
- 1930 First Chapel was built and dedicated.
- 1930 First Wing dedicated by Bishop Fyffe.
- 1931 Lucy Yates visited The Old Rectory (as it was called back then) when Howard Cobb was Warden. Lucy kept a fascinating diary of her four week stay (this is on sale at the Centre for the price of £1.50).
- 1936 Sun Lounge completed.

CCHC Podcasts

Did you know there are 'podcasts' on our website www.crowhursthealing.org.uk which are recordings of healing service talks at CCHC? If you select 'podcasts' from the website, and then choose the title of the 15 minute talk you would like to listen to, I'm sure you will be blessed, as I was.

It was great to listen to the podcasts during the nights when I couldn't sleep for a long period during November last year. They helped to distract me from an awful itchy rash, which I developed after taking a week's course of antibiotics. The allergy took several weeks to clear, but during that difficult time I sensed God's presence guiding and blessing.

During sleepless nights I found I could call up worship songs and Christian teaching on YouTube but one night I was led to browse our CCHC website and found the podcasts, which I didn't know about before!

The first one I chose to listen to was a talk by Steve Gendall, called '**Eavesdropping on God**' from a Thursday morning healing service, which I had missed a couple of weeks earlier. I could picture the scene in the large Chapel and laughed along with everyone at the beginning; it then felt as if Father God was speaking directly to me of His great love, the same love that was between Father and Son, which I too was now eavesdropping on, from John 17, amazing! How I needed to be reminded of that just then.

Then I listened to more podcasts, made months earlier, and enjoyed hearing Steve Clark's special teaching once again. I was so grateful. Do try to listen to these recordings yourselves, I highly recommend them.

Some of you may remember that five years ago I had to lay down leading days of 'Dance in Worship' because I was diagnosed with CLL (Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia). I'd like to share the good news that through the Lord's healing touch at CCHC, via different Prayer Ministers from time to time, the symptoms have gone away and my blood has been improving, without having had any treatment! My last blood test showed such an improvement that I don't need to return to hospital to be checked again for another year, Praise the Lord!

Mavis Williams

Here are some of the podcasts that are available, either via the Crowhurst website, or by YouTube.

18 January 2018

Saul's Armour

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:4-9; 16; 32-33; 38-40

Preacher: Suzanne Owen

11 January 2018

Facing Our Darkness

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6 & 19-20

Preacher: Revd Stephen Gurr

4 January 2018

God is Aware, Able and Available

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31

Preacher: Brenda Russell

2 November 2017

Eavesdropping on God

Scripture: John 17:20-26

Preacher: Steve Gendall.

Prayer Partners Weekend – October 2017

Prayer Partners are intercessors who have committed themselves to pray on a daily basis for the ongoing work of Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Each Partner is given a specific area of the house, together with a specific person to pray for. Every aspect of the work is undergirded by prayer. In addition to the regular information in the magazine and on line, we now have an email facility which highlights any immediate concerns for prayer.

Prayer is a vital part of the ministry at CCHC and there are some two hundred folk involved. They are considered very precious and are very much part of the working team. They too are prayed for regularly at evening worship.

As a Prayer Partner myself it is a real privilege to be part of the team, and each year there is the opportunity to meet with others at the CCHC Prayer Partners' Retreat. Last year's was held in October, when we were also invited to a '**Party for our King**', to celebrate and declare that Jesus is on the throne at Crowhurst. As we were to be meeting the King we were encouraged to dress up for the occasion AND many did. It was a joyous worship occasion.

During this Retreat we were tasked to look and listen to what Jesus wanted us to learn for CCHC from the verse "*Seek first the Kingdom of God*" (Matthew 6:33). We broke into small groups and at the sharing session afterwards it was quite extraordinary how similar the God given messages were for the future of the Centre.

As Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verses 16 to 18 ...

"Be joyful always. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

This we will try to do with His help.

Audrey Cowie



Audrey is pictured at the morning service wearing a splendid hat, which she wore "because when you have an audience with our Queen, you wear a hat, so why not for our King!" You can't argue with that!

By the amazing and wonderful Hand of God!



Our drop in Prayer Rooms (pictured above) are open from 2.15pm every Wednesday. Volunteer, Jane Ingram, welcomes folk who come for prayer and she has an amazing story to tell!

“Two weeks ago, we had a lady turn up for prayer who had found the book *‘The Heart of Healing’* by George Bennett in a charity shop in Crawley and was intrigued by it. This book had found its way from England to Philadelphia, USA and then back to Crawley! She had also found *‘In His Healing Steps’* and knew she had to visit the actual place.”

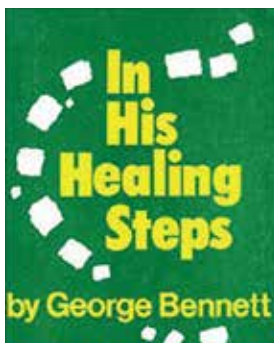
Jane says, “the lady was a delight to talk with and it really excited me how God has worked.”

After praying with the lady, Judith and Maggie showed her around the Centre and she was thrilled to see the next book in the sequence, *‘Miracle at Crowhurst’*, on sale in the hall.

“Isn’t it astounding that two modest paperback books printed in 1976 are still focusing people’s minds on the healing ministry that happens at Crowhurst. And in the 90th year! Our God is GREAT!”

We would love to pray with you on a Wednesday afternoon — there is no need to book just turn up!”

‘The Heart of Healing’ and ‘In His Healing Steps’ can often be found on the internet and ‘Miracle at Crowhurst’ can be purchased from CCHC for £5.00.



Puppet Pals!



One of our regular visitors, Jill Harris, has a puppet ministry and often brings some of her puppets to CCHC, where they interact with guests of all ages!

Jill writes:

You may have been to a Thursday service at CCHC and met Danny or Charlie afterwards in the lounge. Charlie became good friends with Doreen last year when she came to the Thursday morning Healing Services. Doreen was once a resident helper at the Centre, but now sadly suffers with dementia. Charlie enjoyed nibbling Doreen's fingers and loved it when she gently stroked and spoke softly to him, and she always seemed to understand what he was saying to her!

Charlie Bird, pictured above in CCHC's lounge with Doreen and three year old Jacob, was the first ventriloquy puppet I acquired, originally to help me with the group of six and seven year olds at my church Sunday Club. What a brilliant teaching aid he turned out to be. The children listened to him far more intently than they did to me! During the first week of the summer holidays, my church runs a holiday club for four to eleven year olds. Charlie is great helping in the groups of seven year olds that I lead. Sitting in his nest (an upturned hanging basket liner) he is good at telling Bible stories and chatting to the fascinated children.



Two of my puppets, Scamper the mouse (pictured above with Doreen) and Digger the rabbit take it in turns to come with me to our local Prospects Group for adults with learning disabilities. Occasionally they will help teach a simple Bible message, but at the end of every meeting during the craft and refreshment time, one of them will come round to chat with the folk, who love to stroke them or have their fingers nibbled.

Another member of my puppet family is Curlie, the lamb, who looks a little like Shaun the Sheep! He comes to the Sunday Club group of three to five year olds that I now help with once a month. He first came as a visual aid with sound effects to illustrate the story of the lost sheep. He loved being with the children so much that he now comes with me every time it is my turn to take the group. After a short Bible story and prayer, when we sit in a large circle, I take Curlie round to each child. A few children may be unsure at first, but most of them will gently stroke his black velvety muzzle or put their little arms round him to give him a hug and sometimes a kiss. It is a real joy to see children and adults of all ages responding to these puppets.

No matter what our age, there is a child within each of us and it is a privilege to see how God can use puppets both to teach and to bring fun and laughter.

Spring Prayer Requests

Spring Prayer Requests 2018

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

SPRING PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER FOCUS

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made”
Psalm 145:8 & 9

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 and praise for the provision of all our needs during the past months.
- We welcome two new members to the house team. David retired as head chef in November; therefore Ian has been promoted to head chef and Zenith has joined the team as assistant chef. Steve Furnell (our longest serving member of staff — 22 years) has retired from the house team and Gemma has taken over his duties.
- Please pray for all the staff that they will be kept free from colds and viruses that seem to cause problems at this time of the year.
- From 4 January the Thursday morning Healing Service began at the earlier time of 10am. This is to give those in need of ministry more time before lunch.
- With the increase of numbers and guests visiting, car parking is becoming a major problem, especially on a Thursday morning. The recent heavy rains have added to the difficulties as the grass areas have become waterlogged and unable to be used.
- Give thanks for the ‘drop in’ prayer opportunities on Wednesday afternoon. We would like to extend the drop in time in 2018. Pray for more Ministers to be available for a weekly commitment.

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.” Psalm 19:21



March Prayer Focus

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

MARCH

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 4 – 10 | Healing Space |
| 14 | Teaching Day: ‘Faith Matters’
Led by Steve Gendall |
| 23 – 25 | Healing Weekend |
| 29 Mar – 2 April | Easter Celebration |



April Prayer Focus

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"
Matthew 22:37-39

APRIL

6 – 8 'A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS'
A weekend with former Chaplains. The House will be open on the Saturday 7th when all are welcome join in with morning worship and fellowship over lunch.

20 – 22 Healing Weekend

25 Guided Quiet Day
'Faith or Doubt: Friends or Foes?'
Led by Brian Woodgate

28 Apr – Healing Space
4 May

May Prayer Focus

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
Galatians 5:22 & 23

MAY

11-13 Teaching Weekend:
'Foundations for the Healing Ministry'
Led by CCHC Team
Refresh and increase your learning about three basic kinds of healing and how to pray for each: sin, suffering and sickness.

23 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor

26 – 28 Families Weekend and Families Day (Saturday 26th)
Led by Sally Dryden and Becki Chafe

Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Nigel Thonger (Chair), Vivien Drakes, Revd Sally Dryden, Paul Raynor and Revd Denis Smith

- We are delighted to welcome Sally Dryden to the Board of Trustees. She is a Church of England Priest serving as a curate in Golders Green, North London. She has a passion to see whole families come to know the love of Jesus Christ. She has run several of our popular families weekends and once again Sally and Becki Chafe will be leading the Families Weekend on May 26 – 28 this year.
- 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.
- After much deliberation and surveys, it was decided that the bungalow is to be demolished and a new purpose built eco-friendly and accessible timber framed kit-house is to take its place. The cost of refurbishment and upgrading the existing property was not deemed viable. Please pray earnestly as construction begins in the coming months, that everything will go smoothly.
- We continue to give thanks for the generosity of all who financially support the work of Christ's healing love at the Centre. Please continue to pray for the Lord's leading in all we do; may we be obedient to His perfect will and timing.

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11

Prayer for Staff at The Centre

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Suzanne Owen

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, Esther, Jane, Jayne, Jenny, Juliette, Maria, Pennie and Diane

HOUSE

Heidi, Abigail, Chrissy, Clare, Gemma, Ian, Justine, Marion, Rosemary, Sarah, Shirley and Zenith

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Desmond, David

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

"To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance." Jude 1:2

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

Remembrance Reflection - November 2017



The November Teaching Day on Remembrance, which was led by one of our Chaplains, Suzanne and Prayer Minister, Rachel Fawcett, held many nuggets.

Suzanne took us through “The Valley of Shadows” and considered Elizabeth Kubler Ross’ stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression and Acceptance. New for me was that these were the stages of grief that Kubler Ross observed in the person who was dying rather than subsequent to a death.

On “The Road to Emmaus” we saw how Jesus walks with us on our grief journey and were reminded that you will heal and rebuild yourself around the loss you have suffered. You will be whole again but you will never be the same again.

With the aid of a diagram we considered another way of looking at grief stages:

- ◆ unreality — “I can’t believe”
- ◆ reality — where the pain of loss is acute, and
- ◆ adjustment.

At the peak of grief, reality has set in, unreality is lingering and adjustment is just beginning. In reflecting on this I realised

that what has helped in my grief journey is a quiet changelessness in my uncertainty ... those who will be faithful in their “being alongside.”

As we moved through to “He Restores my Soul” we acknowledged how letting go and moving on depends on so many aspects. This stage involves a choice: I have to let go ... that happened and this is now. Complete restoration into something different seems impossible at the start of the journey. Grief is intensely personal and we are each entitled to our own timetable. In the afternoon Rachel reminded us that “My loss is 100% loss.” We moved from head to heart knowledge as we focussed on her moving personal journey of the Rs of Remembrance: Recognition, Remembering, being Real and Renewal. We have a choice to remember the things that were good. We can be honest in our crying out to God. Time is a healer although we will not be the same person because there will always be a scar.

Following Rachel we had time for our own reflection and in our closing worship we used candles, poppies, petals and stones as part of our symbolic response in prayer.

Judith

“Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:26 & 27

(Jesus talks with His disciples on the Road to Emmaus).

Crowhurst Christian healing Centre (CCHC) serves The Nazareth Trust (TNT)



The four of us in Christ Church, Nazareth with the words of Luke 4:8-19 that Jesus spoke in the synagogue in Nazareth on the wall behind the Altar (in Arabic)

By Steve Gendall
THE TEAM

Nazareth is the largest city of Arabs in Israel. Its population of 75,000 is 70% Muslim and 30% Christian. Each morning in the neighbourhood started with a call to prayer — the Muslims at 5am and the Christians at 6am (the bells of the Angelus with a recording of Ave Maria.) Alongside old Nazareth is Nazareth Illit — a modern Jewish village (founded 1957) which consists of approximately 40,000 Jews.

TNT is one Christian run hospital serving this population. A Jewish patient at TNT told us she chooses to have her children at this hospital because of the care she and her babies receive — the maternity

ward is staffed by Muslims and Christians. It's a heart-warming picture of people of different faiths giving care to and receiving care from each other. And it goes without saying, as with any birthing experience, the daily tension these folk experience is tangible — I'll let you ponder. (Not least of all, when Presidential pronouncements are made about Capital cities!)

Drop into this Hospital environment a team of eight English Christians who had been asked to come and serve, to teach, preach, lead and pray alongside medical staff and patients. What an amazing and daunting privilege.

Our team for the mission was as follows:

- ♦ *Me – leader.*
- ♦ *Veronica — with her Intercessor's hat on.*
- ♦ *Suzanne — with her decades of nursing experience.*
- ♦ *Paul with his decades of Hospital Chaplaincy experience — in the UK and Pakistan.*
- ♦ *Two retired doctors who had previously worked at TNT — Mark and Esther; and Paul and Tessa — previously doctors with some prior experience of TNT. (Paul is now a Priest.)*

The Lord skilfully drew together this team — the detail of his handiwork leaves me in awe!

Working closely with Frank Kantor (Spiritual Director of TNT) and seeking guidance daily from the dear Holy Spirit, we did our best to juggle and weave the

Week of Health and Healing – 26 November to 1 December 2017

expected (planned programme) and unexpected (spontaneity of the moment). Our days were long and full, and intensity increased as departments and individuals got wind of ‘something going on’. I don’t use ‘wind’ lightly as we know the Holy Spirit was at work and occasionally we found ourselves in one place rather than another, only to be in the right place at the right time! It was nothing short of a thrill and it goes without saying, we enjoyed it. The impact on us and the impact on TNT are enormous — to God be the Glory.

By Veronica Gendall

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Imagine, after an arduous journey through the desert, arriving at your destination and immediately being presented with a sustaining meal. We were embraced by this hospitable tradition the moment we emerged from Ben Gurion airport and met Ayman, our driver. He promptly produced a carrier bag full of flatbread, condiments and Arabic coffee, which he insisted we consume in full, to fortify ourselves for the final stage of our journey. Our quiet self-congratulations on achieving this feat were short-lived however, as on arrival in Nazareth, we made an impromptu stop at a local confectionery where Ayman introduced us to Kanafe, a delicious (and extremely rich!) dessert, with more coffee. By the time we staggered into our accommodation we were quite stupefied with food, and this was a more or less permanent state of affairs until we left.

Apart from being supplied with everything needed for our own meals, we were kindly hosted for dinner by various

hospital staff, and discovered the pitfalls of that No. 1 British rule of good manners, i.e. eating everything on our plates. In Arab culture this is a sign that you would like some more, and on one occasion Steve found himself being served another whole course as a result!

We were very comfortably accommodated in a spacious flat in ‘The Doctors’ House’, an older building on the hospital campus, although we did wonder if we might lose Paul through an impressive crack in his bedroom wall!

With the hospital being situated on a steep hill (as you can see in the photo below) the main drawback was the steep climb ‘home’ after every outing, with a flight of twenty or so stairs to our flat at the end of it. However we consoled ourselves, somewhat breathlessly, that at least we were working off the effects of the previous day’s hospitality.



And for all of us, a daily highlight was in the peace of early morning when, having been awakened by the muezzin and Angelus calls to prayer, we could enjoy the profound sense of God’s presence as the sun rose over Nazareth and the Jezreel Valley.

Week of Health and Healing – Cont'd

By Suzanne Owen

NURSING ON THE STREETS OF NAZARETH

I had the privilege of spending time with some of the student nurses who are training at the Nazareth Hospital School of Nursing, which is on the Nazareth Hospital site. The School has a very good reputation for training nurses who focus on the care of the patient. The School's Director of Nurse Education, Dr Amal, has done a superb job of building up the school and has just recently succeeded in getting a degree course accredited so that students can gain a BSc degree as well as their nurse registration. Students have to finance their own training in Israel.

During the Week of Health and Healing, the student nurses offered free Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar and weight/BMI checks on the streets of Nazareth, and I was delighted to be invited to join them.

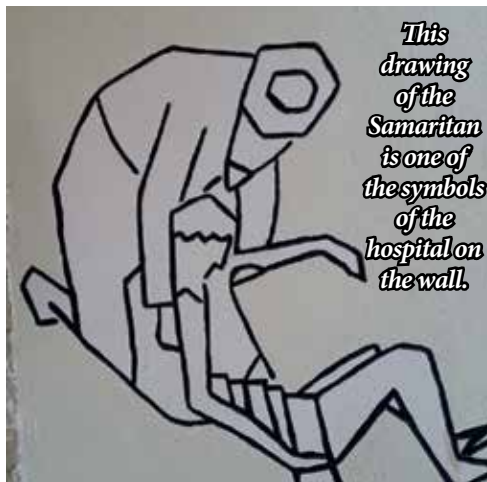
One of the biggest health challenges in Nazareth is Diabetes, so this was a very good service to offer people.

Lots of people stopped and several were found to have previously undiagnosed high blood pressure and high blood sugar. The lecturer accompanying the students advised them to seek further medical help. Although I can't speak Arabic, I could tell a lot about the conversations by their faces and gestures and I was impressed by their confidence in dealing with people on the street. We finished by having lunch and enjoyed lovely hummus and falafel together.

I saw some of the same students again when I spent an hour talking to the students on 'relational healthcare'. I spoke, with Dr Amal translating, so that gave a different dimension to teaching I had not met before! I focused on the humanity of the patient and the importance of finding the individual in the midst of the diagnosis. They had the opportunity to ask questions and we had fun together. I enjoyed the experience of meeting students who have a very different training experience to the UK, but whose focus remains the same — to care for people.



Student nurses from the Nazareth Hospital school of Nursing setting up the free health screening 'stall' in the centre of Nazareth



This drawing of the Samaritan is one of the symbols of the hospital on the wall.

By Paul Deeming

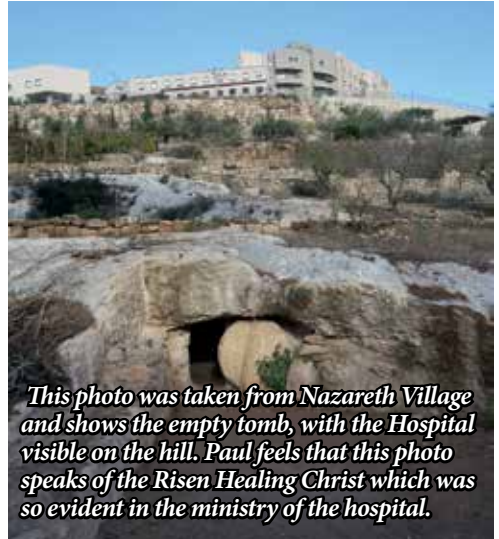
CHAPLAINCY – IN DEED AND WORD

It was our first full day in Nazareth to begin the week on Health and Healing. We did not realise it would all begin with an urgent call to the ITU ward where a patient was in a critical condition. Here was the immediate challenge to prove the need for pastoral care as the important ethos to all medical care. Steve and myself attended. The first priority was to meet the large traumatised family and to listen, share and pray with them. Time was then dedicated to being with the patient and to release God's healing peace and presence to him.

Here was the unexpected practical demonstration of what would be my first three hour teaching session for the chaplaincy volunteers on spiritual and pastoral care. It was so good to meet these local Christians with a deep desire to share the love of Jesus of Nazareth.

My first session was the 'Pastoral Heart of God' and looked at the Biblical truth of all pastoral care flowing from the heart of God's love for His people and His world. The second session was to look at the life and example of Jesus as our role model in meeting and sharing with others. The third session was looking at the practical issues of pastoral care in a hospital environment and what it means to be a channel of God's healing love. The whole event was translated into Arabic as was all the prepared material and study notes.

It was such a privilege to lead this introductory session to the week and to share in prayer and be encouraged by each other (including Arabic coffee and warm Arabic hugs and embraces!) I was humbled by their deep love for the Lord and their desire to share His love with others.



This photo was taken from Nazareth Village and shows the empty tomb, with the Hospital visible on the hill. Paul feels that this photo speaks of the Risen Healing Christ which was so evident in the ministry of the hospital.

By the end of the week, the team had been able to meet with staff and patients and Pastoral Care was high on the hospital's agenda, with Paul and Suzanne able to share in short presentations to the medical staff in the hospital auditorium. We were humbled, challenged, stretched and tired, but rejoicing in what the Lord had done, to whom be all the glory.



This is the Hospital Chapel all ready for Advent. Notice the carpenter's bench for the lectern, which was probably also used for the Communion service.

New Year Celebration 2017 Exploring the names of God



This was a wonderful and relaxing celebration ending the old year and starting the new in a home filled with God's love.

We learned about the Hebrew names of God and when we sung a hymn I knew well, '*Ancient of Days*', the words became so much clearer to me from studying the names.

It was a full house and as always we were well fed with delicious food. I slept better than I had in months and I know the Lord called me to the CCHC to 'come and rest.'

To see in the New Year, some of us watched fireworks from London on the overhead screen.

On New Year's Day we were anointed and had hands laid on us, which was very special.

Thank you to the whole team and God's blessings to all who took part.

Dorothy

Ministry Team and Chaplains' Weekend 5 – 7 January 2018

This was such a joy and blessing to attend, fun, laughter and fellowship, thought provoking and enlightening in our sharing together and looking at Scripture.

One of my favourite things was our creative art work, choosing a jigsaw puzzle shape, not knowing what it was, and able to colour it in using all colours of the rainbow if I liked. When I saw the completed picture the pieces had made, it was like a stained glass window. In the centre was a cross and when I looked again, I noticed the circle around it, like a Celtic Cross, and as I continued to look and see its beauty, I saw the circle was the circle of God's love reaching out to us through the Cross.

Gwen



Be Still with the Lord

During one of the Evening Prayer services last year, we were asked to bring our favourite psalm and to say something about it. There were many interesting thoughts but one person chose Psalm 131, a very short psalm. It gives a picture of a soul completely satisfied with absorbing the Word of God, and resting in His arms, like a well-fed child with its mother. It is a little psalm that gives complete peace.

“My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.”

All the psalms are beautiful in their own way and some have nuggets of gold in them — even the ones that are not read very often.

From Psalm 131, I think God wants us to know that we can find complete satisfaction, contentment and peace by resting in His arms. Give up striving and worrying and be like a baby asleep in its mother's arms.

It is good to respond to the invitation of Jesus in *Matthew 11:28* “Come unto me and rest — for I am meek and gentle of heart and you shall find rest, not just for the body but for the mind also.” This is what God requires and invites us to do, and many people find this kind of rest when they come to stay at CCHC. Imagine yourself to be held in God's arms, to be loved and gently rocked like a baby. “Surely I have stilled and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with His mother.” (Psalm 131:2)

Maggie Freeman

New for 2018 Healing Spaces



These Healing Spaces are a new addition to our programme. Guests are invited to use this protected time for their own personal retreat in the stillness and silence of the house. They provide an opportunity to participate in our daily rhythm of worship and to receive prayer for God's healing of mind, body and spirit. They run for seven nights and guests are able to stay for the whole retreat or book within these dates.

Dates available for the rest of the year are as follows:

Saturday 28 April – Friday 4 May

Tuesday 12 – Monday 18 June

Sunday 8 to Saturday 14 July

This will be a SILENT Healing Space

Friday 3 – Thursday 9 August

Monday 24 – Sunday 30 September

Tuesday 13 – Monday 19 November

Tuesday 4 December – Monday 10 December

Farewells and Welcomes

One of our longest serving members of staff (22 years), Steve Furnell, retired at the end of last year and we said goodbye to him during the staff Christmas party.

Steve G (pictured below presenting Steve with his retirement gifts) writes, “Steve’s servant heart, humour, whistling, window cleaning and ability to give attention to all those he encountered is remembered with much gratitude and appreciation. We wish him all the best for his retirement.”

Many folk echo Steve G’s sentiments — here are just a couple of the many farewell messages that were left for him on our Facebook page.

♦ “Steve, you have always been a very special part of Crowhurst, nothing too much trouble, always there for people even in your dark times. We will miss you. Many blessings for the future.”
Sandra

♦ “Happy Retirement Steve. I shall miss seeing you around and will miss the way you make the best hot chocolate!”
Jenny



Gemma has replaced Steve and like Steve, she always has a ready smile! When not working for CCHC, Gemma enjoys meeting friends, going to the cinema and visiting National Trust properties.



We are very blessed with our House Team; Every member works so hard and the office regularly receive positive feedback.

- ♦ “Everyone here contributes to the blessing of this place; the way the meals are served, the person who cleans the rooms, the one who folds the ends of the toilet roll, the way the towels are folded — it makes you feel special. Thank you to the house staff and those who do the rooms.”
- ♦ “The rooms and cuisine are top quality, it is an absolute pleasure to be looked after to such a high standard. I’m greatly looking forward to the luxury that is Crowhurst when I come back this weekend. I always feel physically, emotionally and spiritually cosseted.”

Teaching Events and Guided Quiet Day



Head Chef, David (pictured above right), retired at the end of last year and many of you will have been blessed by his delicious food! It's not all work and no play though and in the photo above, Ian and David are enjoying a light hearted moment in the kitchen.

Ian is now Head Chef and has been joined by new Assistant Chef, Zenith who lives in nearby Hastings. Zenith has worked in retail in the past and in his spare time enjoys playing music. He currently plays the bass, guitar, oboe and saxophone.



We wish Steve and David a happy and blessed retirement and extend a very warm Crowhurst welcome to Gemma And Zenith.

TEACHING DAY

Wednesday 14 March

'Faith Matters'

Led by Steve Gendall

If you have ever said "*I don't have much faith*" or "*I am not sure that I can pray for people who need healing*", then this day is for you. We will explore these and other questions in a way that will encourage and equip you to see more of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven.

GUIDED QUIET DAY

Wed 25 April

Faith and Doubt: Friends or Foes?

Led by Brian Woodgate

Doubt is not something to feel guilty about but can be a means by which faith can be enhanced as we dig deeper and seek for answers. This Quiet Day will provide an opportunity to look at how faith and doubt serve to deepen and enrich our understanding of our Christian experience.

TEACHING WEEKEND

11 – 13 May

Foundations for the Healing Ministry

Led by CCHC Team

This weekend will refresh and increase your learning about the three basic kinds of healing and how to pray for each: sin, suffering and sickness.

TEACHING DAY

Wednesday 18 July

'Brief Encounters'

A day to equip you to pray for people whether it be at the back of church, whilst out walking the dog or in a supermarket aisle.

How to contact us

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

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Bookings: 01424 830033

Email: bookings.cchc@btconnect.com

Email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

The office is open from 9am - 6pm
Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday

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



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

Who's who



PRESIDENT

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Nigel Thonger

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Gendall

CHAPLAIN WITH CENTRE OVERSIGHT

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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.

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NewYear's Eve 2017

