

# *In His Healing Steps*



*Winter 2018*





## *In this issue*

04	Steve & Veronica's Letter
05	Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Ray Jones' Ordination – September 2018
06	Crowhurst Village Weekend – Sept 2018
08	Never discount the Power of Prayer!
09	Testimonies of God's Goodness
10	Grounds News
11 -14	Prayer Focus
15	Amazing Grace
16	Crowhurst Village Fayre – Sept 2018
17	Festival Recovery (Free weekend for Youth Workers) September 2018
18	90 Hours for our Hearts to Sing – October 2018
20	The Lord meets us where we are
21	Refreshed and Renewed
22	Praying in Colour
23	Prayer Walk – Flora and Fauna

## *Farewell to Chris, Dave and Desmond*



**I**n August a few tears were shed as we said three goodbyes. Head gardener Desmond has retired after ten years working for Crowhurst and volunteer gardener Dave has moved to Bristol.

Our Treasurer Chris has retired from his role, though we are pleased to announce that he will continue to be involved with CCHC in a different capacity.

We ask for God's blessing on Desmond, Dave and Chris as their lives move in a new direction.



# Editorial

Our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year is drawing to an end and what a year it's been! So many wonderful events to look back on, with the final one being '90 Hours for our Hearts to Sing' which was held in October. Our Pianist, Pippa, whose idea it was, and who had a major part in the planning of this marathon event, will be writing a full article for the spring issue, but there is a 'flavour' of the 90 hours on page 18 to whet your appetite!

Many folk joined in with the scheduled events, either at the Centre, or from their own homes, praising and worshipping the Lord during the 90 hours. Folk filled prayer slots during the night and early hours of the morning and some were even worshipping in other countries!

I was able to attend the Sunday morning final service of praise and celebration, which brought to a close this wonderful event. The focus of the service was very much on Jesus being the centre of everything, and on the Altar was a chair covered in a purple 'royal' robe, with a gold crown on top, reminding us that Jesus is King and always on the throne. On the Altar table stood the Bavarian statue of Jesus, which had a prayer shawl draped around it. Holy Communion was very moving as we all gathered inside the Altar rails and after receiving the bread and wine, we were invited to touch the tassels of the prayer shawl, which was very special.



It really has been an amazing year, with so much celebration and praise to God for all He has done at CCHC since 1928 and as we look forward to the next decade, we can only imagine how joyful our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year will be like! Will there be another marathon praise and worship event I wonder — perhaps '100 hours for our hearts to sing'?

If you have testimonies or memories from this special Anniversary Year that you would like to share for our next magazine, my deadline for the spring issue will be 10 January 2019. You can either send your article by email to [marys56@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marys56@hotmail.co.uk) or post to the office who will send it on to me.

This issue will be printed towards the end of November and Christmas will be fast approaching, with the usual frenetic activity in the shops. It's not always easy to focus on the true meaning of this special season with all the outside distractions, so where better to 'escape' than CCHC to spend some time with the Lord as you prepare for Christmas? Or perhaps book in for 'Old and New Treasures Revealed' from 28-30 December, and recover from the busyness of the Christmas period while looking ahead to the New Year.

As this year draws to a close, I wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus and spend time with your families.

Every blessing, *Mary*



# Steve and Veronica's Letter



**D**ear All,  
*"In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever." Psalm 44:8.*

At the time of writing this letter in September, Veronica and I will have been here at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre (CCHC) for six years. We have a long way to go to equal or better our founders, Howard and May Cobb's 22 years! What a time of blessing and change these years have been. For us personally it has been a time of growth in the Lord, and a time of healing. It has also been a huge privilege leading such a great team. We have much to thank God for.

As we move into our seventh year, Veronica and I have reflected on things we have learnt since working at CCHC and briefly share something of our thoughts below.

**Steve:** I sometimes say, 'God is good all the time' and often that seems to fly in the face of the circumstances that surround us — be it here at CCHC, locally, nationally or at international level. How can God be good when we see so much suffering? I don't believe that God is the author of the suffering. On the contrary, I believe in God as Creator, giving mankind the perfect opportunity for paradise on earth (how good is that?) I believe in God as Saviour, as seen in the death, burial

and resurrection of Jesus, giving mankind the perfect opportunity for new beginnings — God's will be done, His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. God is the author of life and I have seen Him on countless occasions since we have been here, restoring, redeeming, reshaping and transforming people's lives from darkness to light. For me, God **IS** good all the time. My faith and trust in Him is stronger as a result of our being here.

**Veronica:** I have found these six years to be challenging in many respects and growth has come from learning to lean on the Lord through those challenges. People often say, correctly, how fortunate we are to live and work in such a beautiful and God-centred environment. However, close proximity to the Lord will always show up our own weaknesses and shortcomings, and for me working through these into a place of closer trust and intimacy with Him has at times been very painful, but it is a price worth paying as He leads me to increasing freedom and a much deeper revelation of Himself, and His Kingdom. Truly, *"no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."* (1 Cor 2:9)

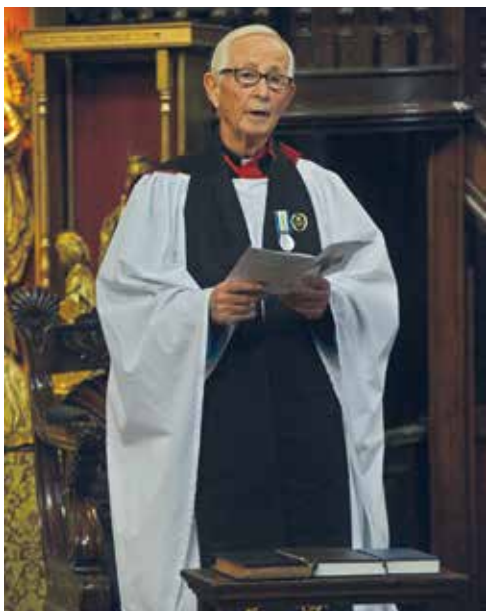
Veronica and I know something of the value of talking about our faith journey. The Psalms encourage us again and again to tell of all the Lord is doing — with praise. I found myself saying recently, that when we speak the name of the Lord openly, our words are fuel for the fire of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gets so excited when Jesus is at the centre of our lives and conversations that He turns our mere words and actions into divine activity. The result is — the kingdom of God advances.

With love from us all at CCHC and may you have a blessed Christmas and a Jesus-filled New Year.

*Steve and Veronica*



# Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Ray Jones' Ordination



**R**ay Jones, the much loved former Warden at Crowhurst, celebrated 60 years of ordained ministry at a wonderful service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The church of St Andrew, Steyning was packed with family and friends from his very full career — from the present and previous parishes, the Royal Navy and from Crowhurst.

After a warm welcome from Fr Mark Heather, the Incumbent of the parish, Ray led much of the service. Ray's wife, Maureen, read the first lesson and the Revd Simon Woodley, who worked at Crowhurst in Ray's time, read the second.

Ray preached in his own inimitable style and knowing that some folk there were not Christians, Ray spoke powerfully on the title — 'A Witness'. In essence he outlined his journey of faith, moving easily between pathos and humour. He described movingly the loss of his brother at the age

of 12, followed by the death of his father not long after in an accident, and then his own serious polio condition.

Ray was ordained in September 1958 and in 1966 became a Chaplain in the Royal Navy. It was in the R.N. that Ray discovered renewal and saw God healing.

Ray left the Navy in 1989 to become Warden and Director at Crowhurst. He told stories of seeing God at work and this must have left a deep impression on those in the congregation who have not committed themselves to the Lord. He also encouraged the whole congregation.

Later Ray presided at the service of Holy Eucharist and it was a real privilege to receive the Communion from him.

After the service everyone joined in with the refreshments in the church hall, where there were photographs showing different aspects of Ray and Maureen's life.

It is a very significant achievement to attain 60 years of ordained ministry and very few people now being ordained will achieve that. Not only has Ray achieved this, he is still making an active contribution in the life of his local church. May God bless him as so many people have been blessed through Ray's ministry over the years.

*Colin Crook*

*Ray served as Warden of Crowhurst from 1989 to 1997, with his wife Maureen responsible for the running of the house. Their attitude was that 'nothing is too good for God' and they quickly won the hearts of guests and staff alike. They are featured on page 43 of Colin and Diane's book, To God be the Glory, which is available from the CCHC bookstall.*





## What everyone ought to know about the Crowhurst Village Weekend! (September 2018)

**W**hy do some things have the ability to catch your attention in a second?

The title of this article is deliberately constructed to stimulate curiosity and to make you feel like you are missing out on something if you don't read on! Our brains are on a constant search for things that:

- ♦ satisfy our important needs;
- ♦ are novel, spark curiosity and are cute (studies have shown that we are wired to be distracted by cute things!) and,
- ♦ provide us with escapism from our current situation.

I wonder what it was about the Crowhurst Parish that caught Howard Cobb's attention when he advertised for a Parish swap in 1928? What made the Crowhurst Parish stand out from the other invitations he received? The lack of running water, gas and electricity can't have been a lure and moving from a busy London Parish to rural East Sussex might have seemed, to some, like a backward step. However, the Rectory had its advantages, most notably the fact that it was large, which would have satisfied his search for somewhere to grow the healing ministry.

The move would have taken great courage and sacrifice. Such a decision would only have been made because Howard was trusting that God was calling him here. "*Trust in the LORD*

*with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*" (Proverbs 3:51). Howard had no way of knowing that the result of his obedience to God would be 90 years of people experiencing God's healing here.

Part of the reason for having a weekend for Crowhurst villagers was because Howard started his ministry in the heart of the Crowhurst community as Rector of Crowhurst at St George's Church and it was fitting to celebrate Holy Communion, a Sacrament that Howard was passionate about, with the villagers at St George's Church at a special service on Sunday.

In 1931 Howard wrote a book called "*Christ Fulfilling in the Sacrament of Holy Communion*", which was used during the service, and a wreath in memory of Howard and May was placed on their memorial in the Churchyard. A number of Howard and May's grandchildren and other family members were able to attend the service and witness the result of the recent restoration to the Cobb memorial.

In true Crowhurst tradition, a succulent Sunday roast was prepared by the kitchen team for those returning from the service. Local people often confess to being unaware of what goes on at CCHC and so sharing food with people provided a good opportunity for us to unveil the mystery and talk about what



we do. Folk were also given a tour of the house and grounds and even those who would admit to having little or no faith commented on the peace and atmosphere, which we know to be the presence of God.

However, for many villagers the appeal of CCHC's famed food and hospitality simply wasn't enough to draw them in, and so wanting to bless and include as many people in the weekend as possible, we came up with the idea of 'God Rocks'. If people were unable to come to us, we would take some CCHC joy to them. These beautifully painted rocks, decorated by guests over the last nine months, were hidden in the Recreation Ground for people to find.

Our prayer was that this small act of kindness would bring joy and cheer to those who found one. I witnessed one boy find a God Rock on the climbing frame. He could barely contain his excitement as he proudly took his treasure to show his mother. Jesus told a parable about hidden treasure. *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."* Matt 13:44.

God Rocks also provided great entertainment for the children who joined us with their families at the village BBQ on Saturday. Rocks were painted in the art room, hidden and re-hidden many times over — there may still be one or two in the CCHC grounds yet to be discovered!

As I reflect back on the weekend, I wonder how the Holy Spirit has been at work prompting villagers to join us over the weekend? How has the Holy Spirit used our advertising to grab people's attention and how will He use the links that we have made to extend the Kingdom of God to bless

more people in the village and beyond? Like Howard, when he started his ministry, we can't see into the future and we can't fully know God's plans, but we believe that He is at work, and we are open to how He wants to grab our attention and bless the local community.

*Esther*

***From a Crowhurst Villager:***

*I wanted to send an email to thank yourself, Veronica and the other members of the team at CCHC for the superb hospitality you laid on over the Village Weekend. My wife, the girls and I really enjoyed ourselves and it was great to meet other members of the team, have a look around and find out about the history and vision for the future. My stay whilst only short was a real blessing to me and I will definitely be back again.*

*More importantly though, was how positive everyone else I spoke to were about the Centre. Friends I spoke to were impressed by how welcoming, friendly and approachable everyone was, how good the food and hospitality was and I know they really valued finding out what the Centre is about.*

*A great weekend in all and thank you so much for allowing us to join in.*





# Never discount the Power of Prayer!



**O**n Maundy Thursday, as I was driving to CCHC for the Easter Retreat, my car brakes failed on the A21 as I approached a very busy roundabout. I pulled the car over to the left, went up a very steep bank, bounced between two street lights, bounced back on to the road and came to a halt in the middle of the road at a bollard. I was covered in glass from the windscreen and while I was gathering my wits about me, an off duty fireman came to the front door and told me not to move. He asked if I was in any pain — I was not — and his mate joined him. No other vehicles or people seem to have been involved, although there were a number around.

About ten minutes later we were joined by a lady doctor on her way to work; she checked my neck and upper back. The fire brigade, ambulance and police arrived and after some initial checks and the removal of the driver's door, I was stretchered out of my car, clamped on to a hard board and taken to Tunbridge Wells hospital, feeling

very uncomfortable. My son, Gordon, had been informed by the police and arrived while I was waiting for an X-ray and a CT scan. Other checks were also done. Staff and the police were amazed that I had come out of the accident so well. I told them I believed in the God of Miracles and a Filipino nurse who was on duty said she did too.

The doctor told me that someone of my age involved in this sort of accident would normally have been kept in and had other tests done, but as all the checks had been satisfactory I was able to be discharged into Gordon's care. I had to have something to eat and provided this stayed down, I was free to go. A nurse came to remove a cannula, but I told her I didn't have one — she had difficulty believing I had no pain!

I was wheeled to Gordon's car and we both went back to the damaged car as he had to locate it for insurance purposes.

It was now around 8.30pm and dark, and just as Gordon went to my car a van turned up containing the two off duty firemen who had been there in the morning! They were able to reassure me that the drivers behind my car had noticed my brake lights were on, which was a great blessing to me. Angels in disguise maybe? They were amazed that I had been discharged so quickly.

Soon after arriving at Gordon's House, I went to bed. I had difficulty crawling up the stairs and felt very tired and wobbly but fell asleep almost immediately. I woke around 2.30am and after checking I was still alive and all my limbs were working I thought 'whoever is preventing me from going to Crowhurst IS NOT GOING TO WIN!' I went back to sleep again and after



# Testimonies of God's Goodness

breakfast Gordon drove me the 100 miles to Crowhurst. The folks in my church had heard about the accident and the prayer chain was in action, as well as the prayers at Crowhurst. ***Never discount the power of prayer!***

The Easter Retreat was wonderful and God's provision continued when a guest offered me a lift to Upminster on the Monday morning. (Two others had been prepared to drive me to Dartford where one of my family would meet me, even though they would have to drive back the forty miles to Crowhurst.) We had a very clear journey with no hold ups although I understand the tunnel was blocked twice in the afternoon.

My spectacularly coloured bruises cleared up and I can only give thanks to the God of miracles and the power of prayer. My harp and possible halo have been dusted down and replaced on a shelf for a later time!

The insurance company paid up very quickly and I have a replacement car!

*Audrey*



**T**he office regularly receives testimonies from guests, either by post, on Facebook, and sometimes written on the pink evaluation forms that folk are invited to fill in at the end of their stay. Here are a couple of recent ones.

- ♦ *I'm ecstatic! I felt so FREE. I've worshipped this week in such an intimate way with the Lord; being asked to do a Scripture reading for the last celebration service filled me with joy and has really boosted my low confidence. I absolutely loved playing the drums and ordered myself some when I returned home — drumming is a fabulous way to engage with the Holy spirit.*
- ♦ *Thank you so much for taking the time from your busy schedule, on the spur of the moment, to pray with me when I suddenly turned up from London last Tuesday. It was very kind of you and I am most grateful to you for responding so generously in my moment of need. As you said, the Lord has indeed healed me — praise Him! My tinnitus disappeared during the course of the evening and has not returned. I praise and thank the Lord for His great goodness.*



# Grounds News

Since my last article six months ago, a lot of changes have taken place. The main news on the staff front is that after ten years of faithful and unremitting service, Desmond the gardener has 'retired'. I want to personally thank him on everyone's behalf for the incredible hard work he put in over the years to maintain the high standards that have created such wonderful grounds to enjoy. His farewell was a very emotional time and we wish him all the best in his future plans.

Unfortunately the same week, our wonderful volunteer, Dave 'The Stickman', also decided to move on and has re-located to Bath. Both were amazing characters around CCHC and will be greatly missed.

However, the great news is that we have now employed a new full-time gardener. His name is Trevor Rickaby and by the time you read this magazine, he will have been on the team since 1<sup>st</sup> October. This is a very exciting and a huge opportunity for CCHC in developing the grounds and gardens, so watch this space!

In addition, my wife, Estelle, has been, and will continue to work on Fridays as long as she is needed to look after the grounds, keeping the beds looking tidy and de-weeded.

The other news of course is the new-build bungalow. At the time of writing the walls and roof are on, and the roof is now fully tiled. Next stage is first-fix electrics (including underfloor heating) and plumbing. Things are moving on quickly every day. Completion is due in November (but don't quote me!)

With the very hot and dry summer, the grass was looking very brown, but has started to recover incredibly well. The leaves are now starting to fall in earnest so it will be a real challenge this year without our volunteers who used to rake them on a daily basis.

The house was closed for a week in September to enable maintenance, refurbishment and decorating works to be done.

In the grounds we have had some hedge reduction work carried out, which has opened up the vista across the valley (see photos on page 11 and 23). It's all been quite a challenge but well worth it!

We have also taken the opportunity to replace the outside doors in rooms 9 and 10 to help with access onto the patio area. These have greatly enhanced the appearance of the rooms.

Other changes include the redecorating of the entrance, lobby, staircase and landing, replacing the flat roof of the Chapel link-corridor and improved drainage.

It's exciting to see so many changes happening so quickly, with the opportunities they bring, and as we head into Autumn/Winter and the nights draw in, we stand in awe of God's perfect timing and absolute Grace.

Blessings, *Kim*



*Desmond and Dave larking around in the storage container just after its arrival a couple of years ago.*



# Winter Prayer Requests

*Winter Prayer Requests 2018  
Please pull out and keep for the coming months*



# WINTER PRAYER REQUESTS

## PRAYER FOCUS

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, 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

- Pray for the staff at CCHC, particularly during the winter months. Pray for good health and safe journeys, that the roads may be free of ice and snow. We give thanks for the way they cover staff absences by doing extra shifts.
- Give thanks for the many new faces at our services and visiting church groups.
- Give thanks for the increase in the number of guests. Pray that the trains will continue to stop regularly at Crowhurst.
- Give thanks for the members of the Ministry Team who come into the Prayer Room each Wednesday and minister God’s healing love to those who ‘drop in’



*“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns,  
and spiritual songs. Sing and make music  
from your heart to the Lord, always giving  
thanks to God the Father for everything.”  
Ephesians 5:19*



## DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a  
son, and they will call him Immanuel” —  
which means ‘God with us’. Matthew 1:23*

## DECEMBER

- 1 Guided Quiet Day  
**‘Parousia Preparation’**  
Led by the Crowhurst Team  
*At the heart of the word ‘Parousia’  
is the definition ‘second coming of  
Christ’.*
- 4 – 10 Healing Space
- 13 **Last Healing Service of 2018**
- 28 – 30 **Old and New Treasures Revealed**  
Led by the Crowhurst Team  
*Join the CCHC Chaplains as we look  
back to see the treasures behind us  
and look forward in faith and hope for  
treasures to come.*





## JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16*

### JANUARY

**3**      **First Healing Service of 2019**

4 - 6      Weekend for Ministry Team  
and Visiting Chaplains

28 -      Healing Space  
3 Feb



## FEBRUARY PRAYER FOCUS

*"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18*

### FEBRUARY

8 - 10      Healing Weekend (1)  
***This is for people who have  
never been on a Healing  
Weekend before.***  
***(Healing Weekend (2) will take  
place on 15 - 17 March 2018***

11 - 17      Healing Space

20      Teaching Day  
***'Be filled with the Holy Spirit'***  
***A Personal Pentecost***  
Led by the Crowhurst Team

26 Feb -      Prayer through Painting  
2 March



# Prayer for The Centre

## PRAYER FOCUS

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*  
Jeremiah 29:11

## TRUSTEES’ PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Give thanks for all that has been done to celebrate the Lord’s faithfulness to His work including the building and grounds works that have been done this year (see Kim’s article on page 15).
- We thank God for our generous supporters and His favour, and that we have been able to do all this costly work.
- Please pray that the Lord will continue to bless us with all the provision we need to continue the His ministry here.
- Give thanks for Visiting Chaplains and Prayer Ministers. Please pray for the development of the ministry as we grow an increased leaning on the Lord in all aspects of who we are and what we do, and please continue to pray for the Lord’s leading. May we be obedient to His perfect will and timing.

# Prayer for Staff at The Centre

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*  
Colossians 3:12

## CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

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

## OFFICE

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

## HOUSE


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

## MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Estelle and Trevor

## MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary



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



# Amazing Grace!



Prayer is such an important part of the ministry of Crowhurst and we have over 200 faithful Prayer Partners who pray daily for the needs of the Centre, including accommodation, grounds, team, guests and the Prayer Ministers.

Gwen, who is one of our Prayer Ministers, recently asked for prayer in two particular situations and she shares below how the Lord stepped into both. Firstly, God has blessed Gwen with new accommodation, the rent of which is cheaper than her current flat. Gwen writes:

*"God has blessed me abundantly through my new landlady, also called Gwen, because she wants to put down a new carpet in the lounge/bedroom, lobby and for me to choose it. She is also re-doing the whole bathroom and to add to this amazing answered prayer, it is much warmer at the front of the building and I have a view of The Downs and the Sea!"*

The other wonderful answer to prayer for Gwen was a successful interview which led to new employment in November. Gwen says that her happiness at these answered prayers would be a huge

understatement and that she *"could burst into tears of thankfulness to God and to the wonderful, kind, generous and diligent Prayer Partners."*

Each Prayer Partner, she says, is special and when we all intercede together in prayer and praise then we are a mighty prayer warrior force. It has been a difficult couple of years and Gwen says she has at times felt under severe enemy attack, but with all the prayer support from the CCHC Prayer Partners, God has been working in her life.

Gwen kept trusting in God despite at times being nearly at breaking point, and sobbing her heart out to the Lord. She writes, *"If any of you are in a similar place, just let God hold you. You will come through this even stronger; God is faithful, He will not let us go."*

*The book of Job has once again been a great support and encouragement to me."*

*Gwen*

.....  
Then Job answered the Lord and said:

*I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

*Job 42: 1 & 2*  
.....





## Crowhurst Village Fayre – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August

In prime position, right next to the beer tent, stood the CCHC Noah's Ark stall. Gwen (pictured above), Esther, Veronica, Jan and Steve (plus Ellie the cuddly dog) were on hand to give out CCHC balloons and publicity material.

We were able to pray for a handful of people and engage several families in our free craft activity.

As we wrestled the gazebo down at the end of the day, a number of delighted children picked animals from the Ark to take home. It's been several years since we last had a stall at the Fayre, but our presence there, along with the events over the village weekend, has in a small way, advanced the Kingdom of God in Crowhurst.



*We are extremely grateful to John from Ashburnham Place who designed, made, painted and erected Noah's Ark for us.*





## Festival Recovery (Free Weekend for Youth Workers)

In early September, CCHC welcomed twelve family, children and youth workers for a weekend of reflecting, refreshing, refilling and rejoicing in all that the Lord has done over the summer — based upon John 7:37-39, “Come to me all who are thirsty.” It was a great time receiving from the Lord before the business of the new academic year began. For many this was their first time on Retreat, but now they have an appreciation for why taking time to retreat is important for their own spiritual well-being.

There was a good balance of led sessions and personal reflection time. Sessions included a meditation, teaching, prayer ministry and the weekend finished on Sunday with Holy Communion. The art room, Shalom, and the grounds were well used, and there was a trip into Hastings for a walk.

Below are some comments from those who took part in the weekend.

*Daniel*

- ◆ *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.*

- ◆ *I had a wonderful time to just be. God's made us to be human beings, not doings, and quite easily in ministry you get caught up in all the business, demands, pastoral needs and to-do lists. I really felt able to hang out, laugh, pray, worship, be fed amazing food (spiritually and physically), and just be with God. I've come home feeling really refreshed and refuelled for ministry. This was an amazing gift from God, He knew it was just what I needed at just the right time.*
- ◆ *Just the right mix of everything you need before a busy academic year — the ministry was spot on and you also got the time to unwind and relax.*
- ◆ *Food, venue and people could not have been bettered! Perfect for being with God and God's people. Fun, rest, relaxation, and refreshing and revitalizing.*
- ◆ *The Retreat felt like a long Sunday afternoon relaxing in the warmth of God's presence and the company of His people. CCHC was the perfect place for it — great location, amazing facilities and fantastic food.*





## 90 Hours for Our Hearts to Sing!

This was the final event of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and as mentioned in my editorial, there will be a full article in the spring issue but here is a small ‘taster’ of what went on during the four days of continual praise and worship.

Many of those who were unable to be at Crowhurst for the event were still involved from their own homes. Prayer Partner, Sheila, writes: *“It was great to take part even though we could not be at CCHC in person. There is such power in Praise and Prayer. I loved the picture on Facebook of the dawn coming up, very symbolic of the new day dawning at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre — the next 90 years!”*

Trustee Denis, and his wife Priscilla, joined in with worship while travelling to and from Bristol, listening to Irish singer/songwriter, Robin Mark CD’s in their car.

From home, Sandra filled in a 6–7 am slot reading the Psalms; not being a ‘morning person’, she said she could understand how Jesus’ disciples felt in trying not to drop off to sleep!

The Conway family (pictured above and below) from Battle Baptist Church provided the music one evening and folk were very blessed. Pam writes. *“This was so amazing. I could have listened to them all night long.”*







The above photo showing the sun rising reminds me of a hymn called, 'I watch the Sunrise'. The first verse and chorus seems very fitting ...

*"I watch the sunrise lighting the sky, casting its shadows near. And on this morning bright though it be, I feel those shadows near me. But you are always close to me, following all my ways. May I be always close to you, following all your ways Lord."*

The early sunrises were very special to those who were staying at Crowhurst for part or all of the 90 Hours event. Trish shared on our Facebook page just how much she enjoyed *"two fabulous early morning praise walks led by Stephen and witnessed two very different and unique sunrises! A beautiful time of day and so much peacefulness."*

Sunday morning worship, pictured below, was a wonderful celebration of praise and worship with flags, drums and a time of open prayer. It was a joyful and uplifting conclusion to the 90 Hours for our Hearts to Sing marathon.





# The Lord meets us where we are

I met Marian in June this year when we were both staying at Crowhurst. As we were chatting, she mentioned a Project she wrote in 1987 about three aspects of healing in various settings. Marian had placements with a Hospital Chaplaincy, a Counselling Centre and a Centre for Healing, which was CCHC. I asked whether she would like to share some of her Project for our magazine and below is the section which relates to her time at Crowhurst. Although her memories may go back to the Eighties, they are not out of place in this issue as we have been celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and remembering all that the Lord has done at CCHC over the last nine decades.

## Marian's section about Crowhurst

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a haven of peace, a calm, friendly building set in most beautiful gardens with two chapels. An atmosphere of peace and healing pervaded the whole place.

We were shown round by the Chaplain, Revd David Howell. He explained the history of the place and how Howard Cobb, after being healed himself, felt he had a call from God to found a 'Home of Healing' where those who were sick and troubled could come for counsel, prayer and the laying on of hands for healing.

The atmosphere of peace and tranquillity is the gift of God through hundreds of praying friends, many daily 'tuning in' in intercession to their services at 10am and 6pm. Local people and visitors are welcome to attend the healing services.

There is an open door and guests, not patients, come to find what they are seeking in this stressful world, some to find peace

and quiet, some to find inner healing of mind and spirit, some to find physical healing, some to gain spiritual refreshment and renewal. The Church is rediscovering her healing ministry, fulfilling our Lord's commission to 'preach the Kingdom and heal the sick.'

I believe that what I have learned from my visits to the hospital, the counselling centre and the centre for healing, is that God is with us always and loves us, and wants us to be whole. He made us in His image, body, mind and spirit, and to be a whole person we must be open to Him and nurture our physical, emotional and spiritual being.

All the three areas serve people in need and the people who serve do so trusting in the grace of God to work through them. We should commit the whole situation to God, "Just as I am", accepting that He will use it for good, trusting that He has His own way of restoring us to wholeness.

*Marian Ferguson*

*Thousands of people have visited CCHC since 1928 seeking, and receiving, the Lord's healing touch. The Centre may be quite outwardly different to the one Howard founded 90 years ago, but the Lord is as active as ever as He continues to minister to those who come to meet with Him here.*

*Marian has introduced several friends to Crowhurst and her daughter, Claire, who is in a wheelchair, finds the excellent disabled facilities enable her to feel relaxed and comfortable in this wonderful place of Christ's healing love.*



# Refreshed and Renewed



**D**uring one of the sunny summer weeks in August, my husband Ken and I enjoyed several days at Crowhurst. Not our first visit by any means but as always so rewarding, and we were given such a warm welcome throughout the week by all the staff. I always wait in anticipation for what blessings the Lord is going to give us and He never lets us down.

As my husband's carer I appreciated the opportunity for him to converse with other gents (outnumbered of course by the ladies), and even have laughs with a group of ladies from St Albans! Meanwhile I was able to go for walks, use the Art Room, enjoy conversations with lovely guests, read, have personal prayer times, often under the shade of the trees, and not have to think about suitable meals!

We were both blessed by the morning Communions and evening prayer with the laying on of hands thank you. We also enjoyed painting pebbles together!

I felt so peaceful and closer to God when back home and it was seen in me by others. On Sunday morning in our own Communion service one of our ladies prayed for everyone to be refreshed and renewed by the Lord. I was able to tell her later this was my experience at Crowhurst; her response was the Lord had given her those words that very morning in her personal prayer time — now she knew why!

*Elaine*





# Praying in Colour

Like other Christians I know, I have tried many methods of prayer over the years, and read several books on the subject. Intercession is something I find easy and when praying for folk when ministering with laying on of hands I can concentrate, but when I have tried so many times to “*Be Still and Know that I am God*”, I find dozens of thoughts whirling around my head, intruding into my quiet space.

However all that changed a couple of weeks ago when I discovered a book called “*Praying in Color, Drawing a New Path to God*” by Sybil MacBeth (an American as you can guess from the spelling!) ISBN 978-1-55725-512-9 Paraclete Press.

The author explains it as a new prayer form which gives God an invitation and a new door to penetrate the locked cells of our hearts and minds. She has been leading workshops across the USA using prayer in colour for nearly a decade.

Learn more at [www.paracletepress.com/sybil-macbeth-a.html](http://www.paracletepress.com/sybil-macbeth-a.html)

To pray this way you need paper and coloured pencils or pens. You do not need to be able to draw!

I begin by just drawing a random shape on the paper and then write the name of someone on my mind inside the shape. I then just start doodling around the shape and add colour, sometimes adding other words. Fifteen minutes to a half hour pass as I do this and I find my mind has not wandered at all as I concentrate on the person or situation.

I then either put the picture somewhere I will see it as I carry on my busy life, or alternatively I take a photo of it on my phone to have it by me if I have done it in my prayer journal and do not want to tear the page out.

I am still new to this but find exploring this method of praying very exciting and refreshing. Below is what I drew during my prayer time.



The book also explains how to practice Lectio Divina in this way. As you read a short passage of Scripture you write it out slowly, highlight the words which speak to you and meditate on those words. There are other ideas to use Praying in Colour during Advent and Lent that I am looking forward to exploring, for example making your own Advent calendar!

This book has opened up for me a treasure trove of ideas for new ways of praying. I am reminded of the Bible verse I was given during a Healing weekend at Crowhurst that I attended earlier this year:

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

*Sheila Powell*



# Prayer Walk – Flora and Fauna

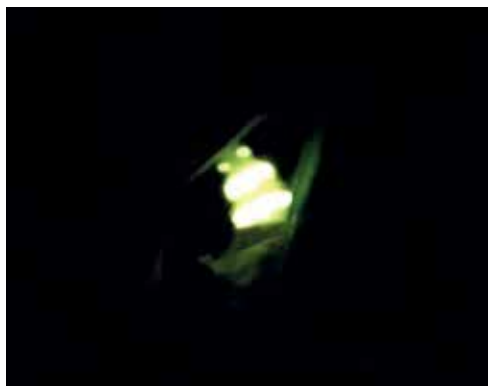


**I**t has been many years since our Beech hedges received a trim and as you can see from the above photo and the one on page 11, some major reduction work has been carried out, which gives much clearer views.



Our Prayer Walk is such a peaceful place to enjoy God's wonderful creation and you never know what you might see when you are walking through it. I once saw an Adder sunning itself in the spring sunshine and in August this year, one of our guests, Trish saw this cute little Glow Worm. Trish writes:

*"It made my day, I've never seen one in my life! We were walking along the dark path at the bottom end of the Prayer Walk and you could see it glowing like a fairy light in the grass from at least ten yards away! Apparently it is the females that have glowing bottoms to attract a male flying by and the females sort of 'run out of battery' by the end of July/August.*





# 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



# 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.

Registered Charity No. 208738

## **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

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

