



# healingsteps



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As I write this, spring is just around the corner, though it is hard to imagine it with the dreary day on which I am writing!

Kath in her letter reminds us that the Lord never changes

and that He is the same yesterday, today and forever. There has been much change at The Old Rectory over the years, but the presence, peace and joy of the Lord continue and this can be borne out by the many testimonies that are received regularly in the office.

The Christmas and New Year retreats were a great success and when you read the testimonies and comments from those who attended, you will see just how tangible God's presence was. The whole team worked very hard to make it special and memorable for everyone who came, and we thank God for their love and care.



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Calendar of Events and Noticeboard

Garden news

### Staffing

Margaret and Kenneth Gubbins will be relocating to Wiltshire later in the year. They have both been valued members of the Centre and we wish them God's blessing in their new life. Margaret writes about her 'new adventure' on page 9.



In January, I managed to catch up with Sophia, the new assistant cook (well not so new now as she joined the team back in September!)

Sophia lives in St Leonards and told me that she really enjoys working at The Old Rectory. She said that Christmas was very busy there but also very enjoyable. Her hobbies are music and walking her two dogs, a Japanese Akita and a German Shepherd.



#### Programme for 2010 to 2011

Our programme for 2010 to 2011 is available from the office. Please ring in if you would like a copy of this or any other literature. For information and bookings, please call: 01424 830033.

For those of you with internet access, our



website is regularly updated. It contains information about the Centre, has photos of the grounds and house and you can also download the magazine or programme from there. Please let us have your comments, particularly if there are any items you would like to see included. www.crowhursthealing.org.uk.

By the time you receive this issue, Easter won't be far away, so I wish you all a Happy, Holy and peaceful Easter.



### Our Acting Senior Chaplain Writes...



### Dear Friends,

How long is it since you have been to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre? I would like to encourage

those of you who have not been here for a long while, and those of you who have never been, to consider spending a little time in this special place. A place that has changed considerably over the 81 years of its life and yet which has remained unchanged. Unchanged in that it remains a place of Christ's healing; a place where people can meet with the Living Lord and receive from Him in so many healing ways.

The changes that have taken place are practical ones to the building itself, in order to make it more comfortable and to provide easier access for people with disabilities. Also there have been slight changes to the daily pattern of worship but what remains unchanged is the daily celebration of Holy Communion, worship and intercessions for those who ask for our prayers, Night Prayer each evening, and our two weekly healing services. Worship is and always will be at the centre of all that happens here.

Another change is the rescheduling of many of our events to the weekends. This gives those who are working the opportunity of engaging with the healing ministry in this place.

The Healing Retreat weekends and the Themed Retreat weekends are very popular as are the Teaching Days and Quiet Days.

There is a great hunger among God's people for a deeper understanding of His healing love

There is a great hunger among God's people for a deeper understanding of His healing love and grace that is so needed in our lives. People also experience God's healing love as they come simply to spend time in the peace and quiet the house and gardens provide, to engage in the daily worship and to receive prayer ministry. Space mid-week gives ample opportunity for this to happen.

This new pattern of weekend events, however, does mean that long stays at the Centre are no longer possible, but we have found that it is not the length of stay that matters; it is the quality of the stay and a person's desire to engage with our Healing Lord. He does not disappoint! Those of us who work and minister in this place have the great joy of seeing lives changed as our Lord meets needs, needs that people often don't realise they have. This is because He always ministers to our needs and not to our wants!





Change is not always comfortable, so it is encouraging when people make return visits to the Centre a number of years after their last stay and affirm us in the changes that have taken place. I believe this is because what has not changed is the fundamental nature and purpose of this Centre - a place that continues the teaching, preaching and healing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. I also believe it is because of the truth of God's own words:

# 'I the Lord do not change.' (Malachi 3:6) He is the same yesterday, today and forever.'

For many years now our gracious God has provided this Healing Centre to be a safe haven where people can respond to His invitation: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Ps 46:10) and respond to Jesus call, 'Come with me by yourselves and get some rest.' (Mark 6:31). I believe many more would benefit greatly from responding to these invitations. And please don't let cost get in the way of you responding, because help can be given; this is another thing that has not changed.

Every blessing

Kath

### Thanksgiving Day Saturday 17th July 2010



This is always such an enjoyable and important day in the calendar of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Make a note in your diary and join with us in praise and thanksgiving for all God's blessings.

Bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy fellowship in the grounds (weather permitting!) and house. Hot and cold drinks will be provided.



# Christmas at Crownurst

The Christmas gathering was very special for those who attended; here are some of their comments.

This Christmas weekend was a foretaste of the glory that we are going to experience with our beloved friends in Christ in Heaven!

#### The ABC of Christmas - a time for:

**Adoration:** Feasting on Christ – a foretaste of Heaven – freedom 'to be.'

**Beautiful: Bountiful:** Unexpected blessing in the detailed loving care of the staff, panto and party, fantastic food, fun and fellowship, yet all the time ...

### Christ truly at the centre of Christmas.

I have so enjoyed this Christmas at the Centre. Such love shown to us all, wrapped in the Holy Spirit.



A wonderful time celebrating our Saviour's birth with others at this lovely place of The Old Rectory.

Thank you so much for worship and fellowship of the Crowhurst Christmas programme. A lot of praying and planning obviously went into it in order to make it the great success that it was; celebrating Christ at Christmas in Crowhurst. God bless this place and all those who work and serve Him here.

I am so glad there was 'room' for us to be at the Centre for this Christmas. It's been great to just come and be nourished and restored. A big 'thank you' to all the folks living, working and giving of themselves so lovingly in many ways.

A very special Christmas – everything I could have desired and much more. Wonderful chapel services, excellent meals, good company and good fun. Truly a great blessing. Thank you for everything, including all the little extra touches

My first Christmas apart from my family has proved to be a time of great blessing. It was a joy to have fellowship with the Lord's people and to have the peace of Jesus. My grateful thanks to all who gave up their time to make this Christmas precious to us.

A great time of fun, fellowship and games alongside the presence of the Lord, who makes all the difference. I felt His lovely intimate presence on the last day outside the small chapel, where three people were praying privately, and also in the large chapel.

A wonderful, relaxing entertainment and a spiritual blessing; a very well coloured programme. I am so pleased I could come and enjoy fellowship.



Wow, what a celebration! We remembered our Lord's birthday with wonderful fellowship and roof-raising carol singing, not to mention the friendship, fun and fantastic food! It was just a big family enjoying the Lord's presence.

Even Father Christmas visited with a present for each member of this happy family! We were like a lot of children undoing our presents!

Difficult to guess how many hours of preparation went into the four days. The staff didn't miss one tiny thing. They even made time to produce a hilarious pantomime and a fun filled party on Boxing Night, long to be remembered! It was a privilege to be a member of this happy throng.

The best Christmas I have ever had; praise the Lord!





### And finally ... Christmas at Crowhurst

Well now, for us, it was to be a first, Spending our Christmas at Crowhurst. At first, it seemed our chance was missed, But our names went on the waiting list. So when some poor soul (booked in advance) Fell ill, this gave us a second chance, To enjoy the peace of this quiet place, Savouring Christmas at a slower pace.

Our mixed company numbered twenty four (Not much room for many more.)
And in this place which is set apart,
Joyful worship was at its heart.
As a real Christmas began to unfold
Us all in God's love, both young and old.
Fine food, sweet rest and much good cheer
We're now prepared for the coming year!



# New Year Petrent

It was good to see familiar and new faces at the New Year Retreat. It was a time of reflection, renewal, fellowship and great entertainment, as can be seen from guests' comments below:

For me, this was certainly the right place at the right time. I will go back with new strength for each day. Thank you for all the hard work put in by everybody at the Centre. I have also enjoyed the entertainment and fun. The services have been really special. Altogether a healing experience.

God bless you all for the hard work you have put in. It was a joy to be here with wonderful people.

As usual, the company was very enjoyable and its intelligent conversation whilst the ambience, service and facilities were up to the high standard one has come to expect.

I had a great time! A good mix of play and reflection; certainly holistic. Thanks to everyone. Anne B

A wonderful retreat; touched by the graciousness and care of all at the Centre. The peace and closeness of God were especially blessing. Thank you.

Such a lovely time! Thank you all so much! It has been the perfect mix of worship, fun, laughter, beautiful food, music, views and time with the Lord. I have enjoyed it so much and it has been such a cleansing and renewing time for me this year.

Enjoyed the peace and fun of this homely house. Everything in perfection.

Wonderful friends, what a blessing.

Really appreciated the peacefulness of the place and the celebrations in the evening, and of course the presence of the Lord.

A really great time of blessing. I benefited in every way. So glad I left the booking at New Year and did not change it to Christmas when this was later arranged, as this is just what I needed

I very much appreciated the inclusion of the social gatherings within the Retreat. They seemed to break down some barriers and gave us a greater feeling of family and togetherness.

The guidance/teaching about taking part in the retreat was very helpful, especially to those new to retreats. It enabled us to make maximum use of the opportunities given.

Thank you for all the prayers, social aspects and general ambience during the retreat.

As a new girl I did not know what to expect. I found a beautiful place and grounds to wander in. The atmosphere is hard to describe; peaceful, restful and free from tensions. The staff made it all homely and enjoyable. I loved it and the sincerity in the chapel.

The peace washes over me each time I come. The chapel healing services often overwhelm me.



### Farewell to Margaret and Kenneth Gubbins



### Dear Friends,

In 1986, I attended my first Thursday morning healing Service at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. Friends from Tonbridge had invited me to come with them. It was David and Ann Paynes' last Thursday morning Service. Like so many of you, I was quite overwhelmed by the tangible loving presence of Jesus. I have continued to be blessed richly during the Thursday morning services and the courses at the Centre down through the years. In 1997, Trevor Blackshaw invited me to become part of the Ministry Team on a Thursday and to stay on to pray with people in the afternoon. I also became a member of the Missionary Committee. What a joy!

In 2003, Geoff Lackey asked me to be the Missioner at the Centre, working three full days a week. This involved leading worship and going out making the Centre and the Healing Ministry of the Lord known in the Diocese. Over the

years the work of Missioner evolved into being part of the Chaplaincy Team, led by Peter McIntosh. The last five years have been the happiest and most fulfilling of my twenty seven years involvement in the Lord's Healing Ministry. I have so enjoyed working with Peter, Kay and Kath and the wonderful team of people who work at the Centre, each one of whom has a servant heart and, as you know, nothing is too much trouble for them. I have been deeply blessed by their love, fellowship and support.

Kenneth was a trustee from 1997 to 2004. More recently he has assisted with prayer ministry. In the last couple of years we have both helped to train, strengthen and encourage the growing Ministry Team.

We both feel that it is time for me to retire this year as I shall be seventy in the summer. It has been a difficult decision to make but we feel this is God's timing for us. We will be putting our house on the market in March and I shall continue to work at the Centre until the sale is completed. We plan to move to northern Wiltshire to be near our children and grandchildren. This will be a new adventure for us as we have lived in Kent and Sussex for most of our married life

I trust that in the next few months, we will have the joy of seeing many of you so that we can say personal 'goodbyes,' but if not, we know that one day we will meet in Heaven! Alleluia Jesus!

With love from us both.

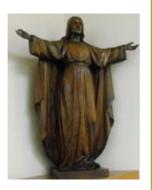
Margaret

### By His wounds, we are healed. (Isaian 53 vs 4-5)

At the twice weekly healing services at the Centre, just before the laying on of hands, the minister leading the service always reminds folk that is the Lord who heals, and that the ministry team are His instruments.

I know of a beautiful worship song called 'Christ has no body now but yours' and the tragic earthquake in Haiti really brought this song home to me.

"Christ has no body now but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours; yours are the eyes through which He looks, compassion on this world; yours are the feet with which He walks to do



good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world."

The words of that song have been very apt in the wake of this dreadful earthquake. Thank God for those who have selflessly put their own lives at risk to try and rescue those poor souls who were trapped in the wreckage, and for those who are working round the clock to try and ease their terrible suffering. If Jesus was here today, He would have wept for His people and had compassion on them. Isn't this what those wonderful rescuers and medical team are doing now? They are being His eyes, His hands, His feet and are demonstrating His love with their skills and care, which they are giving to those so desperately in need. Christian or non-Christian, we thank God for them as they do all they can to help rebuild shattered lives.

### A Healer's Prayer

Dearest God, to Thee I pray, Heal my loved ones, ill today.

Make them whole and healthy too, and swift to recognise it's you Who works the miracle of healing, in themselves, Thy grace revealing.



May their gratitude find vent in thanksgiving – not this instrument -

But Thee, from Whom all Blessings flow, To us Thy creatures here below.

I am but a channel lowly, For Thy healing, pure and holy.

Cleanse me, keep me true and bright, Worthy to convey Thy light To those who live in constant pain, And help Thee make them well again.

Let me freely learn to serve, those in need without reserve.

May I also from them learn, the patience I do not discern.

In those who relish robust health, and do not understand the wealth.

Of knowledge learnt, when all else fails, only Thy grace and love prevails.

Source unknown



#### **Prayer Requests for Spring 2010**

#### **Prayer Focus**

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous things." Psalm 98:1

#### **Prayer and Thanksgiving**

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O most high. To proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night."

Psalm 92:1 & 2

#### **Prayer**

- Give thanks and praise for the blessings received during the Christmas Celebration. The house was full and there was a real sense of the Lord's presence and His abiding love. Give thanks for the dedication and tender loving care of the guests by the hard working staff.
- Pray for the Lord's protection of the Centre and all who work there. Pray especially for Kath, that the Lord will continue to strengthen and uphold her during this period of interregnum. Give thanks for her cheerfulness and a willing heart to take on the extra workload involved.
- Pray earnestly for an increase in the numbers of the Chaplaincy team now that Margaret Gubbins has given notice that she and Kenneth will be moving to Chippenham later in the year.
- Continue to pray for more visiting chaplains to lighten Kath's workload and so enable her to develop more teaching courses.

"The Lord will indeed give what is good and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 85:12

### **March Prayer Focus**

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." Psalm 100:4

#### March

2 - 7 Prayer and Painting for Beginners

12 - 14 Healing Retreat

20 Banner Workshop & Worship

22 Trustees Meeting

26 - 28 Ordinands' Retreat

Guided Quiet Day:

"From the mountain top to the valley below."

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



### **April Prayer Focus**

"Remember how He told you ... "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day be raised again." Luke 24:7

### **April**

I - 4	Easter Retreat
10	Guided Quiet Day: "A walk through God's world."
12 - 17	Prayer and Painting Week
19 - 23	ME/CES Healing Retreat
28	Guided Quiet Day:
	"Seeking God's heart."

30 - 2 May Healing Retreat

"He is not here; He has risen." Luke 24:6

### **May Prayer Focus**

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is the rock eternal." Isaiah 26:4

### May

Training Day
Healing the Family Tree
Trustees Meeting
Healing Retreat

"Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine." Isaiah 43:1



### **Prayer for The Old Rectory**

#### **Prayer Focus:**

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

### **Prayer for the Trustees**

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

- Continue to pray earnestly for the Lord to provide the right person to take up the post of Senior Chaplain. Give us wisdom and discernment as we trust in His promise to provide for all our needs.
- Give thanks for all our faithful Prayer Partners, who daily undergird the life and work of Christ's Healing Ministry at The Old Rectory. We give thanks for the unseen wall of prayer that protects this most blessed place.
- We give thanks for the Crowhurst Reps who publicise and support our ministry by encouraging others to "come aside and rest awhile."
- We give thanks for the generosity of all those who support the ministry of Christ's healing love here at the Centre. May they too be richly blessed. May we continue to be good stewards of our resources, especially during the present economic climate.
- Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife Prim. May they know the Lord's healing presence with them day by day.

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

### **Prayer Focus for staff at The Old Rectory**

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

Acting Senior Chaplain: Kath

Chaplaincy Team: Margaret, Colin

Visiting Chaplain: Marion

Ministry Team: 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

House Manager: Heidi

Maintenance Manager: Geof

Office Staff: Gillian, Juliette

House Staff: Clare, Chrissy, Justine, Steve,

Sue and Zanetta

Cooks: Diane and Sophia

Gardener: Desmond

Pianists: Pippa and Stephen

Volunteers: Christine, Evelyn, Jenny, Rosemary,

Shirley and Yvonne

"You are my witnesses" declares the Lord, "and my servants whom I have chosen." Isaiah 43:10



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Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

## What is healing?

I found these lovely words when I was looking through past issues of the magazine. They are taken from the Spring 1994 issue and are originally from the House of Peace, **Bronx NY** 

**HEALING IS** seeing Christ in all things, and all things in Christ.

**HEALING IS** filling your mind with God's love and releasing all guilt.

**HEALING IS** thanking God for what He has already given you.

**HEALING IS** turning towards God and away from disease and depression.

**HEALING IS** joining your mind and will to Christ's mind and will.

**HEALING IS** entering more deeply into the Kingdom of God within you.

**HEALING IS** replacing fear with love, anger with peace, guilt with forgiveness.

**HEALING IS** seeing yourself as forgiven and taking delight in it.

**HEALING IS** freedom from past guilt and anxiety over the future.

**HEALING IS** inner peace which overflows into the body.

**HEALING IS** remembering who you really are in God's sight and not in your own.

**HEALING IS** the same as forgiveness.

**HEALING IS** a process of accepting the truth and rejecting lies.

**HEALING IS** correcting our vision of self, others and God.

**HEALING IS** choosing resurrection in place of crucifixion.

**HEALING IS** accepting our rightful inheritance as children of God.

**HEALING IS** repairing the damage done by thinking you were separated from God.

**HEALING IS** reconciliation between mind and spirit.

**HEALING IS** being humble before God, but also being powerful in Him.

**HEALING IS** giving God your little willingness to accept His love.

### **Guided Quiet Days 2010**

31st March Kenneth Gubbins: From the mountain top to the valley below

10th April Jay Ashworth: A walk through God's world

28th April Christine Delivett: Seeking God's heart

5th June Helen Warwick: Living life within your seasons

30th June Mike Playdon: Title to be arranged

### Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

2,000 years ago Jericho was a popular place for the priests and Levites to live when they were not on duty in the Temple. It was a thriving centre of religious people. The law said that every male Jew who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem and was over the age of twelve must attend the feast of the Passover. So in theory this meant that all the men in Jericho should go to Jerusalem for the Passover, but in practice aged and infirm men did not go.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem for His last Passover. With Him were His disciples and a great crowd of fellow Jews. Men and women from the town of Jericho lined the streets to encourage them, rather like all those who encourage the runners in the London Marathon. Many along the streets had heard of Jesus. Some welcomed Him as their Messiah. Others were cold and hostile, especially the priests and Levites.

At the edge of town sat blind Bartimaeus. He was aware of the excitement and hubbub and sensed something very special was happening. So he asked the people around him, who said that lesus was passing through. Clearly Bartimaeus had heard of Jesus and He set out above the uproar to attract the attention of our Lord. He had to shout to make himself heard. "Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!" Those around him tried to silence Bartimaeus. They told him to be guiet. But Bartimaeus was not a man to be silenced so easily. He shouted even louder. "Son of David, have mercy on me." "Son of David" was a Messianic title so Bartimaeus believed Jesus to be the Messiah. He believed that lesus could rescue him from his prison of darkness. That is why he shouted so loudly.

Jesus heard him. He stopped and said to those around Him to call Bartimaeus over. The man needed no second calling! Immediately he scrambled to his feet, threw off his cloak and rushed forward to Jesus. To throw off his cloak is very significant. It was probably his only possession; at night he would need it as a blanket to keep warm. If he was not healed how on earth would he ever find it again in such a crowd? Bartimaeus came up to our Lord, and Jesus did something He often did. He asked the man what he wanted. "What do you want me to do for you?" He asked. Bartimaeus was in no doubt at all. "Lord, I want to see."

Jesus reacted to this direct appeal. He responded to a man who knew exactly what he needed. "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." We are told that "Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus praising God." Bartimaeus became an instant follower of Jesus.

So what we can learn from this account? Firstly we have the sheer persistence of Bartimaeus. He didn't give up. He didn't fall at the first hurdle. Persistence is a requirement of all Christians. We are called to be single minded



### - Luke 18:31-19-10

when it comes to heavenly things. It is so easy to get distracted by worldly things, but our calling is both to persist and persevere.

Secondly the response of Bartimaeus was immediate. He cast off his cloak and ran to Jesus. Many, when they hear the call of our Lord, put things off. "I'll devote my life to Jesus when this thing or that thing is out of the way." Jesus wants our response now. Next year or even next week might be too late.

Thirdly, Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted. He wanted his sight. Often in our own Christian lives we are vague as to what we want. When we go to Jesus in prayer we need to be specific. If we offer up a very vague prayer, how do we know if it is answered?

### We should always pray believing that it will be answered.

God always answers, but often either we do not take time out to hear the answer, or, take notice if it is different from what we want.

In using the term Son of David, Bartimaeus didn't get his theology right, but he **did** have faith. He believed that this **man** whom he could not see, could give him his sight back. We are not called to be experts on Jesus. But we are called to have faith. We **are** called to respond to Him with our hearts.

Bartimaeus may have been a wayside beggar, but he was a man of gratitude. He gained his sight and followed Jesus. He began with a need. He asked. He received. He expressed gratitude, and showed loyalty. That is no bad model of discipleship for us all.

Colin Crook

### Canon David Byford

Canon David Byford died at home on the I3th November 2009. Many of you will remember David as one of our visiting Chaplains from the late 1980's until 2004 when he became ill with cancer. David and Elizabeth's gentle healing prayer ministry was such a blessing to the guests and the staff at the Centre. This was borne out by the fact that eleven people involved with the Centre, past and present, attended the Thanksgiving Eucharist at Salisbury in loving memory of David.

David was a humble man and two years before he died, he asked me to speak at his funeral. He insisted that I spoke about the Christian Healing ministry and not him. Thankfully on the day I was able to do both. David's favourite verse was John 10:10 where Jesus says "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." For David, life was to be celebrated, but underneath his exuberance and 'joie de vie' was a man of deep faith, energised and inspired by the Holy Spirit and contemplative prayer.

David's greatest desire was to worship God, to bring others into a living relationship with Him so that they could experience the healing love of Jesus setting them free, and to live life in all its fullness in the power of the Spirit.

We pray that Elizabeth and her family may know the healing love of God enfolding them in their time of mourning. We give thanks to God for David's inspired ministry among us. To God be the glory!

Margaret Gubbins

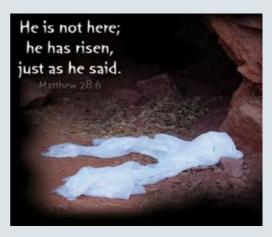
### The Empty Tomb (extracted from the Spring 1997 Magazine)

I was looking back through some past issues of the magazine and found this reflective and thought provoking article from Brian Coward, one of our former chaplains. With Easter just around the corner, I felt it would be appropriate to include it in this issue.

The Tomb in Jerusalem became the centre of controversy one Sunday morning when it was discovered to be empty. It had been empty all through the week before as well, but no one was interested in it then.

The importance of the tomb being empty on that Sunday was that since the previous Friday evening, it had been full! A better term for it before that Friday was 'unused,' but from Sunday onwards it could be described as 'empty,' because the body it had contained had now gone. When the women followers of Jesus arrived at the tomb, "early on the first day of the week," there was NO BODY there (pun intended!) The confusion (and even panic) that ensued among the disciples, female and male, led to the details of the mind-blowing event being recorded in such varying ways in the four Gospels. Were there two angels or only one, or none? Was there an earthquake or not? Did the women run scared and tell no-one, or did they immediately tell the men, but they disbelieved them? Did Peter run to the tomb on his own, or did lohn run with him?

These differences suggest authenticity. If there had been a 'cover up,' concocted to pretend that Jesus had risen from the dead, it would have had a false uniformity about it. In the effort to convince us of a lie, the details in each account would have been made to agree. So the tomb was empty. How does that speak to us today?



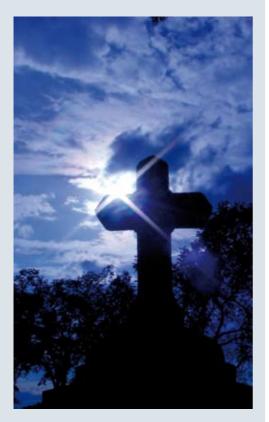
If we are honest with ourselves, we know that our lives have been far from perfect. We have a nature that is prone to sin, failure and bad habits. The good news of Jesus brings us under the conviction that, even after years of struggle, the only way to be free of that nature is to bring it to the Cross, give it up to Jesus there, be put to death with Him and buried in the tomb with Him.

But the 'emptiness' of the tomb on the third day and ever afterwards means that the old nature is not kept in the grave where we can regularly visit and mourn over it. This keeps "sin ever before me" as David confessed in Psalm 51. No, the tomb is EMPTY and "why do you look for the living among the dead?" as the angels asked the women. In Christ, we are "new creations; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Just as Jesus had a new resurrection body, recognisable yet not limited by such things as locked doors, so we are new people in Christ, no longer confined to the limitations of our old nature, and its habits.

### Easter Retreat

It is time to stop mourning the death of our old nature and to rejoice in the new life of resurrection which Jesus has given us. Because the tomb is empty, we rejoice that not only has the dead body of Jesus gone, but so also has the dead body of our old sinful nature. To quote Paul again, this time in *Romans 6:11*, "count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." "In Christ Jesus" is the vital phrase, for only as we remain united with Him, absorbed into Him and obedient to Him by the power of the Holy Spirit, can we live in His resurrection life.





### Easter Retreat: Thursday 1st to Monday 4th April 2010: £210.00 en-suite: £180 non en-suite

I had the privilege last year of taking part in the Easter Retreat. It was a perfect way to prepare for the season of Easter and I would thoroughly recommend it. The comments below from some of last year's guests sum up just how special it was. If you haven't been before, I would thoroughly recommend it!

I have found the Easter Retreat very meaningful.

I felt refreshed and strengthened by the Lord's presence.

I appreciated the prayerful atmosphere and carefully constructed programme.

The Retreat was wonderfully led, meaningful, relaxing.

A wonderful few days, with the opportunity to prepare for a great Easter.

The programme was sensitively planned and I really felt I was sharing with Christ on his final few days on earth.

### **Bookstall**

Those of you who come regularly to The Old Rectory will already know that we have a well stocked bookstall, which sells a wide range of Christian books relating to spirituality and prayer, greetings cards for all occasions, and a variety of gifts.

With so many Christian bookshops now closed, the Centre is an ideal place to purchase books, cards or gifts, so we have decided to open up the bookstall to visitors on a Friday morning between 10.30 am to 12 noon to give those who might not be familiar with the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre the opportunity to browse in peaceful surroundings over a cup of coffee.

If you know anyone who might benefit from this opportunity, do let them know!







### To all our magazine subscribers:

Many thanks for your continued support for our quarterly magazine, and for your many positive comments. It is always good to hear from you.

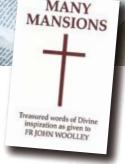
You will be pleased to hear that we will not be increasing our annual subscription charge, which will remain at £10.00, including all postage costs. We ask you simply to remember to pay! If it would help, we can assist with setting up a standing order for you; please don't hesitate to ask. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, then this adds another 25p for every £1 you give. Details of Gift Aid can be obtained from the office.

David Batte

### **Book Review**

### 'Many Mansions' by John Woolley

New Life Publishing, 2008, ISBN 9781 903623 312



Many Mansions is the last of a quartet of inspired books - containing words from the Lord Jesus Christ - that the late, Rev John Woolley was able to see through to publication before he died in October 2008. The previous books, I Am With You, Abide in My Love, and My Burden is Light, have already become well established as essential companions for prayer and Bible study. This fourth book is equally Spirit-inspired and helpful for growth in Christ. There is, in Many Mansions though, a special and very moving additional factor to consider. The words of this book were given to someone in the midst of severe, long-term suffering: John Woolley was afflicted with cancer during the last few years of his life, and endured other forms of suffering - not least emotionally.

The messages of *Many Mansions* speak powerfully of God's unfailing love, His compassionate concern, and the indestructible hope He gives us in Christ for this life and the next. Above all, the messages with regard to the hope and gift of Heaven are outstanding throughout its pages.

It must be added that this is not a book for those who are weary of life. It is, rather, a tender communication from the Lord Jesus, making clear that the desire for Heaven should be central to our Christian existence, whatever our condition or age. This provides a much needed corrective to a lot of unbalanced teaching. It is so true that earthly

life is short, precious though it is. On the other hand, God's eternity is totally satisfying, and this is what we've been promised and given in Christ. Eternal life starts here and now.

The words of *Many Mansions* unfailingly nourish the life of God in us; they also anchor the hope of the realization of the full union to come.

'My child, catch a glimpse of what all things are moving towards. In spite of the fiercest possible opposition, there is an inevitable and unstoppable movement to wholeness in creation's many aspects. Heaven represents the culmination of the very highest of human aspirations. It is here that a soul finds real hope, at last, in the one place where such hope can flower. Yes, in preparation for that one true place of hope, evil will be utterly crushed.

'Love's victory!'

'It is accomplished!' (John 19 - Many Mansions page 146)



### Garden news



Desmond was his usual busy self during autumn and winter. This included the unrelenting clearing up of autumn leaves, the burning of fallen branches

and the potting up of winter bedding (Polyanthus.) He has also completed the renewal of the garden furniture and has plans to cut down brambles near to the railway line.

The snowy weather played havoc with the whole country and our gardens and wildlife have struggled in the harsh conditions. Thank God for bird feeders and winter berries!

Despite the difficulties in getting around, the scenery was quite picturesque, as can be seen in the photograph of The Old Rectory under a blanket of snow. It is truly amazing just what can survive the elements when they seem to be at their worst, but new life which emerges in the spring bears testament to the fact that even the severest of weather cannot defeat nature. God has made sure of that and this is affirmed in the hymn, 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter ... He sends the snow in the winter, the warmth to quell the rain; the breezes and sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. Yes, our Creator God is in control of all he has made!









had hoped for better weather!



Blue tits waiting for food on the feeder outside the bungalow

Apart from Desmond's usual duties, he was also part of the snow clearing team that made the Centre welcoming and safe for the first guests of the New Year.

Some fun was had in the snowy weather and our resident artist, Maggie, took the opportunity to be creative with the white stuff!

Roll on spring with its warm days, bright colours and vibrant birdsong!



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Noticeboard

#### March

2 - 7	Prayer & Painting for Beginner
12 - 14	Healing Retreat
20	Banner Workshop & Worship
22	Trustees Meeting
26 - 28	Ordinands' Retreat
31	Guided Quiet Day

### **April**

1 - 4	Easter Retreat
10	Guided Quiet Day
12 - 17	Prayer & Painting Week
19 - 23	ME/CES Healing Retreat
30 - 2 May	Healing Retreat

### May

8	Training Day
14 - 16	Healing the Family Tree
21	Trustees Meeting
28 - 30	Healing Retreat

Weekly healing services are held on Tuesdays at 1.30pm and Thursdays at 10.15am (with Holy Communion.)



### **Advance Notice**

Marilyn Baker and Tracey Williamson will be holding a week of music, teaching and prayer from Monday 8th to Friday 12th November 2010.





Many of you will know Marilyn's gentle music ministry and been greatly encouraged by it. We expect this week to book up quickly, so don't miss

out on this opportunity for refreshing, blessing and inspired words in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Creative Writing Day: 17th November 2010

This day with Tracey Williamson has been arranged by popular request. If you would like to explore your creative side using the written word, do book your place as soon as possible. We anticipate that this day will get booked up quickly so don't leave it too long to book!





#### How to contact us

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Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

The office is open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm 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

### **Acting Senior Chaplain**

Revd Kath Batte

### **Chaplaincy Team**

Margaret Gubbins, Colin Crook

#### **Magazine Editor**

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