

In His Healing Steps

Summer 2019





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OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

Editorial



I wonder how many of you noticed the numerical error in the spring issue when I wrote about seasons?

In my Editorial, I mentioned that there had been 3,600 seasons at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, when in fact there had actually been 360! (Maths was never my strong point and I even used a calculator!) My error got me thinking, however, that one day there will have been 3,600 seasons here (unless the Lord has returned by then!), and many more folk will have passed through the doors of this wonderful place of Christ's healing love.

Partners in Christ

We are confident that God will continue to provide for the Centre for as long as is necessary as we work in 'partnership' with Him to advance His Kingdom. After Howard Cobb obeyed God's call 90 years ago to open this very special Christian Healing Centre, he began the partnership with God that we continue today, and in this summer issue of the magazine you can read in several articles how CCHC is 'partnering' with other organisations (see pages 18, 20 and 21), working together to bring God's Kingdom to

earth in our own unique ways. The first line of our Vision Statement is to '*advance the Kingdom of God*', not only here at CCHC but worldwide, and our aim is to fulfil this Vision by continuing with the healing, preaching and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ worldwide.

After last year's 90th Anniversary celebrations, it has been a quieter time at CCHC, but no less special. We have a variety of events on offer, from Healing Weekends, Families Weekends, Prayer and Painting weeks, Guided Quiet Days, Teaching Days and Healing Spaces, a time when no programmed events are taking place, and which provide an opportunity for your own personal retreat as you join in with the daily rhythm of worship in the stillness of the house.

Whichever event you choose, you can be assured of a warm welcome, wonderful food and first class accommodation, and most importantly you will be able to spend some quality time in the Lord's presence.

Our next big event at CCHC is Thanksgiving Day, which takes place on Saturday 6 July (see page 7 for more details).

The new Crowhurst publication that was mentioned in the spring issue will be available for purchase on Thanksgiving Day. '*Loved beyond Measure*' is an encouraging and inspiring book which contains 90 testimonies from guests and visitors to the Centre during 2018, our 90th Anniversary year. This is '*a book with a difference*' because it also contains prayer journal pages for your own notes, as well as Biblical illustrations to colour. If you would like a copy of the book, but are unable to visit CCHC, please ring the office, and the staff will gladly post one to you.

Every blessing, *Mary*

Steve and Veronica's Letter Walking 'The Jesus Trail'

Dear Saints, those called and set apart by Jesus.

Veronica and I recently walked 76 kilometres on 'The Jesus trail', from Nazareth to Capernaum, in four and a half days. It was a brilliant experience, which raised faith, improved health, increased partnerships and raised money for the Maternity Ward of The Nazareth Trust (TNT) Hospital. Like us, this faith based Christian Charity depends on Jehovah Jireh (the Lord, the provider) who works through all means available to Him (not least of all our generous supporters — thank you) to get the work done to bring about His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. (See article on The Nazareth Trust page 20.)



Veronica and Steve in Cana of Galilee — standing in front of the church where Jesus turned water into wine.



Veronica and Steve standing on top of Mount Arbel with the Sea of Galilee in the distance.

Veronica: My feeling as I look back to the walk, is one of well-being on every level. I doubt I could have walked another day with my blistered feet and leaden legs, but the physical cost only enhances the satisfaction of having 'MADE IT!' It was intense walking, with little time to absorb much detail, but my memory is of a kaleidoscope of green fields and wild flowers, rocky hillsides and soaring cliffs, woven through with Israel's ever-present story, from ancient to modern times.

The walk was a wonderful and fulfilling experience for us personally, but we were touchingly reminded, more than once, of what it meant to those for whom we were doing it. Every day staff from the hospital joined us on the walk, provided magnificent lunches and ferried our luggage to and fro. But perhaps the most precious encounter was at our final picnic lunch on Mt Precipice just outside Nazareth. A local roadside vendor, on hearing what we'd been up to, flatly refused to take payment for our coffee saying,

"I must thank you for what you are doing for us and our hospital." A reminder that we, and all our sponsors, were partnering not only with the visible work of the Hospital, but with the thousands of local people it serves.



Veronica being helped through one of the rivers.

Steve: A rather humorous incident for me was being given an impromptu swimming lesson by a dignified Jewish gentleman at the rather comfortable Kosher hotel at Kibbutz Lavi. He said he wanted to teach me to swim more efficiently so I copied his example and he followed me a length, commenting that I was a very quick learner — an A grade student. Veronica watched all this happen and reported that my swimming stroke had earlier splashed the gentleman floating on his back — so he corrected my stroke and was then able to float without further splashing from me!

It wouldn't be right to not mention walking by the fields of wheat, through the hills of wildflowers, and by the streams of water and hearing Frank, the Spiritual Director of TNT, share the parables of Jesus, a real blessing for all those fortunate enough to hear. It brought the Gospels to life and of course, walking with fellow fund raisers and staff of TNT, and hearing their stories of being followers of Jesus, enriched the experience greatly. What a privilege and an honour.

Thinking about those we partner with, we are very conscious of the fact that your partnership with CCHC is life-giving — through prayer, care and financial support. Thank you. We sense an EXCITING future!

As we each continue on our Jesus trail adventure — the journey of life — be assured of our prayers for you too.

With our love, Steve and Veronica



Walkers going through Wadi Haman on the way to Galilee.

Encountering the Living God at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre:

This is an update on CCHC progress and finance to help you pray and share in this ministry as the Lord leads. Thank the Lord for His generosity.

During our 90th anniversary last year, God prompted us to bless four particular groups and as a result, 77 guests, from Clergy, NHS professionals, Youth Workers and Street Pastors, were able to enjoy the Lord's presence here (over 200 free nights).

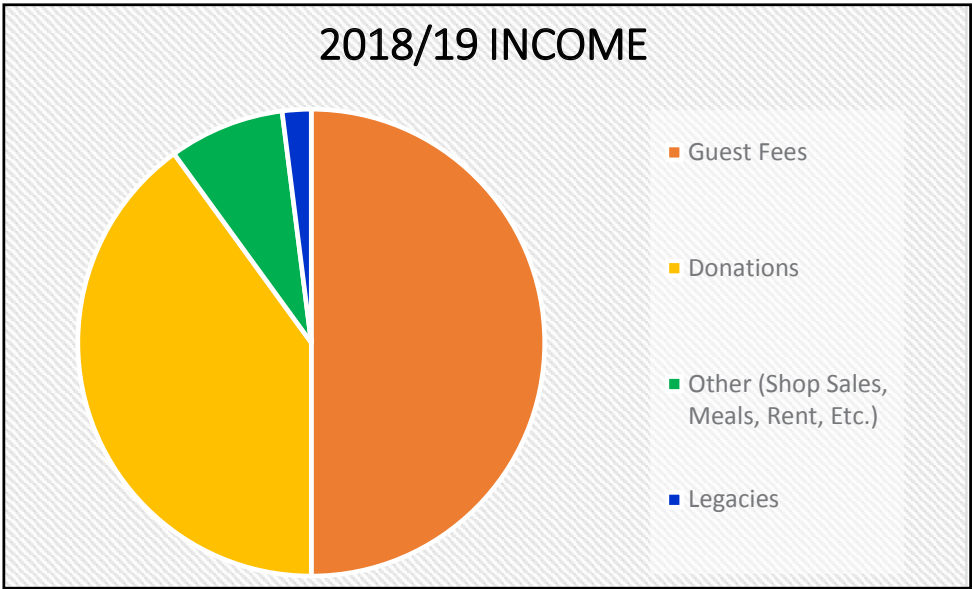
During the year, as God the Holy Spirit guided, we introduced the window in the Little Chapel, made the gardens a more spacious place, carried out essential building maintenance and believing the Lord is growing this work, we created new posts i.e. Administration Manager and Chaplain. The biggest project was the bungalow and we thank God that David and Colleen are now comfortably settled in an energy friendly home.

By the grace of God, this work and more, was possible due to the legacies received in

2016/17 and thankfully continues to resource us today BUT without additional income, it will not last much longer! I am confident that God delights in all we have done and like us is happy to welcome and meet people here in refreshed, improved and more comfortable surroundings. We are seeing encounters in an increased measure. And the work goes on.

I have heard people say that it is faith-building to walk around CCHC and hear our story. When you read how this work is achieved financially, the conclusion is obvious — God must be at work. **Our running costs are around £53,000 per month, whereas guest income only generates £21,000.** For the remainder we rely, day by day, on God's gracious provision, through donations and legacies. What seems impossible to us — IS possible for God.

We thank God for your partnering with us to see people healed and restored and the kingdom advanced. The chart below clearly shows how God keeps His work going on.



Notice three things from the chart:

- guest occupancy was only half of our income — that has been the average for the last seven years;
- over and above guest fees, the biggest injection is always donations — includes gift aid;
- very rarely in the last decade have legacies made the impact they did three years ago — only 2% of our income last year.

Looking forward in faith in Jesus Christ

Please continue to pray with thanksgiving for us during this year of adjusting to a new Leadership structure and a stronger team, and as we continue to seek the Lord, sensing His leading to increase God encounter opportunities here and further afield (Crowhurst community, Hospital Chaplaincy, local churches and even as far as Nazareth and Bulgaria.)

We recognise that Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is an under-utilised resource and, with the help of God, look forward to changing that, i.e. in accordance with our Vision, and to increase guest numbers which, will contribute to a healthier income and reduce our monthly shortfall. We believe we have a responsibility to continue to steward this place of Christ's healing.

Thank you for praying for us. Thank you for your generosity. Seemingly, little considerations like Gift Aid, legacies and donations — make a big difference. Please speak to one of our team if you would like to know more.

The Lord is faithful and zealous to complete His work — to bring His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven — He delights that we partner with Him in it. God bless you for all you do to that end. Praise the Lord.

Steve Gendall, Senior Chaplain

Thanksgiving Day 6 July

Thanksgiving Day is always such a joyful occasion, a time when we gather to give thanks to the Lord for all His continuous provision at the Centre. It is also a great opportunity to meet up with folk you may not have seen in a while, and perhaps make some new friends as you share fellowship over lunch in the grounds

The day will begin at 10am, when tea and coffee will be available in the lounge.

The morning Communion service starts at 11am — come early if you want to get a seat in the Large Chapel, though there will be plenty of seating in the Small Chapel, corridor and outside under the gazebo.

After the Service, the housekeeping team will once again be providing a buffet lunch, which can be eaten in the beautiful grounds or in the marquee. We have been blessed with beautiful weather for the last two years, and hopefully this year will once again be warm and sunny.

The day will conclude at 3.45pm with afternoon tea and delicious home made cake.

Make a date in your diaries and don't miss out on this wonderful day of celebration, praise and thanks to God for all His goodness over the past year.

‘A Day in the Life of ...’ Ordinands Retreat led by Steve and David — April 2019

For the past four years we have had the opportunity to welcome priests in training (ordinands) from St Mellitus College to CCHC. Steve and David led this Retreat and both share their thoughts and reflections.

STEVE

We reflected on parts of the stories of some lesser known Biblical characters. The names of the sessions and a snippet of each one is given below:

‘Be still and know’

The Sons of Korah, whose story of being saved from an earthquake means so much more when you read Psalm 46. Out of a trauma grew trust and this simple truth: “*Be still and know that I am God.*” Your past may be written in your present story.

‘Who’s first?’

Nashon, a prince of Judah, who according to Rabbinical literature was the first of the Israelites to go into the Red Sea as it was crossed. With the Egyptians behind them and the Red Sea before them, Moses said to the people, “*all you need to do is be still.*” God then said, “Go”, and Nashon moved. From stillness come great acts of God!

‘Tough call’

We looked at some characters whose call was very tough.

Ahithophel: David’s wise counsellor, who ended up committing suicide with hatred and unforgiveness for his former boss.

Hazeleponi: (name found in Rabbinical literature) the mother of Samson who with wisdom and grace watched Samson, and appears to have been a faithful mother to his end.

Gililai, Mililai and Maai: some of the builders of the Jerusalem wall after the exile, who in such extreme conditions still sang

their praises to the Lord.

‘Choose to remember’

Oreb and Zeeb

After the war against Midian was won, there were still smaller battles against the likes of Oreb and Zeeb and even these small victories are remembered and celebrated by the Israelites. Celebrate your small victories as well as the big ones — salvation in Jesus Christ.

‘Out of the box’

Eldad and Medad

Those who received the Spirit of God away from the usual meeting place (the Tabernacle). We were reminded to try not to put God in a box — He is at work as much outside of Christian circles as He is in them. We reflected on our own need for greater fellowship with Holy Spirit.

As we reflected on each of these stories, we considered our battle scars and how we need to be *weeble-like*, with the help of God. (‘weebles wobble but they don’t fall down!’)

DAVID

It was such an encouraging weekend, and a real privilege to be able to minister to such an amazing group of people. Many of them have been through the most incredibly difficult and painful experiences, and yet each of these twenty seven folks have said ‘Yes’ to God’s call, making themselves available to be used in the service of the King.

The weekend was a wonderful time of healing, renewal, refreshing and encouragement where they could:

- *be still, walk and talk with God around the grounds;*
- *lay down burdens at the Freedom Garden;*
- *receive renewed vision and hope in the Art Room;*

- *be prayed for and receive encouragement and challenge through the experience of lesser known characters from the Bible, which seemed to be a real milestone in the lives of many of the participants.*

It was such a privilege to be part of the CCHC Team over the weekend, and to see God so profoundly at work in the lives of the students as they returned to their studies and places of work. We had a real sense that these dear servants of God are, and will be doing, great things for Him. It was a joy to meet them and bless them in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Below are some of the things that the students said:

- *“This has been an amazing Retreat. Just stepping into the building, I felt we were surrounded by prayer. God was present. I loved the open and creative services, and the space. The hospitality team were loving and helpful at all times and the food was excellent!”*
- *“A perfect rest, as an ordinand; away from the constant chatter in my mind about books and essays. Instead I rested and let God whisper sweet love poems. He is beautiful and so is Crowhurst!”*
- *“God healed me from some emotional hurts this weekend and released me from shame. The Team ministered to me through their wisdom, grace and humour. This is a place of abundant joy as well as peace. The stunning nature alludes to the peace, the joy as a sheer delight and surprise — Holy Spirit gift!”*
- *“This weekend has been a true rest. A chance to stop and lay down the usual distractions and busy-ness of life, and just be.”*

God spoke to Urbain as he worked on this puzzle, 'The Miracles of Jesus'.



One of the things God said was, “You’ll need help for the work I’ve called you to do — as Esther and Dan stepped in to help!”



Shirley Dawson – A Good and Faithful Servant 'Semi-Retires!'



W*hatever He tells you to do, do it:*
John 2:5

The servants at the wedding at Cana did exactly what Jesus told them to do — they obediently filled six stone containers with water. This would have been a significant task, requiring a fair amount of physical exertion. It would have taken them away from their other duties at the wedding, and must have seemed a totally bizarre and pointless thing to do when they had important guests and duties to attend to!

God is looking for people who will do things that may be difficult or seem pointless because 'miracles happen when there is obedience.'

Shirley's story is one of obedience. It started in the early 1990's when, after a healing encounter with the Lord at CCHC, Shirley's husband Fred encouraged her to visit (you can read this amazing story on

page 16 of the Autumn 2016 Crowhurst Magazine). Shirley obeyed the Lord's prompting and came to CCHC. He then prompted her to volunteer serving tea and coffee here, and again she obeyed.

Years on, despite a broken rib and way beyond the time most volunteers would have handed over responsibility to someone else, Shirley continues to serve without fail, week-in, week-out and although she is stepping down from the role of Prayer Partner Co-ordinator, she feels that the Lord is asking her to continue serving tea and coffee on a Thursday morning after the Healing Service.

It was because Shirley obeyed God's call to be a Trustee that she became our Prayer Partner Co-ordinator. In all honesty this was a call from God that she was not expecting. In the same way as the servants at the wedding at Cana were told to obey, Shirley, with no experience and no one to hand over the responsibilities, simply obeyed and became our Prayer Partner Co-ordinator.

I cannot begin to imagine the miracles that have taken place as a result of Shirley's obedience. This place is saturated in prayer because of our faithful and obedient Prayer Partners. We have testimony after testimony of how people have encountered God here because there are prayer warriors doing spiritual battle on behalf of the Centre every day. Shirley has played a key part in that. Like Aaron and Hur holding up the hands of Moses so that the Amalekites were defeated (Exodus 17:12), Shirley has been metaphorically holding up the arms of the Prayer Partners.

Esther

Summer Prayer Requests

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

SUMMER PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER FOCUS

"The Lord watches over you — the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night." Psalm 121:5-6

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever."

Psalm 136:1 & 4

PRAYER

- Give thanks for our dear Prayer Partners whose daily intercession breathes the very presence, peace and power of God into the Centre and grounds! Give thanks for Shirley Dawson's years of service as Prayer Partner Co-ordinator and pray for the Lord's guidance as we seek her replacement.
- Give thanks for Kim and Trevor's work that have made our grounds look so attractive and welcoming. Pray that their on-going efforts are richly rewarded and that by Thanksgiving Day all will be looking brilliant, and many folk will visit and be blessed!
- Give thanks for the grace that staff are showing as we all adjust to new team members and the new Leadership structure. Pray that staff relationships are strengthened and protected in our service of the Lord, and that unity, trust and truth will grow.
- Pray for the preparation of the 2020 programme so that all we do will reflect and reveal the very presence of God. Pray that the Centre will continue to be a platform for rich, deep and transformative God encounters, and that this rather under-utilised resource will see an increase of visitors.

"Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."
Psalm 115:1



JUNE PRAYER FOCUS

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17

JUNE

11 – 15 Prayer through Painting
Led by Maggie Freeman

19 Teaching Day
Gifts of the Spirit (2)

21 – 23 Healing Weekend (2)
*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.*

24 – 30 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.



JULY PRAYER FOCUS

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." Romans 5:5

JULY

- 6** **Thanksgiving Day**
- 19 – 21 Healing Weekend (1)
*This weekend is for those in need of spiritual, physical and emotional healing, who **have not** attended a Healing Weekend before.*
- 22 – 28 Healing Space
- 30 July – Prayer Through Painting
 3Aug Led by Revd Jill Hartman

AUGUST PRAYER FOCUS

"And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" 7 "So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God." Galatians 4.6-7

AUGUST

- 7** Guided Quiet Day
 Lament — A Sacred Sorrow
 Led by Suzanne Owen & Chaplains
- 17 – 23 Healing Space
- 16 – 18 Healing Weekend (2)
- 24 Families Weekend
24 **Families Day (for those unable to come for the whole weekend)**
- 28 – 31 Festival Recovery for Children/
 Youth and Family Workers
For those whose ministry is with children, youth or families.

Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"I urge, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people." 1 Timothy 2:1

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Thank you for your prayers for us and our families, all the staff, buildings and grounds, and the Lord's work at CCHC.
- Please pray for wisdom and faith in the fulfilment of our Vision to see the Lord's kingdom advance in our lives, those we are all called to serve and in all the Mission work beyond the borders of CCHC.
- Please pray with thanksgiving for God's leading as we consider the gap between our income and expenditure; that we would continue to be good stewards with this 'thin place' where God delights to meet people, and that His name would be honoured in all we are and do.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

Prayer for Staff at The Centre

"May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." 2 Thessalonians 3:5

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve, Suzanne, David, John, Brenda R, Brenda T, Chris L, Colin, David B, Dee, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegarde, 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

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. and do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased". Hebrews 13.15



*Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre Trustees
Left to right: Denis, Paul, Vivien, Sally and Nigel*

Ash Wednesday Retreat: March 2019



The Ash Wednesday Retreat came at a significant time in our lives — days after Bill's retirement and days before our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. This made it a very good time to re-evaluate our priorities and examine our commitment to God.

Although there were only six people on the Retreat, this turned out to be an advantage, as it enabled us to get to know each other and everyone had a chance to participate fully in the discussion periods. By the end of the Retreat we felt we had become friends.

Two important themes of the week were abandonment to the Lord (cf Charles de Foucault's Prayer of Abandonment), and making Him our priority above all else (Matthew 10:37).

Bill found the frequent opportunities for silence over the course of the week very helpful, giving him the time for quiet reflection in assessing his future direction, as he had just relinquished one set of priorities and not yet established another. Time spent talking things over with one of the Chaplains was very valuable.

For Sylvia, the theme of loving Jesus above all else highlighted a long-standing issue which had hitherto gone unrecognised and was causing a block in her ability to trust

completely in God. After this was brought into focus in one of the discussion sessions, the Chaplains were able to lovingly and effectively help her recognise and release the block, and move forward to a more complete commitment.

At the end of the Retreat, after the final Holy Communion service, we were given the opportunity to re-affirm our Wedding Vows as part of our Anniversary celebrations. Being able to do this in the company of people with whom we had shared such a fantastic week was a very special experience, which was made all the more precious by their rejoicing with us — not to mention a beautiful Order of Service that was provided for us, and a cake with a candle!

We both came away confirmed in our faith and strengthened in our commitment and trust in the Lord — which after all is what Lent is about.

Sylvia and Bill



Sylvia and Bill on their wedding day

Five reasons why your Youth Worker needs a Retreat!

(Festival Recovery: 21-24 August 2019)

A job description will outline the role of a worker's employment but there can so often be 'unwritten' parts as those involved in children's/youth and families work will know only too well! The list is probably endless, but it could be anything from working almost every holiday, because that's the time most children and young people have off, to feeding hungry teenagers, lugging baby and toddler equipment in and out of storage, and even helping with technology problems!

1. REST

Rest is a basic human need that allows us to recover our strength physically, emotionally and spiritually. Rest will allow your worker(s) to be a better disciple and be at less risk of burning out. They need time when they are not constantly giving out and they need periods when they are on 'God's time' with nothing but His agenda filling their day, consecrating every moment to Him. God has commanded us to take Sabbath rests; Jesus knew only too well the importance of rest as crowds continually flocked around Him. Retreats can help us to truly focus on His time.

2. COMMUNITY

Church is a wonderful place of community — love, support, prayer and generosity demonstrated by all generations. Nothing compares to friendships built on the mutual love of Christ and this Retreat offers the opportunity to develop enduring and mutually supportive friendships with people serving in similar ministries.

3. ENCOUNTER

Encountering the Father in new ways and leaning into His love will enable your worker(s) to gather the spiritual tools needed to truly transform their life and crucially, their ministry to children, youth

and families. Retreats allow God time to undertake deep heart surgery and provide a chance to become more aware of all that separates us from Him. The transforming and healing power of God can reveal relationships that need reconciliation or change, a prayer style that needs altering, or a new perspective on a ministry that has been overlooked.

4. PRAYER

What greater gift is there than to give your worker(s) the unique opportunity to concentrate on prayer through retreat? Stepping away from busy routines offers them the chance to spend more time in prayer than they would normally have. 'Festival Recovery' is focused on the promises of God for them and their ministry. There will be opportunities to pray through what God reveals, and to listen to Him more closely.

5. YOUR CHURCH WILL BENEFIT

A few days away with God, surrounded by prayerful and prophetic people, is just what your worker(s) need to refresh, refill and re-focus their ministry in your church.

Last year's Retreat was very well received as the following comment shows:

"I really enjoyed the Youth Workers' Retreat; Crowhurst is a beautiful place. We were really looked after and it was good to know that we had been prayed over before, during and after the Retreat. After a busy summer it was a brilliant opportunity to focus on God."

So don't delay! Book your worker(s) onto Festival Recovery for the early bird price of £180 (offer ends 30th June).

Esther

Nothing is impossible with God! (Luke 1:37)

The following is an extract of a letter which the office received earlier this year, and is a wonderful testimony of a guest's healing from poor eyesight.

"Dear Suzanne, David, Jayne, and the Crowhurst staff. This is Ruth's testimony; I can confirm that yesterday she was ministering in the 'Life Course', and was not wearing glasses. I personally had no idea of any of this until afterwards, when Ruth contacted the group with her testimony to God's goodness.

We were all so keenly aware of the presence of God among us that weekend. CCHC is what some would call a 'thin place', where the Heavenly realms break through in a more tangible way. All the prayer that has gone on makes the Centre very special and in such an atmosphere the Lord sometimes 'just touches and heals' without us having to do very much at all. How great is our God!"

Sue

Ruth's testimony

"We were 15 minutes down the motorway from Grays, en route to Crowhurst, when I realised I had forgotten my reading glasses! I didn't dare ask Bola, my driver, to turn around to go back for them as that would have made us late.

I began to imagine how disastrous the trip would be without my glasses: I could barely see a letter without them, and my reading was so poor that I couldn't even sneak a peek at my son's text messages. I didn't tell him either as he would have laughed at me!

About twenty minutes before our arrival, Bola mentioned the name of our destination — Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. I felt so overwhelmed to note that it was an actual healing centre, and I was determined in my heart to receive healing!

The first challenge on the Saturday night was to see all the books for sale at the Centre. I squinted as hard as I could but could hardly read a sentence. I bought some books anyway and took them to my room to see if I could try later, but it was to no avail.

While we all sang with hymn books during the services, I smiled and was happy to have the banners to wave around because I could not see the words.

**The long and short of it is this:
Since we left the Centre I have not picked up my glasses. My reading has improved dramatically. I AM HEALED!"**



PRIME Conference: March 2019

For several years now, we have been very pleased to welcome our friends from PRIME (*Partnerships in International Medical Education*) to Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for their Annual Retreat. I was the Chaplain host for their Retreat at CCHC in January this year and so it was particular thrill to be invited to attend their Annual Conference in March, which was a gloriously energising event. The buzz of conversation as people caught up with friends from across the world was loud and long. The event organisers had to work hard to get the sessions to begin on time because there was always someone else to be catching up with!

The Conference was run over three full days and two half days; sometimes the delegates were all in the same room together and sometimes they were split into two different 'streams'. The main stream was for those attending the Conference with a view to becoming a PRIME tutor, or who are considering if that is what the Lord wants them to do.

Stream One provided all the necessary training for those who want to become a tutor, including examples of various types of teaching, and teaching methods. Most teaching sessions included group work and role play, so it was very intense!

Stream Two was for established PRIME tutors and provided opportunity for further development of teaching techniques.

Within the Conference timetable were 'spotlights', which gave PRIME tutors the opportunity to talk about the work they had done this past year in various countries, sometimes sharing the slot with delegates from that country who had been trained by the PRIME team, to continue the work following their departure.

Sometimes it was the delegates from that country who were sharing what PRIME had

done among them, and the stories ranged from transformative work amongst prisoners in Uganda, where the simple introduction of teaching on handwashing had transformed lives, to midwives teaching 'birth attendants' in Pakistan and by so doing, reducing the risk of perinatal mortality.

The innovative teaching techniques were astounding in their simplicity — who would have thought Haribo sweets could be used for suturing practice for midwifery students?

One doctor who had travelled eight days to get from Burma to the UK had a heart-breaking story to tell. Due to a lack of medical resources for his people, the mortality rate amongst mothers giving birth was 50% because hygiene standards are so poor and poverty so rife, with medical help five days travel away through jungle and mountainous terrain. His report, like many others, showed what one person can do when called and resourced by God — even in seemingly impossible and remote situations. It was truly inspirational to hear stories like his.

Background

PRIME began in the 1990's, and emerged out of a residential conference called 'Doctor's Dilemmas' that was held at Burrswood. More than twenty years later, PRIME is a thriving Charity based in Battle (East Sussex) and has had links with 40-50 countries across the world.

PRIME seeks to keep the patient at the heart of healthcare and to teach doctors and nurses the skills of communication, compassion and whole care that can be squeezed out of packed medical curricula. The PRIME tutors are volunteers (doctors, nurses, and a few other healthcare professionals) who fund their own travel expenses and give of their time to take this teaching around the world.

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre – ‘God’s Hospital’

The teaching is unashamedly Bible based and often begins with one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus healing. Even among people of other faiths Jesus is accepted as a good man, a prophet, and there is no problem with learning from His example.

As well as delivering programmes in other countries, PRIME is also at work in our own land, developing important teaching on ‘Compassion without Burnout’ that is currently being piloted in local hospitals.

I came away from the Conference heartened that whole person care is thriving, and also confident that we have many very committed and highly trained nurses and doctors in the UK who know themselves to be called to their work by the Lord — and who are sharing their skills and their faith both here and abroad. I also came away with a fresh sense of awe at what one person can achieve when called by the Lord.

Suzanne

If anyone is interested in reading Prime’s newsletter, you can do so via their website: www.prime-international.org. Below is one of many photos on their website and I have extracted their words explaining the photo. (Ed.)

“Touch can be used to bridge the emotional and physical gap between a physician and patient. It can directly express care, compassion, and comfort. It has the potential to play an important part in the healing process, reinforcing patient trust and concordance, triggering the body’s own capacity for self-healing.”



Our Facebook page is regularly updated with photos, news of events, links to sermons and much more and we often have comments from guests who have visited or stayed at CCHC.

As I was ‘surfing’ the page recently, I came across this lovely photo of Ken, which was taken during his visit to the Centre in April. His words are so encouraging and I wanted to share them with those of you who might not have access to Facebook. Ken describes CCHC as ‘God’s hospital’.

He writes: “Thank you Lord for always being in this house of tranquility. Thank you Jesus for slowly but surely pushing my personal stone which was blocking my path, and for equipping me for the future. You gave me two lovely verses from Isaiah: “Do not be afraid for I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10) and “See, I am doing a new thing.” (Isaiah 43:19)

Ken’s Facebook post drew comments from other people. Sally writes:

“Being at Crowhurst truly changed my life and I am grateful every day for all I learned and received there. Bless you all.”

The Nazareth Trust

Five years ago, Veronica and I met the CEO of The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, only to discover that he and his wife have a home on the outskirts of Crowhurst. A classic 'God incidence!'

Today, Richard Mayhew is the CEO of The Nazareth Trust (TNT) and over the last two years has invited us, with CCHC, to help lead two weeks of Health and Healing at the hospital. (You may have read the articles in the Spring 2017 and Winter 2018 Crowhurst magazines.)

As we continue in our partnership with TNT, I felt you may like to read a brief part of their amazing story — it has God's fingerprints all over it!

Nazareth Hospital was founded in 1861 by Dr Kaloost Vartan, son of an Armenian tailor from Constantinople, and his Scottish wife, Mary Anne Stewart, with the sponsorship of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS). At the time it was the only medical facility between Damascus, Jerusalem and Beirut. In a region where the average adult life expectancy was below twenty five years, the first 'hospital' consisted of a dispensary with a separate four-bedded 'ward'. The journey from these humble beginnings to its present-day status as a modern medical centre of excellence reflects both the tumultuous history of the region, and the personal love and sacrifice of those who invested their lives in the EMMS vision of following in Jesus' footsteps "*healing the sick and preaching the Gospel.*"

This story, too complex to share in more detail here, has invested the hospital with a personality and a character that is so much more than simply the history of a hospital. It is a story of love, sacrifice and devotion, of heartbreak and hope that continues today. It

provides one of the more significant tourist spots in the region — the Nazareth Village — with over 100,000 visitors a year.

As you pray for us when we are at work there, and as we pray for them through the year, we are making no small contribution to the on-going work of Jesus of Nazareth in His home town.

Like us, TNT continues to grow and sees God doing new things. They have recently launched their new Vision which would see a major rebuild of parts of the complex — at a cost of over 100 million US dollars. Courageous faith is needed but the people of TNT have seen God, through their history, do what was considered impossible, again and again. May the name of Jesus continue to be lifted high at The Nazareth Trust.

Pictured below is the hospital, which is situated at the top of a very steep hill!



'Moore' God-incidence!

I like to encourage other centres of Christian healing, so I help out at Harnhill near Cirencester, Gloucestershire, and the Christian Healing Mission (CHM) in Shepherds Bush, London.

In Holy Week I felt God prompt me to revisit Acorn, the Christian Healing Trust that had been based in Hampshire, and was not far from my home. However, on the Monday night, when I checked the time of their weekly healing service, I was confused — they are now meeting in St Alban's church Hindhead, Surrey, not Whitehill Chase in Bordon, Hampshire. So on Tuesday morning we set off through the Surrey countryside for their Tuesday 11am healing service.

Dr Mary Sutton, the wife of Acorn's Director, Revd Wez Sutton, mentioned in her talk a window in the church which is dedicated to a person who prayed for healing for people of all ages many years ago. After the service my wife Priscilla and I looked at the window in question. The plaques read: *"Jesus Christ Maketh thee Whole" and "This window was given as a thank offering by the patients of James Moore Hickson in 1907."* We were excited! Moore Hickson did much to encourage and promote Christian healing in England and worldwide; he even visited Zimbabwe. His name is very familiar to CCHC — you may know the story.

James Moore Hickson laid hands on Revd Howard Cobb, who had sleeping sickness, and his recovery began. Howard Cobb then felt called by God to the ministry of healing. He became rector of Crowhurst and eventually the first warden of the Divine Healing Mission at The Old Rectory. What a coincidence! Was God trying to tell us something?

The window is proving an encouragement for Acorn now that they are using the

building; they have partnered with Guildford Cathedral for their courses, and are using other healing centres for events. They may have physically moved from their centre, but still continue their work.

As CCHC looks to move out more and more in mission, maybe we can be encouraged as well, giving encouragement in new ways and sharing resources.

It's great how James Moore Hickson is still an encouragement and inspiration to those engaged in, and promoting the ministry of healing. Where should we go? Can we partner with others to share the good news? Where will that take us? Into more 'coincidences' with God behind them I expect so!

Revd Denis Smith
CCHC Trustee



Grounds Report

The work on the new bungalow is now finally finished after nearly two years of planning and building. Everyone is very relieved, no more so than our new Chaplain, David Mayhew and his wife Colleen (pictured below on their verandah), who officially took up residence in mid-January. Although some of the outside area is still to be landscaped, some of the plans have already started and by the time the magazine is printed, progress will have been made. The turfing and grass seeding has now been done and the sprinklers are being kept very busy.

Some new fencing has already been erected at the front of the building below the car park and this will be extended round on two further sides, with a couple of wooden gates to create a secure, private garden area. A new drain has been put in to help remove excess water from the car park and the building. There will be paths and a shingle area slotted in somewhere in due course.

The first grass cut of the year has been done. It was lovely to finally smell the freshly mowed lawns! The wooden signpost has finally been erected after a lengthy postponement while the bungalow was being built. This complements the existing directional and building name signs. There are also plans for the old well, which is long due a refurbishment.

It's so wonderful to see all the plants coming alive and showing off their amazing colours and although it's only been seven months since our gardener, Trevor, joined the CCHC team, the fruits of his labours are evident!

Kim



Garden News



It's now been nearly seven months since my arrival as Maintenance Gardener and I am excited to see some colours emerging around the grounds. As I write this in April, there are several varieties of Narcissus and Tulips and many more spectacular plants and shrubs, not forgetting the trees! Last October I hard pruned three large overgrown Portuguese Laurels and unchecked Dogwood to create space and allow light into the four central beds in the Freedom Garden. The plan now is to develop some colour and interest to what is already planted there, but also for what will be introduced into those four beds in the future.

My day release for horticultural training has so far been extremely beneficial and I have been eager to learn how to propagate plants from seeds, cuttings and division.

Over the past two months I have managed to successfully propagate several Dwarf Sunflowers, Dahlias and Parsley, which will be ready to go outside soon. I've also taken some stem cuttings from Lacecap Hydrangeas, Fuschias, Photina (Red Robin) and some Rosemary, keeping a written record of propagation results.

I hope to have a good collection of summer container plants and by the time this magazine is printed, they should all be flowering well!

Trevor



Trevor took this stunning photo of the inside of a tulip - God's wonderful creation!

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For a brochure, programme or further
information, please contact the office.



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