

in His Healing Steps



Winter 2014

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What is the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre?

We are a friendly Christian Healing Centre where a warm welcome is offered to all.

Situated in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we are just ten 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.

The saving, healing work of Jesus is all about Kingdom come/coming. Every time a person is drawn out of darkness, slavery or dis-ease, it is a Kingdom moment; the Kingly rule and authority of Jesus breaking into our world.

Every time we allow Him to be King in our life or in a situation around us, the Kingdom has come.

The ministry of Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a Kingdom ministry where we seek to cooperate with Jesus (as junior partners) in the bringing in of His Kingdom.

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



I am writing this editorial on a bright and crisp November day. After a beautiful summer, we have enjoyed a relatively warm autumn. God's wonderful creation provides year round colour and beauty and the CCHC's grounds give so much pleasure to all who visit. Each season has different delights to behold and even when covered in snow, the grounds still look beautiful, as you can see from the front cover.

Changing seasons, changing weather, changing situations. Change is not always easy (and often not desired!) but it is necessary if we are to experience and even embrace all that life has to offer, and in his letter on page 4, Steve tells us when we walk with Jesus, we must actually expect change!

And talking of change, regular readers will notice a new look to the magazine. With our newly designed website and brand new art room, the Editorial board thought it would be a good time to freshen up the magazine. Our aim is to make it accessible to you, our present valued readers, and to new readers that we hope to attract, so that we can make the CCHC a place known to people of all ages, and from all walks of life. Please do let us have your comments about the

new look; what you like, and what you don't! It is YOUR magazine and we want you all to enjoy reading it.

For those of you reading this magazine in early December, Christmas won't be far away, so our thoughts will no doubt be on all that this season brings! The shops will be busy; the media will be bombarding us with all things Christmas and the 'must have' gifts that will supposedly fulfil all your dreams!

Many Christmas cards mention the words 'Love, Joy and Peace,' but we are living in turbulent times and it can be hard sometimes to find any love, joy or peace in our world with all that we hear in the daily news! However the prophet Isaiah tells us that Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and I pray that you will all experience the Lord's love, peace and joy over Christmas and New Year and during 2015.

And beware of possible falling snow overhead!



With every blessing, *Mary Slater*

Steve's letter



Dear Friends,

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'. Hebrews 13.8

Chipo, our chicken, has been quite unsettled recently. It has caused some humour in our home as who would ever believe that a chicken would be so upset by a changing environment? The truth is we made some improvements to Chipo's living conditions. Improvements that will help us clean up after her and obviously that would benefit her.

The first time she saw her new floor, Chipo just stood and stared like a rabbit trapped in the headlights. She seemed very unhappy, suspicious and nervous, and that evening Veronica had to physically put Chipo into her coop! Happily she is now settled into her new home and as you can see, looks very content!

Jesus teaches us to pray, 'Father, may your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven' and He teaches us to 'seek first God's Kingdom.' Wherever Jesus went during His earthly years of ministry, things happened. Where there was darkness, light broke in. Where there was sickness, Jesus healed. Where there were lies, truth burst in. Where there was despair, hope transformed lives.

These are a few examples of the presence of the Kingdom of God invading the earth.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and because He lives in you and He lives in me, should we expect to see anything less?

**Walking daily with Jesus,
we should expect change,
change and more change!**

I don't think our Lord will improve our environment as we did with Chipo's, or physically move us into a better place He has created for us. The decision to cooperate with Jesus is ours; the decision to work to advance the Kingdom of God is yours and mine. The result - heaven on earth.

With love and prayers from all the team,
and may we wish you a happy Christmas season.

Steve





Tony's Testimony

I recently paid my first visit to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre on a two day Taster Retreat.

Travelling from Wiltshire, I arrived at Crowhurst Station feeling completely drained physically and mentally, and a little apprehensive into the bargain, but it wasn't long before I was relaxing in the house with a cup of tea and cake, my initial apprehensions beginning to fade away. A walk around the beautiful grounds with its superb oak trees, was followed by a marvellous dinner.

The evening Healing Service in the main Chapel left me feeling nearer to God than I have felt for a long time. After that I relaxed in the lounge, reading a book that I had plucked from the library.

Wednesday was a wonderful day. I attended the two services and night prayer, and had a spiritually uplifting prayer ministry. I also spent some time in the art

room where Maggie gave me advice and encouragement with some art work.

There was ample time to walk around the grounds and I was drawn to the large wooden cross, where I spent some time sitting and meditating in the gentle autumn sunshine.

Thursday arrived all too quickly but what a marvellous two days! My thanks to all for making my visit so memorable, and also for the wonderful cuisine! The list could go on and on! I look forward to the train bringing me back again one day.

Tony

We have a new art room!



Thanksgiving service for the new art room



Prim Hooper waits to cut the ribbon while Trevor offers prayers



October 18th 2014: A date to remember!

It's St Luke's Day – the Patron Saint of Healing and Artists, the date on which former Warden, Trevor Blackshaw, was interviewed and offered the post of Warden, and also the date on which the two Steves were 'officially' welcomed as Chaplains to serve at the CCHC.

But today - on the 18th October - we celebrated the opening of our new art room! The Chapel was full, and we gave thanks to God for His amazing provision. A beautiful building and fully paid for. Thank you, Lord.

Trevor Blackshaw prayed a blessing on the new art room, and the ministry of healing that we know God will bring about.

Primrose Hooper cut the ribbon; Maggie unlocked and entered the room – to a great cheer!



Drumroll!



Folk leaving their marks; finished canvas below!



Folk were then invited to make a finger print picture on a huge canvas, a record of all who had joined us for the occasion, and Justine, from the house team, brought in celebratory drummers, who entertained us outside in the sunshine!

Heidi and the team served refreshments in the Lounge where folk could also see a photo exhibition of the whole building process.

An exciting day – giving thanks for what has been, and what is to come!

Hilary Clark

Prayer through Painting Week 20th to 24th October



During the week following the opening of the new art room, I was very privileged to be asked to help Maggie with the first 'Prayer through Painting' week in the new art room.

The colourful autumn view from the windows all along one side is enough to inspire any artist, but the theme for this week was **'A little child shall lead them'** from Isaiah 11, verses 6 - 9. After reading this and praying, Maggie left people to interpret the verses as they felt led, or to paint something else if they wanted to.

By Thursday, twenty pieces of lovely work were displayed in the large chapel and by the next morning even more finished pieces appeared in time for our sharing together after worship. Many were willing to show their work and tell how they had been inspired to paint what they did. Through prayer they had produced work of a high standard, some even up to four pictures!

We got to know each other well during the week and had good fellowship together especially at meal times, when we enjoyed the delicious food.

Thank you Maggie, for such prayerful leadership, thank you to those who led the worship times so beautifully during the week and thank you kitchen and house staff who do everything to such a high standard. But our greatest praise goes to Jesus for directing people to give so generously that this art room is now paid for and in use. We were all grateful for the special first week and were aware of His healing presence with us.

Mavis Williams



A day in the life of Cliff - Volunteer Gardener

Garden News

1. **How long have you worked at the Centre?**

Five happy years.

2. **What does your day include?**

Anything to do with the manual side of gardening. Autumn and winter is mainly leaf clearing time. The rest of the year, if it looks untidy, I sort it out!

3. **What gives you most job satisfaction?**

The pleasing comments made by guests as they walk around the grounds.

4. **What makes you smile?**

The sound of cases being brought up from the station or bags being unloaded from cars because I know someone has come to stay!

5. **What would you like other people to know about this special place?**

Give the place a try, whether it be for a day or days; you won't be disappointed.

6. **Anything else you would like to say?**

Working with a happy team makes it such a pleasure.



Hello, I'm Dave, the new boy on the gardening team! Let me first say that it's a joy and a privilege to be able to



devote some time each week to help out in the delightful setting, which is Crowhurst.

To give you a little background, I used to help out at a Christian charity shop in Bexhill. When considering where I might continue to be of service, I felt God drop the word 'Crowhurst' into my mind. As I have had quite a few years' experience running a gardening and grounds maintenance business, I'm fairly well versed in many of the tasks that need doing there.

These days (as I'm not quite able to retire) I work for myself buying and selling parts for classic cars.

Crowhurst is quite a haven – an oasis of peace in a busy world. I would encourage all visitors to spend some time exploring the grounds and taking in the views. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the wonders of God's creation!

One thing's for sure. I'm unlikely to run out of things to do as any large garden is a constant source of maintenance.

If we haven't yet met, please come and say 'hello'. As long as I'm kept fed and watered, I don't usually bite!

May the Lord bless you all, *Dave*

Remembering Evelyn and Gill

Evelyn Constance Walmesley



Evelyn was introduced to the CCHC by her great friend, Revd David Payne. She served for many years on the Board of Trustees and later became a volunteer, her smiling face a delight to all

as she presided over her coffee pot after the Thursday morning healing service.

Evelyn was very supportive of the Crowhurst staff, often bringing in biscuits and boxes of toffees for them, and at Christmas time, inviting them for a meal. She was very artistic, providing and arranging the flowers at the Centre.

It is wonderful to learn more about a person at a funeral; we each have our own memories but there is always so much more, so I was interested to learn that Evelyn who was always beautifully dressed still made her own clothes well into her eighties!

She loved to visit the family's beach hut, which she called her 'Chapel by the Sea.'

Evelyn's daughter, Jane was delighted to receive the memories of her mother from other Prayer Partners which I had collated and printed off to give her.

Rest in Peace dear Evelyn and **rise in glory!**

Sheila Powell (Prayer Partner)

Gill Furnell

Gill went to be with the Lord on 20th September.

Gill was loved, not only by her work colleagues here at the Centre, but, by our guests too, reflected by the many cards and letters she received. Gill was a Prayer Partner and knowing so many people held her in prayer would have been a comfort to her.

Gill told me on many occasions how she loved working here. One aspect of her job she particularly enjoyed was taking the time to talk with guests, an important part of her job; she was so good at really 'listening'.

Gill loved flowers, working in her garden and growing vegetables. She was an early riser, waking most mornings at 5.30am! Yet as bright as a daisy at work, how did she manage that?!

A Christmas Eve baby, Gill always made sure no one's birthday was forgotten, personally choosing the cards - such a thoughtful person.

We are so very grateful to God for sending Gill to work here. To all of you reading this who had the privilege of meeting Gill, maybe it was just the once, or for others many times over the years, you will no doubt remember her fondly and her warm voice saying, "Welcome" as she greeted you.

Jayne Stevens



Winter Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests for Winter 2014

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Winter 2014

PRAYER FOCUS

"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight." Psalm 119:35

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him all you peoples. For great is His love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever." Psalm 117: 1 & 2

PRAYER

- Give thanks for the life of Gill, our beloved sister in Christ, who died in September from cancer. Gill was a dedicated member of the office staff and her death is a huge sadness for us all. Please pray for her husband, Steve, one of the house staff and for their daughter, Elizabeth, who is just beginning a course at Kent University, that the Lord will bless, comfort and strengthen them in this time of bereavement.
 - Please continue to pray for us all, particularly the office staff who have bravely continued amidst their discomfort and sadness. Pray for Maria, who has joined the office staff on a temporary basis to take on Gill's duties.
 - Pray for Sarah, also on the house staff, who has had to fly out to South Africa as her mother is critically ill.
 - Give thanks for the Lord's protection over Stephen, our pianist, who has completed his 'Cross England' walk. Give thanks for the rest of the worship team who have covered all the services during his absence.
 - Give thanks for a very successful Men's Weekend - 'The Brave Heart'. The house was full; the weather was perfect and the Lord moved powerfully during their time together.
- "Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are His deeds and His righteousness endures forever."*
Psalm 111: 2 & 3.

December Prayer Focus

"For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given. He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6.

DECEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 - 5 | Prayer, Painting and Preparing for Christmas |
| 12 - 14 | Healing Weekend |
| 18 | Last Healing Service of 2014 |
| 20 - 27 | House closed |
| 29 Dec
2 Jan 2015 | New Year Celebration |

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." John 1:14



January Prayer Focus

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast spirit within me.”*
Psalm 51:10

JANUARY

- 3 - 4 Residential for Crowhurst Ministry Team
- 6 **First Healing Service of 2015**
- 7 Editorial Board Meeting
- 17 Teaching Day:
‘Praying for Healing - Let’s try it out.’
Led by Steve Clark
- 23 - 25 Healing Weekend

*“For this God is our God forever and ever. He
will be our Guide, even to the end.”*
Psalm 48:14

February Prayer Focus

*“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”*
Psalm 19:1

FEBRUARY

- 6 - 7 Signs of His Kingdom
Part one: Resourcing Church
- 10 Trustees Meeting
- 18 Guided Quiet Day:
After the pancakes, what?
Some thoughts for Lent
- 20 - 22 Healing Weekend
- 24 - 28 Prayer through painting week

*“Glorify the Lord with me: let us exalt His
name together.”* Psalm 34:3



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

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

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Martin Granger (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Shirley Dawson, Paul Raynor, Jane Thomas, Nigel Thonger and Mavis Williams.

- Give thanks for the life of our beloved sister in Christ, Evelyn Walmesley, who died in August at the age of 92. She was a faithful member of the Board for many years and took an active part in the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre. She will be remembered with great affection by many people. 'Well done good and faithful servant.' Pray for the family at their time of bereavement.
- Give thanks and praise that the new art room has been completed. The Grand Opening and Dedication was held during the Prayer Partners Retreat in October and coincided with St Luke's Day - (St Luke is the Patron Saint of Artists as well as surgeons!). Give thanks for all those who contributed so generously to the project. It will give great pleasure to many guests in the years ahead. Praise the Lord.
- Pray for the 2015 programme - the work is ongoing. Pray for guidance and wisdom as we seek *"to do a new thing."* Steve G has been invited to a school in Battle to do an assembly. Pray for God's blessing on widening the net to the young.
- Continue to pray for new members to join the Trustees as we need to increase our number to allow for absences that occur from time to time.
- We see God doing great things here. That is nothing to what we will see Him do when we are all united with and in Him as a body. Pray for us as we have a sense that God is challenging us to consider areas where previously we have not been involved.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing." Isaiah 43:18 & 19.

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ... It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
Colossians 3:23 & 24.

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Penny, Andy, Brenda, Carole, Colin, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegard, Jenny, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Paul, Pete, Pippa, Roland, Stephen, Veronica, Vivien, Yvonne and Visiting Chaplains

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

Heidi, Abigail, Chrissy, Clare, David, Diane, Ian, Julian, Justine, Marion, Mavis, Sarah, Shirley and Steve

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Geof, Brian, Cliff, David, Desmond and Ronnie

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mary

"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



Prayer Partners Weekend: October 19th - 22nd

It was good to have former warden, Trevor Blackshaw with us over the Prayer Partners weekend. Here is an extract of his talk from the Sunday morning Communion service.

“There is more, much more in the Kingdom of Heaven!

Power, more power is available for Kingdom work as the above passage from Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-29) portrays.

The Lord is calling for a people to stand in the gap to intercede that He may release His power to fulfil His purposes to save the lost and broken of this world, reconciling the whole of His creation to Himself. This is a battle call to penetrate the kingdom of darkness and claim it for the Kingdom of Heaven.

In Hebrew there is a special word for intercession and interceding that translates as 'pagah'. It has a three clear uses:

Extending our boundaries

The intercessor is one who may, through Christ's victory applied by faith in prayer, establish and extend boundaries to see heaven's will established on earth. The Word of God describes the intercessor as *“one who stands before God on behalf of persons or situations that either cannot, or will not, come before God on their own.”* The most dramatic evidence for this, is of Jesus Himself, as prophesied in Isaiah 53, which in verse 5 describes Jesus suffering for our salvation, and in verse 12 of our Saviour *“making intercession (pagah) before God for us.”*

Intercession as a matter of executing judgement and Justice.

“Falling upon” describes intercession and what we are called to do. It is offensive not defensive. It is by falling upon with faith and the sword of the Spirit that we strike down the enemy, applying scripture through interceding. In Matthew 11:12, *“The violent take the Kingdom by force,”* describes something of the violence when life is birthed, as when a mother in travail gives birth to her child. Spiritually, the birthing of souls into the new life God the Holy Spirit brings them (John 3: 1-8); and in Galatians 4:19, *“I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you.”*

Chance Encounter

(Situations which arise suddenly or unexpectedly).

This third use introduces a solid reminder of how much Jesus has done for us and how little we bring to the situation in our own strength. Everything in your life or mine is accomplished entirely by His power, unto His glory, through the cross. God nevertheless calls us into partnership in obedience to the ministry of intercession. His will is that we be involved in His purposes. Our authority is derived from the fact of Jesus' shed blood, death and resurrection victory.

”Remember that intercession:

- has to do with prayers for somebody else, our interceding on behalf of...
- relies on the Holy Spirit's guidance and help, Romans 8:26-27, *“He helps us in our weakness for we do not know what we ought to pray for.”*
- Intercession challenges our human helplessness to deal with the largest issues of life.

Jesus, the great Intercessor, has all the resources – far much more than we can imagine or think.

Trevor Blackshaw.



The journey goes on

A number of people took part in a bereavement group, which was held at the CCHC last year.

Chris writes:

We have now come to the end of our official 'Journeying' meetings together, but the journey continues, and we hope to meet up from time to time at the Centre.

We all agreed we had benefitted from meeting once a month for nine sessions (how quickly those months went by!).

The sense of belonging and friendship was so special to us all, and we feel stronger and more able to cope with whatever the future has in store for us. Many thanks to all who supported and led us on the journey for both the sessions and in prayer. (Special thanks to Steve C and Maggie.)

For me there have been so many thoughts and promises the Lord has given me as I face a new future, but the verses from Proverbs (3: 5-6), which I learned as a child at Sunday School, keep coming back:

And from Rebecca

.....
'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths'. Proverbs 3:5-6
.....

Having realised that I did indeed need some support to help me through my grieving for my dear Mum, I found myself welcomed into the Journeying group at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

We travelled along once a month with each other, discovering many varied feelings and comforts. The art room, an area I would not normally tend towards, gave me great comfort. It also induced great emotions, hidden deep. Simply cutting up magazines, with the care and guidance of Maggie's great faith and gentle leadership, encouraged us to find deep treasures within our grief and behind our tears we uncovered fond memories too.

We shared different losses, but all with the same thing in common - deep sadness aroused by different days and events, pictures and thoughts.

Crowhurst has been somewhere to share my deepest emotions and fears of losing my mum, but also somewhere to be myself, no ties, no pre-conceived ideas of how I should act or behave, just gentle and caring support at all levels. I could just be 'me' and felt welcomed.

What an amazing Journey, which I will continue to make, knowing that I am not alone.

Marion Frost writes:

At our final session there was a feeling that we were at a crossroads, and so our bereavement journey hasn't ended. We are still travelling - some of us more slowly than others. Some may find something new on the horizon, some may stop awhile and some may fall. Bereavement is a rough road for us all.

However and whatever we do, there will be one thing different and surprisingly refreshing for our little group; friendship.

Last year when we met we were strangers and at our final scheduled meeting, we give thanks to the Lord for the companionship He nurtured here at the CCHC. We have shared our feelings, our grief, our loss of close family members and our thoughts. We have cried together, cried apart, prayed together and prayed silently. We have laughed and shared memories, sad moments, happy ones and our future fears.

Most of all we have as a group found ourselves in a safe place, where we can just be ourselves, surrounded in prayer and the peace of this wonderful shelter, for which we are so thankful.

It was most apt that after our last meeting, the previous sessions of art and craft, prayer, communion and discussion, that we spent time walking around the grounds as we did at our first meeting. This time felt positive starting in the small chapel 'laying down burdens'; stopping at the pond to give thanks for belonging and at the wooden cross talking about how our loved ones continue in our lives.

At the water feature we prayed special prayers for those who had died and finally in the library we shared a happy memory and exchanged gifts.

We have exchanged telephone numbers and email addresses. We know we can contact anyone of our group at any time. We will meet up again at the Thursday service from time to time and of course keep in touch.

And so I am standing at the crossroads with one thought strongly in my heart ...



Our first visit to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

For many years Crowhurst was the name of what may be described as a 'Healing Retreat' that we would love to visit but for different reasons did not manage to do so. However earlier this year a friend in Ramsay Hall in Worthing where we live, spoke so enthusiastically about it, and aroused our interest, which led to us booking a short stay there in July.

What a lovely time we had in spite of an awful storm one evening. But the next day the sun was shining again and we were back to the delightful summer which showed the Centre in all its glory, and we were able to have a long walk through its most attractive grounds. What a lovely setting for a house of prayer and healing!

.....
We used the Prayer Walk every day, which made God's presence seem all the more real. There were plenty of seats on which to be quiet and enjoy the stillness.
.....

On arrival we were given a warm welcome and introduced to a lovely room, which was followed by a delicious meal. Clearly the strong spiritual dimension of Crowhurst did not mean that physical comforts were neglected!

And the fact that we sat at a table for meals with four or six meant that we enjoyed the company of other visitors a great deal.

What about the Services? Well there was no compulsion to go to them all but throughout our stay we felt supported and renewed by the spiritual focus in the Centre, and the strength and beauty of the worship. The Healing Services, which are also attended from outside folk, were led with great faith and provided opportunities for individuals to go forward and ask for prayer, sharing their thoughts and concerns.

The music at all the services was so sensitive to the type of worship and really helped us to focus our minds on our Lord and our need of Him in our lives.

We both left the CCHC feeling thoroughly renewed and most grateful for our days of peace and refreshment, hoping to return next year.

Norma & Frederick



Refreshing the Brave Heart 26th to 28th September

This was our second men's weekend. It was well attended and enjoyed by all who came. Chris shares his thoughts.

The group's ages were spread across five decades of experience, humour and stories of life and it was invaluable to share experiences of God amongst men.

For me, 'Refreshing the Brave Heart' has allowed time to reflect on where I am in life spiritually, and in reconnecting my prayers, so they emanate from my soul.

The Asaph music rolling out of the Chapel across the lawns in the darkness is something that we should all experience. The sound built into a crescendo as you walked into the Chapel and sent our prayers singing to God's presence.

The lifetime memory will be of sharing communion outside, with the wooden altar, hand-crafted wooden goblet



and bread to share communion. The historical significance and simplicity was hugely spiritual.



“What a remarkable weekend we were privileged to share!”



Julian at work on his pot.

Hilary's Hike



I was introduced to the CCHC many years ago by my special friend, Irene, who had always enjoyed so much the

peace and quiet of her 'second home'. So along I go, wondering what it is all about, this 'Crowhurst.' Well, I came back refreshed and returned home feeling closer to my God.

Second time I went, I knew what to expect, and a happy lady, I decided to venture out to explore the area. I walked until I found a path which seemed to lead to some woods (Forewood). I found peace, quiet and just me and God; what more could I want?

After walking for an hour, it was bound to happen - I got lost! My sense of direction was hopeless, and I wondered what I should do. After asking God, I kept on walking and praying not to get any more lost. Some houses and back gardens appeared before me and I saw a hole in a bush, with just enough room for a little one to squeeze through. As I did so, to my horror a voice said 'Did you know you're trespassing?' I explained that I was lost and was asked where I had come from. 'The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre', I replied. After trying to describe the directions back to the Centre, the look on my face must have troubled the man. 'So far!' I exclaimed. The kind man said that he would take me back in his car as it was rather a long way for me to walk.

It was near lunch time when I got back. A concerned Irene and the others were looking for me from the window, when up I rolled in a sports car!



Did I learn my lesson? Well, I returned to Forewood the next day but did not enter. Yes I had learned my lesson and although I went for a walk again, I decided not to enter the woods this time!

I decided that my exploring days were over and with my walking not so good these days, I am content to enjoy the Centre's grounds. Thank you to Des and the gardening team, and the many seats for my weary bones to rest.

Hilary Booth



January at Crowhurst

Sheila Powell has also sampled the delights of Forewood. She sent this article a while ago, but I haven't had room to put it in until now, which is quite timely because it's the right time of the year to be reading it!

With lunch over, I was feeling very satisfied, just like the 5,000 we heard about this morning at the Healing Service. The sun was shining and inviting me outside, so wrapped up warm and with wellies on, I ventured out of the Centre and walked down to Forewood, the RSPB Reserve.

I walked along muddy paths, skidding and sliding until I spied a sturdy branch lying on the ground. Just the thing, I thought, a staff to aid my balance.



Through the trees buck squirrels were chasing does; a flock of longtailed tits flitted through the birches and a colourful cock pheasant swooped through a glade, calling raucously as he went. A camera shy robin called to me from a branch, not black in colour like his New Zealand cousin, but gentle brown wearing a vivid red waistcoat. He disappeared just as the camera focuses!

Holly bushes were still loaded with crimson berries, silver birches glowed pink in the sunlight, fungi decorated

fallen branches and streams were filling new pools all around.

I paused for a while to rest on a convenient bench where a squirrel had left his half finished horse chestnut lunch! Perhaps I disturbed him; hopefully he came back to finish it off.



So much to see, but then it was time to leave. Over the stile I climbed, out of the wood and onto the 1066 Way. Through a field and into a lane; out of the gate and onto the road; I climbed back up the hill, avoiding the cars speeding on their way.

Catkins danced in the breeze and one brave single celandine was heralding the spring. Over the railway bridge I walked and arrived back at the CCHC. Leaving my mud spattered wellies by the door - time for tea it was quarter to four!

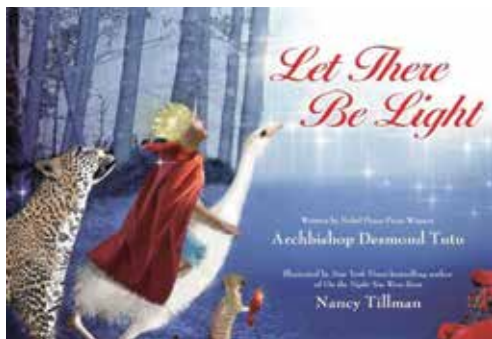
Sheila Powell

Sheila has given us a taste of what can be seen at Forewood in the winter months, but whatever time of the year you visit the Centre, do visit these lovely woods. They provide all year round beauty with every season. It's not far; just turn left as you go out of the entrance and you will be there within five to ten minutes. Don't forget your binoculars and camera!

Book Review

Let there be Light by Desmond Tutu:
ISBN 9780007552580

On sale in the Centre's bookstall, priced £7.99.



With Christmas just around the corner, this book will make an ideal children's gift.

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, retells the Creation story in the most captivating way that even the youngest child can understand. This beautifully illustrated book follows the creation on each of the seven days. Best selling artist and author, Nancy Tillman, has created images to show a God of light and love, and a world of life and beauty alongside the scripture chosen by Archbishop Tutu.

The book is very much about God's love for the world and all He has created. His love shines through on every page and the opening message from Desmond Tutu addresses the child in the most personal way:

"You are part of something truly amazing. Long, long ago, the world was a dark and dreary place. But then God said four marvellous words, "Let there be light". This book is about what happened then. As you'll see, God got very busy creating wondrous things. And eventually, God said, "Let there be you." God wanted you to shine your own special light of love because without you the world would not be quite as bright and beautiful."

To illustrate God's creation of people, Nancy Tillman has used a group of multi-ethnic children to represent the receivers and custodians of God's creation.



The illustrations throughout this book enhance the wonderful story of God's beautiful world, and vividly portray the wonder and beauty of His creation on each of the seven days.

The images include beautiful butterflies, dainty dragonflies, enormous elephants, gigantic giraffes and majestic meerkats, which will appeal to nature lovers of all ages! There is an illustration of a lion with several mice around him, which makes me think of Aslan, the lion, from C S Lewis's, *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'*. (For those who are familiar with the Chronicles of Narnia, you will know that Aslan represents God.

This wonderful book delivers just the right balance of tenderness, imagination and wonder. The bright and colourful illustrations that accompany each day of creation culminate with the final message on the last page, *"You are loved."*

A friend bought this book for my grandchildren (ages 5 and 3) and they absolutely love it, and so do I! Highly recommended and a wonderful gift for Christmas, birthdays or just as a treat!

Calendar

DECEMBER

- 1 - 5 Prayer, Painting and Preparing for Christmas
- 12 - 14 Healing Weekend
- 18 *Last Healing Service of 2014*
- 20 - 27 House closed
- 29 Dec
2 Jan 2015 **New Year Celebration
Start 2015 with God**
Enjoy the company of like-minded Christians and deepen your Spiritual focus. There will be a mixture of peace, relaxation and space to just 'be'. A time of celebration, fun and fellowship. **Some spaces are still available at time of print.**

JANUARY

- 6 *First Healing Service of 2015*
- 17 **Teaching Day,
Led by Steve Clark
'Praying for Healing,
'Let's try it out,'**



Join us for some theory and practice of Christian healing prayer. This day will provide an exciting vision of the healing Saviour at work, leading to an experience of safely praying for others in Jesus' name.

- 23 - 25 Healing Weekend

FEBRUARY

- 6 - 7 Signs of His Kingdom:
Part One: Resourcing Church
- 18 Guided Quiet Day:
*After the pancakes, what?
Some thoughts for Lent"*
Led by Colin Crook
- 20 - 22 Healing Weekend, led by the Crowhurst Team
Healing Weekends provide an opportunity to come aside for personal reflection and renewal of body, mind or spirit. They are open to those of any church denomination, or of none, seeking Christian healing and wholeness.
- 24 - 28 **Prayer
through
painting
week, led
by our
resident
artist,
Maggie,**



'Oh, I can't paint!' is the regular cry we hear. This is followed the next day by the thrill of what has been achieved! Under the encouraging and prayerful guidance of Maggie, creativity is discovered, along with relaxation and a depth of spiritual insight that is astonishing.

How to contact us

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

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The office is open from 9am - 6pm

Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday

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



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