



In His Healing Steps



Summer 2017



In this issue

04 - 05	Steve's Letter	15	Healing Weekend: February 2017 Held in the Arms of Jesus
05	Journeying On: Steve & Hilary Clark	16 - 17	Farewell to Purple Land
05	Thanksgiving Day: 1 July 2017	17	An Appreciation of Colin Beadle
06 - 07	What is the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre?	18 - 19	Guided Quiet Days
08 - 09	Easter Celebration: April 2017 Freedom is Coming!	19	Group Bookings at the CCHC
10	Grandparenting Day: March 2017 <i>"I am the Mender of Broken Pots."</i>	20	Crowhurst Favourite Places
11 - 14	Prayer Focus	21	The Voice of Prayer is Never Silent
		22	God's Perfect Timing!
		23	Grounds News from Kim

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

Editorial



Storms! None of us can escape the storms of life and we all at some stage pass through turbulent waters. Storms can arrive without warning - life is unpredictable at times - just like the weather!

A song in which I find great comfort during life's storms is 'Praise you in this Storm' by a brilliant band called Casting Crowns, the words of which are really uplifting and encouraging. This band have written many powerful songs and the story behind this particular song is amazing; perhaps I will share it in the next magazine.

Chorus:

I'll praise You in this storm, and I will lift my hands, for You are who you are, no matter where I am. And every tear I cry, You hold in Your hands; You never left my side, and though my heart is torn, I will praise You in this storm.

That says it all! No matter what we go through in life, God is who He is - the great 'I AM' (Exodus 3:14) and no matter where we are, and whatever we go through, He cares. He holds our tears in His hands and He will NEVER leave our side (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5). What more can we ask for?

When we're in the middle of a personal storm, all we can think about is getting out of it, and longing for our troubled waters to be stilled. The Lord can seem far away

during difficult times, and His presence can seem hard to find, though in reality He hasn't moved - He never does, and He never changes; Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! (Hebrews 13:8) He is Sovereign and Lord of all, in the good as well as the bad times. We have to hold onto these Biblical facts and be encouraged by God's Word and not our human feelings during rocky patches.

Psalm 107:29

"He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed."

Isaiah 43:2

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you ..."

Prayer support during times of trial is also hugely important. Recently my family experienced a stormy time and for a while I felt completely engulfed in the waters of fear. How grateful I was for my Christian friends who were praying for us, and also the wider Crowhurst family, especially the Prayer Partners, who upheld us in prayer. The knowledge that so many people were interceding, brought great peace, hope, strength and comfort. Through their prayers, God carried us **in His Healing Steps**, through the storm. Thank you Lord!

In his letter on page 4, Steve encourages us to remember that when all around us is in disarray, God is our refuge, and will deliver us through every trial and tribulation.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer, and one hopefully free from stormy weather, but if you encounter any, remember that the Lord will sustain you and carry you through it because *"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."* Deuteronomy 33:27

Every blessing, *Mary*

Steve's Letter



Dear All,
When all around seems to be falling apart (or is!) it is very good to remember that God is our Refuge. The Psalmist doesn't say that God will help you

IF you get into a strong refuge – it says that GOD IS THAT REFUGE. (Psalm 46:1) In Him we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

As a result we can be sure, as Paul reminds us, that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Psalm 46 lists a number of alarming events that would strike fear into all our hearts and minds; the earth giving way, mountains falling into the sea, nations in uproar, kingdoms falling – and the truth is that today we are witnessing these events and others - persecution for example - just as the Lord said it would be. However David is as steadfast as ever; he knows that God is his refuge and strength and is with him ... ***“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*** (verse 10).

It reminds me of the great Old Testament deliverance story when Moses and the Israelites, who are being pursued by the Egyptian Army, stand before the Red Sea. Moses says the most unusual thing:

“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today ... you need only be still.”
(Exodus 14:13-14)

Over time, these great Old Testament characters learnt to trust God – it wasn't an automatic thing. They had multiple testing experiences to grow their trust, and that's the key; they learnt the lessons and matured in their walk with God - who did not let them down – even though at times it may have felt like He did.

So each day, while all around seems to be falling apart (or is), I can choose to believe that God is my refuge, to be still in His presence, to wait and watch, and be reminded that nothing is impossible for God, who has, does and will triumph.

God alone stays the same – anchor-like, trustworthy, and faithfully kind to all.

I find that I am given ample opportunity in the classroom of my discipleship, with the Holy Spirit as my Teacher, to learn to TRUST IN HIM ALONE. It's not easy but I value the lessons. I wonder what your classroom currently looks like; what are the lessons that the Holy Spirit is teaching you? (Ask Him to show you if you are not clear.)

Whilst there may be plenty to unsettle and disturb us, try and find time every day to be reminded of all the Lord has done, and continues to do, to bring his Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. There is evidence all around - may our faithful Lord thrill you with His goodness as we journey toward that day when all will be well and we will confidently know this for ourselves – thank you Lord.

Have a blessed summer.

With love from all of us at CCHC, *Steve*

Journeying On



Soon after I arrived here I produced a leaflet for participants on Healing weekends and others who had received prayer. It was called 'Journeying On' and was an attempt to highlight the truth that God's healing is ongoing. Our journey with Him is ongoing – God hasn't finished with us yet – Alleluia! There is more to come and although the journey is largely unknown, 'our times are in His hands.'

What a journey so far. The job descriptions that Steve and I arrived with have changed so much as we were led to turn our gaze outwards from Headquarters to be a support and resource in God's healing ministry to the wider body of Christ. I want to thank Steve and Penny Button for giving me the encouragement and space to develop the Outreach work and to use my teaching gift. It has been such a delight to spend time with Christians of different 'flavours', encouraging, preaching, teaching and training them in Christian Healing ministry. This has happened in different locations face to face and through the medium of eLearning which is now in its third year.

Around Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre there is tangible evidence that Hilary and I have lived and worked here.

The highlight for Hilary was project managing the design and building of the new Art Room. For me, the Thanksgiving Cairn and various crosses are marks of my having passed this way. Far more significant however is the eternal picture of the growth of the Kingdom of God, in and through this place and ministry. We will never fully appreciate all that God is doing but we can rejoice at the many signs of growth over these last few years. It has been a privilege to be here at this time.

But the future (and retirement) is upon us! Crowhurst will continue to seek God's ways that will excite, thrill and challenge as Steve, Suzanne and my successor follow His lead. Be blessed and faithful on the journey.

Steve and Hilary Clark

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 in the afternoon he and Hilary will be released from their ministry at the Centre, after which there will be an opportunity to say goodbye to them both over tea and cakes.

What is the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre?



A warm welcome awaits all those who come through the doors of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Situated in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is just four miles from the coast in the Sussex High Weald. The peace and comfort of this place creates an ideal setting in which to draw closer to God and experience His love.

Guests can come to stay for a few days or up to two weeks for rest, retreat, healing prayer and ministry and to experience the healing touch of Christ in this place of His peace and hospitality.

The daily programme revolves around Christ-centred worship and Holy Communion; each day concludes with the service of Night Prayer at 8.00pm. There are also twice-weekly healing services - Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Thursdays at 10.15am, which includes Holy Communion. Both services offer the opportunity to receive the laying on of hands and are also open to the public.

Prayer ministry is available to our guests and also to those outside the Centre. Two Prayer Ministers come alongside a guest seeking to pray like Jesus, 'according to the Father's will.' It's about trying to co-operate with God who delights to set people free, whether the dis-ease is physical, emotional, relational or spiritual. To book an appointment telephone

01424 830033, or if you live close by, we have a drop in facility available every Wednesday from 2.15 to 3.45pm, to receive prayer ministry in our Prayer Rooms.



Prayer Rooms

Every year we hold our annual day of Thanksgiving; this is always such a happy day of worship and fellowship when friends old and new come together to give thanks to the Lord for all His provision at the Centre.

Our accommodation has at times been described as 'five star', including the delicious and plentiful food. You will never go hungry at Crowhurst! (Special dietary requirements can be accommodated by prior arrangement.)

Good food reminds us of the generosity of God and we see such things as important. We take pride in using locally sourced food. Meals are freshly prepared on site and include a varied choice. One guest writes:

"Meal times at Crowhurst are really something to look forward to. The comfort of the accommodation, the service and welcome are up there with anywhere I have stayed." **Ian**

The ground floor consists of a library, dining room, lounge and two chapels. All accommodation is full board, with the majority en-suite, and two of our bedrooms are specially adapted for those with limited mobility, including their en-suite and shower. (Guests do need to be self-caring or bring a carer with them.) There is also a recently constructed wet room in the wing corridor.

For the creative among you (or if you would just like to 'dabble') there is a large, fully equipped art room with lovely views over the grounds.

Guests' Thanksgivings

We always love hearing from our guests following a visit or stay at the CCHC, of how the Lord has blessed them and touched their lives. The office regularly receive letters and cards of thanks, plus, there are 'testimony sheets' in the lounge for guests to write on if they so wish, as well as a 'Signs of the Kingdom' book placed in the Chapel corridor. Here is just a small selection:

- *This place has turned my life around ... the Lord touches me every time.*
- *Thank you for the peace, rest and kindness of all the staff and team here. Such a special place, with such a special ministry*
- *Thank you; a time of quiet reflection and encouragement in blessed surroundings.*
- *Excellent retreat centre. So comfortable, and situated in peaceful countryside. Nourishing food and wonderful hospitality. Can recommend wholeheartedly. Will be going back!* **Sue**
- *I came joyful, but tired and found the healing love and welcome in a place of peace and beauty. On leaving, I am refreshed and ready to trust God again for all He has in store. Thank you so much.* **Jane**
- *I came to Crowhurst to find peace and love and I found both; thank you everyone for your wonderful care, praise be to God!* **Adele**

Retreat feedback

Thank you to all the staff at Crowhurst; for the lovely hospitality and for plenty of good food. The fish and chips were the best ever! The goodness of God and the kindness He shows to us are amazing. The Lord bless you all. **Joyce.**



Easter Celebration April 2017 - Freedom is coming!

Easter at the CCHC was a very special time as we considered God's work of salvation through the four cups of the Passover. Each cup of the Passover remembers one of the four promises of Exodus 6, given to Moses for the Israelites in slavery, which were:

- ***I will bring you out***
- ***I will free you***
- ***I will redeem you***
- ***I will take you as my people and I will be your God.***

So the theme of the weekend was very much centred around freedom and laying down the things which hold and bind us.

The Thanksgiving Cairn on the lawn at the CCHC is a perfect place to lay or decorate stones to reflect our thanksgivings – but isn't quite the place to leave things we have asked God to be freed from, or where we can let go of what God is asking us to relinquish. So the idea of creating a Freedom Cairn grew, which developed into a Freedom Garden.

The Freedom Garden, which is situated on the grass in front of the wing, is a small circular garden with a cross shape cut through it. (See photo below). The gardening team have done a great job in developing the garden so that it is accessible to all – thank you.



In the heart of the garden, at the centre of the cross, is a small cairn of stones – some which have been written on and some not. These represent our 'releasings' to God. On the edge of the garden, next to the pathway, is a chimenea, which is the place for burning letters and papers.

The garden has become full of symbolism, the circle reminding us of the world and God's eternal love.

The garden reminds us of God's creation, with both flowers and weeds. The pathway, in the shape of a cross, reminds us of the work of salvation. Jesus suffered and bore our sins and our dis-ease, and bought our freedom. So we can leave stones, rocks and broken pottery, laying them down on the cairn to represent what we want to leave behind – or what we want to release to God; then we walk away and leave God to do it.

Suzanne Owen



Overflowing cups; Kingdom moments and dancing!

I asked a few of the guests to share their experiences of the Easter Celebration.

My cup certainly overflowed - having been filled, drained and refilled in the space of what seemed far longer than four days.

- *Times of stillness and reflection; the sensitivity of those leading worship in word, song, visual image and sharing communion. Challenging questions, inspiration and freedom to walk in truth through a letting go in the new Freedom Garden all contributed to the affirmation of God's provision.*
- *"All is forgiven, your guilt is gone" was a powerful message to be proclaimed to each of us as we shared the Living Bread and the Cup of Salvation together, and as such were changed.*

Judith



Marilyn spoke about the powerful symbolism during what was a most special and awesome weekend, so freeing, with many 'Kingdom moments', and she came away with much to reflect on. She was particularly moved when the group reflected on the Israelites hurrying through the parted Red Sea as they fled from the Egyptian Army, which they symbolically re-enacted by walking through the narrow kitchen corridor to collect their picnic lunch. As they squeezed together through the corridor, they tried to imagine in some small way what the Israelites would have been experiencing in such a scary situation!

And from Shirley:

The Easter weekend gave me so much to ponder and reflect on. There was a wonderful sense of peace and love throughout the weekend. It was very special. I found the hand washing on Holy Thursday particularly moving.

What stood out for me on the Saturday were the Stations for Reflection which had been so beautifully set up around the house. These were based on the story of God's Relationship with humanity following the Fall; a journey through the great love story that brought us a promised land for all life eternal in the Kingdom of Heaven.

On Easter Sunday morning, some of us attended the early morning sunrise. Banners were waved and people danced round the fountain, singing 'Jesus put this song into our hearts'.

And from two other guests:

- *I received one of God's most wonderful promises - "I am the Lord who heals you - body, soul and spirit!"*
- *Another wonderful time with you all - here's to the next time! It was such a joy. I will come again, to meet more Christian friends, to praise the Lord and to thank Him for all we receive here.*

Grandparenting Ministry Day

“I am the Mender of Broken Pots.”

Grandparents have no rights of access to their grandchildren. Some find themselves loving their grandchildren, but without the opportunity to form a warm loving relationship, or are even denied access. This day was for them.

The vision for this day came out of our own experience, and from the experiences of numbers of people both at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and in our local churches.

The first years of grandparenting were for us painful and wounding. In the kitchen one morning, after a particularly difficult time, I was making a cup of tea and was grieving. A ceramic pot rolled off the windowsill onto the worktop and broke into three pieces. I went over and picked up the pieces that seemed to symbolise my own brokenness. As I held them I heard the Lord say so clearly, **“I am the mender of broken pots”** and I knew He didn’t mean just sticking them together again. The Lord has been true to His word, and has wonderfully restored the relationships within our family.

That day in the kitchen was the start of a long journey for us, so we fashioned our Grandparents Day as a journey, sharing some of the lessons we learned along the way.

At the start of our journey, we focused on the one who is ‘*The Mender of broken pots*’. Kintsukuroi, means ‘to repair with gold’; the art of repairing pottery with gold or silver and understanding that the piece is more beautiful for having been broken.

Our Father God delights to take the broken things in our lives and make something of value, worth and beauty out of them.

Heartache over our grandchildren is akin to a bereavement so the format used by a local bereavement charity for children seemed appropriate for the last session of the morning,

‘Small Steps to Freedom - Holding on, Letting go, Moving on.’

Holding onto prayer; never giving up on praying for our loved ones. Holding onto God’s precious promises for them. Holding onto our prodigals, our children who have wandered away.

Then, letting go. Letting go of resentment, forgiving those who have hurt us, forgiving ourselves, and perhaps forgiving God. Letting go of trying to fix it; relinquishing our precious children and grandchildren into the care of Father God, who loves them more than we do and trusting Him to fix it.

Then the tough bit: moving on with our lives.

At the end of this afternoon we joined in a symbolic act of relinquishment, writing the names of our children and grandchildren onto pieces of broken terracotta pots and placing them at the foot of the cross. Turning and walking away from the communion rail was a powerful reminder that our Lord was broken so that we may be made whole.

Times of Word and Worship, sharing, reflection and prayer ministry added to what was a surprisingly enjoyable and positive day. A big thank you to everyone who attended and those who took part.

Judith and David Barnes

Penny Button shares her thoughts of the day

“This day was much appreciated by mums, grandmas and great grandmas, as well as a couple of grandpas. Sharing one another’s story and praying for each other was a step on the healing journey. There was time for reflection, communion and prayer circled around the Lord’s table together, allowing Jesus into the pain, all of which brought peace and comfort.

Thank you Judith and David for sharing your experiences and leading a day which does not seem to be covered or addressed by anyone else, Well done good and faithful Servants!



The Freedom Garden

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

Summer Prayer Requests

PRAYER FOCUS

"Know that the Lord is good. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture." Psalm 100:3

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done." Psalm 105:1

PRAYER

- Give thanks for the Lord's provision for all our needs. During the past months, we have been blessed by the number of new people who are coming to the Thursday morning Healing Service. It is most encouraging. Praise the Lord.
- We give thanks for the life of David Fawcett, one of our Prayer Ministers, who died on 21st March. David and his wife, Dr Rachel Fawcett, members of the Ministry Team, have also led Guided Quiet Days. Please pray for Rachel and the family in this time of bereavement.
- Give thanks and praise for the Ministry Team who pray for those who come to the healing service on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. They also provide prayer for people who cannot attend the healing services and make an appointment to come in during the week. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated Ministry Team at the CCHC.
- Give thanks and praise for John, our projector and sound operator at the Thursday morning healing services. The equipment has been upgraded. It is now possible to record the sermons and their preachers, and possibly the entire services. This new facility is very time consuming. Pray too for John's able assistants, Pennie and Esther.

"You are my refuge and my shield. I have put my hope in your Word." Psalm 119:114



June Prayer Focus

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."
2 Corinthians 6:18

JUNE

3	Teaching Day with Steve Clark 'The Truth in Love'
6 - 10	Prayer through Painting Week
11	House Closed - Sabbath Rest
16 - 18	Healing Weekend
21	Guided Quiet Day 'Through all the changing scenes of Life ... Jesus, the Man for all Seasons' Led by Dr Rachel Fawcett
25	House closed - Sabbath Rest



July Prayer Focus

"Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." Psalm 146:2

JULY

- 1 **Thanksgiving Day**
Steve Clark will be preaching.
We will take time during the
afternoon tea to say thank you and
to release Steve and Hilary from
their ministry here.
- 7 - 9 Healing Weekend
- 19 Guided Quiet Day
'Exploring the names of God'
Led by Brian Woodgate

August Prayer Focus

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5 & 6

AUGUST

- 2 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Maureen Stringer
- 8 - 12 Prayer through Painting Week
- 18 - 20 Healing Weekend

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), Jim Beveridge, Vivien Drakes, Paul Raynor, Denis Smith and Jane Thomas.

- Pray for the Trustees and Chaplains as they begin the process of replacing Steve Clark, who is retiring as Deputy Chaplain in July. Pray that the Lord will provide the person of His choice to continue the very special ministry of Christ's healing love at the CCHC.
- Pray for Steve and Hilary as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives. It will be a huge adjustment to continue the Lord's vision here without them.
- 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.
- Give thanks for the complete renewal of the fire escape at the front of the building. This was long overdue and only became possible because of a generous legacy plus financial support. We do give thanks for the generosity of all those who continue to financially support the work of Christ's healing love at the Centre.
- Give thanks for Denis Smith, our new Trustee, and for the good working relationship between Chaplains and Trustees. They recently spent a day together in worship and prayer. Please pray for them as they seek the Lord's face, who seems to be preparing us for new and different things.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19.

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
Colossians 3:17

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Suzanne

Andy, Brenda, Carole, Chris L, Colin, David, Dee, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegard, Jan, Jane, Jenny, John, Judith, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Pam, Pat, Paul, 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, Pennie

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



"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Healing Weekend - Held in the Arms of Jesus

On a beautiful sunny day in February this year, I set off from home with a friend heading for the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. I was excited about what the Lord was going to do in my life and the good weather filled me with joy too.

I have been a Christian for thirty six years but just recently (following a bereavement of a close friend) have started to really grow in the Lord and seek healing from lots of things that have spiritually blocked me over the years.

We arrived at the CCHC and immediately felt an overwhelming sense of peace, so much so that we couldn't get out of the car for quite a while because of the relaxation that we felt washing through us.

After eventually checking into a beautiful sunny room overlooking the grounds, we began our healing journey here.

The worship, teaching and prayers were very inspiring and reached right into my heart. I found myself extremely moved on several occasions.

.....
The whole weekend was like being held in the arms of Jesus and protected with love.
.....

The prayer ministry that I received was very special and I had something confirmed that the Lord had recently spoken to me - His works are amazing! There was ample opportunity to spend intimate moments with God in quiet, meditation and communing with Him in the warmth of the sun flooding the gardens with its light. I felt healing coming from the Lord every single minute that I spent at Crowhurst.

The Chaplains and all the staff were wonderful and very attentive and always had time for questions and needs.

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre seems to be 'a little piece of heaven on earth' and I would have quite easily given up my work to stay in its lovely calming atmosphere but God has plans for me, plans for my life by using my ability to give His love to others and bring others to Him by using the experiences of my life as a testimony to God's powerful healing of brokenness.

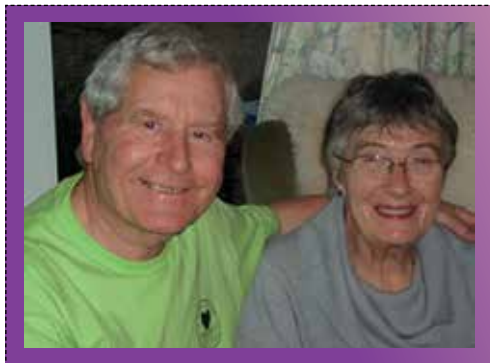
It is so pleasing to know that Crowhurst is just a couple of hours away from home and will always be there to offer that time out with Father God that is essential for all of us.

I would recommend the CCHC to anybody. It is an essential oasis for your personal spiritual journey, a place of nourishment both spiritually and literally (the meals are first class).

Trish Mott



Farewell to Purple Land



On 21st March, David Fawcett, one of our Prayer Ministers, went to be with the Lord. Many of you will have met David and his wife Rachel, either through prayer ministry at the Centre, or when attending the 'Purple Day' that she and Steve G led in April 2015. Here, Rachel shares some thoughts of 'Purple Land', a place where it's fun to be old! She also shares how she journeyed with David through Purple Land and how she was with him on his final journey to the Perfect Land, heaven.

First of all I want to tell you about 'Purple Land'. It grew out of the famous poem by Jenny Joseph "When I am an old woman I shall wear Purple".

During the long nights with David in the hospice, there grew in my mind the concept of the Purple Land. It was the way I processed all that David and I were going through.

Purple Land is a magical place inhabited by retired people. No theme park you have ever visited is as wonderful as Purple Land! There are towering mountains, tranquil rivers and shimmering lakes. Opportunities for entertainment and life long learning are boundless. You could join a choir, learn to paint, take up gardening, become a volunteer, learn to shoot. There were swings and roundabouts for when the grandchildren come to visit. You could take them bowling or fishing, whatever your preference.

But perhaps best of all were the endless opportunities for travel - anything from a few days on a train to a year long cruise.

But that is only part of the story. In reality Purple Land is just one of the stations on our long journey through life. Purple Land is the junction where you wait for your train to your final destination. One day each one of us will receive our bespoke railway ticket from the 'High Controller'. It is only on that day we will know the date and the route of the final stage of the journey.

In 1999 David and I both arrived in Purple Land. We came alone. We came on different trains and arrived on different platforms. We had known each other for many years so when we saw each other across the railway lines we exchanged friendly waves.

We were both recently bereaved. Every now and again David would phone me from Scotland just to encourage me. Our friendship slowly developed and thirteen years ago on the 4th February we were married.

Living in Purple Land was a wonderful experience for both of us. Before David died I was able to thank him and to tell him that he had shared with me the happiest years of my life. It was the same for him.

We lived together in our little house on the edge of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. We worked in the garden and watched the rabbits chasing each other in the field opposite. We made many new friends. There was the U3A where David was part of the Spanish group. There was the motorcycle group. On Sundays we worshipped at St Richard's Church and made many friends through the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

One of my great joys was to share with David my Thai Friends. 2011 was the year of the central Thailand flood. David and I became involved with flood relief. The Thai people loved him; they mostly called him Lung Dawid.

An appreciation of Colin Beadle

He was just the right height, not too tall and not too short. He was kind and gentle. He made his limited Thai go a long way and they in return practised their English on him. They loved his zest for Thai food and were delighted when he cooked steaks on a wok over a charcoal bucket.

We visited the ancient cave dwellings in Cappadocia and walked in the snow on the Picos Europa. Right up to the very end David was planning new trips. One of his last sentences was "I want to go on a railway journey to Snowdon."

Of all our many trips, it is the early morning train up the Jungfrau that made the most lasting impression on me. I shall never forget the beauty of the morning sun shining on the glacier. I felt I had looked into heaven and seen the beauty and holiness of God himself.

Now as I have come to David's last journey, it is this picture that stays with me. For David it was a steep, tough journey and I was able to travel with him to the very gate of heaven. As the sun came through the window on the 21st March, David slipped from time into eternity. I didn't see the golden gates open or hear the bells ring, but I believe David did. I believe he heard the son of the Great Controller say "Welcome David, Well done my good and faithful servant come and share my joy!"

As for me, I crossed the railway line and entered the dark lift on the other side. I pressed the button and descended to Purple Land. I was soon back in our little house. I shall still work in the garden and watch the rabbits play. Nothing has changed but all will be different.

*"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord!" Job 1:21*

Rachel



I first met Colin Beadle in the late 1980's when he was caretaker at Chatham Library. I first became associated with the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in 1992. By then Colin was the handyman here. He remembered meeting me at Chatham Library.

Colin's faith always shone through and he loved the idea of working in a Christian environment. For many years, until his retirement, he worked devotedly with the myriad of jobs that came up day by day. Always conscientious and caring, he gave of his best. Living very close by he would come out to any emergency and was not one for watching the clock.

In retirement he and Jenny often attended the healing services. In later years his own health was not good yet for the most part he remained positive. Only a few months ago he gave an amazing testimony of what God had done in his life.

Colin went to be with the Lord that he loved on Saturday 19th March. Jenny and his family are very much in our prayers at this time as they mourn his loss.

Colin Crook
Visiting Chaplain

Guided Quiet Days

We run a number of Guided Quiet Days through the year, which offer a great spiritual battery charge! These days explore various themes and are like a mini retreat, offering an ideal opportunity to be quiet with God.

Our February Guided Quiet Day, which was led by Paul and Olive Deeming, was entitled, *'God's Goldmine: Discovering Hidden Treasure'*.

It was all about finding hidden treasure and participants were invited to open up a 'treasure chest' (see below). What was the surprise inside? Their reflection!

The merchant in Matthew 13:45-46 searches for precious pearls and when he finds one, he sells all he has to buy it.

... the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Jesus is like that merchant in His love for us. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16



Future Guided Quiet Days

Wednesday 21 June

'Through all the changing scenes of Life ... Jesus, the Man for all Seasons'.

A quiet reflective day on the different seasons in our life's journey.

Led by Dr Rachel Fawcett



Wednesday 19 July

Exploring the Names of God ...

El-Ohim, El-Shaddai, Yahweh.

Led by Brian Woodgate



Brian became a Christian aged thirteen and was a member of the Baptist Church in Tunbridge Wells. He was deeply touched by

Group bookings

the Charismatic Renewal and then joined the Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship in 1980, where he subsequently became an Elder. In 1987 he was invited to become Associate Pastor, (having been Customer Service Manager in the Electricity Supply Industry for thirty years).

In 1999 he became (and still is) the Non-conformist Chaplain at Burrswood Christian Hospital. For several years he served on the Board of World Vision UK and Europe.

Wednesday 2 August

Come away for a day to pause and reflect, to BE rather than DO; to be refreshed. A day spent with others in the Lord's presence, where there will be opportunities to experience and explore a number of different ways of praying.

Led by Maureen Stringer



Maureen has led retreats and quiet days for over twenty five years and has been offering spiritual mentoring and spiritual direction for eight years. Her early career was teaching Business Studies in secondary schools, both in the UK and in a school for missionaries' children in Nigeria. She is particularly interested in encouraging people to find their own individual prayer style.

For more information her website can be found at www.livingreflectively.com

The CCHC welcomes bookings from church groups. We work with the church groups to create a programme that will be most healing and beneficial for the group. Each church group has access to all the Centre facilities, including our spacious and well equipped art room.

In March this year a church group produced an amazing piece of art, not knowing what the end result would be. Each person completed a square and the finished artwork was amazing!



Crowhurst Favourite places



This is Chris, our Finance Administrator. His favourite place is the little white gate at the bottom of the path that leads to Crowhurst. He says "When I started working at Crowhurst – five years ago now – I would arrive from

the station and walk up the path. At that time I had some troubling issues in my life which weighed heavily on my mind each morning. But as I walked through the little gate and up towards the house, I would feel a peace and calmness come over me. It was amazing and never failed to lift my spirits. Since then my travel habits have changed and I rarely arrive from that direction, but when I do it reminds me how the Lord put His arm around me at that spot every day."

Our pianist Pippa's favourite place is the small chapel, where she enjoys the stillness and quietness. The Crucifix reminds her of all that Jesus has done for her.



Jane is a volunteer welcomer for our Prayer Rooms and her favourite place is the well.

She says "I very often find time to sit by the well and it makes me feel I am at the heart of Crowhurst. Hearing the passage about the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 was a significant point in my Christian life and I drew much strength, refreshment and encouragement from it. My struggle with being worthless had been a long standing problem but this gave me a sense of value. I think I read somewhere that the well was built by Howard Cobb, which makes it doubly special."



Juliette works in the office and orders the cards and gifts we sell in the bookstall. She wasn't able to pick one particular favourite place at Crowhurst as the whole Centre and grounds hold a special place in her heart.



The voice of prayer is never silent

As I write this in January, I am visiting friends and family in Russell in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. We had the most wonderful time visiting beautiful places; going on exciting trips and making new friends. We fellowshiped and worshipped with spirit-filled Christians at the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in Massey, Auckland.

We love the wildlife in New Zealand. We visited the gannet colony at Muriwai and I really enjoyed the Monarch butterflies; they are so large and glide rather than flutter.



Sunset in Rotorua (see photo below right) is sunrise at Crowhurst, and I am reminded of one of my favourite hymns, 'The day Thy gavest Lord is ended', which sums this up:

Verses 2, 3 and 4

*"We thank Thee that Thy Church unsleeping,
while earth rolls onward into light. Through all the
world her watch is keeping, And rests not now by
day or night.*

*As o'er each continent and island the dawn leads
on another day. **The voice of prayer is never
silent, nor dies the strain of praise away.***

*The sun, that bids us rest, is waking our brethren
'neath the western sky. And hour by hour fresh lips
are making Thy wondrous doings heard on high."*

However, the most amazing thing for me was that I remained in touch with the CCHC via their Facebook page and also through the email prayer link that I am privileged to be part of for

the Crowhurst Prayer Partners. The wonder of modern technology means that I am able to be in touch whether at home, in Dubai Airport in transit, or where I was staying in New Zealand. Not living near enough to the Centre to be a volunteer, but wanting to do something, when an urgent email link for Prayer Partners was suggested, I jumped at the chance of setting it up and we now have a dedicated email address. It is so simple; any Prayer Partner who wishes to receive urgent requests for prayer from the CCHC sends their email address to crowhurstprayer@gmail.com and I add them to the list. When I receive a request for prayer from the Centre, I send it out to everyone on the list as a 'blind copy' so that no one else gets to see the email address. Thanks to modern technology the message is immediately received, even across the world, and folk are praying. We have had some wonderful answers to our prayers and it really strengthens one's faith.

Prayer undergirds everything at the Centre and it is wonderful to be able to be a part of that prayer support. As a bonus I have made so many new friends through the email link and I love it when we are able to meet up at the Centre.

Sheila Powell

(Crowhurst Prayer Partners are a large group of folk who love the CCHC and pray daily for its needs. (If you would like to join them, please contact Shirley Dawson through the office.)



God's Perfect timing!

Along with the Crowhurst website, Facebook and Twitter, the Crowhurst Magazine is a valuable outreach tool. It has had several names in its lifetime - 'The Healer', 'The Way of Life', 'Abundant Life', 'Crowhurst', and in 2007 was renamed 'In His Healing Steps'. When George Bennett was Warden at the CCHC, the magazine became more and more the *Voice of Crowhurst*.

Before I was magazine editor, like many folk, I eagerly looked forward to receiving my quarterly magazine, especially during times when I couldn't get to Crowhurst. Reading all the stories, testimonies and news really helped me to still feel part of it and I know that this is the case for many people, particularly for those who aren't able to visit much.

It has been said by many different Chaplains over the years that everyone is led by the Lord to visit the CCHC at His appointed time. How true that is! I first discovered the CCHC in 1996 at a time of great need, and I met with the Lord in a new and exciting way; it was like a rebirth and I was a changed person after my stay. Living close by, I was able to attend the twice weekly Healing Services and stayed at least once a year for several years.

As time went on, I was unable to visit the Centre for a few years, until one evening in 2007, I felt the Lord prompting me to go to the evening Healing Service. As I drove through the entrance, I had that immediate feeling of peace that so many people speak of and it felt as if I had never been away.

After a wonderful service, the Chaplain, Peter McIntosh, stopped to say hello, asking if this was my first visit. I said not exactly as I first came in 1996 but hadn't been for a few years. "Well," he said, "you're very welcome; God has brought you here tonight!" He made me feel so welcome and I felt 'strangely warmed' (to borrow John Wesley's words!) as I drove home.

When possible, I went to the evening services - little did I know, the Lord had plans to use me

at the CCHC - well He is the God of surprises, isn't He?

One evening, as I walked down the Chapel corridor, a notice with three requests for help caught my eye. One was for a cook (definitely not my gift!) another for a gardener (too physical!) and the third, which seemed to leap out at me, was for a magazine editor. I couldn't stop thinking about this on my way home and just knew that I had to apply! I met up with Peter and after a chat and prayer, I was hired!

On page 17 of Peter's booklet, *'The Miracle Continues'* (available for purchase from the Centre - a very good read!), he writes of God's perfect timing with many things during his tenure as Senior Chaplain; one of these was the provision of a new editor ... "*it was no coincidence that she came on that particular evening. God's timing was perfect, as usual, and once again the Centre was provided for in every way!*"

And my God will meet all
your needs according to the
riches of his glory in Christ
Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Each issue presents fresh own challenges, and I am never more relieved than when I sign it off for its final printing and can relax, at least for a few weeks until starting the next one!

But I can honestly say that it is a joy and a privilege to put this magazine together. I have learned so much over the years, and my faith has been strengthened by all the stories and testimonies that I am privileged to read and, I hope, carefully and prayerfully edit.

If you would like to write an article for the magazine about how God led you to the CCHC, please do send in your stories and testimonies as they are such a blessing to all.

Grounds news from Kim



As I write this in early April, the grass has just had the first, long-awaited cut of the year. The daffodils are starting to go over but the tulips are out

in full. The 300 additional tulip bulbs planted by Des last October all came out in a glorious display of colour, as you can see from the colourful photo below.



The grounds look so beautiful at this time of year. They are a real testimony to all the work that Des and the volunteers do throughout the year. We are already planning for Spring 2018!

It's been a busy few months with various projects completed or on-going.

The cross-shaped bed outside the wing has been revamped to create a focal point with a cairn placed at the centre. A pathway made of rubber matting and lined with bricks dug up by our volunteer Dave has been created for ease of access. (This was blessed and dedicated as The Freedom Garden during the Easter Celebration in April.)

Unfortunately, the Monkey Puzzle tree which was in the centre has had to be relocated to near the bungalow but it is expected to thrive there.

Now that the fire escape is finally finished, there are a number of new projects planned for the next few months. The louvre windows in the dining room are being updated, and there are plans to replace the back door of the kitchen and the windows at the front of the building, the library and Rooms 12 and 13. This will provide a continuity of design and help with keeping the warmth in.

The new outside toilet for use by visitors to the Prayer Rooms is well under way and should be operational by the end of May. The new wet room in the wing corridor is also in progress and should be completed around the same time.

A new metal container has arrived, which will really help with our storage problems, where items are needed to be kept dry and pest-free. It was initially put in the wrong place but has now been repositioned. As you can see from the photo below, Des and Dave decided to try it for size!

Blessings to all,

Kim



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For a brochure, programme or further
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Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

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Crowhurst **Christian Healing Centre**

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a place of Christ's healing