

In His Healing Steps

Spring 2019



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Nothing will stop the staff at CCHC from delivering a first class service to their guests! Here is Justine at work in the kitchen during a massive power cut in February, using torchlight to see! No electricity meant no hot food so it was take away fish and chips for supper, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed!

Editorial

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. Ecclesiastes 3:1

This is one of my favourite Bible verses. I hesitated to use it because our new Chaplain, David, has opened his article with it too, so I hope you will all be doubly blessed as you soak up these encouraging words!

God has gifted us with four amazing seasons, all of which bring different blessings, and as much as I enjoy the summer months, I think spring is my favourite season because it heralds new growth after the dark days of winter.

I love the excitement of spring bulbs emerging in my garden and feel relieved when I see what has survived the cold and dark days of winter. It really thrills me to see plants that have lain bare and almost lifeless for many months showing signs of new life. In Revelation 21:5 Jesus says, *"I am making everything new!"*

I also marvel at the emerging shoots from seeds which fell to the ground during last year. They have miraculously survived being underground in cold, dark and wet soil for many months, and yet here they are on their way to becoming a beautiful plant. All part of God's plan as Jesus tells us in John 12:24 — *"unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."*

There are parallels with people and plants in that each one of us will have seasons in which we are kind of dormant, for one reason or another, and at times there may not appear to be much growth in our lives but that's when we have to be patient as we wait to see what the Lord is saying to us in a particular season. I think we could take a leaf (excuse the pun!) out of a plant's book and accept that each season is for different things. During winter

a plant can't be 'rushed' into new growth and neither can we!

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre has seen a staggering 3,600 different seasons during its existence, and during 2018 we celebrated the past 90 years with some wonderful events. The buntings may have now come down, the anniversary logo is no longer on our stationery and magazine cover but as we enter a different season, new growth is already happening! The Chaplain's bungalow has been completed and is now occupied by our new Chaplain, David and his wife, Colleen, who we are delighted to welcome to the team.

One exciting 'new thing' is another Crowhurst publication, which will be on our Bookstall very soon. *'Loved Beyond Measure'* is a book containing 90 testimonies from guests and visitors to the Centre during 2018. This is 'a book with a difference', which you can read about on page 22.

We move forward in faith, and trust that our wonderful God will continue to make all things new at CCHC!

Every blessing, *Mary*



Steve and Veronica's Letter



Dear Friends,
*'Since we live by the Spirit, let us
keep in step with the Spirit.'*
Galatians 5:25.

We need to remember that our new life in Christ is a gift of life from God (I believe that is what 'to live by the Spirit' means — do you?) To keep in step with the Spirit, is to live that new gift of life with the Spirit's help. So God births our new life and then He enables the gift of life to be lived. Our lives are God given and God guided. The village of Crowhurst recently had a power cut. Our internet, computers, lighting, heating, cookers and telephones all went dead (we had cheese and tomato sandwiches rather than quiche for lunch — not quite changing water to wine but hey ...!) Power cuts remind us how reliant we are on electricity and how we take it for granted. Power cuts can leave you feeling lost and frustrated, unable to complete work planned. If there was a 'God cut' (if God withdrew the Holy Spirit) I believe that the result would be similar. There is a real danger for us as Christians to do things in our own strength — denying the gift of life or the gift of help we have been given.

The call to follow Jesus is a call to let go and let God. It is about co-operating and being in tune with the Holy Spirit, seeing His solutions and not ours. It involves pursuing a love relationship with God, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the fellowship (Communion — intimacy) of the Holy Spirit. Veronica emphasises the point.

Veronica

As we transition over the threshold into 2019, I have a sense of breathlessness, of waiting. Last year was so busy, and so focused on the 90th anniversary, but in the midst of that the Lord was establishing the foundation for the way ahead. Now we find ourselves poised to find out what that means. Life is like that, isn't it? There are periods when we seem to know exactly what is required of us, but when we come to the end of such times — like finishing university, retirement, or children leaving home — the sense of "*what now?*" can be daunting. But the future is always founded on the past, and the present — rather than being a no-man's land between the two — is a place of enormous potential.

Already 2019 has seen some unexpected moments which have required us, as individuals and a body, to seek the Lord's wisdom there and then — an experience which has thrown a light both on His heart for the moment and the possibilities of the path ahead. The times of greatest uncertainty can be the times of greatest dependency on the Lord.

As we look back to last year's great celebration of the faithfulness of God to our 90 year history, there are countless stories to illustrate the God dependency! (Have you read Colin and Diane Crook's brilliant book 'To God be the Glory' yet?). It is on sale at CCHC for £6.00.

Holy Spirit Teaching Days for 2019

I have a real sense of God at work as I look around the Centre, not least of all at our new leadership structure (Steve, Suzanne and John Brown) but also to our strengthened Chaplaincy team (welcome to David and Colleen).

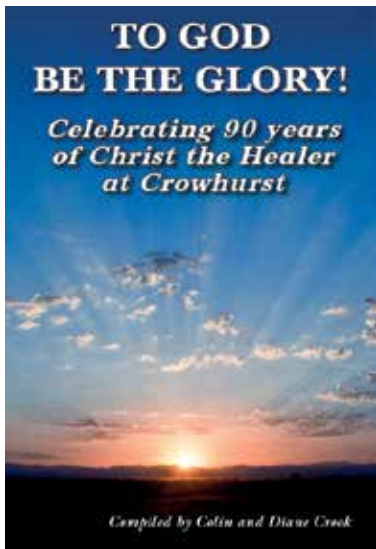
As we look forward, I lean on words recently received from God to the Trustees, Leadership and Prayer Partners:

The Lord is doing a new thing; wait on the Lord; observe what the Lord is doing; continue to pursue relationship with the Lord.

Please pray for us in what Colin Crook has called a '*year of adjustment*', and as we learn to walk in step with the dear Holy Spirit.

With love from,

Steve and Veronica



During 2019 CCHC are holding a number of Holy Spirit Teaching Days. The first one, '*A Personal Pentecost*' took place on 20 February and explored the special significance of Pentecost, and our need to have a personal experience so as to play our part in advancing the Kingdom of God.

If you missed this Teaching Day, there are three more planned, as follows:

15 May

Gifts of the Spirit (1)

19 June

Gifts of the Spirit (2)

25 September

Gifts of the Spirit (3)

Cost of the day is £30, which includes morning tea/coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. You can book via the internet –

www.crowhursthealing.org.uk or ring the office on 01424 830033.



Welcome to David and Colleen Mayhew

"The Lord meets us where we are"



There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to plant and a time to uproot ... Ecclesiastes 3v1f.

I, David, was born in Ireland, at a very tender age (naturally!), but grew up for most of my life in England. I thought at University that my career path would take me into the Law, but when I surrendered my life to Jesus at 21, He very quickly led me step by step into a life of missions, evangelism and church work.

Colleen was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and worked as a Social Worker for several years in the area around Johannesburg. We met at All Nations Christian College in Ware, a Bible college preparing folks in particular for missions. We have a daughter, Natasha, who was born in Rome and has done a degree in Creative Writing. She now lives in Chichester.

After Bible (did someone say 'bridal?') college, we worked with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in Amsterdam, doing evangelism through drama on the street

squares, coffee bar work and taking young people on short term (five month) mission trips around the southern Mediterranean countries. On one of these trips, God very clearly called us to Italy, especially through a pastor from Rome imploring through the words of Acts 16:9 to 'Come over and help us!' This led us to doing two stints in Italy, one for twelve years and another for eight, pastoring, working in church planting projects and Discipleship Training Schools.

This was interspersed with ten years back in the UK working at the Farnhams and Hedgerley Community Church, a relatively new church plant in Bucks. For the last eight years, we have been overseeing the mission outreach of the already established Trastevere Baptist Church of Rome in its journey to become an autonomous church. This was in an area of Rome called Laurentino, where tourists don't come to unless they are lost! It is characterised by high rise blocks of flats, urban decay, poverty, crime and sprawling rubbish bins. As a new Church, we called ourselves 'Il Ponte' ('The Bridge'), not only because of the many bridges spanning our road that connected the blocks of flats, but also because we sought to be a bridge of new life and hope in God to the local residents.

Certainly L38, as the area of Laurentino is known, is a far cry from the pleasant surroundings of Crowhurst, but there is undoubtedly a season for everything in our walk with God. We have been feeling for some time now that God is calling us to a more reflective walk with Him, where there is space for listening to Him and seeing His Kingdom come in healing and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Introducing Trevor, our new gardener (and removal man!)

We have found such an amazing welcome at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre since arriving here on November 30th 2018. It was indeed significant for us to be able to participate in our first retreat entitled Old and New Treasures at the end of December. For three days we looked at the book of Ruth, letting God speak through this amazing short book, revealing and confirming what He has already done in us, the amazing things He is doing in our lives in the present, as well as glimpsing something of the new things he has in store for us in future. Particularly significant for Colleen and myself was Ruth 4:6, which is the beautiful picture of God placing a new baby into the lap of Naomi to care for. That baby, Obed, represented something truly significant in God's purposes, being the grandfather of King David and a descendant in the genealogy that would bring into the world the Messiah Jesus.

We are really excited to be part of the ministry team here in Crowhurst, hearing how God has done such amazing things over the last 90 years, as well as sensing that He has new things in store up ahead for us all.

*“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? I am making a way
in the wilderness and streams
in the wasteland” Isaiah 43:19.*

David and Colleen Mayhew

Hi everyone, just a short update from Trevor, your friendly gardener.

I started working at CCHC in October 2018. It's a great privilege to be working here, learning to maintain the many and amazing varieties of plants, shrubs and trees. I came with experience and a passion for working in the natural environment. Before my arrival, I was promised by the Lord that He would be my helper.

So, in the daily on-going task of 'growing' (pun intended!) into the job, I have had some successes and some not successes! I do have a plan of action to educate myself personally into the exciting realm of horticulture, so armed with a hardback RHS manual, stationery, arch-lever file, dividers and all that stuff, I'm doing some study at the 'CCHC College of Gardening' — in my workshop shed!

My hope for 2019 is that the grounds here at CCHC will be blooming marvellous!

Trevor



Trevor is obviously going to be a 'Jack of all trades'! Here he is helping to shift some of David and Colleen's belongings to their bungalow.

90 hours for our hearts to sing: October 2018



***T**here was a 'taster' article of the 90 hours event in the winter magazine and Pippa has kindly written a more comprehensive piece which begins with how this event came into being!*

Teatime at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre — always an occasion when, fuelled by cake and a cuppa, thoughts are shared and ideas hatch. So it was that I found myself in the lounge one afternoon during 2018 with Steve G and Stephen (pianist) chatting about how we might celebrate 90 years of CCHC. Naturally our thoughts turned to music and the number 90 and 'somehow' the concept of 90 hours of continuous worship was born. The Lord moves in mysterious ways! We all realised what a huge challenge this would be but we decided to step out in faith and go for it.

During the months of planning it was felt that we should interpret the term 'worship' as widely as possible. After all, not everyone is musical yet we all desire to praise God. Rather like the gifts of the Spirit we have different skills and abilities and we enjoy worshipping God in various ways. We wanted to respect and celebrate this in the programme. We also

wanted to underpin the whole event with prayer. In addition, it was important to find a way of involving everyone who wished to participate and not just those staying in the house.

Of course there was quite a bit of music and singing of different types, but there was also poetry, dance, art and craft, praise walks, and times of silence. The programmed activities ran from 7am until 10pm. To ensure there was no interruption in worship, many of our Prayer Partners and others signed up for hourly slots between these times (you can't worship for five days without at least some sleep)! The house was also open for day visitors to join us between 9am and 9pm.

As we set off on the journey on 3rd October I must admit I just didn't know what to expect. I was longing for God to be glorified but you cannot contain Him or plan ahead for the Holy Spirit to move. You simply have to bring your worship in faith that He will receive it. *"Those who sacrifice thank offerings honour Me."* (Psalm 50:23). What was so encouraging was that I found others were equally longing to bless and glorify the God who is worthy of all our praise. I think many of us were blessed in unexpected ways, for example trying something a bit different, even at 7am in the morning! We were sometimes called out of our comfort zones. I certainly didn't expect to make a model out of play dough!

Folk danced with ribbons, wrote poems, banged drums and expressed worship in so many ways and I think people's gifts were discovered, some for the first time. There were different varieties of music on offer to facilitate praise — from John Brown leading worship with his guitar, to Stuart Townend, Matt Redman and Margaret Rizza hours, and Taize worship.

On behalf of us all, I want to thank those who led sessions. You gave of your time so unselfishly to help us worship our wonderful God. Thank you also to the Battle Baptist Church music group, Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson. Who could forget the musicianship of James and Steven Conway and Tracy dancing as Marilyn played? The worship was truly wonderful.

I also want to pay a special tribute to those who worshipped and prayed in their own homes during the more unsocial hours! This was a real sacrifice of praise and it was good to know, as you climbed into bed exhausted, others were continuing the round of worship. We even had a 'visit' from David Suchet reading the Bible (courtesy of a CD from one of our Prayer Ministers). This was played during the night in the Large Chapel.

Our administrator and the office team were also directly involved in the music ministry, in addition to normal working hours, and these 90 Hours would not have happened were it not for the hospitality and catering team, who dealt with a lot of extra work due to the number of people in the house. Thank you one and all; as I look back my heart is filled with joy!

There have been one or two whispers of '100 Hours' in my ears as we look ahead to the 100th anniversary of CCHC but I think we shall have to wait on the Lord for that one! In the meantime, let's praise Him for all the blessings and provision of 90 Hours and 90 years. Hallelujah!

Pippa Dunn
Ministry Team



Forthcoming Events

Monday 4 to Friday 8 March
Ash Wednesday Retreat
Dying to get it – A Retreat to start Lent?
Dying to get what?
Led by the Crowhurst Team

Jesus began and ended his forty days in the wilderness — difficult days of testing, darkness and struggle — full of the power of the Holy Spirit. His wilderness was no walk in the park. Would you like to walk in and out of wilderness experiences like Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit and victorious? During this retreat we will explore some aspects of Christian discipleship (there are so many I'm undecided which to use!), to inspire, challenge and encourage us on our journey, not just for Lent, but for life!

6 March
Ash Wednesday Quiet Day
Dying to get it ... a retreat to start Lent.
A day of quiet within the Lent Retreat, a day which will focus on Christ-likeness. There will be an opportunity to have the 'Imposition of Ashes' during the day.
"Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return."

Monday 25 March
Guided Quiet Day
"Nothing is impossible with God" –
Annunciation of the Lord
Led by Suzanne Owen

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Quiet Days are for people who are looking for space to recharge their spiritual batteries. The day includes guided reflection on a theme, worship, time for personal prayer and includes a silent lunch. The cost of the Quiet days are £30 which includes, tea/coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, unless you are a guest in the house, when it is by donation.
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Saturday 25 May
Families Day
The May Families weekend is fully booked, though at the time of print there is still an opportunity to come for the day — cost is £30, with children free. However, if you would like to come for the whole weekend, there is another opportunity to do so in August (24 – 26 August) but do book soon as these weekends are always very popular!

You and your children can be assured of a very warm welcome at these Families weekends, which are always lots of fun with arts and crafts, worship and plenty more.

Sally and Becki will once again be at the helm, with help from some of the Ministry Team and our wonderful volunteers!

Tuesday 28 to Thursday 30 May
Ascension Day Retreat
Remembering the Ascension of Jesus
Join us as we remember the Ascension of Jesus Christ. From heaven He came as a helpless babe (Son of Man) and to heaven He returned as the resurrected Lord (Son of God). Jesus Christ is the King of Kings!

Take this opportunity to gaze in worship at the exalted King, to feast around the table of the King, and to receive mercy from the hand of the King — all in the comfortable, spacious surroundings of CCHC, where you can be sure of delicious meals and a time to be lost in wonder, awe and love! Cost of the retreat is £170 non-ensuite and £190 ensuite.

Spring Prayer Requests

Spring Prayer Requests 2019
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

SPRING PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER FOCUS

"Praise the Lord O my soul; all my inmost being praise His holy name." Psalm 103:1

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God; how pleasant and fitting to praise Him. Psalm 147:1

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise that the bungalow has now been completed, and David and Colleen have moved in. Hallelujah!
- Please pray for Steve, Suzanne, David, John, and the management teams as they adjust to any changes.
- Please pray for Esther, who has now increased her working days to four.
- Pray for the staff at CCHC, particularly during the cold months. Pray for good health and safe journeys, that the roads may be free of ice and snow. We give thanks for the way they cover staff absences by doing extra shifts.

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

MARCH PRAYER FOCUS

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29

MARCH

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| 4 – 8 | Ash Wednesday Retreat |
| 6 | Quiet day (Ash Wednesday) |
| 15 – 17 | Healing Weekend (2) <i>This weekend is for those who have attended a Healing Weekend before and are seeking to facilitate a deeper personal encounter with the Lord who heals.</i> |
| 18 – 24 | Healing Space |
| 25 | Guided Quiet Day <i>"Nothing is impossible with God"</i> Led by Suzanne Owen |



APRIL PRAYER FOCUS

"You didn't choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: love each other." John 15:16 & 17

APRIL

18 – 21 Easter Retreat

22 – 28 Healing Space

Healing Spaces provide an opportunity to come and participate in our daily rhythm of worship, and receive prayer for God's healing of mind, body and spirit. Healing Spaces run for seven nights and guests are able to stay for the whole retreat or book within these dates.

The cost is £70 non en-suite room, full board, per person, per night and £80 en-suite room, full board, per person, per night.

MAY PRAYER FOCUS

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all people say, "Amen." Praise the Lord!" Psalm 106:48

MAY

15 Teaching Day
Gifts of the Spirit (1)

17 – 23 Healing Space

25 – 27 Families Weekend
Families Day

28 – 30 Ascension Day Retreat
Remembering the ascension of Jesus

31 – 2 June Healing Weekend (1)
This is for any in need of spiritual, physical and emotional healing, who have not attended a Healing Weekend at CCHC before.



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), Vivien Drakes, Revd Sally Dryden, Paul Raynor and Revd Denis Smith

- Give thanks for all that has been done to celebrate the Lord’s faithfulness to His work in completing the building and groundworks that have been done this year.
- We thank our generous supporters who have made this possible.
- Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless us with all the provisions we need to continue His ministry at CCHC.
- Give thanks for Visiting Chaplains and Prayer Ministers. Continue to pray for the Lord’s leading in all aspects of who we are and what we do. May we be obedient to the Lord’s perfect will and timing.

“I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart: I will tell of all your wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in you: I will sing praise to your name, O most high.” Psalm 9:1 & 2

Prayer for Staff at The Centre

“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

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

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

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Estelle and Trevor

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:19 & 20

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre has a vision to advance the Kingdom of God.

The CCHC vision is fulfilled by: providing a non-denominational residential space where people can be loved by God; continuing the healing, preaching, teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ worldwide; using our resources to encourage and teach people to grow in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Remembering Emma



I was reading the editorial in the Winter 2018 edition of the magazine and Mary was asking for memories from the special anniversary year.

I am the mother of Emma MacDonagh, nee Mabbutt, who in her early twenties visited Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, which was some twenty years ago. She met an Australian family with a son called James. One of their visits was in the snow and they had great fun snowballing and making a snowman.

Emma married James in 1999, aged twenty four, after battling with an inoperable brain tumour, diagnosed when she was eleven years old. She had two shunt operations and a full dose of radiation before she was sixteen.

When Emma reached the age of thirty, she lost her battle with life and died peacefully at home in Australia, with James by her side. James had nursed her 24/7 with care workers for several years.

I have written a book on Emma, with the help of contributions from friends and family. Penny Button read the Emma book in which I had mentioned Crowhurst, and Penny thought that she might know Emma's mother-in-law, Lyn, from Australia. After a few phone calls we confirmed this fact. I then wished to visit Crowhurst where Emma and James had first met and Penny kindly said she would take me.

We went on November 9th 2018 for part of a day. I attended the 10am service in the Small Chapel and as the music began so did my tears. It was good to feel the closeness of Emma; it is thirteen years since she died.

The Chaplain who took the service told me afterwards at coffee how she remembered the Australian family and the young couple playing in the snow.

I left an Emma rose bud from my Emma rose bush by the oak tree.

In 2019 I hope to stay at Crowhurst with a close friend and bring the pebble I have painted for Emma of her favourite bird, the pelican.

Lauren



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



As a leadership team we took time to discern the Lord's leading as to whether we should return to Nazareth for a second year, and if so, who should be part of the team. Paul and I had the privilege of going last year so we had some idea of what to expect but Penny and Nigel could only wait with a growing sense of anticipation! It was a flurry of activity before departure to prepare for the teaching, preaching, service leading and prayer opportunities that we were being asked to do.

Nazareth Hospital serves approximately 250,000 people each year, including in-patient and out-patient care across a wide range of services including general surgery, maternity, paediatrics, psychiatry, intensive care, a busy renal dialysis service, a neonatal unit and a modern cardiac catheterisation suite. Although the hospital receives payment for those services from the Ministry of Health, it continues to retain Independent Hospital

status, allowing them to maintain their Christian identity, which is deeply rooted through their 150 years (plus) of service. It is a faith ministry.

Living in Nazareth, on site in the hospital complex, is a very different experience from the usual pilgrimage experiences. It is impossible to be unaware of the different environment when hearing the Muslim call to prayer at regular intervals through the day, and the Christian church bells tolling their own calls to worship. In the midst of that are the sirens heralding imminent arrivals at A & E bringing those needing urgent care. The general cacophony of noise is added to by the constant traffic and tourist buses, toiling their way up and down the very steep and narrow streets.

The opportunity to participate in the week of healing is an unforgettable experience, as is being entrusted with the personal details shared in the many prayer encounters. As we walked the corridors and wards of the hospital — leaving the footprints of Jesus wherever we went — we saw the Lord at work in matters both great and small.

We may have come home at the end of that week, but Nazareth Hospital continues to be a presence in our hearts and minds.

Suzanne

Nigel Thonger

I had not done anything like this before! Meeting people who were touched that we would come so far to pray with others led to conversations that were at a much deeper level than I anticipated. This was enormously satisfying.

We were separate from the hospital training, so the talks could be spiritually centred. The Monday training was given

to the Pastoral and Care teams. Paul and Suzanne gave talks that drew on their years of experience and were devised to help volunteers reflect the love and presence of Jesus in the wards, while also ensuring their personal spiritual needs were cared for when the going got tough. The Tuesday training at the School of Nursing was to help student nurses to be resilient on the wards in the face of all the challenges that patients provide, with special emphasis on how an understanding of forgiveness can inform their responses. There was also a visit to the Emergency Department to discuss being resilient in the face of violence and abuse in the workplace. The Wednesday teaching study day was on the theory and practicality of forgiveness, and the session was enhanced by wonderful testimonies from three people who had been blessed by the gift of being able to forgive those who had hurt them. All these sessions were well received.

The preaching gave further opportunities to develop the message of healing and forgiveness. Suzanne preached on Wednesday and spoke about bridge building through forgiveness. I spoke on Thursday and gave a testimony of God's lavish grace and faithfulness at CCHC over the last 25 years and there was much to tell. We prayed it would encourage those listeners who were fighting battles and feeling under pressure in their lives and situations.

The formal services took place in the Chapel and were led by some very talented musicians, but there was also heartfelt worship in offices and spaces throughout the hospital every day. We praise the LORD for His acts of power and we praise Him for his surpassing greatness. I would say the week's objectives were met in abundance. Thank you Lord!



Nigel speaking in the hospital chapel during the final healing service of the week

Paul Deeming

As the week progressed, I was conscious of the underlying concern of many about the culture of unrest and violence in society, and we were often asked to pray for peace and healing in the community. This was high on the agenda when we had the opportunity to share and pray with the catering and the maintenance staff of the hospital. A very moving time for me was when Nigel and I had the opportunity to share with patients in the psychiatric ward. The wonderful charge nurse was obviously respected and loved by the patients. When we arrived, he had assembled all the patients around a table — we had not anticipated a mixed religious group session! However, the Lord's hand was on that meeting and after a short time of relaxed introduction to the week of healing and forgiveness, patients began to share their personal stories and some of the deep hurts of their past. We were able to share of their value in God's sight and assure them of prayer

and the Lord's help. There was an invitation to return again. A bookmark in Arabic, prepared by Frank, the Spiritual Director, was given to them with the words, *'I pray that you may enjoy good health, and that all will go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.'* (3 John verse 2).

Penny Button

What struck me again and again during our week at Nazareth Hospital was staff, volunteers and patients' passion for the Hospital. We were repeatedly told that they were born in the maternity ward, as were their parents, grandparents and indeed their children, and whilst we were there, several staff asked for prayer for their family who were being treated in the hospital.

Visiting wards and departments was not easy! It was a complex maze with over five floors shooting off at all sorts of angles to join the old with the new, and we frequently got lost! There was a need for great sensitivity as the staff were busy and sometimes it was not appropriate for us to stay.

Most times the staff gathered around in a quiet corner and we asked them how they wanted us to pray. Often it was for peace in their communities, for unity in the workplace, and for blessings upon their families. On one occasion, an elderly man on the Dialysis unit saw me outside through the glass. I went in and asked if I could pray with him; I wasn't sure he understood me, but I indicated prayer and he nodded. I asked if I could put a hand on his and prayed for Jesus to heal, and to bring peace, comfort and blessings. We wiped the tears from his brown, wizened cheeks and quietly left.

The Paediatric Ward has been modernized and enlarged, and was officially rededicated whilst we were there. Suzanne prayed in English and the Pastor prayed in Arabic.

On one occasion Suzanne and I were invited into the neo-natal ward, where we gownned up and were shown around by the Senior staff member who told us that they had just heard they had won an award for the best neo-natal unit in Israel for small hospitals. She was extremely proud and justifiably so. We prayed for every baby and their mothers, and then with the senior staff member, who in turn prayed blessings on us, which was a poignant moment, and we were sorry it was time to leave.

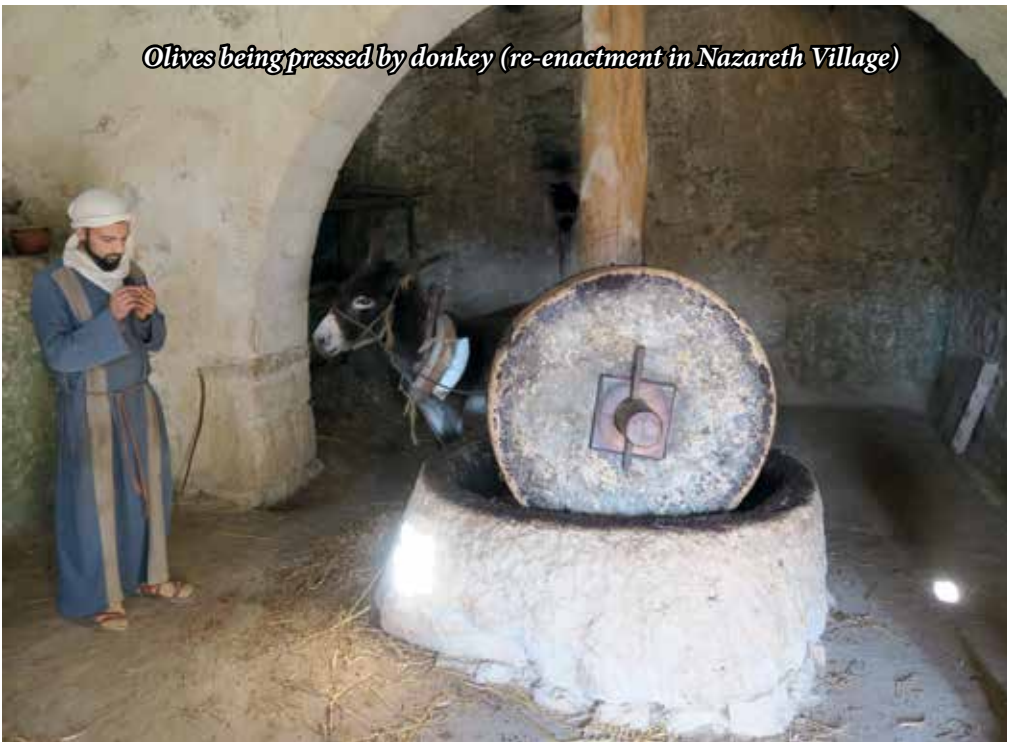
We prayed with nearly all senior and executive staff, with staff, volunteers and Trustees after services, the Teaching Day and through drop-in sessions. We prayed in maintenance departments, psychiatric units, admin and finance departments, with young doctors at their weekly meeting, with friends of the Hospital, and more. Where language was difficult, a friend would translate. Personally, I was amazed at how people trusted us with their fears and concerns, with family and relationship issues, with health and emotional matters, and with future planning. There were many tears and hugs; we were told they had never been prayed for in this way so it was a new experience. As we loved them in Jesus' name, so they responded. My picture is a tight bud of a flower, which over the week gently opened and blossomed with a sweet fragrance. A very rich and blessed time indeed; Jesus was very present throughout and we give Him all the Glory, the Praise and the Honour!



*Suzanne with the student nurses,
following the talk in the School of Nursing*



*A Nazareth meal in the Nazareth
Village, served as it would have
been in Jesus' day*



Olives being pressed by donkey (re-enactment in Nazareth Village)

The Transformative Presence of Jesus

November 2018



Thank you to Margaret Bundy and Barry Ranger for their contributions about this inspiring weekend. As space was limited, I have amalgamated both articles.

The weekend was built on the fact that Jesus is always present — well, if you think about it He is, and it's a bit breathtaking! During the Healing Service on Friday evening, we looked at different ways of realising Jesus' presence. What worked wonderfully for me was a meditation during which we were told "*You can say anything to Jesus.*" I did, and his response was liberating!

On Saturday, Consultant Brain Surgeon, Professor Shakil Malik, spoke about spiritual oppression and mental health. He talked of the prime importance of the spiritual aspect of life, of the brain and how it works. One in four people will know mental health problems, he said, and he gave a short overview of the complex working of the brain; here are just a few fascinating 'brain' facts. There are:

- ▶ 100,000 miles of blood vessels;
- ▶ 600 miles of electrical wiring;

- ▶ 100 billion neutrons (as many stars as in the Milky Way)!

We are indeed "*fearfully and wonderfully made!*" Psalm 139:14.

Dr Gareth Tuckwell, former Director of Burrswood, spoke about praying for those with deteriorating medical conditions and how sensitive we need to be when we come alongside the terminally ill. Often sick people have many misconceptions about their illness:

- ▶ That suffering is contrary to God's will.
- ▶ God must heal in the context of cure, which inevitably follows faith.
- ▶ Death is a disaster.
- ▶ That sickness is always caused by sin.
- ▶ That modern medicine has superseded the Church's Ministry of Healing.

Dispelling these wrong concepts can bring much needed peace. Prayer is so important along with a listening ear. Jesus will meet us all at our point of need.

Suzanne spoke about childhood trauma and how we are either ‘weebles or dominoes’. Weebles do not fall over they just wobble a little and come back upright. In childhood, good experiences and a strong sense of self make for good emotional health and enable us to be more likely to manage trauma. People who missed out on good early development and have a lack of self worth, not necessarily parents’ fault, are more likely to ‘fall over’ when trauma or problems arise. Childhood trauma can impact on our lives and have consequences such as panic attacks, mental problems and addictions, and can physically affect us with migraines, back pain, skin disorders and digestive problems.

Dr. Paul Worthley, Director of the ME Trust, spoke about ME, a ‘multi-system’ and often undiagnosed disease, which affects many aspects of the patient’s physiology and causes much suffering. He visits patients in their homes and can find them curled up in a darkened room, unable to relax or sleep, with digestive upsets, heightened sensitivity and in pain. The first step in the management of ME, he said, is to establish true rest (physical, mental and spiritual). Treatment should be tailored to each person’s needs. Dr Paul starts by recognising the patient’s story and assuring them that they are not going mad! When treating people he has a ‘whole person’ approach (involving body, mind and spirit) and even without a ‘cure’, this approach can enable our bodies to repair and produce a measure of healing, and a journey towards better health is therefore possible.

Steve Gendall spoke about forgiveness and the freeing that this can bring. He shared his own personal struggle of how difficult this can be. He said it’s not about forgetting — it doesn’t approve or let people

off the hook — and it’s not easy.

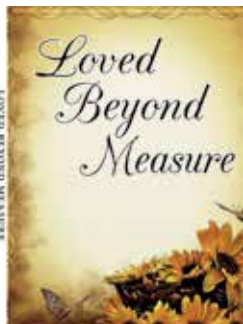
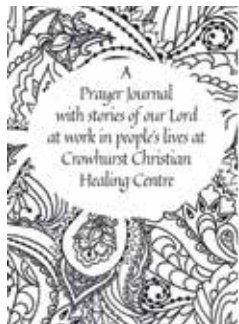
Steve gave us a detailed explanation of the ‘seven stages of forgiveness’, with the final stage being we are at peace with our whole life story. Forgiveness, he said, is at the heart of the Gospel message, but there is one who would come to destroy our relationship with God by planting unforgiveness in our hearts.

Revd John Ryeland, Director of The Christian Healing Mission UK, was our speaker at the Sunday morning Healing Service. His talk was entitled “*Attitude Matters*” and he spoke about how attitudes affect the way in which we receive from God. ‘*Be at peace in the presence of God. Rest in His giving. Explore His presence — what is He doing? Know that He is there for me, for you, because we are His beloved.*’ John had us all stand up and reflect where was God for me? He was on my left with His arm around my shoulder and I could rest my head on His shoulder. Was Jesus present? Oh my, yes He truly was!

It was truly a wonderful and enlightening weekend and we were all so blessed.



Book Review: Loved Beyond Measure: A Crowhurst Publication



We are very excited to announce a new Crowhurst publication for 2019. 'Loved Beyond Measure' contains 90 testimonies from guests and visitors who came to the Centre during 2018. The book also has journal pages for your own thoughts and reflections, and for the creative among you, there are several pages of beautiful Bible verses/illustrations to colour in.

There have been thousands of visitors through the doors of CCHC since its birth in 1928 and if testimonies had been collected from the beginning, it would take a very big book to accommodate them!

The testimonies are from a mixture of first time and regular visitors; some are from programmed events, some from Healing Weekends and some from folk who just wanted to 'come aside and rest awhile.' Some are long and some short, but each tells of what the Lord has done and how He met with them, in whatever way was needed at the time.

The amazing testimony on the right shows how God heals even when we're not asking for prayer for ourselves!

The book will be soon be available at CCHC, and we pray that all who read it will be blessed and encouraged.

It was another Thursday morning service in the Large Chapel and for once I fancied sitting at the back to see what went on. It was one of the regular healing services which are held every Tuesday evening and Thursday morning, when many dear people have been truly blessed and healed in the past.

I moved to sit at the front where I could see what was happening and felt myself praying for people as they came forward to kneel down at the altar. I can't remember if it was Stephen or Pippa on the piano, but the presence of God filled the Chapel as they played music so quietly and beautifully.

I leaned forward and touched my right knee, for I have been in constant pain day and night for many years. Suddenly, I thought, "NO PAIN!" I moved my leg, still no pain! Then I realised, praise God, that while I was praying there at the altar rail for other people, Jesus had given my leg a healing, a release from pain and stiffness. Tears flowed quickly as I praised Him for this miracle. For years, doctors in Ashford and Folkstone had told me they could not operate — well, the great physician Himself did it all in a moment of time! The problem in my right leg, which had caused so much pain for so many years, has completely disappeared.

Wait on the Lord. He always answers in His time and way. God be with you; give yourself and all your needs to Him. He always longs to hear your voice — let Him do His will in your life!

Doreen



Staff Christmas Party 2018

Why did no-one bid for Rudolf and Blitzen on eBay? Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza? Examples of the sorts of quiz questions we were scratching our heads over as we enjoyed the delicious Christmas buffet prepared by the kitchen team. The quiz was in aid of Save the Children (we raised £200). Answers are bottom right, upside down to stop you peeking!

Dressing up wasn't just the prerogative of those in Christmas jumpers and little did we know, we were in for a treat in the form of John Brown in a purple wig! Suzanne and Steve joined him on stage for a high energy Christmas performance with audience participation.

Chrissy's annual Christmas song, a compilation of the significant 2018 CCHC events, was sung to the tune of Good King Wenceslas.

Juliette's performance was particularly beautiful as she sang "Bethlehem Lullaby", which was written especially for her and Alan by the Revd Val Gibbs.

In usual CCHC Christmas Party style, the evening was brought to a close with Christmas Carols, and Stephen and Maggie leading us in singing "We're Walking in the Air". An apt celebration to end our 90th year. Perhaps the words from that iconic "Snowman song" are fitting when we think about 90 years of God's faithfulness:

*"We're holding very tight ... I'm finding
I can fly so high above with you ... Children
gaze open mouthed, taken by surprise,
nobody down below believes their eyes!"*

Esther

Answers: Because they were two deer/
Mince Spies/Deep and crisp and even.

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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 office.



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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.



Our Chaplains: Steve, Suzanne and David