

in His Healing Steps

Autumn 2015

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What is the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre?



The CCHC is a friendly Christian Healing Centre where a warm welcome awaits all who come through its doors. Situated in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is just four miles from the coast in the Sussex High Weald. The peace and comfort of this place creates an ideal setting in which to draw closer to God and experience His love.

The saving, healing work of Jesus is all about Kingdom come/coming. Every time a person is drawn out of darkness, slavery or dis-ease, it is a Kingdom moment; the Kingly rule and authority of Jesus breaking into our world. Every time we allow Him to be King in our life or in a situation around us, the Kingdom has come. The ministry of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a Kingdom ministry where we seek to cooperate with Jesus (as junior partners) in the bringing in of His Kingdom.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a non-denominational, residential place with a vision to grow the Kingdom of God by continuing the healing, preaching and teaching ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, both at the Centre and in the wider context of the Church of Christ.

Editorial



“To see Jesus lifted high.” This was the title on the Thanksgiving Day programme this year. And lift Him high we did - at the morning service and in the afternoon, when we looked at the team’s vision for the CCHC going forward. (See pages 18-20 for more on Thanksgiving Day.)

I have been coming to the Centre for nearly twenty years now, making many lovely friends, and during that time, have seen many changes in personnel and routine, but no matter who comes or goes, I know that the Lord will always be *‘in this place.’* After every visit, I come away with a fresh touch of Jesus, through His Word in the services and through the love and care that is given by the Chaplaincy team, Prayer Ministers and hospitality/catering staff.

The ‘new thing’ is, and will continue to be, a ‘work in progress’ as step by step, the Lord continues to lead the team forward. The successful outcome of the Gift Days in April has confirmed the belief that the Lord is guiding the team and taking them forward with their vision.

The building

Some much needed work has been carried out this year. In July a new carpet was laid outside the kitchen and the corridor, which was also redecorated. A new UPVC sliding door has replaced the old aluminium one in the sun corridor and as you can see from the photo (top right), a new door and windows

have been fitted to the lower end of the chapel corridor, along with a ramp which makes wheelchair access easier. By the time you receive your magazine, it will have had a safety rail fitted and be in use.



Facebook

At the time of print, we are up to 408 ‘likes’! Henrietta Blyth, who was staying at the CCHC in July, was our 400th ‘liker’ and during her stay, Esther from the office, who is also in charge of our Facebook and Twitter accounts, took the opportunity to take a celebratory photo. Henrietta is proudly holding the ‘400 likes’ poster. Do ‘like’ our Facebook page if you haven’t already done so.



Please keep the team in your prayers as they follow the Lord’s leading, and let’s lift Jesus high at the CCHC and beyond!

With every blessing, *Mary*

Steve's letter - *Jesus said, 'Follow me, and I will make you ...'*

Dear Followers of Jesus, you who are being made like Him,



Recently, to help us pray during Night Prayer, I was using Psalm 147 verses 1-4. When we got to verse 4, which reminds us that our Lord names the stars in the night sky, I suggested we simply ask the Lord

to show us what He sees when looking at the stars. In the next few minutes all those present received extraordinary pictures of the night sky, and sounds too. It was awesome!

The Lord has been reminding me again of the progress of the advance of His Kingdom across the globe. Think about it; by the time you have finished reading this magazine, countless more people would have heard the Good News and thousands of those would have decided to become followers of Jesus. Blind people would have received sight; the deaf will have heard sound for the first time; the weak made strong and over a billion followers worldwide (you and me too) would have shone like lights in the world.

Be encouraged; we are on the victory side – the Lord who knows the stars by name is on our side – ‘who can be against us?’

Our call is to walk by faith, not by sight - faith in a Lord who knows the stars and daily advances His global Kingdom. How I would love to know what tomorrow may bring and what the future

of the CCHC looks like. The Lord has shown the leadership here a very helpful picture of ‘one carpet tile being put down before us at a time’. It seems for us here at the CCHC, the Lord gives us all we need, to do what He wants us to do presently. We need to prayerfully discern what that is and faithfully press on, knowing that we are not building just for the here and now, but for the Kingdom of God.

Since our successful Gift Days we believe the Lord is confirming our ‘going out’ to the wider context of the Church of Christ, as we have received more invitations. Thank the Lord with us and continue to pray as we consider financing and resourcing this new work of the Lord here.

There have also been two new developments – a necessary part of the next carpet tile. We feel prompted to further explore our big picture by carefully and prayerfully viewing our land, and where things like prayer rooms and huts may be placed in relation to the much needed improved car parking space and present buildings.

Secondly, the two day a week voluntary role of our Associate Chaplain, Penny, has a new look. One day a week Penny will continue to bless us with all the Ministry things we love her to do (mostly on Thursdays) and the other day she will be looking into all things business in relation to the Centre. This will be until the end of December 2015.

It thrills me that here (and in all our hearts and homes), around the globe and the galaxies beyond, our Lord is faithfully and lovingly keeping His promises and that one day not only will we be like Him, but we will know and fully experience the peace and joy of His Kingdom on earth. Thank you Lord!

With love from us all, *Steve*

Ecumenism at the CCHC

'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'. (Ephesians 4.3)

Our Vision Statement says:
The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a non-denominational, residential place with a vision to grow the Kingdom of God by continuing the healing, preaching and teaching ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, both at the Centre and in the wider context of the Church of Christ.



We are non-denominational.

A general definition for non-denominational is 'not restricted to, or formally aligned to, any particular religious denomination.' You may know that inter-denominational 'celebrates the strengths of a variety of denominations.' It's easy for me to see that an outsider looking in could say we were either, or a mixture of both. As the question was raised recently, we decided to look into the variety of people that visit and/or work here. Let me start by saying I celebrate the truth that our guests, staff and volunteers come from all denominations (from Pentecostal to Roman Catholic) and none. Groups that visit are an increasing number from black Pentecostal churches in London, Vineyard church, Deanery groups, Parish groups (Anglican, non-Conformist, Pentecostal and independent Free Churches).

Individuals that visit include clergy/pastors and/or their spouses, and youth workers from a number of different denominations, who come for day retreats and quiet days – see group list above. Those attending Healing Services come from a wide range of denominations.

Links with other organisations

Chaplains attend quarterly network meetings which include Ashburnham, Penhurst, Pilgrim Hall, Glyndley Manor, Burrswood, The Oasts and The Coach House, all of which represent a variety of denominations and theology.

Steve and I hold a license from the Bishop of Chichester authorising us to work in all his C of

E congregations (when invited) and as a result we are part of the local Deanery Chapter.

The CCHC attends Hastings Churches Unity Services, Bible by the Beach and Diocesan Healing Days. The Centre is also a member of Christian Healing UK which incorporates many denominations.

Liturgies used

Iona, Northumbria, Methodist, URC and Anglican liturgies are used on a regular basis. Also a 'Simple Communion' of unknown provenance and Celtic Daily Prayer by David Adam. Some services that we lead have no written liturgy, and this occurs for both in house services and our public Healing Services.

Hymnody spreads across the traditions from Charles Wesley to Taize, from Kendrick to Hillsong. When appropriate I sometimes cross myself and occasionally genuflect in worship. (There have been two occasions I felt prompted to perform a cart wheel but I'm not sure if there is historical liturgical precedent for this?)

Visiting Chaplains

The team of Visiting Chaplains include Ministers from many denominations. Our most regular are Brenda (URC); Bridget, Pat and Peter (Baptist, but worshipping in Anglican Churches); John, Colin, Denis, Lesley and Terry (Anglican); James, Andrew and Ian (Methodist).

Our Ministry Team come from Methodist, Anglican, independent Free Churches and Baptist.

Our Guided Quiet Days are led by leaders from a wide range of denominations and the Teaching Days are mainly led by our own Chaplains.

I am thrilled that we have the flexibility in worship to be obedient to our dear Lord and Scripture without being limited by anything or anyone. The Lord is here and people visiting here find that is true. By God's grace we provide a safe environment that enables this. Praise the Lord!

Steve Gendall



Visit to Carisbrook Priory

In May, Steve C (playing hooky from sick leave!), Penny, Yvonne and I travelled to the Isle of Wight for a Teaching Day at Carisbrook Priory, a non residential centre of Prayer and Christian Healing, which welcomes “everyone, but especially those seeking peace of mind.”

Around forty people from various local ministry situations attended the day. In the morning Steve’s teaching focused on the foundations and practice of the healing ministry, with supporting testimonies from Yvonne and myself.

Then after a delicious lunch from the tea room, and a rest in the peaceful gardens, it was time to “try it out.” This is always challenging for guests, as they experience praying, and being prayed for, in mini ministry sessions based on the ‘Crowhurst model.’

But our Lord is faithful, and people came away encouraged by the experience and emboldened to continue their journey in the healing ministry.

Our thanks to the Buttons for our transport and Penny’s awesome driving, and to our wonderful hosts, Bob and Maxine.

We continue to pray for the growth and development of the Lord’s Kingdom work at Carisbrook.

Veronica Gendall





Authentic Men's Weekend - A Conference for Men

Thirty men from all over the UK converged on the CCHC for a very special weekend in May. Not only was there a broad range of accents, there was also a broad range of ages. Jokingly I said beforehand that I wanted a certificate to prove that I am an 'Authentic Man!' That wasn't forthcoming but such a certificate would have paled into insignificance in comparison with such a powerful move of the Holy Spirit during that weekend.

Based on the book 'Wild at Heart' by John Eldredge, a team of skilled men took us through what it is to be a man in the church today. In essence, the church has tried to produce emasculated and non-competitive men, to produce 'nice' men. That was never God's plan. God gave men a warrior heart and we need to reclaim it. There are battles to fight and adventures to live. Adventure is vital to the lives of men; when boredom sets in, it creates the wrong sorts of adventure - gambling, pornography, affairs etc.

We looked at the cosmic battle and the impact that has on lives today. We also looked at the masks that men wear, often to hide past hurts and how these need to be dealt with. Finally we looked at father/son relationships, both in Godly, and in human terms.

This brief summary does not do justice to the real impact of the weekend, which was a mixture of talks, interspersed with film clips, and times for reflection.

Each evening ended with meeting socially round a camp fire in the grounds. There were unexpected extras like bacon butties, and popcorn to go with a film on Saturday night.

The weekend was challenging, exhilarating and well worthwhile. I would recommend it to any man. If you get a chance to go on one, then please do. You will not be disappointed.

Colin Crook



Together - Families Weekend

In May, the first ever Families Weekend was held at the CCHC and what a wonderful time was had by all! Ages ranged from toddlers to teens and there was something for everyone - from toasting marshmallows on an open fire, being creative in the art room, and shaving foam pies! A weekend of growing in faith together, lots of fun and laughter, and making new friends.



Barbara Kingston writes:

For many years, my husband Fred and I brought our young son Owen to the CCHC for a couple of weeks holiday each summer, staying in the flats which were available for guests before the fire regulations changed. Since having children of his own, my son has longed to bring them to the Centre, but this is no longer feasible, so imagine our delight when we saw that they were hosting a families' weekend! We applied at once and found that even gran could come - wow!

The whole weekend was a great success; the planning was so good that no detail had been overlooked to make the weekend fun for the children, and enjoyable for the adults. From having stickers and colouring sheets in the dining room, to keep the youngsters happy when they had eaten, to Duplo/Lego cars etc in the lounge to occupy inquisitive fingers!

Early in the programme there was a treasure hunt for each family to do together, which involved finding objects/places photographed that were in the house and grounds. There was great excitement in our family whenever we found the place where the picture had been taken! We found Maggie in the art room where we made Pentecost crowns, Steve in the lounge, where we were given a blessing and a chocolate, and we found Jesus on the cross in the small chapel etc. What a great way to explore the house!

There was such a friendly atmosphere in the house; the children very quickly made friends and encouraged their parents to make new friends too! In the garden were sports toys - a very large ball and small ones - skipping ropes bats etc, and so lots of scope for impromptu games. Even parachute games were provided one afternoon.

My granddaughter made friends with some older girls she called 'my big girls' and she still talks of them.

Fun, Faith and Foampies!

The art room was a magnet to my grandson and he made so many wonderful craft projects, some edible, and even my two year old granddaughter made a few masterpieces. Parents also enjoyed dabbling at things as it is such an enticing room!



There were puppets to watch, music making in the marquee, and a very inspiring Family Worship for Pentecost. My grandson has since been busy teaching his teddy to sing 'My God is a great big God!'

I am sure the whole experience will have a lasting impression on my grandchildren and when I asked them what they liked best about the weekend, they said "toasting marshmallows on the campfire and ...all of it, when are we going again?"

And the adults in our family? Well of course we echo the children - please arrange another one soon, hopefully with Sally and Becki, our wonderful children's workers who planned it all with such care.

So a big thank you Steve, Penny, Sally, Becki, all the staff and cooks, the music makers and other volunteers that made the weekend so very special.



Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary and our Prayer Walk

Many people will have seen the 'Praise Plaques', which are placed in strategic places around the Prayer Walk here at the CCHC, and perhaps wondered about their origin. These unusual and very special signs have all been donated by the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary. Founded in 1948 by Mother Basilea Schlink and Mother Martyria in Darmstadt, Germany, there are now eleven sub-divisions all over the world. Our nearest branch is in Radlett, Hertfordshire where we are in regular contact with Sister Glory and Sister Thekla.



The wording on all the signs has been composed by Mother Basilea with references to the appropriate biblical tracts and will encourage the reader to pause and ponder, pray and communicate with our Lord at the chosen 'stations'. The messages are simple and clear, and show Mother Basilea's deep love and commitment for our Lord in all that she did. She wrote many books which are still very appropriate for these modern times.

The Sisterhood has placed praise plaques in various places around the world where there has been suffering and destruction – *'With God, suffering is never the final outcome.'*

For whatever reason you have come to the Centre, for rest, respite, ministry or to cope with life in general, please enjoy our Prayer Walk and be thankful how blessed we are to have these plaques provided for us.

As Mother Martyria put it: *"God's standards are very different from ours. When we think we have come to the end of our strength, He steps in to give us new energy and new vision."*

If you wish to use a map to guide you around the Prayer Walk, you will find these on display in our main reception area or in the Library.

May your feet always be guided in the steps of our Lord.

Juliette Vane



A sense of belonging

Two dear friends introduced me to the CCHC almost three years ago. When entering the Chapel I was overwhelmed with the presence of our God and the Holy Spirit – in fact no words can ever describe the feelings I experienced. I only know that He was there with open arms, welcoming me to walk with Him. Since then I have made many friends at the Centre; I have always been made to feel very welcome and that I belonged in this wonderful place.

When taking a walk around the gardens one is very aware of the Lord's healing presence. I know that when leaving after the service on Thursday morning the Lord our God is by our side and will never leave us. Hallelujah and Praise the Lord!

Barbara Anne Jeub

Autumn Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests for Autumn 2015

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Autumn 2015

PRAYER FOCUS

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

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Be joyful always; pray continuously; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for all those who covered Steve Clark in prayer after he broke his collar bone while cycling during a break away in May. He is now fully recovered and able to joyfully raise his hands high in praise to the Lord.
- Please pray for Geof, who retired from his position as Maintenance Manager on 31st July. We thank God for his many years of faithful service to the CCHC. Kim has now taken up the post so please pray for him as he juggles the demands of the everyday jobs and maintenance needs on a limited budget.
- Give thanks for the increase in numbers of guests so far this year. The website is being updated and in July, we also celebrated our 400th 'like' on Facebook!
- We continue to receive requests to go out into the surrounding area and are learning from, and building on, past visits. We have even had enquiries from Kenya, Spain and India. Please pray earnestly for the Lord's guidance as how to respond to this new development. Much prayer is needed.

"Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanks, and honour and power and strength, be to our God for ever and ever. Amen."
Revelation 7:12

September Prayer Focus

"Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him." Proverbs 30:5

SEPTEMBER

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|---------|---|
| 4-6 | Women's Weekend:
New for 2015 |
| 18 - 20 | Healing Weekend |
| 23 - 26 | Ordinands Retreat (House closed) |

"The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace."
Psalm 29:11



October Prayer Focus

"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour." Psalm 25:4-5

OCTOBER

- 1 Editorial Board Meeting
- 2 (evening) 3 (day) Teaching Day:
Signs of His Kingdom: Healing Churches Today
- 10 Guided Quiet Day
'Prayer walking for everyone'
Led by Pat & Peter Lockley
- 12 - 16 Healing week: Led by
Bishop Graham Dow
- 22 - 25 Prayer Partners Week

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

November Prayer Focus

"For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end." Psalm 48:14

NOVEMBER

- 3 - 7 Prayer through Painting week
- 9 - 12 Franciscan Retreat **(House closed)**
- 10 Trustees Meeting
- 14 Guided Quiet Day
'Known and loved by God'
Led by Maureen Stringer
- 18 Teaching Day:
'When I am old, I shall wear purple'
Led by Steve & Veronica Gendall
and Dr Rachel Fawcett
- 20 - 22 Healing Weekend
- 27 (evening) 28 (day) Teaching Day:
Signs of His Kingdom: Resourcing Individuals

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



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

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

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Martin Granger (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Shirley Dawson, Suzanne Owen, Paul Raynor, Jane Thomas and Nigel Thonger

- Give praise and thanks to the Lord that Suzanne Owen, Director of Nursing at Burrswood Hospital, has agreed to become a Trustee. We welcome her to our community and pray that she enjoys a fruitful time with us as we continue our adventure with the Lord.
- Mavis Williams resigned at the beginning of September. We thank her for her input and dedicated service as a Trustee.
- Pray for Penny, our Associate Chaplain, who has a two day a week voluntary role as part of the Chaplaincy at the CCHC. She will continue to be a vital part of the Ministry Team, mostly on a Thursday, but on the other day, she has agreed to share her business experience with us by looking into all things business in relation to the Centre. Therefore until the end of the year, her present role will change to one day a week on Chaplaincy matters and the other day on business matters.
- We give thanks for the continued generosity of all who have a heart for the healing ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre. We give grateful thanks for those who supported our Gift Days in April and our Thanksgiving Day in July. May you all be truly blessed.

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving towards all He has made."
Psalm 145:13

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, you servants of the Lord, you who minister in the house of the Lord." Psalm 135:1-2

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Penny, Andy, Brenda, Carole, Colin, David B, David F, Dee, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegard, Jan, Jenny, John, Judith, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Pam, Pat, Paul, Pete, Peter, Phyllis, Pippa, Rachel, Roland, Stephen, Veronica, Vivien, Yvonne and Visiting Chaplains

OFFICE

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

HOUSE

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

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Brian, Cliff, Dave, David, Desmond and Ronnie

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

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



Testimony Time

For some years now, my fiancé Phil and I have been able to visit the CCHC regularly. Phil took some persuading at first but now he cannot keep away! It has become our second home, a family, a place of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, and somewhere that is very hard to leave.

At times the Lord has done a very obvious work of healing. At other times it seems nothing has happened and change feels impossible. However, in the weeks and months that follow, I notice I have grown and changed. It is as if I have put my child hand into the strong hold of Jesus' hand. We turn a corner on the journey, and unexpectedly I find myself in a new place with Him; the Lord has been working in the unseen along the way.

Our last visit was in June this year, where we found the sense of peace even more tangible. It was my first time in the new art room and what struck me on walking through the door was the peace. Through Maggie's prayerfulness and encouragement, I was inspired to draw and paint once again.

One day Phil and I sat in the large chapel soaking in the peace that was more a body than an atmosphere, and I had the impression of 'God's wings' covering the chapel.



During our week, the corridor between the dining room and chapels' corridor was being refurbished, so there were fewer guests than usual. By our last day, we were the only ones left, and Steve G kindly did a short communion service for us. At the end we all sat silently in a time of wonderful peace.

Whether in a conversation in the lounge, laughter at meal times, the words of a sermon, the peace of the chapels, the inspiration of the art room, walks across the fields or the gentleness of ministry, this place is the true fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Phil once commented on Facebook: *"Special place; special people; nowhere better to be this side of Paradise."* What more can I say? We'll be back!

Suzie

A guest recently wrote to the office about her stay, saying she felt 'enfolded in God's love.' She also wrote about the cross in the main chapel: "The light behind the cross spoke to me of God's glory that lies behind Christ's cross, knowing that my husband is safe there (and with God's help) I can get on with life."



She mentioned too how much she enjoyed the prayer walk and how it had encouraged her to do more in her own garden.

Guided Quiet Day: Look at the Birds

This very thought provoking day, led by one of our Visiting Chaplains, Revd Bridget Jenkinson, provided us with many Scripture passages in which birds are mentioned. We also discovered some very interesting facts about our feathered friends. I learned amongst other things, that the wing span of an eagle is six to seven foot! These large wings have been designed by God to help the adult teach the young to fly. If they fall too far, or get tired, the parent bird will swoop underneath them and carry their fledglings until they can fly independently. Amazing!

Eagles catching their young reminds me of that encouraging verse in Isaiah 40:30-31:

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

I’m sure many of you will know, the song, ‘Power of your love’ which speaks of the Lord’s love and closeness as we wait and trust in Him.

*“Hold me close, let Your love surround me,
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I’ll rise up like the eagle,
And I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on, in
the power of Your love.”*

Apart from interesting eagle facts, we also learned that the beautiful swallow, which is the size of penknife, flies 6,000 miles from South Africa to Britain and back again, reaching speeds of 17-22 mph. Wow!

Thank you Bridget for such a spiritually inspirational and educational day! Sparrows, swallows, eagles, doves, chickens (mother hen covering her chicks with her feathers) ... I could write so much more but am limited for space, so I will leave it to Sheila and Susan to share their thoughts and reflections on the day.

From Sheila

This Guided Quiet Day was inspirational and particularly relevant to me in planning to retire next year.

We were reminded of God’s total provision for the birds, that we are much more valued than they and there is no purpose in being anxious.

If swallows were able to think about their long and arduous twice yearly flights, they could be really anxious but by God’s design, their relocation journeys are just perfect!

I reflected on the eagle, how she hovers over her young offspring by spreading her wings to catch each one, and carries them, teaching them to become confident and mature eagles. And in the same way God cares for us.

The dove in Noah’s Ark is the symbol of new creation, and when Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan, the Holy Spirit came upon Him ‘like a dove’, after which His ministry began.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:13-17

So guidance for my retirement is in God’s hand, and with a new chapter approaching in my life, I know that in faithfulness and with gentleness, He will lead as I stay attentive and listen to His voice.

And from Susan

I found today’s quiet day very interesting and inspirational. I was staying as a guest at the Centre and although I am a bird lover, had booked my stay unaware of the topic of the quiet day! I believe the Lord had clearly guided me to stay that particular week and to attend the day.

Swallow 'chit chat'

Continuing the bird theme, I asked in the summer issue for captions for the cute little swallow on the right of the photo, who I thought looked far from impressed by his siblings' behaviour as they awaited their food! Thank you to everyone for their amusing comments.



Lucille Gaunt writes:

- *Lousy food – don't know why they're making such a song and dance about it!*
- *Wish I was in the nest next door – they get better food than us!*
- *Huh! If she thinks I'm going to eat that, she's got another think coming!*
- *Who wants worms anyway? Nasty wriggly things!*
- *Bunch of prima donnas, the lot of them!*

Juliette, who works in the office

- *I do wish they could all sing in tune, then we might get fed!*
- *They're so out of tune, we'll never get in the dawn chorus at this rate!*

Jan Cooper (one of our Prayer Ministers)

- *Do you think you could zip it for a bit; I've got a pounding headache!*
- *Ok, so we can't all be good at singing!*

Gwen Farmer

- *If I keep my beak shut tight, they'll never know that I'm tone deaf!*
- **And finally, from Marnie Simmans**
*"They also serve who only stand and wait."
(Apologies to Milton!)*

Garden News

As usual the summer season has been a very busy time. Strimming, hedge cutting, shrub pruning and for a short time, mowing in various areas.



The bedding plants were planted in the planned positions and hanging baskets were prepared and put into place.

During the summer months, a careful eye had to be kept on various items to make sure greenfly were kept at bay. With this in mind, Jeyes Fluid was used periodically to keep Black Spot from becoming a problem with the roses.

When the weather permitted, the cutting down of brambles, nettles and thistles was carried out in the vicinity of the lower pathway. Strimming around the interior side of the sheep field was another task that was carried out.

It was a mostly dry July and the consequences of a hot and dry summer result in leaves falling early, thus starting a busy time of leaf clearing. Sometimes this can start in or around the middle of August. During leaf clearing time I am surprised that I don't dream about falling leaves!

With the pruning that is carried out during autumn, the usual bonfires will be taking place.

With blessings to you all.

Desmond.

Thanksgiving Day - Lifting Jesus high!



This year's Thanksgiving Day was not only a time of thanking God for His continuing provision at the Centre, it was also a time of reflection, repentance and lifting Jesus high, which we joyfully did in song with 'We want to see Jesus lifted high' at our morning Holy Communion Service. During the service the Ministry Team and those involved with the work of the CCHC were anointed.

Bishop Richard Jackson preached a challenging sermon on Christ's healing and told us an amusing, but encouraging, story of how he first became involved with the healing ministry. It happened in India at the end of a very noisy and chaotic service. He had been asked to pray for

the sick, which was a bit daunting as he had only been a Christian for eighteen months and the healing ministry was new to him! However, he faithfully ministered to a lady who was bent double. Praying a simple prayer for her to 'get better', he found out three days later that she had indeed been healed! The lady was so grateful to the Lord that she started a church in her house!

At lunch time, we broke with the usual tradition of separate lunches and a Ploughman's lunch, lovingly prepared by our hardworking hospitality team, was served to everyone. Thanks to the lovely weather, we were all able to fellowship together outside.



After lunch we all gathered back in the large chapel for the afternoon talk. Martin Granger (Chair of Trustees) thanked all who work at the CCHC and all who volunteer, including the Visiting Chaplains who faithfully stand in place of the Chaplains while they're away. The team then shared their vision for the Centre going forward. Plans for the future include more teaching days, podcasts of the Healing Services and an on-line E-learning course on the Healing Ministry. We also hope to put up some prayer rooms, which will be available for folk who can just 'call in' for prayer without prior appointment, and there are also plans for more outreach. Former Warden, George

Bennett's vision was to 'go out and share Jesus' healing' and our Vision Statement indicates that 'we are here and beyond', so the team feel that there is a real sense of moving out and re-establishing outreach.

Just before afternoon tea and lovely homemade cakes, we all gathered at the Thanksgiving Cairn, where two new stones were laid by the Chaplains - 'Repent 2015' and 'Go out'. Steve G then led us in a time of prayer, after which folk laid their own stones of thanksgiving.

A wonderful day; great weather, great company and much to look forward to over the coming year and beyond!

Thanksgiving Day cont'd ...

My thanks to everyone who took photos of this wonderful day (especially to Tom who was popping up all over the place and took some great snapshots). There were so many to choose from and I hope the ones I have used will capture the day just a little bit for those of you who were unable to attend, and bring back happy memories for those who came.



Lifting Jesus high at our Thanksgiving Cairn

The comments below were taken from the board in the dining room, where folk were invited to write their thanksgivings. Here are a few them:

- *Thank you Lord for setting me free.*
- *Thank you for family.*
- *Praise my soul; all my innermost being praise His holy name ... for bringing me here.*
- *The Lord abounds in goodness and mercy. Praise Him.*
- *God – Father is in this place. With love and peace.*
- *Thank you Lord for Crowhurst, my oasis.*
- *Thank you Lord for this wonderful place of God's love and peace.*
- *Thank you Lord for setting me free from acute pain in my leg after prayer last Thursday!*
- *Praise the Lord for His clear guidance and LOVE!*



Welcome to New Trustee Suzanne Owen

Suzanne writes:

I feel very excited about being invited to join the board of Trustees at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

I have been involved in the Healing Ministry for the last thirteen years within my role as Director of Nursing at Burrswood and I regularly participate in the healing services as a Prayer Minister. I have been a nurse for over thirty years, working first within the NHS and then within nurse education as a nurse lecturer. I am passionate about nursing, about the delivery of high standards of care, and I love teaching. I am also passionate about seeing God at work in matters both great and small. Outside of work I love to read, walk and do Pilates - but usually only one at a time!

I am a member of St Matts Church, High Brooms in Tunbridge Wells, although I spent much of my life within a free church and have grown to appreciate the foundation that has given me in many aspects of my faith journey. I very much look forward to getting to know you all.



Welcome to John Brown Chapel Projector Operator

John operates the overhead projector at the Thursday Healing Service, a job that requires great concentration to keep the singing flowing! He is married with two children and five grandchildren and retired from teaching

a number of years ago. He is very involved in his church, St Mary's Northiam, where, amongst other things, he plays the guitar.



Teaching Days: Signs of His Kingdom

These Teaching Days begin with dinner at 6pm on the Friday and continue all day Saturday until 4pm. You are welcome to stay overnight or attend as day guests. Places are still available at time of print.

2 - 3 October

Healing churches today

Have you noticed how people flocked to meet Jesus? The church is to be the Body of Christ here on earth. Do we ever get concerned that we are not overwhelmed with the flood of people wanting to meet Jesus? These two days will be an opportunity to explore this conundrum together.

27 - 28 November

Resourcing Individuals

Resourcing Individuals is about enabling us to cooperate with Jesus turning 'Your Kingdom Come' into a reality. We will explore how we can be a sign of God's presence and peace in our family and neighbourhood. In our own chaotic and broken world we need to be peaceful as a starting point.

This Conference is an opportunity to experience more of the healing and peace of Christ. It was always meant to be shared.

Healing Week: 12 - 16 October Led by Bishop Graham Dow

There are still some spaces available for this Healing Week.

Topics include:

- ♦ Laying the foundations of the Christian Healing Ministry
- ♦ Physical Healing with practice
- ♦ Inner healing followed by groups
- ♦ Spiritual healing: confession and forgiveness
- ♦ The truth that sets us free
- ♦ Use of Spiritual Gifts
- ♦ Issues of suffering, death and why people are not healed.

When I am old I will wear purple!

This Teaching Day in April was so popular that another is planned on 18th November. It is fully booked, but if you would like to be considered for a cancellation, do give the office a ring and put your name on the waiting list.

The light hearted, but also thought provoking day, which was based on a poem by Jenny Joseph, was led by Steve & Veronica Gendall and one of our Prayer Ministers, Dr Rachel Fawcett (pictured right).

Brenda Russell, one of our Visiting Chaplains, shares her thoughts on the day:

This Teaching Day was an opportunity for recognising that however old we are, God loves us and has a purpose for our lives. It was a day of fun, learning, reassurance, challenge and a time to reflect on our own life journeys and God's purpose for our lives.

Fifty people attended and really got into the spirit of the day! They came wearing purple and red hats, and purple balloons and decorations were dotted around the Chapel; as you can see from the photos, Steve and Rachel were both suitably attired for the day's theme!

Apart from lots of laughter, there was also worship, Bible study, teaching, sharing, and space to reflect and pray.

Sessions were:

Letting Go: *Embracing a new identity*

Our life story: *Healing the hurts*

Looking forward: *Joyfully living the present moment.*

One of our Facebook followers, Jean, sums up in a nutshell what the day meant to her:

"Thank you for today. An inspiring mixture of laughter, teaching and reflection. Indeed we are all unique, special and precious to God."

(For those of you with internet access, you can see a short video clip of Steve on the Centre's website, and on our Facebook page of him walking into the Chapel amidst peals of laughter!)



Autumn Programme

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6 Women's Weekend
New for 2015
- 18 - 20 Healing Weekend
- 23 - 26 Ordinands Retreat (**House closed**)

OCTOBER

- 2 (eve) & 3 (day) Teaching Day:
Signs of His Kingdom: Healing Churches Today
- 10 Guided Quiet Day
'Prayer walking for everyone'
Led by Pat & Peter Lockley
- 12 - 16 Healing Week:
Led by Bishop Graham Dow
- 22 - 25 Prayer Partners Week

NOVEMBER

- 3 - 7 Prayer through Painting week
- 9 - 12 Franciscan Retreat: (**House closed**)
- 14 Guided Quiet Day
'Known and loved by God'
Led by Maureen Stringer
- 18 Teaching Day: 'When I am old, I shall wear purple' - Led by Steve & Veronica Gendall and Dr Rachel Fawcett
- 20 - 22 Healing Weekend
- 27 (eve) & 28 (day) Teaching Day:
Signs of His Kingdom: Resourcing Individuals

Forthcoming Events

Advent Quiet Day: 2 December 'Highway Maintenance: Walking the Kingdom Road' Led by Revd Paul and Olive Deeming

With the busyness of December, it is often difficult to find any of the Lord's peace, so why not come along to this Advent Guided Quiet Day and peacefully prepare a way for the Lord's coming at Christmas.



New Year Celebration: 30 December to 3 January

If you don't as yet have plans for the New Year, come along and spend it at the CCHC. This very popular New Year Celebration is an opportunity to meet up with old friends and make some new ones. It does get booked quite quickly so early booking is a good idea, hence the advance notice! Come and have a joyful, uplifting, and reflective time with the Crowhurst team and if you need any further persuasion, here are a couple of guests' comments from last year!

- Wonderful atmosphere among friend; I hope to repeat the experience
- Wonderful - inspiring - challenging - a real blessing and joy. Thank you to every member of the team for your generous love - God's love - pouring from you all.

How to contact us

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

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



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

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