



*Winter 2017 - Spring 2018*

# 2018: A Celebration of God's Faithfulness!



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# Editorial



Many of you will know that popular Christmas song, loved by children - *'Come and join the celebration, it's a very special day'*. Well next year it's a very special year for Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre as we celebrate 90 years of Christ's Healing. A number of events are being planned, see pages 22 and 23 for further details.

As you can see from the front cover, a special anniversary logo has been designed, which will be used on all our publicity material throughout the year and one of our regular visitors, Pam Bygrave, has designed a commemorative bookmark, which lists all the resident Wardens and Chaplains who have served at the Centre from 1928 to 2017. We are sending as a gift one of these lovely bookmarks to all who receive our magazine in the post.

Of course every day is a celebration at CCHC, when we see how God is at work and bringing about His Kingdom. We see folk arrive hurting and often quite broken, and we see how the Lord ministers His healing, meeting them at their point of need.

Thanksgiving Day is always a great day of celebration and 2017's was no exception, as you will remember from the autumn magazine photos, and during the Prayer Partners' Weekend in October, the Centre held a 'Party for our King' which, to me, felt like another Thanksgiving Day! (see pages 16-17).

And the celebrations continue! In October we reached 600 likes on Facebook, which is wonderful as the more people who hear about CCHC, the more lives will be touched by the Lord, and on page 10 there is a wonderful testimony of a healing experienced by one of our guests during her stay. I was privileged to hear of this account first hand as I was staying at the same time as Rachel! At the end of the Sunday morning Communion service, Rachel asked if she could say a few words and what an amazing 'few' words they turned out to be! As she told us what had taken place overnight while she slept, we were all amazed, though of course we shouldn't be as nothing is impossible with God! (Matthew 19:26)

So as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, let us give thanks to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, summed up in the song, *'Come on and Celebrate'*.



*"Come on and celebrate His gift of love, we will celebrate, the Son of God who loved us and gave us life. We'll shout Your praise, O King, You give us joy nothing else can bring, We'll give to You our offering in celebration praise. Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing; celebrate and sing to the King. Come on and celebrate, celebrate, celebrate and sing; celebrate and sing to the King!"*

We have so much to celebrate and give thanks for as we look back over 90 years of Christ's healing at CCHC so check out the various events that are on offer and 'Come on and Celebrate' with us as we honour King Jesus and lift His name high!

I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year. *Mary*

# Steve's letter



Dear All,

Repent! For the Kingdom of God is among you.

Ever since we felt the Lord calling us to repent as a Centre, and corporately with all our many friends and supporters, the Lord has gradually been taking us on journey – a repentance journey. Repentance is not a one off event, it is a lifestyle. This means changing the way we are and the way we do and think about CCHC and ourselves. The Lord takes a daily lead here and He does not change, but He changes us.

A small team made up of Veronica, Suzanne, our Trustees and me have taken time to go through every room, corridor and space in the house and through all the outside buildings and the grounds to pray. We have actively laid hands on all furnishings, the floors, ceilings, doors and windows in the name of Jesus and prayerfully pressed the blood of Jesus into all these places. We have also waited on the Lord in each space to hear His voice and occasionally He has called us to repentance and led us to make some changes. This process of making the changes is on-going. We believe this is the Lord's

guidance at present and request your prayers as we determine to obey the Lord to see His Kingdom come.

Leading on from this we felt directed by the Lord to declare Jesus on the throne at CCHC and in October, during our annual Prayer Partners' gathering, we held a party to honour our King. I wonder how many of you were there to enjoy the festivity? Do tell others about it if you took part in the wonderful celebration - Jesus is King of CCHC!

We are hearing an increasing number of people say the Lord is preparing us for a deeper and greater work and this only confirms what we believe we have heard already! Thank you Lord, please help us to be ready.

I'm excited that the programme 'at a glance' is available in this edition as well as news of some of the plans for our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It looks to be a very good year during which we aim to lift high the name of Jesus, celebrate His faithfulness to CCHC and continue the work of bringing healing to peoples, communities and nations across our planet, Earth.

In a nation where the plethora of self-help crutches lead people away from our saving Lord and simply negate Him, be encouraged this Christmas season to speak boldly about our Lord. Jesus is alive and is ready to transform you and those around you, that His kingdom of peace, love and joy be common place, with you, as it is in heaven. Jesus still knocks on the doors of hearts, homes, churches and communities – pray with me that more and more doors will be open to let Him in and pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up labourers. The harvest is plentiful!

Be blessed this Christmas as you enjoy the presence of Jesus and He enjoys yours.

With love from us all at CCHC,

*Steve*

# Healing Weekend – I dance with Jesus!

During our led meditation, Nigel suggested we allow God to use our imagination to speak to us. We were to go to a favourite place and wait for Him. I immediately was on top of my favourite mountain in Scotland and enjoying the views. I heard a voice tell me *“This is beautiful but we need space, somewhere flat!”* I was now on Scotland’s Sandwood Bay, an incredible, isolated beach that I love.

As I saw someone walking towards me along the beach, Nigel said *“it is Jesus and He will come and sit beside you to talk with you.”* Not me!

Jesus came, held out His arms and pulled me to my feet. He embraced me in a waltz hold and started to dance. I said *“I can’t remember where to put my feet”*. He said *“Don’t worry about that. Stay close to me and follow me”*! We danced on the sand, waltz first, then a quickstep and then ‘mad’ dancing. When we were out of breath we flopped down on the sand dunes, holding hands and laughing! Jesus then took me to the edge of the sea, sparkling little waves flopping onto the shore. We walked barefoot along the beach and then kicked water about, having a wonderful time. We then stood on a rock until the tide surrounded it.

We began to walk away from the beach, holding hands and chatting. As Nigel said it is time to leave, we had reached the road. Jesus walked off one way and I the other.

I remembered when I was a teenager, lumpen and a bit dreary. I went to a dinner dance and waltzed with a man who could really dance. I felt as light as a feather and moved with such ease. The waltz with Jesus was way beyond that feeling!

*Jane*

## HEALING WEEKENDS

These weekends are for anyone in need of spiritual, physical, or emotional healing, regardless of background or circumstances. The following comments were left during one of the healing weekends earlier in the year.

- *Thank you, I have felt so welcome even though I don’t speak English fluently. The sun has been special – it has reminded me so much of my home culture; I have felt as though I have been hugged by my home culture. I have felt very welcome. Everyone is so patient and understanding. A glimpse of another ‘home-place’. He is there and He is here.*
- *I have been to CCHC several times, but this is the first Healing Weekend. It has been, from the first meeting on Friday, a very gentle journey. I have really benefited from it, thank you. So many aspects have been good – the balance of free time and service all wrapped in God’s love. Thank you.*
- *Drained, exhausted, rock bottom, felt God had finished with me – God’s completely turned that around – He’s shown me that He’s got a future for me.*
- *Meditation was so freeing for me.*



# Come and See!



If you have never visited CCHC before, you can be assured of a warm welcome from our Chaplains, Steve and Suzanne (pictured above).

We have a wonderful team, from housekeeping and catering team (pictured right), to the office staff (two of whom are pictured below) who will be on hand to book you in and answer any queries you may have during your visit.

Our Five Star Food Rating continues to be awarded by the Food Standards Agency and you certainly won't go hungry during your stay!

You can come to stay for a few days or up to two weeks for healing rest, retreat, space and prayer and can use the time to suit you. If you would like to be quiet during your stay, there is a silent table available at meal times.

The Centre's daily programme revolves around Christ centred worship, Holy Communion and twice-weekly healing services - Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Thursdays at 10am (with Holy Communion), both of which are open to the public and include the opportunity for brief individual prayer and the laying on of hands. Prayer underpins God's work at the CCHC and the team regularly pray together. Prayer is also offered to folk from outside by prior appointment arranged with the office, and drop in prayer (without the need to book) is available in our newly refurbished Prayer Rooms every Wednesday from 2.15 - 3.45pm.

God will meet you at your point of need as you rest in His presence. Earlier in the year, a pastor booked in for his own silent retreat, remaining in his room for the entire stay (no food, no services - just God). He wrote ... *"I have had some lovely conversations with our Lord, some wonderful revelations and the things I came seeking guidance about for the future He has shown the way."*

So if you've never been to CCHC before, take a look at the enclosed programme, where you will find a wide variety of events for 2018, our very special 90th Anniversary year.





# Lighthearted moments at CCHC

Staff and guests can be assured of some light-hearted moments at CCHC, as you can see from these photos!

*Thanksgiving Day this year was as always a wonderful occasion and a good opportunity for some 'Strictly Come Dancing!'*



*Many of you will have met Ellie, our resident teddy, who loves a cuddle from guests. Ellie gets up to all sorts of mischief and is very adventurous, getting up to all sorts of antics! Here she is helping Chrissy make the drinks.*



## Barbecue fun!

*There was plenty to eat at the staff and volunteers barbecue in September including cake and ice cream. One of our Prayer Ministers, Jan, was having a bit of a battle trying to stop her ice cream falling out of the bottom of her cone. I couldn't resist this picture!*



*After adjourning indoors for warm drinks, this hat, belonging to Justine was doing the rounds, eventually ending up on Veronica's head. I wonder what she is saying?*



# The Mantrap and the Key

*One of our visitors felt led to share this powerful testimony of healing and release which she received at one of the Thursday morning Healing Services earlier in the year.*

During a Thursday morning Healing Service in the large chapel I became aware that I was in a spiritual mantrap. I was completely caught and held in a vice-like grip which I understood had held me helpless for many, many years, almost I felt, from childhood or even before that. I also understood that I had not entered into it willingly.

The mantrap felt so familiar. I had been there a very long time. I was wounded by the iron jaws and my muscles felt taut with the stress of trying to get relief. I was laying down on the ground and every time I tried to move, the iron jaws dug deeper.

I became aware of Jesus looking at me, there was such compassion coming from Him to me. I felt He was asking if I was willing to be released and if I would be able to bear the pain that I would feel as the lifeblood began to circulate. I said I was willing to suffer any pain to be free, free to follow Jesus and Him alone, and not care what people might say or think of me.

I went forward for Communion and as I returned to my seat I became aware of the Cross on the wall and as I looked at it, it began to look more like a key.

I was aware that the key would open the lock on the mantrap and so I began to ask for the key to be used to set me free. Again I was prepared for pain.

But as the key was turned, instead of pain I felt great rushes of fresh air entering my lungs, I could move, I could stand up, and no pain at all. The mantrap melted into the ground and I was given to understand that Jesus had already borne all the pain for me - on the



Cross; He had the right and the authority to release me completely. I also became aware that He had not wanted me, for one moment, to be entrapped, that He had been drawing me closer and closer to Himself and to total commitment at whatever the cost and once I made that commitment, I was totally free.

As I continued, sitting quietly in my seat, I became conscious that from now on I was free to come into the presence of God, through Jesus, and that I could now come freely and know complete acceptance, not through any merit of my own but purely and simply because I had surrendered my own will, my own desires, my hopes and dreams. I was free to simply be myself; there were no barriers, conditions, laws or stipulations. I could come openly and freely into His Presence and He would welcome me, as He always had, with unconditional love. I didn't have to try to please Him any more - or be afraid - I could just be me because He knows my heart.

My fear had always been of being rejected for getting things wrong, of making a mistake but as I surrendered to what I thought would be pain and agony, the iron fetters not only broke but melted into the ground.

*"He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquity. Surely  
He bore our sorrows and by His stripes  
we are healed." Isaiah 53:5*



# Discovering Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre



I first attended Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for a week last year when I was invited by friends who have been there several times in the past five years. I had such an inspiring and pleasant time that I came again in August this year for five days.

As soon as I drove into the car park again I felt a feeling of peace and tranquillity. The warm welcome we received from the staff and volunteers and their friendly support lasted the whole week.

The weather was on the whole warm and sunny with only one day of rain and it was a pleasure to walk around the beautifully kept grounds. I looked forward to the daily round of services in the small chapel and the two healing services in the large chapel, but the feeling of God's healing presence was not restricted to the chapel services.

The only drawback was that the food was so good and plentiful that I now need to lose weight!

I returned home with my spiritual batteries recharged and I look forward to my next visit in December.

*Raymond*

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

# Music Review: Asaph Music

This beautiful music is produced by Jon Newman and Rich Garner, who describe it as 'prophetic playing', which is led by the Holy Spirit.'

There are two CDs, **'Anthems of Ascent'** (double CD) and **'The River'**. One of my favourite tracks is 'Wide as the Ocean' from 'The River' and includes the beautiful sounds of whales, which I find particularly moving. Jon and Rich write: "We were inspired to add some sound samples of real whale song. Not only were we thinking about the vastness and wonder of His creation but there is something serene and peaceful about those whales. Thinking on from this we recalled the old chorus, "Wide, wide as the ocean, high as the heaven above; Deep, deep as the deepest sea is my Saviour's love", which became the inspiration for the track name.

For those of you with internet access, you can visit Asaph Music's website,

**[www.asaphmusic.org.uk](http://www.asaphmusic.org.uk)** where there is a lot of information, and from where the music can be downloaded.

Asaph music has blessed people in many walks of life, from children with special needs to folk in care homes. Each CD provides the perfect atmosphere for meditation, prayer times, stillness with the Lord or simply as background music. In fact I have had it playing a lot while putting this magazine together.

The River was recorded at CCHC during a men's weekend in 2014 when Jon and Rich were providing live inspirational instrumental music to support the weekend.

Track 3 on the CD, entitled 'The River' is described by Jon and Rich 'as a recurring theme during the two days at Crowhurst, and that this track paints a picture of that river.'

With Christmas just around the corner, these CDs would make ideal presents, and help bring calm amidst the often hectic preparation before, and after the Christmas season. They can be purchased from the CCHC's bookstall.

“To Him who is able to do immeasurably more. ..”

On the day I returned from my August stay at Crowhurst, I posted the following on Facebook: “Went to Crowhurst with long-standing back and shoulder pain. All gone. Just saying!” As I write, two days later, that pain is still notably absent.



I have used a wheelchair for my whole life; a lifetime of sitting means that back and shoulder pain have just become a normal part of my body's rhythm, especially in recent years.

When I discovered on my last morning at CCHC that I could stretch without pain, neither did my back hurt when I got into my chair, it was a surprise and a delight – not least because that pain has accumulated over years and at no point during my stay had I prayed about my back or shoulders – it never crossed my mind to do it, it had just become ‘usual’. Of course, the relief of pain is extraordinary but to really explain the beauty of what unfolded for me ‘in Christ’ across my week at Crowhurst, I have to tell a circular story.

I have stayed at the CCHC a few times; I choose to go and find peace and rest after especially busy times in my work and church life – it is a place ‘of God’ and I am always blessed by my time there. Over the course of this most recent visit, God challenged me gently in a number of ways and helped me face some fears I didn't even know I had - until I was faced with them. In facing my fears I was blessed by the kindness and care of several of the staff who just listened and helped me put things in their proper place – there is something about Crowhurst which just makes the release of pain possible; I am certain the Spirit of God moves through this place and coaxes the pain from you.

I have come to realise that God knew better than I did I had things to face. He also knows how stubborn I can be - and by a mix of precision engineering and astonishing choreography that only He could manage, He put me right where I needed to be - to face my fears and let them go.

Have I wondered why God stopped my back pain when I didn't ask? Of course I have – and to attempt an answer, I need to tell you the rest of the story. My disability means that I am fairly static. I have two basic postures – sitting or lying and when I lie down, I can't really move or turn over unless I wake – I wake in the same position that I went to sleep. On my last morning at the Centre, I reached above my head to turn on the light and couldn't reach it. Somehow, in the night I had meandered down to the end of the bed and my feet were over the end - no bad dreams and no memory of waking to drag myself down the bed! I discovered my shoulders didn't hurt when I was groping for the light!

My sense is that God wanted to say, “I know you have doubted me this week, I know you have been afraid but see, I am in command. I can take your pain and I can help you move.” God knows that just sometimes I need things ‘writ large!’

Not surprisingly, I have been in reflective mood since I got home. I have received the love, healing and peace of God in spades – freely given. His grace is extraordinary, as is that of the staff through whom He works and I am beyond thankful. By way of encouragement, I also say this. Wherever you are with God, his gently irrepressible Spirit dwells here, and in it you can find peace and healing. Just be who you are; He loves you, praise God!

*Rachel Wilson*

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”

*Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)*

# Winter Prayer Requests

**Danger  
Deep Water**

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



# Winter Prayer Requests

## PRAYER FOCUS

*"Shout for joy, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:1 & 2*

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

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

## PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for all the staff at CCHC. It has been a busy time during the past months as they have done extra duties to cover those away on holiday. Pray for good health during the winter months and safe journeys each day, that the roads may be free of ice and snow.
- Please hold Steve and Suzanne in prayer as they continue the Mission activities at the Centre as well as run the everyday rhythm of worship and prayer.
- Give thanks for all our dear Prayer Ministers and Visiting Chaplains who serve the Lord so faithfully here.
- Give thanks for Steve, Suzanne, the Chaplaincy Team and Trustees.
- Give thanks for David and Judith, members of the ministry team, who come into the Prayer Room each Wednesday and minister God's healing love to those who 'drop in.'
- Give thanks for the Ladies Weekend, led by Veronica and Suzanne, which was greatly enjoyed by all who were there.
- Give thanks for the many new faces at our services and the visiting church groups.

*"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." Psalm 33:11*

*Some of our Prayer Partners during their gathering in October 2017*



## December Prayer Focus

*"The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel - which means God with us." Matthew 1:23*

## DECEMBER

- |                |                                              |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 - 3          | Advent Retreat                               |
| 6              | Guided Quiet Day                             |
| 12 - 14        | 'Putting Christ into Christmas'              |
| 14             | <b>Last Healing Service of 2017</b>          |
| 22 - 28        | <b>House closed</b>                          |
| 30 Dec - 3 Jan | New Year Celebration with the Crowhurst Team |



## January Prayer Focus

*"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

## JANUARY

- 4**      **First Healing Service of 2018**  
**New time of 10am**
- 5 - 7**    Ministry Team and Chaplains Weekend
- 13**      Guided Quiet Day
- 19 - 21**   Healing Weekend
- 22 - 28**   Healing Space

## February Prayer Focus

*"The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law."*  
Mark 1:22

## FEBRUARY

- 9 - 11**      Healing Weekend
- 14**          Ash Wednesday Quiet Day
- 15 - 21**    Healing Space
- 27 - 3 Mar**   Prayer through Painting

### **New for 2018 - Healing Space**

We have protected nine weeks of 'Healing Space' where there will be only our daily pattern of worship and an opportunity for prayer for God's healing of mind, body and spirit. You are all invited to attend any of our open programmed events or to stay at other times when the house is not full or closed for our Sabbath rests.

# Prayer for The Centre

## PRAYER FOCUS

*"In his heart a man plans his course but the Lord determines his steps."* Proverbs 16:9

## TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Nigel Thonger (Chair), Vivien Drakes, Paul Raynor, and Denis Smith.

- Thank you all for your on-going prayers with us as we seek the Lord's vision and will for the developing future of CCHC. Steve Gendall met with the Trustees and those involved in our recruitment process. They have decided not to appoint any of the applicants to the position of Chaplain with Outreach Oversight at the Centre. We believe the Lord is showing us a different picture to that which we envisioned. It is necessary for us to be obedient and seek His face for guidance and clarity before we can be confident to proceed further. Please continue to pray earnestly with us.
- Jim Beveridge has completed his time as a trustee and is no longer on the Board. We thank him for his faithful service during the past years. Jim's health is of great concern. Please continue to pray for him and his wife, Jenny. May the Lord bless, strengthen and uphold them and provide for all their needs at this challenging time.
- Jane Thomas has retired from her position as Trustee and we give thanks to our Lord for her many years of dedicated service. Jane's gift of hearing from the Lord, her wisdom and ability to speak openly and honestly, with a good sense of humour, will be very much missed. Please pray for the Lord's blessings on Jane and Neil.
- We continue to give thanks for those who so generously support the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre. The refurbished Prayer Rooms and Shalom are a great blessing to all who use them.

*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."* Proverbs 16:3

# Prayer for Staff at The Centre

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality."* Romans 12:12 & 13

## CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Suzanne Owen

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

## OFFICE

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

## HOUSE

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

## MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Desmond, David

## MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."* Colossians 3:15

## 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.**



# Celebrating Animals!



Who can imagine a world without animals? Apart from being companions, animals are a huge help to humans all over the world, serving in so many different ways. Dogs in particular can work in a variety of roles, and horses can be great therapy for children with special needs who might have difficulty communicating with adults.

Some of you may know the old hymn - Think of a world without any flowers. The second verse is particularly appropriate when we think about animals:

*"Think of the world without any animals, think of a field without any herd; think of a stream without any fishes, think of a dawn without any bird. We thank You, Lord, for all your living creatures, we thank you, Lord, and praise Your holy name."*

When I wrote in last year's summer magazine, about my cat Purdey (pictured above) recovering from a series of illnesses, folk at CCHC would often ask after her and this would lead on to discussion about guests' pets. During a recent stay, I was chatting to Rosemary, a regular visitor to CCHC. She has a magnificent cat called 'Lord Logan', who sounds a real character and such great company for Rosemary.

Pets are very important, providing companionship and fun and they also play an important part in our physical and mental well being. When they get sick it can be worrying and upsetting and I know it's not unknown for folk to put their pets' names on the Crowhurst Prayer List!

Sadly Purdey's condition worsened and in October I had to make that horrible decision that every pet owner dreads, to have her put to sleep. It was so difficult to know what to do because she has recovered from illness many times and I wondered whether she might do so again, but as I sat with her in the vet's surgery, heart and head in conflict, I prayed for wisdom and discernment and felt clearly that God was telling me to let her go.

Initially I felt guilty at the depth of my grieving for Purdey because she was an animal and not a human, but understanding people have pointed out to me that our pets make such a connection with us and it is OK to mourn their loss, which made me feel better. I have also been assured that as well as seeing our human loved ones in heaven, we will see our pets also because they too were our loved ones; and I have read quotes from several Christian authors, including C S Lewis, James Herriot and even the well known evangelist, Billy Graham, who all believe our pets go to Heaven.

*Mary Slater*

In his hand is the life  
of every creature  
and the breath of all  
mankind. Job 12:10

# A Party for our King!



During the Prayer Partners Weekend, the CCHC held a party to honour King Jesus. Everyone looked very smart! One of the Prayer Partners, Audrey, even wore a hat, “because”, she said, “when you have an audience with our Queen, you wear a hat, so why not for our King!”

I have been to many services at the CCHC over the years but I don't think I have ever experienced one like this before! The large chapel was full and the whole service was about honouring Jesus, King of everything and especially at the CHCC. The worship was powerful and the Lord's presence so tangible. A chair had been placed in front of the altar and we were asked to imagine Jesus sitting on His throne, gathered in our midst as we praised and worshipped Him. There was banner waving and dancing, in the aisles and around the altar. It was so joyful!

Steve said that the team had been on a 'journey of repentance' and have been led to ask if they were out of tune in any way? The Lord must always be Head of the CCHC and when we acknowledge this, we KNOW that His presence is going to increase.

A time of confession followed and Jesus was declared as King, the God who sits on His mercy seat, extending mercy to those who come to Him. The previous evening, the Prayer Partners had a vision of angels' wings covering the Centre.

Veronica thanked God for all He had done at the Centre, for Howard Cobb who obeyed the Lord's calling ninety years ago and for all who have served here, enabling the work to continue, materially and spiritually. Through the years He has been our Lord and Saviour, Prophet, Priest and King.

A declaration was made by Nigel, Suzanne Veronica and Steve, that the team would remain true to the call of the Lord and walk always in obedience, and we were all asked to repeat the declaration.

An open time of prayer followed for those who felt led by the Lord to pray out loud or give words of knowledge. Someone read from Isaiah 6:1 “*I saw the Lord high and lifted up*” and this is exactly what we were doing at the service!

One thought which really struck me was that Jesus is ALWAYS on the throne, whether we are on a mountain top or in a valley.

During the preparation of Communion, Steve said that there are over a billion people who recognise Jesus as King and when we went up to receive the Bread and Wine, he suggested that we might like to bow before the empty chair - which represented the throne of God – to acknowledge His presence with us. It was very humbling to do this and to see everyone bowing - it really put Christ in His rightful place.

We finished with Graham Kendrick's rousing song, *'The Lord is Marching out in splendour'* (*O give thanks to the Lord for His love endures*), after which Stephen played an Israeli song, to which many folk got up and danced in a circle around the altar. I don't think anyone wanted the service to end; we were truly soaking in the Lord's presence.

A Ploughman's lunch was provided and we all shared a lovely time of fellowship in the dining room before departing and leaving the Prayer Partners to continue with their weekend!





# Maintenance news

We are at that wonderful time of year when the leaves are starting to drop and the colours are slowly changing. One of our best leaf clearing volunteers, Cliff, 'retired' from CCHC in September, but we now have a secret weapon all the way from the USA – an electric leaf mulcher, which should really help.

Cliff was also partly responsible for taking away the kitchen recyclable waste, but we now have two compost bins situated by the polytunnel so more easily accessible.

During November 1000 more tulip bulbs were planted, as last year's planting was very well received, so that will keep Desmond busier than normal!

We now have a nice new set of double gates at the bottom of the station path, which give a more welcoming feel.



There is a small area of waste ground in front of the polytunnel that we are praying about what to do with and we are exploring the idea of an allotment. It would need some organisation and planning and this may be beneficial for guests to do some gardening, as well as supplying the kitchen with occasional fresh vegetables, salads and herbs etc. If this might be of interest, please contact me via the office to discuss it further. We can supply all the tools required and the polytunnel could be made available if required.

Please do spread the word if you know anyone who may be interested.

We have bought five new benches for the patio area and moved the existing ones to various positions along the prayer walk. An additional four benches are now situated around the Freedom Garden.



All the front windows of the main building have now been replaced with uPVC to match the fire escape doors and an additional small window has been created in room 11. I think you will agree that the appearance of the front of the building is greatly enhanced.

One major bit of news is that after much deliberation and surveys, it was decided that the bungalow is to be demolished and a new, purpose built, eco-friendly and accessible timber framed kit-house is to take its place. The cost of refurbishment and upgrading the existing property was not deemed viable. At present we are only at the planning stage and nothing will be done until the New Year, but this is just to give notice that construction work will be happening within the next few months.

Next year already looks to be very busy in the grounds, so this feels like the calm before the storm, which isn't a bad thing.

Blessings, *Kim*

## Thank you Cliff



Volunteer gardener, Cliff, decided to 'hang up' his gloves and boots in September so is celebrating retirement from his not so favourite jobs of dead heading in the summer and leaf clearing in the autumn and winter!

For the last five years Cliff has been a familiar sight working at the Centre, helping to keep the grounds shipshape and often popping in on other occasions to empty the bins if there was a shortage of staff. He particularly enjoyed working near the large chapel on a Thursday as he could listen to the rousing singing from the Healing Service!

At a farewell tea, Cliff was presented with a lovely framed montage of photos (which Jayne from the office had put together) showing him at work in various places around the grounds over the last five years.

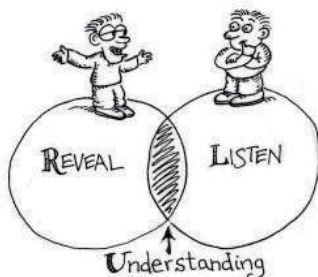
Cliff and I are next door neighbours and he originally discovered CCHC after seeing me come back a very different person following my first visit in 1996!

And who should he meet there on his very first visit to a Thursday morning Healing Service? Shirley Dawson's husband, Fred, who was a work colleague in their Post Office days - Cliff and Fred were telegram boys back in the sixties.

Cliff's hard work, smiling face and amusing jokes will be missed at the Centre though it's not a permanent goodbye to him as he intends to carry on attending the Tuesday evening services.

*Mary Slater*

## Christians in Conflict Teaching Day with Denis Smith



This Teaching Day in September was brilliant! It started with discussion about conflict in general. What did it mean and how do we personally respond to conflicts in general.

The second part was a brief look into Scriptures based on Acts 6:1-7 and 15:1-36. I personally loved this as we all took part in reading out the verses as well as participating individually in groups and discussing each conflict in the passage that we were given to look at.

After coffee was conflict transformation techniques where we were put in three pairs opposite to another three pairs. One had to speak while the other pretended to listen. This was called an 'Active listening exercise.'

Then it continued with a personal look at our own positions - our hurts, interests and hopes - and then to think about our own conflicts.

I loved the coming together at the end as we shared in pairs; one spoke and the other listened. After each few minutes we were asked how it felt, and had we individually been listened to? Most of us said yes.

At the end we all took time again in our groups to listen and pray individually for each other and waited for the Holy Spirit to give a scripture or a picture to encourage and uphold.

This day was very encouraging and showed me we all have the potential to be good listeners. There are three key words: *compromise, in agreement and listen.*

*Sharon Wingfield*

# Ladies Weekend: September 2017

## *'Eve Redeemed from Shame to Honour'*

I approached the weekend not knowing what to expect.

It began on Friday afternoon when we all met up over tea and found out the topic we would explore together. I had no idea how exciting and very challenging the weekend would turn out to be for me personally.

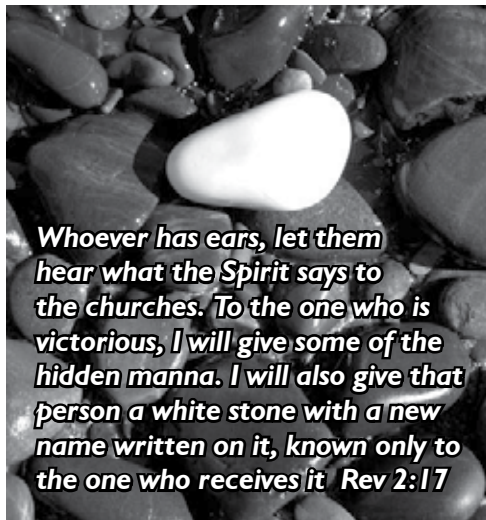
Our introductory session on Friday evening was looking together at where our identity comes from as women. As we broke into small groups, we reflected how society and many factors have influenced who we are.

On Saturday we looked at some searching questions. Who am I? What am I? Looking back to creation and looking at the relationship of Adam and Eve, especially after the Fall.

On Saturday afternoon, Suzanne produced a visual aid. This was a flip chart drawing of what could be any one of us. The drawing was covered with layers and layers of wrong ideas we have about ourselves and images that others have placed upon us. We all carry around rubbish and wrong images from our past. Gradually we stripped off these layers and revealed the truth of who we really are, "Made in the image of God."

Saturday evening was fun time when we watched a Disney video, 'Mulan', which produced much laughter as we gathered in the small chapel with crisps, popcorn and chocolate provided by Suzanne and Veronica. We soon realised it had meaning to the whole focus of the weekend.

Sunday morning brought the weekend to an end with Communion, time for personal reflection and an opportunity to lay down things in our lives that have influenced us and prevented us from being the women that God created us to be. We were each given a white stone representing the Scripture that speaks of God giving us a new name (Revelation 2:17)



***Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it Rev 2:17***

I would like to say a big thank you to Suzanne and Veronica; they put so much work into the weekend and clearly so much prayer. It was quite clear they had heard from the Lord.

It was such a joy to be with a group of really lovely ladies to share fellowship and worship, so wonderfully led by Pippa (thank you Pippa).

The weekend was a great blessing to me and The Lord reminded me again that He is my Creator and He doesn't make mistakes Praise His Name! (Psalm 139)

*Janet*

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:13



# Answered Prayers!

We would like to share our great excitement of becoming engaged, which took place in the small chapel at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre on Tuesday 25 July 2017. This



is a most wonderful gift from our Lord and an amazing answer to our prayers.

Our story begins some months earlier. We were both lonely and each of us, on separate occasions, had prayer ministry at CCHC, praying for someone with whom we could share our lives. Then in October 2016 we attended the Prayer through Painting retreat where we met each other for the first time, although we had both been to Crowhurst many times previously. We joined with others in the friendship, fun and all that makes CCHC what it is. Neither of us expected that God would answer our prayers at that time. However, by the end of the week, we were looking out for each other, sitting side by side in the chapel and sharing a table at meal times. Following our visit to the Centre in October, our friendship grew into love and we saw many answers to our prayers for guidance, which led to us getting engaged at Crowhurst nine months later.

In conclusion, we want to say a very big thank you to our loving Lord. We would also like to thank everyone at CCHC. It is a wonderful place of healing, which will always be a special place and, for us, is now even more special.

*Sally Clarke and Peter Tomsett*

# Orchestrated by God!

*It is wonderful how God moves at CCHC. Sally and Peter's story of how the Lord brought them together is truly heartwarming and we wish them every blessing and happiness for the future.*

*When I chat to people at the Centre, one of the questions I always find myself asking is how they first found out about it. The stories are so interesting and I could put a whole magazine together full of their diverse accounts! One thing is abundantly clear; God leads people there through various sources and always in His perfect timing! Gillian shares with us how a very old Crowhurst magazine led to her discovering the CCHC. It shows you just how important an outreach our magazine is!*

*"When I was a child, I was friendly with the girl next door, who was four years older than me. We remained in contact after my family moved to East Anglia, continuing to send cards and writing to one another occasionally in adulthood, but gradually the contact faded.*

*Suddenly in 1988, after many years of nothing, I had a letter from her. I was by that time very ill with severe ME and unable to reply. By the time I was well enough to answer it, the letter had disappeared but one day in 1999 my husband gave me a cardboard box full of papers, saying 'I think these are yours.' In the box I found the letter and answered it, eleven years late! My friend replied saying how sorry she was about my illness and that she was sending me 'something you may find very interesting.' It was a Crowhurst magazine! I had no idea that she had any connection with the church so was quite surprised, but it turned out that she had been to CCHC two or three times in the early eighties.*

*I made my first visit in spring 2000 and have been coming back for more ever since! I shall always be grateful to my friend and I feel that the rather complicated chain of events that led to my discovering Crowhurst must have been orchestrated by God."*

*Gillian*

# 2018 – A Celebration of God’s Faithfulness

*“Stories have power. They delight, enchant, touch, teach, recall, inspire, motivate, challenge. They help us understand. They imprint a picture on our minds.” Janet Litherland*

I have a picture of a large treasure chest full of shiny gold coins. I sink my hands into the coins and as I bring them out, I allow them to tumble into the chest from in between my fingers. Like numerous shiny coins in a treasure chest there is a wealth of ‘God stories’ all around us at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.



The selfish thing to do would be to shut the chest and to keep the treasure to oneself. However, imagine instead the joy of sharing the treasure with others: imagine sharing 90 years of ‘God stories’, stories that will move us, make us feel alive and inspire us. That treasure chest is going to be opened up in 2018 as we celebrate 90 years of God’s faithfulness and loving kindness to us at CCHC. And what a year of celebration it’s going to be! April will see us step back into the past and also step into the future as past and present Wardens and Chaplains gather for a residential weekend. This will be a time to recall their stories of God’s faithfulness over

the years, and a time of asking and thanking Him for His continued faithfulness for the future. We hope that many of you will be able to join us on the Saturday of that weekend as we open the house for worship, lunch and refreshments. If, however, you are unable to be here physically, we hope that you are able to join us in cyber space as we take a step ourselves into the future by streaming parts of the weekend live to you, via Facebook. John & Gillian Ryeland are set to draw the crowds on Thanksgiving Day (7 July). John is Chairman of Christian Healing United Kingdom (CHUK) and will be our keynote speaker. CHUK is a fellowship of over thirty six healing initiatives across the UK. In September we will be opening wide the ‘treasure chest of stories’ as we hold two days of celebration with the villagers of Crowhurst. We are thrilled to be working with The Reverend Doctor Michael Brydon (Crowhurst Parish Priest) to put on this event. Our founder, Howard Cobb was previously Crowhurst Parish Priest.

.....  
*“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”*  
Psalm 133:1 (NIV)  
.....

In October, we have a brand-new event called “90 hours for our hearts to sing!” This will be 90 hours of continuous worship, praise and prayer and we hope many of you will join us to celebra your stories of how God has used CCHC to touch your lives. In recognition of God’s abundance to us, we want to be generous to others and will be offering **90 free nights** for clergy, street pastors, youth pastors and NHS Healthcare Professionals. Anyone from these groups is eligible to stay for 1-3 nights next year to enjoy an essential time of lightening loads and receiving from God.

# The Bulletin Board

After the excitement of Soul Survivor and other summer festivals youth workers/pastors can look forward to some 'Festival Recovery' time at CCHC in September. Again, we want to bless those called to work with young people by offering them a free bespoke weekend of lightening up in order to receive.

God has supplied all our needs from His glorious riches over the last 90 years. We pray that 2018 will be a year where we proclaim His goodness far and wide and we pray that you will join us as we celebrate.

*Esther* (PA to Steve Gendall)

*"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about His power and His mighty wonders." Psalm 78:4 (NLT)*

## CHRISTMAS SEASON

**Tuesday 12 to 14 December**

This celebration last year was very enjoyable, with festive fun, delicious food, fellowship and good teaching, so don't miss out! We still have some places left at the time of print.



### Christmas Offer:

**Pay for two nights and get the third night free (except for programmed events) 3 -12 December**

## 2018 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

6 - 8 April  
Former Wardens and Chaplains weekend

July 7  
Thanksgiving Day

### FREE RETREAT

6 - 9 September  
'Festival Recovery' (for youth pastors)

15 and 16 September  
Village Celebration

October 3 (6pm) - 7 (12noon)  
90 hours for our hearts to sing!

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



**Please note that starting from Thursday 4 January, the Thursday morning Healing Services will begin at the earlier time of 10am.**



# How to contact us

**Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre**

**The Old Rectory, Crowhurst,**

**Battle, East Sussex TN33 9AD**

**Telephone:** 01424 830204

**Bookings:** 01424 830033

**Email:** [bookings.cchc@btconnect.com](mailto:bookings.cchc@btconnect.com)

**Email:** [crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com](mailto:crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com)

**Web:** [www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

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

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



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

Registered Charity No. 208738

# Who's who

## **PRESIDENT**

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

## **CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**

Nigel Thonger

## **SENIOR CHAPLAIN**

Revd Steve Gendall

## **CHAPLAIN WITH CENTRE OVERSIGHT**

Suzanne Owen

## **PRAYER PARTNERS CO-ORDINATOR**

Shirley Dawson

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Mary Slater ([marys56@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marys56@hotmail.co.uk))

While this magazine is issued free of charge, an annual donation of £10.00 to cover costs is most helpful. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, this adds another 25p for every £1 you give.

