

**Crowhurst**† Christian Healing Centre  
a place of Christ's healing

Autumn 2010

# in His healing **STEPS**

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*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28)*

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# Editorial



It is nearly the end of July as I write this editorial and what a beautiful summer we have had this year! Autumn will soon be upon us, and although it heralds the onset of colder mornings and darker evenings, the days can often still be quite warm.

The beauty of autumn is displayed on our trees and shrubs with their vivid shades of God-given autumn colours. 'God saw all that He had made and it was very good!' (Gen 1:31).

'Behold I am doing a new thing' Kath writes in her letter as God continues His work at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and we wait in eager anticipation of the changes that continue to take place here.

Change can be daunting and scary at times but without it, we would never grow. God never changes but He allows change for our good. And it is the same with nature; if there was only one season, we would be deprived of the richness that our four seasons bring and therefore miss out on new experiences. I am reminded of the hymn 'Through all the Changing Scenes of Life'.

*Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ!* That first verse says it all!

The Centre's grounds have a variety of trees and shrubs, so autumn colours are a plenty. But that's not all that is on offer; if you have never been here before, why not come and stay for a few days and be fed spiritually as well as physically.

Set in the pretty Sussex countryside, this is the perfect place to unwind from the outside world.



Come, 'Let Go and Let God' in this often referred to 'thin place', where the gap between heaven and earth is very small. Come and receive the healing touch of Christ and rest in His presence. Participation in the programme of events is optional.



### Thanksgiving Day - 17th July 2010

## ***Praise Him on the trumpet, the psaltery and harp.***



And praise Him we did as we opened our worship to the Lord on our annual celebration of thanksgiving, when we give honour and praise to God for all His provision at the Centre. Well we might not have had all the instruments that are mentioned in that joyful song, but our piano, flute and enthusiastic voices, were just as good and Hallelujah, we really did praise the Lord! Read more on pages 6 & 7.

We officially said goodbye to Margaret and Kenneth Gubbins on Thanksgiving Day, when they were presented with a variety of gifts.

Colin has written an appreciation of them both, which you can read on page 8.

### Chaplaincy & Ministry Teams

Penny Button has replaced Margaret Gubbins on the Chaplaincy Team, and Colin anointed and appointed her on Thanksgiving Day. We also have a new member on our Ministry Team - Lorna Podevin (pictured), wife of our bookkeeper, David Podevin. May God bless Penny and Lorna in their ministries.



I always welcome, for inclusion in the magazine, any photographs that guests have taken of the Centre, plus articles, testimonies etc. about how God has touched or ministered to you during your stay. You can send them to the office, or directly to my personal e mail address at [survivor95@hotmail.com](mailto:survivor95@hotmail.com).

Every blessing,  
*Mary Slater*





# Our Senior Chaplain Writes...



*Dear friends,*

I would like to thank all who have sent encouraging words about the magazine and those who have sent donations to help fund it; both are much

appreciated. 'Thank-you' are such important words for they value the giver and affirm that we have received their gifts.

How true this is of Thanksgiving Day – a day when we focus on our amazing God, the giver of all good things, and reflect on what we have received over the past year. And how much we have received. It was as we gave thanks that this became abundantly clear.

And something else became very clear. For over a year the Lord has been saying about this Centre, "See I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43: 19) and we have been watching and waiting for this 'new thing'. It was as I was preparing for Thanksgiving Day that the next part of the quotation, "Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" jumped out at me.

For the past year we have been aiming to build up a new Chaplaincy Team following Peter and Kay's retirement in July 2009, and also knowing that Margaret would be retiring in June 2010.

Initially we were seeking a new Senior Chaplain but drew a blank until our Lord made it abundantly clear that I should take on that position. There's a new thing – a woman leading the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre!

With a Senior Chaplain in post we began the process to appoint a deputy Senior Chaplain and Associate Chaplains. Again we have drawn a blank, so far. But what we have seen is the development of gifts within the Ministry Team, also new members, with their own specific gifts, added to the team. The art and music ministries are growing and bearing fruit and we now have members of our Ministry Team more involved in the Healing Retreat weekends.

We are also seeing more people offering to take on the role of Visiting Chaplain. These invaluable contributors to the ministry of this place spend a day, a few days, a week or more leading worship, offering ministry and generally being available to the guests. In addition to this the Lord is showing us people with the gifts and skills to lead teaching days and themed weekends. On Thanksgiving Day Penny, a member of our Ministry Team was anointed as an Associate Chaplain. So much is happening.

The Lord is certainly doing a 'new thing' and I am sure there is more to come. As times of change bring with them vulnerability, it is vital that we wait on the Lord to discern His will for this



# Thank You

place. We still need more full time chaplains and I believe that as we continue to perceive this 'new thing' He is doing and seek to put it into effect, then He will provide the people to bring His plans to fruition.

We claim His promise in Jeremiah,

*"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you ... Plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer 29:11).*

Please pray about these specific needs and for everyone involved in the life and ministry of this Healing Centre.

Having two grandchildren of Howard Cobb, the founder of this Healing Centre, with us on Thanksgiving Day was a timely reminder of how much change has taken place over the years. Change that has been set within the unchangeable mission of this place – To continue the "healing, preaching and teaching ministry of Jesus".

Thanks be to God in Jesus' precious name.

*Kath*

*Dear Friends*

What a joy it was to be part of Thanksgiving Day. How true is Kath's word, that as we give thanks and



praise to the Lord, it deepens and strengthens our relationship to God our Father, and Jesus His Son. As the Holy Spirit moved among us, there was such a sense of the Lord's presence through the beautiful music, the Eucharist and our fellowship as we worshipped together.

Thank you so much for all your cards, letters, and the love gift of a very generous cheque, which was quite overwhelming. I am so enjoying the beautiful album of photographs which Mavis Williams put together for me. It is such a lovely reminder of our time at the Centre. I use the 'Songs of Fellowship' book most days. Kenneth has also sorted out how the DAB radio and Music Hi-fi work. The bouquet has died but our memories will not.

We are settling happily in Chippenham as people are very friendly. We have been warmly welcomed by St. Andrew's congregation, which is in the centre of town. We are so enjoying seeing more of our family. Tomorrow, I am off to see 'James and the Giant Peach' with my grand-daughter!

We pray that Kath and all the staff and ministry team at the Centre will continue to know the Lord's encouragement and guidance as they walk with Him, seeking His will and vision.

These well known verses come to mind as I am writing this letter:

"You are precious and honoured in my sight because I love you. Do not be afraid, I am with you."

To God be the Glory!

*With much love from Margaret and Kenneth*

# THANKSGIVING DAY

What a joyful celebration it was; the weather was kind after some early heavy rain, and although it was a bit windy, the sun shone and we were able to enjoy the grounds throughout the day. About 150 people attended and as always, it was good to share fellowship with friends old and new (not that I am calling anyone old)! There were many familiar faces, including those of Trevor Blackshaw and his wife Pamela, and also one of our previous regular locums, Gordon Warwick.



## Thanksgiving Communion Service

As usual on this celebratory day, the large chapel filled up very early, and folk were seated in the corridor, small chapel and gazebo outside the large chapel door. However, the Tannoy system included everyone and we were all able to worship the Lord together.



It is difficult to capture an atmosphere in writing but God's spirit was really tangible during the service and throughout the whole day. We had welcomed Him with the gentle hymn, 'Come Holy Spirit, come just as You will,' and come He did as was evident from our praise and worship!

Kath led the service and gave us a challenging message on the Healing of the Ten Lepers from Luke's Gospel. Holy Communion was distributed in an orderly and reverent manner.

The 'Blessing and Sending out' was followed by the lively hymn, 'You shall go out with joy', and I'm sure the trees of the field were indeed 'clapping their hands' at our enthusiastic singing!

The service was followed by lunch. Some picnicked in the grounds, while others ate their packed lunches in the house. Invited guests and those staying in the house were provided with a delicious buffet meal prepared by our cooks, and served by our house staff.



## Thanksgivings for the past year

At 2pm we all gathered together once more for the thanksgiving part of the day. Colin led the proceedings and we were updated from David Batte on building work, and improvements etc. He also thanked God for His continued financial provision and all who faithfully support the Old Rectory, from regular donations, one off donations and bequests.



Juliette then read out some comments from feedback forms and the testimonies book.

Shirley gave thanks for our loyal Prayer Partners, Crowhurst Reps and our many volunteers.

### Anointing of Penny Button to the Chaplaincy Team



Colin then anointed Penny Button onto the Chaplaincy Team. Penny spoke of how she was anointed onto the Ministry Team three years ago, and of how she had latterly felt God's calling to join the Chaplaincy Team.

### Farewell to Margaret & Kenneth Gubbins

Colin then bid Margaret and Kenneth farewell, reading out many comments and sentiments from those folk who had been ministered to by them. They were presented with a variety of gifts (see Colin's article on page 8).



Colin then anointed Margaret and Kenneth, after which both spoke a few words about their time at the Centre.

### Praising the Lord in song, picture, music and word

After the Thanksgiving, we had a wonderful time of praise and worship. This was

organised and led by the Music Ministry Team and accompanied by some of Stephen's beautiful photographs which were shown on the overhead via his laptop.

As we sang that wonderful hymn, **King of Kings, Majesty**, Mavis Williams' sensitive and prayerful dance using the flag reminded us of God's joy when we dance in His name. *'Let them praise His name with dancing'* (Psalm 149 vs 3).



Finally, for the 'Blessing and Sending Out' we sang Marilyn Baker's beautiful Blessing Song, *'May the Blessing of the Lord our God rest upon you day by day'*, which was very moving and a fitting end to a blessed and joyful day. And it struck me during the blessing that although at each Thanksgiving Day we always give thanks for God's provision over the year, no two of these days are ever the same. Most importantly though the day is ALWAYS Spirit-filled and Christ Centred, and God's presence can really be sensed as He moves among His people. Praise God from whom ALL blessings flow!

After the time of worship, we all gathered together in the house and grounds to share fellowship and to partake of the delicious cakes that been laid out for us all!



# *An appreciation of Margaret and Kenneth Gubbins*



In the Spring edition of this magazine Margaret Gubbins announced her retirement from the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. She and Kenneth have contributed greatly to the life and work of the place.

For the past eight years Margaret has given three days a week to the Centre, firstly as the Missioner and then latterly as a Chaplain. She has led Quiet Days and organised many events and activities. All who have attended her services have been blessed by her ministry of preaching and teaching.

Many, many others have known healing and wholeness through her one-to-one ministry. Margaret has an acute empathy with, and an understanding of, human nature. In personal ministry she is able both to offer compassion and also to challenge when necessary. Her prayers and words for those to whom she ministers are highly accurate and incisive.

Kenneth brought his considerable intellect and economic training to good use as a Trustee for some years. Latterly he was a valued member of the Ministry Team. He would often come into the Centre at short notice if a male guest was in need of ministry. Together Margaret and

Kenneth undertook training of the Ministry Team – where their extensive experience both here and in Africa came to the fore.

At Thanksgiving Day Margaret and Kenneth were anointed out from the Centre. They were presented with an album of photographs from the Trustees, a DAB stereo radio and CD player, and a handsome cheque from the supporters of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. In addition Margaret asked if she could have one of the used Songs of Fellowship books from the Chapel.

We are so grateful to God for sending us Margaret and Kenneth, and for their willingness to give so freely of their time.

We wish them every blessing in their new life in Wiltshire.

*Colin Crook, Chairman of Trustees*

*Margaret and Kenneth have always been very special to us. We have known them for many years, way back to the 1970's and 80's. They were special prayer partners and helpers.*

*We have always admired Margaret's sensitive blessings at the rail in the Chapel but above all, for her grace at all times.*

*It is difficult to think of the Centre without Margaret but I am sure that God has got everything in hand!*

*These are just a few of the many personal tributes to Margaret and Kenneth that Colin read out on Thanksgiving Day.*

*Ed*



## Howard Cobb's Grandchildren



Jonathan Cobb, with his wife Helena, and sister Jennifer pictured in front of the photograph of their grandfather in the entrance hall.

It was an unexpected pleasure to meet two of Rev'd Howard Cobb's grandchildren when they came to our Thanksgiving Day celebrations on 17th July.

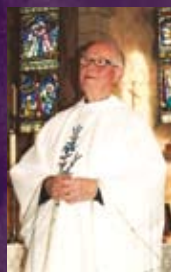
Rev'd Howard Cobb founded the Healing Centre at the Old Rectory in 1928. Jonathan Cobb and Jennifer Jones remembered visiting their grandfather when they were children, and recalled some interesting memories of time spent here.

*David Batte*



## Reverend Ray Jones

Last autumn the Revd Ray Jones celebrated 50 years as an ordained priest in the Church of England. A wonderful celebration of that remarkable achievement was held in the parish church at Barham near Chichester, where he and Maureen worshipped until their recent move. Many friends were there to rejoice with him.



A lot of our supporters remember with affection Ray and Maureen's time here at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre from 1989 until 1997, when Ray was Warden and Maureen had responsibility for the House. God achieved much through them.

In turn we too wanted to celebrate Ray's active half century as a priest, so in February they came for a few days as our guests and Ray preached at the Thursday morning Healing Service. Unfortunately heavy snow arrived on that Thursday morning and so only two local folk managed to get to the service. Notwithstanding that, it was a most happy occasion.

So many people expressed disappointment that they could not have met up with Ray and Maureen so we have arranged for them to come back. They will arrive on Wednesday 25th August in the afternoon, and Ray will preach at the Healing Service on Thursday 26th August at 10.15am. (We realise that this date is very short notice and will possibly have passed by the time many of you see it.)

*Colin Crook.*

*(Photo courtesy of Brian Beggs)*

# Healing the family tree

## A JOURNEY TO HOPE

On Friday 14th May I find myself driving on the A12 towards the destination of The Old Rectory. "What am I doing?" I ask myself, "driving alone, some 200 plus miles away to stay the weekend in a place I don't know, with people I don't know!" But what I did know was that I felt prompted to go there via my dear friend and sister in Christ, Barbara Eagling, who had previously visited the Centre and had picked up a leaflet on 'Healing the Family Tree', which she believed 'had my name on it!' The title beckoned, given my adoptive status and subsequent adult experiences, which had encouraged a spirit of rejection and abandonment inside me. How good God is to lead me towards His healing heart.

I managed to take the wrong route on my journey to Sussex and ended up on the road to Brands Hatch! I found myself in a pub where the one solitary customer turned out to be a retired lorry driver – praise God! He set me on the right road and I eventually arrived at the Centre, where I booked in and wandered round the rambling beautiful grounds before afternoon tea and the first session of the themed programme.

The five sessions were:

1. Down the generations.
2. Our ties to others and the past.
3. Our relationships with those who have died.
4. Truth, forgiveness and freedom.
5. The Eucharist and after.

What I learned most during the weekend was that the offering of forgiveness must come from the heart. Forgiveness of self, forgiveness towards others, even to someone who has died must be commended to God, in love. Simply, here is the most powerful weapon that God has equipped us with. Love has more power than hatred. Love sustains, love frees others permanently.

We were encouraged to write Jesus a letter, which we took to the Sunday morning Communion and Healing service. For me, this Healing Service was incredible in its spirit-led intensity. It commenced with praise, worship and a time of reconciliation, after which each of us silently re-read our letter, prayerfully forgiving and seeking forgiveness and commending it all into God's all-powerful, all-loving care.

After the service we all made a burnt offering of our letters, the smoke billowing upwards in the breeze as incense to our Father God. I was very aware of a feeling of release, freedom and hope.

Was it just me or did everyone make their individual journey home seeing their environment, future circumstances and relationships with greater understanding, discernment and hopefulness?

I thank God for this opportunity to receive His healing and wholeness.

*Barbara Brittain*



## Prayer Requests for Autumn 2010

Please pull out and keep for the coming months



## Prayer Requests for Autumn 2010

### Prayer Focus

“Your word O Lord is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations.” **Psalm 119:89**

### Prayer and Thanksgiving

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

### Prayer

■ Give thanks and praise for all the blessings we continue to receive at the Centre. Pray for wisdom and discernment for Kath as she prepares the programme for next year. “Behold I am doing a new thing.”

■ Pray for Penny, a member of the ministry team. She was anointed and appointed to the Chaplaincy Team on Thanksgiving Day. Continue to pray for an increase in the Chaplaincy Team to lighten Kath’s workload.

■ Pray for Clare on the house staff, who is taking maternity leave in September. We rejoice with her as she looks forward to the birth of her first child, and pray for a safe and trouble-free delivery.

■ We are looking for relief cooks to cover holidays and sickness, sometimes at short notice. Pray that the Lord will bring suitable people to apply for the posts.

■ Give thanks and praise for the generosity of all those who support the Ministry of Christ’s healing love at the Centre.

“Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways!”

**Psalm 128:1**

## September Prayer Focus

“The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving to all He has made.” **Psalm 145:13**

### September

1 - 4 Ordinands’ Retreat

4 Open Day: 2.00 – 4.30 pm

7 - 11 Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat

17 - 19 Healing Retreat

20 - 24 ME/CES Healing Retreat (Part 2)

29 Quiet Day: Meeting with Unchanging Love  
Led by Gill Payne

“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble ... He sent forth His word and healed them.”  
**Psalm 107:19 & 20**



## October Prayer Focus

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*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies proclaim the work of His hands."*

**Psalm 19:1**

### October

1 - 3 Inner Healing

12 - 17 Prayer and Painting Week

15 Trustees Meeting and Strategy Day

22 - 24 Healing Retreat

30 Quiet Day: O when the Saints  
Led by Colin Crook

*"O Lord our Lord; how majestic is Your name in all the earth."* **Psalm 8:1**

## November Prayer Focus

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*"I will praise God's name in song and glorify Him in thanksgiving."* **Psalm 69:30**

### November

5 - 7 Healing and Bereavement

8 - 12 Closer to the Father's Heart:  
Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson

13 Training Day – Addictions

19 - 21 Healing Retreat

24 Quiet Day: Exploring God's living  
canvas – What do you see?  
Led by James Bamber

27 Creative Writing Day,  
Led by Tracy Williamson

*"Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard."* **Psalm 66:8**



## Prayer for The Centre

### Prayer Focus:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-8*

### Prayer for the Trustees

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

- Shirley Dawson has agreed to serve on the board for one more year. Ted Landon, our Health and Safety expert, is retiring at the end of the year and moving away. Please pray for the right person to take his place.
- Our primary task at present is to build up the Chaplaincy Team and have a core of visiting Chaplains. Pray earnestly that the Lord will bring the right people to the Centre to be part of this vital ministry.
- Give thanks for all our prayer partners who undergird with prayer the day to day running of the Centre.
- Give thanks for our Crowhurst reps who encourage others to 'come aside and rest awhile'.
- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's provision for all our needs and the generosity of all who support the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre. Pray that we will be wise stewards in this present economic climate.
- Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim. May the Lord strengthen and bless them and surround them with His love each and every day.

*"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him.*

*Psalm 37:5*

## Prayer Focus for staff at The Centre

*"Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you." Psalm 84:4*

**Senior Chaplain:** Kath

**Chaplaincy Team:** Colin and Penny

**Ministry Team:** Andy, Carole, Gwen, Hazel, Hildegard, June, Lorna, Maggie, Margaret, Nigel, Pippa, Stephen

**Centre Manager:** David Batte

**Book Keeper:** David Podevin

**Office Administrator:** Jayne

**House Manager:** Heidi

**Maintenance Manager:** Geof

**Office Staff:** Gillian, Juliette, Esther

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

**Cooks:** Diane and Sophia

**Gardener:** Desmond

**Pianists:** Pippa and Stephen

**Flautist:** Vivien

**Volunteers:** Christine, Evelyn, Jenny, Rosemary, Shirley and Yvonne

**Magazine Editor:** Mary

*"Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise His holy name." Psalm 97:12*

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# Garden News



Desmond had his 'car parking hat' on for Thanksgiving Day. His other 'head gardener hat' is still very much in use though as the grounds continue to keep him busy! As autumn approaches,

there are additional tasks, which include cutting back overgrown trees, shrubs etc, and of course the never ending clearing away of fallen autumn leaves!

## Thoughts on Summer & Thanksgiving Day

It is the climax of the year, where here at the Centre, we give thanks to God and enjoy the fruits of our labours.

There is always work to be done however, whether it's digging, hoeing, weeding, cutting back and pruning, and the dreaded dead heading (a necessary job to keep everything looking neat and tidy, but not a job I enjoy much)!



One of my jobs this summer was to help Geof sort out the water fountain (see photo). Extra hands definitely made the work easier and no stone (literally!) was left unturned as it faced an overall clean.

The atmosphere here really does give one the incentive to make the grounds pleasing to our visitors and to enhance the growth of the many plants to be found well into the autumn and winter period.

*Blessings, Cliff*



## The Water Feature

Some keen eyed visitors will have noticed over the past few months that the water spout has on occasions not been working. This has not been a deliberate move to save electricity! The problem was that we were losing water through cracks in the 'pond'. This had gradually got worse and in the end we were losing something like three gallons a day. Action had to be taken!

With the aid of our ever-willing volunteer, Cliff, we set to work by firstly emptying the remaining water and then removing all the stones, large and small, followed by all the lower levels of finer shingle. Then with Herculean strength we lifted out the 'Hands' water receiver and the other slightly lighter water outlet.

After cleaning the pond a few thin cracks were discovered in the brickwork. With the cracks repaired and all of the brickwork given three coats of sealer, it was just the 'small task!' of putting it back together again (with Cliff giving the larger stones a good scrub).

I'm pleased to report that the repairs appear to be successful and I trust that any future ground movement will not produce any further cracks.

*Geof*

## *'Re-tyre-ment' – A continuation of God's calling*



At Thanksgiving Day in July a wonderful time of worship, thanksgiving and fellowship was experienced by all and the Lord was graciously present in His power and love. The occasion was also one of thanksgiving, celebration and farewell to Margaret and Kenneth Gubbins as they moved on in the Lord's ministry to pastures new.

We were asked later in the day if we would like to contribute an article for the magazine "in His Healing Steps" about life after Crowhurst and what the Lord has been doing in our lives since we 'retired'.

In the course of the day's events it was expressed on more than one occasion, "What a privilege and joy it is to serve the Lord and His people in this place". This echoed our own expression of wonderment when we served here and since. To share in and experience the Lord's healing ministry at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre had been for us a 'Jewel in the Crown' in terms of the Lord's calling. Certainly a very special jewel at that time, but there are more jewels in a crown than

perhaps one first appreciates. Certainly in the Lord Jesus' Crown there are very many more of them as He leads us on in life. We would like to share with you some of those 'Jewels'.

Firstly, the discovery of what it means to 'rest in the Lord and wait on Him,' taking time to deepen our prayer life together and experience a deeper walk with God. We have enjoyed making new adjustments without the outside pressures of a busy ministry life, just being together in our own home and also being with family. We have taken time to deepen our prayer life together and our daily walk with the Lord. We have also established a new home and made a special garden.

We celebrated our retirement with a five week trip to British Columbia, West Canada and had a super time in the Rockies. We also celebrated our Golden Wedding with a special theatre trip to London, and an extra special rail trip along the Severn Valley.

Secondly God has blessed us with a deeper and fuller ministry of Intercession. We pray nearly every day for Christians worldwide as well as locally, bringing 'Words of life',





especially through Pamela, that have paralleled and undergirded the continuing ministry and happenings at the Centre. It is a high privilege to still serve in the Lord Jesus' healing ministry in this way.

Alas in the wider church the healing ministry is still very much peripheral and mostly undertaken as an 'add on' instead of seeing it as a Gospel imperative. But even here the Lord is at work and we are often surprised by the answers to prayer as He touches lives in His gentleness and compassion.

The Lord also opened up opportunities to intercede for areas of North Wales, which had experienced the hand of darkness in the past, and had now come into a new place of light and healing.

Thirdly, the Lord has also opened up for us whole areas of creativity. For Pamela it has been in the area of embroidery and design. For Trevor it has been in wildlife and countryside conservation studies, especially to do with birds and their habitats. These creative activities have led us both to widen our areas of interest. Even Trevor has enjoyed embroidery classes, and together we share in painting classes and enjoy new discoveries.

From time to time, and at a low key level, the Lord involves us in various roles in our local church. This includes sharing with others in His Word and life's experiences in Bible study groups, a Mission prayer group and occasionally leading services and/or preaching. We very much see our calling in a supportive and enabling role. For a time Trevor served on the Council of one of the major Anglican Mission Agencies and also served temporarily

as the Priest-in Charge of a village church. Pamela has a role in the leadership of a mothers' and family group.

Our continuing prayer and hearts' desire is to see the Lord in Holy Spirit gifting and power, and to:

- Renew His church and people;
- Bring healing and wholeness to many;
- Bring healing, deliverance and restoration of this Nation and His whole creation to Himself.

In His love and grace,

*Trevor and Pamela Blackshaw.*





# I Am A Forgiven Sinner



When I was at Thanksgiving Day in July, Mary Slater asked me what I had been doing since I had left the Centre and wondered whether I would like to write something for the magazine.

It is almost a year ago since my wife and I left Northumberland to move to Dumfries. In doing so I gave up my chaplaincy, my preaching and my teaching on the healing ministry etc. God took the opportunity to insist that I took time out to rest and recharge. Little did I realise what else He was going to do in my life now I had time to look at myself, as well as at my ministry. Reflection and introspection became the order of the day.

As time passed, I found myself engaged in a battle and as each day passed I liked myself less and less, and that was putting it mildly! It came to a head one morning when I even wondered if it was possible to shave with my eyes closed – that way I wouldn't have to look at myself! However I persisted in

my prayer for the people in the area around me, for the local hospital – the staff, patients, visitors etc, and I continued to read and reflect on my daily Bible notes.

Fortunately God persisted too and I was given to understand that it was not His will that I continue to dislike myself when His love for me was so great. He showed me that Satan was having a field day in my life. At that point I told Satan to go in the name of Jesus and asked the Holy Spirit to fill the gaps this left.

It was only then that I realised how much darkness there had been. Yes, I was a sinner but God directed me to the song, *"I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene"*.

This was followed by God reinforcing His love for me, by taking me through the Garden of Eden story, and *His joy at being able to walk with His children in the cool of the evening*.

And also:

*His love for His children, confirmed when He made clothes for them before making them leave the garden.*

*His love for His children, confirmed when He led them out of Egypt to take them to the Promised Land.*

*His love for them confirmed when He sent His Son to pay the price for our sins on the cross.*

*His love confirmed when Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, pleaded with God to take the cup from Him, but also prayed, "Thy Will be done".*

*His love confirmed when Jesus died on the cross and when He said, "It is finished".*

*His love confirmed when the curtain in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and once again we had access to the Holy of Holies and, in the righteousness of Christ, to God Himself.*

The outcome of this period of trial was the realisation that not only did God love me but that it was also all right to love myself. I was given a greater understanding of the pain God felt because of the separation caused by the Fall, and His joy at the possibility of reconciliation with His children in Jesus.

Once again God could walk with His children in a risen Lord Jesus. The price had been paid, and with the love that had occasioned such sacrifice came the gift of forgiveness and restoration.

God made it clear that He would continue His work in me, and through me, in the lives of others. How this will happen I am still not sure. Perhaps Mary could ask me the same question next year!

With love in the Lord.

Gordon Warwick



I remember once hearing, during a talk on prayer, that we should ask God to help us with our work, but not EXPECT Him to do our work for us, and the following extract, which I found in the Autumn magazine 1994, confirms this. Ed



### **Answered Prayer**

*I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong*

*I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to learn to solve*

*I asked for prosperity and God gave me brain and brawn to work*

*I asked for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome*

*I asked for love and God gave me troubled people to help*

*I asked for favours and God gave me opportunities*

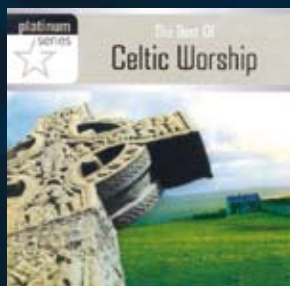
*I received nothing I wanted*

*I received everything I needed*

*My prayer has been answered*



# Music Review



I was recently browsing through the many CD's that are on sale at the Centre and my eyes were drawn to 'The Best of Celtic Worship.' Several different artists have contributed to this excellent CD which at the low price of just £4.99 is an absolute bargain!

It is always risky buying a CD that you haven't heard before, but Robin Mark is one of my favourite singer/songwriters and he was listed as singing five of the ten songs so I thought it wouldn't be too much of a gamble!

I certainly wasn't disappointed and would thoroughly recommend it, even if you aren't familiar with any of the singers.

There isn't room on this page to review every song but I would like to mention a few of them. Kathryn Scott was new to me but I am definitely a fan now! Her moving rendition of 'At the Foot of the Cross' really spoke to me when I first listened to it. The lyrics and gentle music combine to make this one of my favourite tracks on the CD. It is a song that takes you right to the heart of the cross, and helps you to meditate on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us when He willingly died in our place. The words encourage us to lay every burden down at the foot of the cross. It is very powerful and very stirring.

In the gentle and reflective 'Creator King', Kathryn Scott sings about our Creator God: "..... And who am I, that You are mindful of me? Who am I that you sent Your love for me?" This song is about the wonder of God's creation, which includes us, His children.

'When it's all been said and done', sung by Robin Mark, focuses on whether we have really lived our lives for God. Have we done our best to live for truth, and for Our Lord? It speaks of God's mercy and how He looks beyond our weakness and encourages us to always sing His praises, here on earth and in heaven. It is a beautiful song and one which really emphasises God's love and purpose for our lives.

There are also some lively praise songs on the CD, namely, *Days of Elijah*, *Garments of Praise* and *You're the Lion of Judah*, all sung by Robin Mark. You can't sit still when listening to these three tracks!

A good mixture of gentle, reflective and lively worship songs, well worth £4.99. The Centre has several in stock but if you can't get there, why not give the office a ring? I am sure they would be happy to post you one out (postage and packing would be extra).



# Smiling through



I was feeling very low; the breakup of a long term relationship, a horrendous move in July last year, which I did not want, and which led to me having to down-size my home (I am still trying to fit 'a quart into a pint pot' as the saying goes)! My dear dog and faithful companion had to be put to sleep in February this year and I had entered six classes in the Hastings Musical Festival! My singing teacher persuaded me not to drop out but 'have a go' as I had been studying the songs for some time, and it would be a shame to waste all that hard work.

I managed to get three Special Merits: second place in the Veterans' class for 'Fly Home Little Heart' (Ivor Novello) and to my surprise and incredulity a first prize with cup for 'Smiling Through', a Victorian parlour song in the Old Time Section. Finally, I was awarded a certificate with good report for the hardest piece of all, 'Angels Ever Bright and Fair', an Oratorio solo by Handel!

So it was well worth all the hassle in the end but rather nerve-jangling at the time! I constantly asked God for help – 'Please don't let me forget the words; Lord, please don't let me make a fool of myself in front of the adjudicator and audience'. Of course, He did not let me down and I found a sense of calm knowing that He was by my side, as so often happens when we have to face up to something which is 'out of our comfort zone'!

So often we feel like giving up on everything and sometimes it is really hard to keep going but the support of good friends, working at The Old Rectory and my faith in the Lord's love and comfort did work for me - let it work for you too!

Juliette

*Congratulations to Juliette on achieving her awards under such difficult circumstances. What a testimony for when we face times of intense pressure, and although not easy to do, it is precisely at these times when we should really trust in God to help us through. As Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6, "**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God**" and in vs 13, "**I can do all things through Him who gives me strength**".*

*For those of you who don't know Juliette, she works in the office two days a week, which as she said on Thanksgiving Day 'is a privilege' and she wouldn't want to work anywhere else!*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## **Prayer & Painting week 12th - 17th October, £370**

This will be the last painting week of 2010 so whether you can paint already or if you are a complete beginner, why not come and enjoy a few days painting or drawing under the expert tuition of Maggie, our resident artist,

This course is suitable for beginners or those more advanced, and includes time for worship and prayer. A creative experience for all.



**You can even do your paintings outside the art room when the weather is nice!**

## **September**

- 1 - 4 *Ordinands' Retreat*
- 4 *Open Day: 2.00 – 4.30 pm*
- 7 - 11 *Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat*
- 17 - 19 *Healing Retreat*
- 20 - 24 *ME/CES Healing Retreat (Part 2)*
- 29 *Quiet Day*

## **October**

- 1 - 3 *Inner Healing*
- 12 - 17 *Prayer and Painting Week*
- 15 *Trustees Meeting and Strategy Day*
- 22 - 24 *Healing Retreat*
- 30 *Quiet Day*

## **November**

- 5 - 7 *Healing and Bereavement*
- 8 - 12 *Closer to the Father's Heart: Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson*
- 13 *Training Day – Addictions*
- 19 - 21 *Healing Retreat*
- 24 *Quiet Day*
- 27 *Creative Writing Day, Led by Tracy Williamson*

Our twice weekly healing services, which provide the opportunity to receive prayer with the laying on of hands, are held on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.15am with Holy Communion.

You are most welcome to stay for lunch, just give the office a ring to pre-book.



# Advent, Christmas and New Year Retreats

There are two Advent retreats taking place this year; one is over the first weekend of December and the other in the following week. During both retreats, there will be daily worship, reflection and prayer on the Christian theme of Advent. There will also be time to explore the gardens and grounds, or go for a walk in the surrounding countryside.



## **Advent Retreat 3rd - 5th December 2010, £150**

The retreat begins on Friday at 3.45 pm with welcomes and introductions and concludes after lunch on Sunday.

## **Advent Retreat 7th - 10th December 2010, £210**

The retreat will begin after tea on Tuesday at 4.15pm, with welcomes and introductions. After the evening meal at 6 pm, there will be the usual Healing Service that is open to the public. On Wednesday it will be a quiet day with worship and reflection.

On Thursday there will be the open healing service and in the evening there will be music, together with a photographic display on an overhead screen. This will be followed by Night prayer.

Christmas is such a hectic and noisy time and an Advent Retreat is an ideal way of preparing for its true meaning, the joyful birth of Our Lord. Book your place early, as these retreats are very popular.

## **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Thursday 23rd December  
to Monday 27th December  
£260 non en-suite  
£300 for en-suite rooms**

Many folk benefited from spending Christmas at the Centre last year. Some of the comments received were:

*'This was a very special Christmas - everything I could have desired and much more.'*

*'Christ truly at the centre of Christmas.'*

*'A great time of fun, fellowship and games alongside the presence of the Lord.'*

## **NEW YEAR RETREAT**

**Thursday 30th to Monday 3rd January  
£260 non en-suite  
£300 for en-suite rooms.**

If you would prefer to celebrate New Year at the Centre, come and join us on this retreat as we move from the past to the future in worship, prayer and rejoicing together. **The comments from last year's guests tell their own story!**

*'I had a great time! A good mix of play and reflection, certainly holistic.'*

*'The services have been very special. Altogether a healing experience.'*

*'I have enjoyed it so much and it has been such a cleansing and renewing time for me this year.'*





## How to contact us

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

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

## Who's who

### **President**

Rt Revd Nicholas Reade BISHOP OF BLACKBURN

### **Visitor**

Rt Revd Wallace Benn BISHOP OF LEWES

### **Chairman of Trustees**

Revd Colin Crook

### **Senior Chaplain**

Revd Kath Batte

### **Chaplaincy Team**

Colin Crook, Penny Button

### **Magazine Editor**

Mary Slater

### **Prayer Partners Co-ordinator**

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