

in His healing **STEPS**

"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 (NIV)

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Editorial



As I write this editorial, we are in the middle of summer but this is the autumn issue so I am having to fast forward my mind to falling leaves and cooler, darker evenings! It only seems like yesterday that summer made its entrance!

In this issue

This issue introduces Kath in her new role as Acting Senior Chaplain, and she writes her first letter on page 4. She took over from Peter, when he and Kay said their farewells on Thanksgiving Day. They will both be missed but as Peter said, the time is right; their work here is done and the next step is another climb. On the human side, partings are never easy but we have to look beyond the sadness of endings and trust in the Lord that He will continue to provide. You only have to read Peter's booklet, *The Miracle Continues*, to see how God was at work during Peter and Kay's tenure at The Old Rectory. God's work is on-going but it is always in His timing; our part is to continue to pray and listen to what He is saying.

Farewell and thanks from Peter and Kay

Peter and Kay were very moved by all the kindness and good wishes that they received from everyone; a few words from them are on page 6.

Thanksgiving Day

With this being a day of thanksgiving, Peter reminded us that it is a God-given gift to always remember to give thanks, whatever the circumstances.

Though it was sad to say goodbye to Peter and



Kay, it was a wonderful day of celebration and thanksgiving to God for all His gifts and benefits. Staff and volunteers make the Centre the special place that it is and this day is an opportunity to thank them all for that they do.

More on Thanksgiving Day later in the magazine.

Staffing

In June, Jayne Stevens replaced Jan Maslin as Office Administrator. David Podevin became the Accounts Manager, replacing Malcolm, who left in July. Both have written their own introductions on page 6.



Sue and Zanetta joined the house staff earlier in the year. Sue is married with three children; she lives in Hastings and worships at St Helen's Church. I was unable to talk to Zanetta but hope to include her photo and a short introduction in the next issue.

The Miracle Continues by Peter McIntosh – A brief book review!

Peter managed to plug his booklet several times on Thanksgiving Day! However, for those of you who don't know about it, I would thoroughly recommend buying a copy. It is a personal account of God's renewal at the centre during 2005 and 2009 and describes God's



amazing provision which sustained and created new work and ministry to His glory. The booklet is a witness to Christ's healing love continuing to transform people's lives in the twenty first century as much as it did in the first. It is well worth a read. Copies were flying out of the office on Thanksgiving Day! If you would like one, the cost is £3.50 plus postage.

And finally

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue, either with articles or photos. I use as many of your photos as possible and am building up quite a stock for future magazines, so if you have any you would like to share, please do send them into the office or by e mail directly to me. There has been good feedback from folk who enjoy seeing photos of the Centre in the magazine, particularly at different times of the year, so do keep snapping! My e mail address is survivor95@hotmail.com.

With every blessing,

Mary Slater



Our Acting Senior Chaplain Writes...



Dear Friends,

Little did I realise when I first came to the Centre in June 2004 for a personal retreat, that five years later I would be sitting here writing a letter

for the magazine as the acting Senior Chaplain!

How wise is our God! If I had known this was to happen I suspect I would, like Jonah, have headed off in the opposite direction ... or cried out like Jeremiah, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to ...' for that is the truth. I don't know 'how to do it' (whatever the it is!) but, Praise the Lord, He does! So here I am.

For those of you who don't know me, I am an Anglican Priest who was ordained fifteen years ago. I was called to ordination after being involved for a number of years in Christ's healing ministry. For the past two years I have been deputy Senior Chaplain here at the Centre and prior to that I was a Visiting Chaplain.

Just as five years ago I didn't know what God had planned for me, so at this moment we at the Centre do not know God's plans for this special place. However, what we do know is that His plans for us are to prosper the life and ministry of the Centre so that it will continue to develop as a place that ministers Christ's healing touch, preaches Good News to the poor and teaches the nature of God's Kingdom. We also believe that He is preparing us to climb to new heights under new leadership. It is all very exciting!

Having climbed to new heights over the past four years under Peter's inspired leadership, we have reached a plateau. This is a good

place to be as a plateau is a place to catch the vision before the next climb.

We believe that during this plateau period, the Lord will go on adding to our numbers in order to create a strong team for the next stage of the climb. This is happening already; we are blessed with a good ministry team that has grown over the past year, and we expect it will continue to grow. Later this autumn we will welcome Martin Sully, a newly retired Anglican Priest, and his wife Wendy onto the chaplaincy team for two days a week. They are both very gifted people who have a lot to contribute to the life and ministry of this place. Recently we have been blessed with a local Methodist Minister, Marion Proud, popping in from time to time to lead worship; this is in addition to her full time ministry in two churches! The Lord really does draw people with servant hearts to this place.

As you can see, all the signs are good for building up a strong team ready for new leadership.

'Watch for the new thing I am about to do. It is happening already – you can see it now' says the Lord. (Isaiah 43:19a)

The new thing is happening and it will continue to do so, for He is a faithful God and by His grace we will remain His faithful people.

Please continue to pray for us all, dear friends.

Every blessing

Kath

Acting Senior Chaplain

Peter and Kay McIntosh – An Appreciation



When Peter and Kay arrived at The Old Rectory in the spring of 2005, no one had the slightest idea of the significance. It was seen by everyone as a temporary

measure until a 'real' appointment could be made. Peter was given the title 'Interim Pastor' and he and Kay would travel weekly from their home in Rustington to stay three days a week in one of the guest rooms. The arrangement was not expected to last longer than six months. Indeed, at the time, there was a distinct possibility that the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre would have to close.

But God had other ideas! Very rapidly it became clear that Peter and Kay were God's choice for the place. Their gifts, talents and experience proved ideal for the renaissance of The Old Rectory and before long, they had thrown their hearts and souls into the examination of every aspect of the life and work of the Centre. Through their four year tenure, the buildings were improved, the staff revitalised and the ministry renewed.

We are so grateful to God for the skills he has given to Peter – skills of leadership and vision. He is an encourager, has enthusiasm and is caring. All who know him are aware of his infectious humour. He is also a sensitive and thoughtful person, and those who know him well are aware of his ability to drop into enthusiastic prayer at a moment's notice.

Kay has the most amazing servant heart. Time and time again, I have been reminded of the angel's visit to Mary – 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.' That is Kay's

response to God. She has a great gift of discernment of insight and is used powerfully in ministry. She also displays loyalty and wisdom.

Together Peter and Kay have exercised a wonderful ministry at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and very many people have been blessed by them. The Old Rectory has been greatly enriched by them and we are so thankful to God for their obedience, love and commitment, commitment which has been given without financial reward.

At Thanksgiving Day on July 18th, we said farewell to Peter and Kay. Some 320 folk were there to give thanks for God's

provision at The Old Rectory and to say goodbye. The Trustees presented them with a specially commissioned painting by Mavis Williams and an album of photographs.



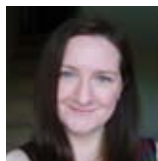
Peter was also presented with some metal wall art, whilst Kay was given a garden seat with an inscribed plaque 'from all well wishers,' and a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Finally they were presented with a very generous cheque which had been raised from supporters. The size of the cheque is a reflection of the great love and esteem in which they are both held. At the presentation Peter and Kay received a standing ovation that went on for many minutes. Their time at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre will be fondly remembered by a lot of people for many years to come.

Colin Crook

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Welcomes and farewells



Jayne Stevens

I live in a village not far from Crowhurst and each morning as I drive to work through the country lanes I think to myself

how truly blessed I am, not only to live in such a beautiful part of the country but also to work in such a peaceful, healing place in a job that is both interesting and worthwhile. It is very different from my last job, which I thoroughly enjoyed too in a different way, local politics!

A very dear friend of mine said I should "Take time to smell the coffee." "I do believe that working here at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre will encourage me to spend more time when not at work writing poetry, painting and walking more than I already do, in the peaceful East Sussex countryside – being inspired by God's creation.



David Podewin

Who would have thought that I would be back at the finance desk having officially retired in December 2007? Well I guess

you know who! Therefore it must be true that Christians don't retire; we just move on, trusting we will be able to faithfully follow future plans He has for us!

So here I am at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, having had a pretty full life so far. Married to Lorna, we have three children and six grandchildren. The first twenty five years of married life was spent moving around from place to place as required by Army service, followed by eleven years of comparative stability working as Administrator & Finance Manager for St Thomas Church, Crookes in Sheffield. After this 'posting' I was called by Andrew, who had just

taken over the running of Ashburnham Place, to ask if I would join his team as Finance Manager. So in 2001 we came south and moved to Bexhill, where we still live.

Since retiring we have come to know and appreciate the work and workers at The Old Rectory, so to be more actively involved with the Centre at this special time of change, seems very much like God's idea!



Dear friends, What can we say?

Thanksgiving Day was quite overwhelming and we could not have asked for a better send off.

So many people, such a sense of God's presence and well being, and all the kindness and blessing that flowed towards us as we took our leave of Crowhurst. Thank you so very much for all the cards and letters, all the gifts, and the most generous beyond words cheque that we received. Please know that our sense of gratitude towards so many people, and to God Himself for giving us such a time at the Centre, will never leave us.

Our prayers also will continue for the new people whom God will send to serve, that they will hear His call; for the Trustees that they will have all wisdom; for Kath and Margaret and all who minister at the Centre, that they will have grace, peace and strength; for all the staff in office, house, and grounds, that they will know how valued they are, and how much they meant to us personally.

May the Lord's name continue to be praised and glorified at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. God bless you all,

Peter and Kay McIntosh.

The God in whom we can never stand still



I have just received the latest copy of the magazine, which I always read with excitement, seeing what God is doing in people's lives. This made me think perhaps I should tell a little of the way God

moves us Resi's (residential workers) onwards.

At the end of June 1996 I arrived at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre as a 'Resi' and stayed for eighteen months. It is a time I will always remember and which still gives me a great love for the place.

1998 started the next step. I moved to Bexhill and became the secretary for Churches Together in Bexhill and part of Christians Together in Healing. I also became a sister of 'Servants with Jesus,' an ecumenical group of people called together to pray for revival.

In May 2000, a further move led to me working at another Healing Centre, Cautley House in Hythe, Kent. I retired in 2002 and took up the reins again in Bexhill.

February 2004 saw the biggest move ever, here to York, having said 'no way I'll ever go north!' God had other ideas however, and now I am in a great ministry in York. I am the Prayer Co-ordinator for a large Christian Centre (The Spurriergate Centre), a vision of David Watson; you may have read some of his books. It was once a redundant Church, which re-opened twenty years ago as a restaurant seating 120 people. It now serves 2,500-3,000 people each

week! We also have a pastoral side, which includes a fully trained counselling team plus the deeper spiritual side, which I am involved in.

So now I am a qualified Spiritual Director, Quiet Day and Retreat Leader. My work also involves a weekly prayer meeting, Bible study groups, setting up interactive prayer zones and 'Making Sunday Special.' We have seasonal opening on Sundays with Sunday roast and gospel music (CD, DVD), spiritual messages with Powerpoint presentations, children's activities, interactive prayer zones and a brief message on the PA.

There are also many opportunities to be involved in the wider church in and around York and to continue as a Methodist Local Preacher.

None of this would be possible without that growth which God gave me through working at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and witnessing the way He changed people's lives. He gave me a new perspective on life and now, as you can see, I am helping to give others the space to experience that depth of love which God has for each one of us.

Sister Pauline Wheeler



Jesus heals Ten Lepers

As a faithful Jew, Jesus went to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the Passover. He travelled along the border with Samaria. The most direct route from Galilee to Jerusalem is due south but between Galilee and Jerusalem was Samaria. No Jew would normally go through Samaria; they would travel from Galilee, east to the River Jordan, and then follow it south. At Jericho they would turn west up to Jerusalem. Verse 12 says :

.....
"As Jesus was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance".
.....

Lepers of course would not be allowed to enter the village. They had to live in their own community outside a village that lay on the borders of the two countries. These men were a mixture of Jews and Samaritans but their common illness caused them to forget their traditional hatred. They needed each other to survive.

From a distance these men called out "Jesus, master, have pity on us." They had this dreadful leprosy, which has been called the living death. It is clear that those ten men knew who Jesus was because they named him.

Note how Jesus dealt with these men. He didn't touch them. He didn't tell them that they were healed. He simply said "Go, show yourselves to the priests." So those men had to set off to the priests in faith. They had to go before they had seen the evidence of healing, but as they set off in search of a priest, their healing took place. They were completely cleansed from this terrible and disfiguring illness. They regained their full health and self respect and were no longer required to be outcasts. Those ten men must have been both amazed and excited by their healing.

Now the point of this story is that one man, a foreigner - a hated Samaritan – turned round and came back to Jesus. One out of ten came back to say thank you. One out of ten came back to give glory to God. This Samaritan threw himself at the feet of Jesus. This man could now dare to come close to our Lord because he had been healed.

There was quite a crowd around Jesus. Whole families and clans travelled together to Jerusalem for reasons of safety. Jesus asked, "Were not all cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no-one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Nine men did not want to give the credit to God for their healing. This used to surprise me but no longer does so. I have personally seen someone physically healed from a distressing complaint. That person received an immediate and permanent healing after prayer, yet a few weeks later they denied that the healing had anything to do with the prayer. It was 'just a coincidence.' You see, for that person to agree that they had been healed as a result of prayer, would mean a complete change of lifestyle. It would mean that they would have to recognise Jesus as Lord. It would mean that they would have to follow him, and commit their lives to him. And that was too big a commitment to make.

So it must have been for the nine men who did not return to Jesus to give thanks, and because they could not accept the responsibility that goes with divine healing, they did not give the credit to God.

But let us conclude with one further thought about the Samaritan who did return and praise God. Jesus said to him "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Now in Greek the word for heal is "sozo." The word for save is also 'sozo.' So we can also read this sentence as "Rise and go; your faith has saved you." This Samaritan was healed by God through Jesus, and he was also saved by God through Jesus. He was saved because of his faith in Jesus. Here was a Gentile – a non Jew – who was saved by faith.

That of course is good news for us. Jews and non-Jews alike receive their salvation through faith in Jesus. This is not however a one-off situation. Our faith has to be ongoing. We have to live by faith day by day. We have to live by faith on days when everything goes well. We also have to live by faith on days when everything seems to conspire against us. Our faith should not be a constant worry to us but by the same token we should never become complacent. We are called to be watchful Christians. So may you continue to know the saving and healing works of God in your life.

Colin Crook



Healing the Family Tree Weekend

Family trees are very much in vogue just now, with the TV programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?' whetting our appetite. So it was with interest and expectation that we attended the 'Healing the Family Tree' weekend in May this year, which was led by the Revd Stephen Hudson, vicar of All Saints, Wick.

How little any of us really knew about our ancestors; maybe they have blessed us with their faithful prayers or could it be that some unwanted spiritual baggage might have been passed down the family tree! With this in mind, we listened intently to Stephen as he introduced the subject by showing us examples in scripture, where the actions of individuals caused a ripple effect upon successive generations.

In his next session Stephen dealt with our own ties to others and the past. This subject made us aware of a wide range of relationships or associations where possible unhealthy ties or bonds might have been forged in the past or indeed the present. The great thing about this, and much of the subsequent teaching, was not for us to turn over stones looking for problems, but rather to be 'wised up' in these areas, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict or highlight anything of significance which needed healing.

Session three dealt with 'Our Relationships with the Departed.' This is a subject that most Christians would not normally have on their Bible study list and was therefore most interesting when considered scripturally.

The final teaching session was called 'Truth, Forgiveness and Freedom,' which once again covered a great range of topics relating to healing, such as Shared and

Individual Repentance, Cutting Ties, Demolishing Strongholds and Breaking Curses. This session culminated with each of us being encouraged to quietly consider our wider family tree and writing a letter to Jesus asking him to deal with all the things which we now felt were in need of His immediate attention. Later, during the Eucharist, we were able to place our letters on the communion table, knowing that Jesus had answered every point and released us and our families into a new freedom. Letter burning followed after the service!

We really enjoyed this spiritually informative healing weekend which was made especially so by the way Stephen Hudson handled this sensitive subject, using his gifts of knowledge, insight and wisdom coupled with a great sense of humour.

David and Lorna Podevin



Prayer Requests for Autumn 2009

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Autumn 2009

Prayer Focus

"Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints." **Psalm 149:1**

Prayer and Thanksgiving

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

Prayer

- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's amazing provision during the past years. May we continue to walk in obedience to His will.
- Pray for Kath, our Acting Senior Chaplain. Strengthen, uphold and guide her during the interregnum.
- Pray for the Chaplaincy Team; may its numbers be increased. Give thanks for Wendy and Martin who will become part-time members in November.
- Give thanks for our Prayer Partners who daily undergird the ministry of Christ's healing love here at The Old Rectory.
- Give thanks for the Crowhurst Reps who publicise the centre and encourage others to "come and rest awhile."

"You will keep in perfect peace Him whose mind is steadfast, because He trusts in you."

Isaiah 26:3

September Prayer Focus

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." **Mark 11.24**

September

- 11 - 13 Healing and Bereavement
- 16 Quiet Day: How great is our God, led by Shirley Dawson
- 19 Training Day
- 25 - 27 Healing Retreat
- 29 - 30 Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat

"I will listen to what God the Lord will say."

Psalm 85:8



October Prayer Focus

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made." **Psalm 145:13**

October

- 6 - 9 Healing the Family Tree
- 14 Quiet Day: From Captivity to Freedom, led by James Bamber
- 23 - 25 Healing Retreat
- 27 - 1 Nov Prayer and Painting

"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit." **Psalm 147:5**

November Prayer Focus

"Teach me your ways O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name." **Psalm 86:11**

November

- 6 - 8 Hidden Blocks to Healing
- 11 Quiet Day: Peace at any Price, led by Colin Crook
- 18 Clergy Retreat
- 20 - 22 Healing Retreat
- 28 Training Day

"O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you." **Psalm 84:12**



Prayer for The Old Rectory

Prayer Focus:

"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21

Prayer for the Trustees

Colin Crook (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Shirley Dawson, Ted Landon, John Lyttle, Jane Thomas and Mavis Williams.

- Pray for wisdom and guidance during this time of interregnum. May the peace of the Lord surround us as we continue to trust in Him to provide the right person to lead us into the future.
- Give thanks and praise for the legacies and generous donations that provide for all our needs. Help us to make decisions during the present financial climate.
- Give thanks that the major work projects have now been completed.
- Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife Prim, may the presence of the Lord strengthen and uphold them day by day.
- Pray for Jan, our former Office Manager who left in May; she is now undergoing treatment for cancer. May the touch of the Lord bring comfort and healing to her at this difficult time.

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord "plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer focus for staff at The Old Rectory

"So whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God." Corinthians 10:13

Acting Senior Chaplain: Kath

Chaplaincy Team: Colin, Margaret
(Wendy and Martin part-time from November)

Ministry Team: Colin, Andy, Carole, Dawn, Gwen, Hazel, Hildegard, June, Kenneth, Maggie, Margaret, Nigel, Penny, Pippa and Stephen

Centre Manager: David Batte

Book Keeper: David Podevin

Office Administrator: Jayne Stevens

House Manager: Heidi

Maintenance Manager: Geof Frost

Office Staff: Gillian, Juliette and Wendy

House Staff: Clare, Chrissy, Justine, Steve, Sue and Zanetta

Cooks: Diane and Fenella

Gardener: Desmond

Pianists: Pippa and Stephen

Volunteers/Helpers: Christine, Evelyn, Jenny, Rosemary, Shirley and Yvonne

"For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20

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Disguised Blessings

I recently came across this short reflection, which was among some articles that Colin passed on to me when I took over as editor. This is a very thought provoking prayer and helps us to stop and think of the many blessings in our lives.

Generous God, I am thankful for:

- The taxes I pay – because it means that I am employed.
- The mess after a party – because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
- The clothes that fit a little too snugly – because it means that I have enough to eat.
- My shadow who watches me work - because it means that I am out in the sunshine.
- A lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing – because it means that I have a home.
- All the complaining I hear about the Government – because it means that we have freedom of speech.
- The space that I find at the far end of the car park – because it means that I am capable of walking.
- The person behind me in church who sings off key – because it means that I can hear.
- The piles of laundry and ironing – because it means that I have clothes to wear.
- Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day – because it means that I have been busy.
- The alarm that goes off in the early morning hours – because it means that I am alive.

For all your many blessings, especially those that come to us in disguise, we thank you God.

Thank you to whoever sent in this article. Unfortunately no name was supplied. Ed

Short testimonies and feedback form comments

Juliette spoke on Thanksgiving Day about the comments received from guests who fill in the feedback forms. She said that all comments are noted and some are read out in staff prayers. It is helpful to know what folk feel about their visits, positive or negative, so she urged, ‘please keep writing – we need your comments and the Lord knows everything that is in your hearts, so don’t be afraid to put them on paper!’

Below is a selection of some of those comments, and a few short testimonies from the Testimonies Book.

I have learned that when I am a dark place, I should stop talking and only listen.

Thank you Lord for restoring my hearing, for healing my lower back.

The Lord said ‘come,’ so I came; the pain in my heart seemed impossible to remove; I had been robbed of wholeness but through the gentle, loving ministry and creature comforts of this special place, He has done the impossible. Praise and thanksgiving!

Thank you Lord for meeting me when I came with reluctance, receiving and blessing me with such gentleness, restoring my soul and giving me hope for the future.

Wow in every possible way! The Lord got me here and dealt with me powerfully, wonderfully, specifically.

Prayer does work! A taste of Heaven! An oasis of peace, a place to feel enfolded in God’s love – I needed that!

Thanksgiving Day

What a wonderful occasion! We were blessed with fine weather all day, and the marquee which had been hired proved so successful, that it will now be a regular feature of Thanksgiving Day. It accommodated 250 people, though with over 300 attending, soon filled up!

The morning service, scheduled to begin at 11 am, was slightly delayed because folk kept arriving! The service was preceded by an uplifting time of praise and worship and God's spirit was truly present!

In his talk Peter said that it had been a privilege to teach, preach and heal in the name of Christ and that this is what the Centre is all about.

The offering amounted to a generous £3,200, which confirmed Peter's statement earlier in the service when he said that there is no credit crunch with God!

Communion was crowded but orderly and despite the numbers of people far exceeding expectation, there was enough bread and wine to go round and although it wasn't quite the feeding of the five thousand, Peter did allude to the story of the loaves and fishes!



Holy Communion



Time of worship before the service began

The morning service concluded with a rousing rendition of Now thank we all Our God. Marilyn Baker gave thanks to Peter and Kay for their work at the Centre and prayed for Kath in her new role as Acting Senior Chaplain. We then all sang a song of blessing that Marilyn had written, which was an emotional but fitting end to a wonderful service of praise and thanksgiving.

At lunch time, those of us with packed lunches made ourselves comfortable in the house or grounds, with tea and coffee freely available to all. Invited guests and those staying in the house dined on a delicious buffet prepared by the cooks and kitchen staff.

After lunch, some of us gathered in the newly refurbished large chapel, where Stephen, via his laptop and the new overhead projector, showed some of his many photos of wildlife and flowers. The combination of the reflective music played by Pippa, together with the beautiful photos, was a welcome interval between lunch and the start of the afternoon programme.

At 2.30 we all assembled back in the marquee for the afternoon service of thanksgiving. During Colin's talk, he reminded us that God always provides the right people at the right

Saturday July 18th



Colin anointing Kay, Peter and Kath

time. Shirley Dawson then gave thanks on behalf of the Trustees; David Batte for the renewal of the building and Juliette for the comments and feedback received from guests, some of which she read out.

A short talk followed from Kath, after which Peter and Kay were presented with a variety of gifts, including sticky buns. (Peter frequently mentioned 'sticky buns' to house guests after lunch!)

The final gift was a very generous cheque; both Peter and Kay were amazed and Peter was for a brief moment speechless, surely a rare event!

Peter and Kay thanked everybody for their generosity and good wishes. Peter said he felt

greatly encouraged for those who remain at the Centre to carry on God's work.

Colin then anointed Peter and Kay with the oil of chrism, christening and dedication for their new beginning, and Kath for her new role as Acting Senior Chaplain.

Maggie presented Kath with a bouquet of flowers and Colin thanked all who had made Thanksgiving Day possible.

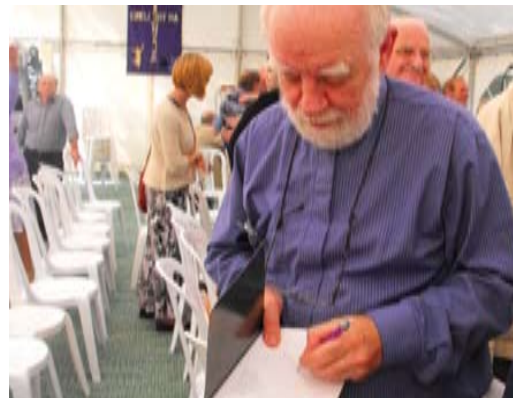
The service finished with a rousing rendition of the hymn 'Lord for the Years,' followed by 'Teach me to Dance.' After this, a queue quickly formed for Peter to sign copies of his booklet, The Miracle Continues.

The day concluded with fellowship in the house and grounds, and a feast of delicious homemade cakes!

It was sad to say goodbye to Peter and Kay but there was still a wonderful feeling of joy, thanksgiving and expectation at the next chapter in the life of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. May the Lord reign and may His blessings flow!



Kay's turn to speak



Peter signing his booklet

Who are the Trustees?



Back row, from left to right: Nigel Thonger, Jim Beveridge, John Lyttle, the Revd Ted Landon. Front row, left to right: Mavis Williams, Jane Thomas, Colin Crook and Shirley Dawson.

John French is our accountant but was not present when the photo was taken.

Eighty years ago, when Howard Cobb felt called to come to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and set up the healing ministry, he was also Rector of the parish. Soon he realised that he could not be both the local parish priest and do justice to the healing ministry so resigned his living. He set up a registered charity – ‘The Crowhurst (Sussex) Nursing Home Association.’ The initial Trustees consisted of The Revd Howard Cobb (Chairman), Mrs May Cobb (Manager) and four independent Trustees.

Thus the charity remained until 1963. By this time George Bennett had become Warden of The Crowhurst (Sussex) Nursing Home Association. Under his leadership this association merged with The Divine Healing Mission. A new charity and a new limited company were formed in 1964 and a new Board of Trustees was appointed, including two titled ladies – The Rt Hon Lady May

Amelia Inman and Lady Katherine Camilla Beresford Pierce.

Trustees still continue to have final responsibility to the Charity Commission and under Company Law for the proper running of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. We still operate as The Divine Healing Mission (Holdings) Ltd.

Currently the Trustees are:

The Revd Colin Crook (Chairman). Colin has been associated with The Old Rectory since attending one of the healing courses in 1992. He had extensive management experience in the public sector for over 30 years and was ordained in 1990. Since then he has worked as a parish priest, served on the Crowhurst Chaplaincy Team and is past editor of the Crowhurst magazine.

The Revd Ted Landon is a URC Minister based in Dartford, with a very wide ranging ministry of mission. He and his wife go into many schools with their puppets. Ted often rides his motorcycle to The Old Rectory. He was also in the Fire Brigade for some years, and is very knowledgeable on matters relating to staffing. He is one of the healing advisors to the URC Southern Synod.

John Lyttle is a semi retired consultant at the Conquest hospital, Hastings and brings with him medical expertise.

Jim Beveridge recently retired from a senior position with Hastings Borough Council and is very wise on all matters related to planning and buildings. Since retiring he has become the pastor of a church in Hurstmonceux.

Shirley Dawson, our longest serving trustee, is a former teacher and has been a volunteer at The Old Rectory for many years. She has links

Refurbished Chapel

with the Prayer Partners, formerly known as Home Intercessors, and regularly produces the prayer diary insert in the magazine.

Jane Thomas joined the Board in 2008. She lives in Tonbridge with her husband and children. She is a Licensed Reader and part of the leadership in her church. She also runs her own gardening business.

Mavis Williams joined the Board of Trustees in January this year. Many know of her artistic skills, both in painting and with banners, and of her contribution to the life of the Centre.

We also have the expert help of two advisors on the Board. **Nigel Thonger** is a solicitor and provides legal advice. He is also a member of our Ministry Team. **John French** (not in photo) is an accountant and assists us in keeping on the straight and narrow financially.

Being a member of this Board of Trustees is not for the faint-hearted! It needs very prayerful people. God rarely seems to take much notice of economic situations or behave in the ways that we might expect. (And at the time of writing we are right in the middle of the credit crunch.) Yet He is so faithful to those who put their full faith and trust in Him.

Much of the real work of the Trustees is to listen to God and then with the senior staff at the Centre, translate His will into practice.

In the last three years every aspect of the work at The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre has undergone radical review and restructure. The work is ongoing and even in this time of great economic difficulty our Lord is providing the resources. Do please keep praying for His work in this place and for the Trustees to exercise great wisdom.

Colin Crook

The refurbishment of the large chapel meant a necessary exile for a number of weeks. It was quite a humbling experience and there was at first a sense of loss and displacement. The huge black sheet that was put up over the entrance to the chapel added to this initial discomfort but the twice weekly healing services which were held in the dining room, in no way detracted from the sense of Christ's presence; in fact as Peter says in his booklet, *"Chapel or dining room was the same to Him! As we worshipped in these different surroundings, we knew His presence and His healing power remained the same. It was a good lesson to learn; it was as if Christ was saying, 'Let me make my home in your hearts, not just your holy places.'"* (P14)

The chapel now has a new ceiling, new lights and an overhead projector, which was put to good use on Thanksgiving Day with the slide show of Stephen's photos.



Oldest guest yet?



Jean Burton-Brown

In the winter 2008 edition of the magazine, I wrote an article on Stephanie Stevens who at 97 was thought to be the oldest and longest serving guest at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. That was until I met Jean, who at 101 must surely hold that title! Jean has lived through a range of experiences. She remembers many events and one she mentioned particularly was the sadness of the Titanic tragedy.

Jean had many stories to tell, one of which was of an operation to remove her tonsils while at day nursery, by a doctor whose method of transport was a pony and trap!

She is a retired obstetrical gynaecological consultant and was the first woman to be appointed to the Thanet and Canterbury Hospitals. She met a lot of opposition from the mainly male dominated profession, many of this opposition coming from GP's. Jean was living and working in various London hospitals during the Second World War and thinks she saw the very first doodle bug; she recalled the experience of its eerie silence, followed by a loud explosion and remembers a young girl who was seriously injured in one such explosion. Jean was able to help not only with the rescue, but by also administering life saving medicine.

This remarkable lady is still very active. In the last twenty years she has been to twenty different countries and if this wasn't enough, for her 100th birthday she was taken up in a glider, which she thoroughly enjoyed. I asked her if she had been nervous undertaking such an adventure.

"Not at all" she told me! Other 'more leisurely' interests include painting and playing bridge.

Jean recently wrote her memoirs, which were sold to raise money for Telemedicine, a charity which enables doctors all over the world to exchange medical information and skills via the phone or the internet, and even carry out medical procedures or examinations with the help of the available technology.

Jean has been coming to the Centre since the seventies and has seen many changes to the staff and building. She saw the very first alteration and enlargement to the lounge and remembers the development of the grounds. Despite all these changes, she said that The Old Rectory remains a lovely place of prayer and still has a peaceful atmosphere.

And that is the wonderful thing about the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre; staff come and go; buildings are renewed and added to, but the Lord's presence remains. Jesus never changes and is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen to that!

Ed



Garden news

I overheard several people commenting on how beautiful the gardens looked on Thanksgiving Day, and indeed they did.

The many shrubs and bedding plants looked lovely and I have included a few photos which, I hope, have captured their beauty. The peace and tranquillity of the grounds adds to the whole experience of a visit to the Centre and we are blessed to have in Desmond someone so passionate and devoted to his work.

Desmond never seems to stop! He can be an elusive character because he is always so busy but I finally managed to catch up with him during Thanksgiving Day!

Many plans are afoot, though not all of a horticultural nature. After discussion with Geof, Desmond is hoping to repaint the outside of the art room. The water feature will be cleaned out at some point and it is hoped that the well will also receive some maintenance.

The path which leads down to the railway is to be levelled and re-turfed in places and there will be the usual pruning, cutting out of dead wood from shrubs and trees, hedgework, plus the sweeping and clearing up of fallen leaves, which are an endless feature of autumn! After tidying the borders, he will put down wood chippings.

The changing seasons bring different duties and new challenges and in late autumn Desmond will be planning ahead for spring, for which he will make good use of the polytunnel.



Desmond, the Gardener, AND temporary traffic warden on Thanksgiving Day!



Book Review

Angels of Glory and Darkness

ISBN: 9781854247360: Publisher: Monarch Books, Price £7.99

This edition's book review is by Rosemary Thewlis. It was originally published for her parish magazine, and I am pleased to be able to include it in our autumn issue. I also include a synopsis from John Woolmer:

"This book is written to defend the existence of angels, to look at their true role as messengers of God, and to warn that there are such beings as fallen angels. The testimonies are mainly from people that I know personally and I would vouch for them as credible witnesses. Angels, quite simply, are God's messengers, who throughout eternity worship the living God. Sometimes they have earthly duties such as protection, guidance, and occasionally a lifting of the spiritual curtain. These recent records point back to the far more important truths about the angels at Bethlehem and beside the Empty Tomb on the first Easter Day".

John Woolmer

Rosemary writes:

I think readers will find this book both interesting and exciting. Not only are these encounters with, or sightings or experiences of angels, but all kinds of lively spiritual phenomena are discussed, both from history and the present day. All sorts of questions come up too. Pagans and the unbaptised: would they be entitled to guardian angels? Why

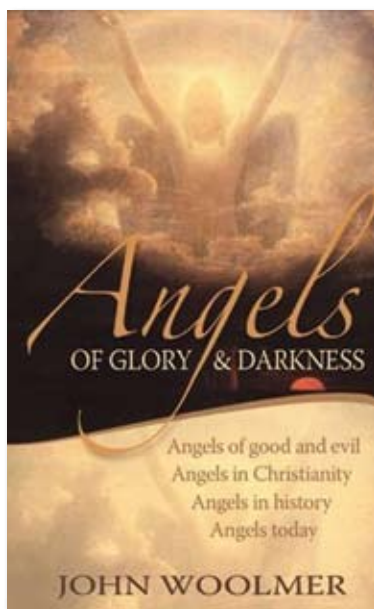
didn't an angel in one story 'stop the engine or put the brake on?' Where did the mystery 'hitchhiker' disappear to while a car was travelling at speed?

It also deals with less lovely phenomena. There is the story of Deborah, who got involved in modern shamanism, and only escaped from the occult when her life was 'in some considerable chaos.'

The book concludes by considering 'why we need a theology of angels in today's world.' We are reminded that all angelic experiences need to be tested – and the infallible test is to submit things to the Cross, 'which was and is the ultimate dividing line between darkness and light.'

Martin Cavender, who writes the foreword, says: "I have never, I believe, seen an angel for myself – which seems to hint that others possibly have."

Rosemary Thewlis



There are so many helpful and inspirational books in print. If you have a particular favourite that you would like to share, please do write in with a brief review. Likewise for any music which has particularly inspired you, do send in the details, either directly to my e mail address or to the office, who will forward it on to me. Ed

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Training Days

The training days are for anyone interested in the Healing Ministry. The next two are about the Healing Ministry in your church and we hope a good number of local churches will send reps.



September

- 11 - 13 *Healing and Bereavement*
16 *Quiet Day: How great is our God*
19 *Training Day (see above)*
25 - 27 *Healing Retreat*
29 - 30 *Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat*

October

- 6 - 9 *Healing the Family Tree*
14 *Quiet Day: From captivity to freedom*
23 - 25 *Healing Retreat*
27 - 1 Nov *Prayer and Painting Week*

November

- 6 - 8 *Hidden blocks to healing*
11 *Quiet Day: Peace at any price*
18 *Clergy Retreat*
20 - 22 *Healing Retreat*
28 *Training Day (see above)*

For further information and bookings:
Telephone 01424 830033

Web Site www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

Many people are finding us on the web. If you have access please give us your comments, in particular any items you would like to see included.

Noticeboard

Advance Notice – Book early!

Christmas celebration: December 24th - 27th 2009

Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord in the peaceful and prayerful atmosphere of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Enjoy good food,
good company
and joyful
worship as we
celebrate the
Lord's birth.



Book early to avoid disappointment as we expect places will be taken up very quickly. Bookings will be taken from 1st September.

New Year Retreat December 31 - 1 Jan 2010

This was a popular retreat last year and will probably get booked up very quickly so book early if you would like to come. For those of you who haven't been before, perhaps the following comments from two of last year's guests will persuade you to give it a try!

"The retreat was a time of great peace and quiet reflection with plenty of space to simply be with God. It was also a time of laughter, fellowship and fun."

"There was something special about seeing in the New Year in God's presence through worship."

"The retreat gave me space and time to reflect and be with God; time to rest, time for good food and company and of course, time for fun."





How to contact us

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The office is open from 9am - 5pm
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For a brochure, programme or further
information please contact the Secretary

Whilst this magazine is issued free of charge
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is most helpful. If you are able to Gift Aid
your donation then this adds another 25p for
every £1 you give. Details of Gift Aid can be
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Healing Centre.

Who's who

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Visitor

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Published and distributed by: The Divine Healing
Mission Registered Charity Number 208738

Designed and printed by **Yeomans**, 2 Maidstone Road,
Paddock Wood, Kent TN11 6BT

Tel: 01892 839280 www.yeomanscreative.co.uk