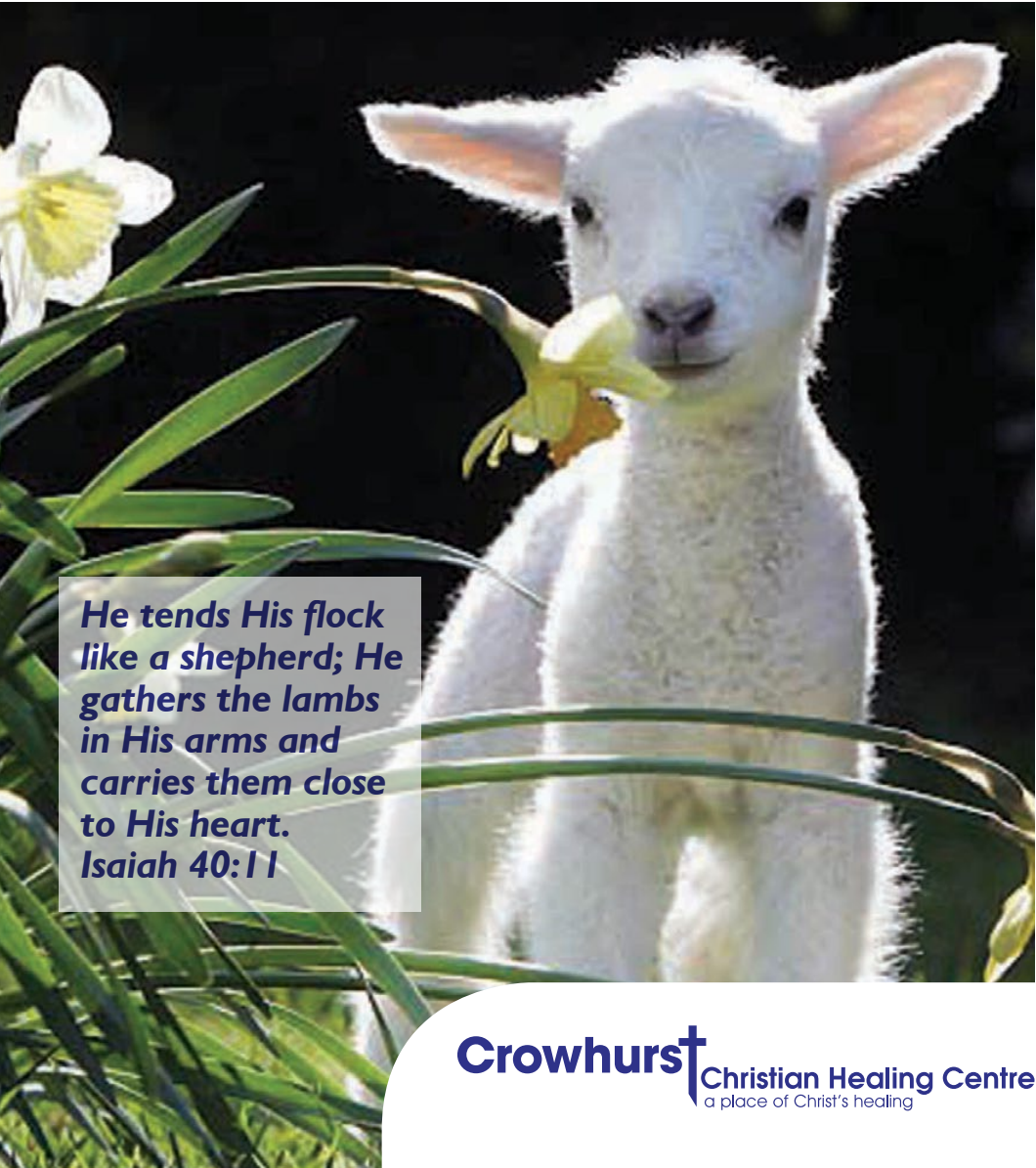

in His *Healing* steps

Spring 2013



*He tends His flock
like a shepherd; He
gathers the lambs
in His arms and
carries them close
to His heart.
Isaiah 40:11*

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

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Editorial



Writing an editorial in January for a spring magazine isn't always easy, especially when you are doing it on a cold and grey winter's day! But it does help focus the mind on better weather and

spring colours; already there are bulbs emerging from the earth, and a variety of spring flowers on sale in nurseries and garden centres!

This will be the 18th issue that I have put together. It continues to be a privilege and a blessing to be the Crowhurst magazine editor and I have often been grateful for the distraction that it gives me from life's difficulties! Reading the testimonies and articles that folk send in can help us to look beyond our own circumstances, with stories and that are so inspiring and uplifting.

The Editorial Board meets each quarter to discuss the magazine, website and advertising for the Centre. We have two new members since the last photo was taken (Jo and Steve G). The photo below was taken during our January meeting.





In this Issue

In his letter, Steve G writes about the importance of listening to God and asks whether we have a special place in which we can do so. He also reviews Joyce Huggett's book, 'Listening to God' (page 22), which is available at the Centre's bookstall.

Steve C's article, 'A Cycle of Freedom', challenges us to try and look beyond our circumstances when life is tough. He gives various biblical examples that will encourage us when we find it hard to be joyful in the midst of difficulties. Read more on page 6.

In December we said goodbye to Zanetta, who has gone back to Latvia to look after her mother. She was a valued member of the team and we wish her every blessing for the future.

Abigail joined the housekeeping team in December, having worked on a temporary basis in July last year. She lives in Hastings, enjoys various activities, including singing, and is thinking of joining the staff choir. We wish Abigail every blessing and happiness in her job at the Centre.



Healing Conference: 31 May - 2 June Great Expectations

For the last two years, the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre has held a healing conference, with each one being very well attended. The Centre will be holding a conference at the end of May, but it will be primarily for folk from the Rochester Diocese as the Bishop of the Diocese of

Rochester, James Langstaff, is making healing a particular focus this year. However if there are spaces available, they will be advertised through the Crowhurst website so do check this for updates, or telephone the office.

Speakers will be Steve Gendall and Steve Clark, Sue Fauchon-Jones from Burswood, Liz and Andrew Procter and Bishop James. The weekend will have worship, teaching, reflection, ministry and workshops and of course the great Crowhurst hospitality and healing space. Further details will be on the website in due course.

When this magazine is printed, we will be well into spring and the Centre will be ablaze with colour, from the bright yellows of early daffodils and later on, the beautiful pink and white blossom that will adorn the trees. These will all be very welcome after the long winter as will all the baby animals like this cute little lamb that will be frolicking around!

*With every blessing,
Mary Slater*



OUR VISION STATEMENT

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a non-denominational, residential place with a vision to continue 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.

Our Senior Chaplain writes ...



Dear Friends,
I recently heard Russ Parker reflecting on his experiences in the healing ministry so far and one of the things that has

stood out for him is 'rediscovering the power of holy places'.

What are your holy places? For many people it is the Holy Land – Bethlehem, the Church of the Resurrection or Galilee? For others it's Lindisfarne or a Cathedral like Canterbury; or maybe a bench in a park, or a particular chair in your home? For some people I suspect their holy place may be associated with people rather than place – being with the person you love, or family maybe?

Most people that visit the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre find it to be a holy place with beautiful people. Someone recently said, *'Coming here reminds me that there are such nice people in the world'*. More often than not the feedback is about 'this place' and the peace and presence. This is a holy place! Holy means 'set apart for a different purpose'.

In his reflection, Russ went on to say that he believed the Lord is saying, *'You make the places and I'll inhabit them'*. I'm very excited about this. Time and again we hear our guests say, *'I don't want to leave here'*. The bonus of course is to take the experience of this holy place away and enjoy it where you are. We see this happen sometimes when revival breaks out and God is seen to be powerfully at work. Many people went to Toronto to bring back some of the Toronto Blessing and the result was God's blessing spread around the world - you felt it here as we did in Zimbabwe.

So how do I put this into practise? Psalm 95 is one of my favourites. It's an exhortation to worship our Lord and includes the words, *'The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land'*. When we used to have holidays on the South African coast I would recall these words and sing out to the Lord. This became a habit I practised and still today when I walk along any beach front and recall these words, I have a deeper sense of the presence of our Lord. I know He is no closer to me there than He is at the supermarket or here in my office, but it's just that over time I've made the beach front a place where I know the Lord is present with me. It's a holy place for me.

***You make the places
and I'll inhabit them'***

The image of the Lord standing at the door and knocking is familiar to many. As we need to open the door to let Him in, so we need to make the place and invite the Lord to inhabit it.

With love in Jesus,

Steve

The sea is His for He made it, His hands prepared the dry land'. (Psalm 95:5)



Prayer Partners Retreat - October 2012



From the first introductions over tea on Friday 26th October, to our goodbyes and leave-taking after lunch on Sunday 28th, this was a warm, thought-provoking and inspiring meeting, during which God's blessings and Grace were abundant and obvious.

The twenty or so Prayer Partners were very conscious of being part of a larger group of about two hundred Prayer Partners, whose 'job' is to support the work of the Centre by daily prayer. As well as praying for all the work of the CCHC, each Prayer Partner is asked to hold up to the Lord some particular part, so that all the buildings and staff are covered by name in prayer each day. Everything is included, from the bookstall to the toilets and even the cesspit!

So what did we do on this retreat? On Friday we met and introduced ourselves to fellow guests; we joined together in worship; we enjoyed story time and we received the blessings of peace in our night prayer.

After this relatively peaceful start, Saturday turned out to be a real powerhouse! After Communion, we were given an update about what God had been doing at the Centre in recent months. We met and got to know better both Steves and their charming wives.

The operation of God through this time was obvious and it was rewarding to know that we, the Prayer Partners, were doing such a valuable job in undergirding the work of the Centre. But life does not stand still and the path for the future must be considered, and so we spent the afternoon 'Waiting on the Lord'. We were asked to find quiet spots and peace where we could individually listen to what the Lord was saying. The very real value of this became obvious when we met later in four smaller groups to share the words, pictures and thoughts which we had been granted. Suffice it to say, as we united in the quiet evening peace of Compline, we were all aware that we had spent the day in the Lord's company.

Was Sunday a let-down after Saturday's powerful experience? Far from it! We joined together at the Lord's Table and each of us was anointed to carry on the work of praying daily for the CCHC.

We had the usual jolly group photographs and then Steve G presented us with a summary of the collected thoughts of yesterday.

We enjoyed lunch together, swapped email addresses and phone numbers, said fond goodbyes and left happily empowered to carry on the good work.

Jean Wells

'A Cycle of Freedom'



There seems to be a danger with healing centres that some will come seeking a spiritual magic pill that will solve every problem. A visit to the doctor will often result, not just in medication, but instruction in the patient's

responsibility in the healing process. *'Take this, but you will need to rest.'* *'Use this inhaler, but stop smoking.'* *'Take more exercise.'* Jesus said to the blind man, *'go and wash in the pool of Siloam'* or to another blind man, *'tell him to come to me'*. In a place like the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, the process of Christ's healing sometimes requires on going co-operation in the healing process.

At the New Year retreat we began to explore 'A New Way of Living' for the New Year. As we looked together at Joy to the World, we saw that the common experience of joy was based on circumstances, on good things like good news, good friends and good holidays. Joy for Christians seems to be an extension of this emotion that is based on a relationship with God. In Acts 16 we read that Paul and Silas were singing hymns even when shackled in prison, and that the jailer was filled with joy *'because he had come to believe in God.'*

So how can we move from a natural joy that is just based on circumstances to a continuous joy that is based on a continuous unchanging relationship with God? Can we experience and exhibit joy when the going gets tough. *IT'S NOT NATURAL!* – but it is our calling and a fruit of the Spirit that God wants to grow in us. Maybe Psalms 42 and 43 give us an insight into a way of living that acknowledges the tough realities that life throws up, but focuses on the unchanging relationship with God.

In these Psalms we see David running for his life from King Saul. He is at the end of his resources, tired, hungry and alone. All the pressure of this life is upon him and he feels separated from God. *'As the deer pants for the water so my soul pants for you, O God.'* We've all been there! A tussle is played out before us as to where David's mind and spirit will rest. Will he focus on the circumstances or on the relationship? *'I say to God my Rock, Why have you forgotten me?' You are God my stronghold, Why have you rejected me?* David seesaws between the truth about his God and the feelings his circumstances generate.

Changing the way we think and behave is really hard. It doesn't happen with one moment of steely resolve. In Psalm 42/43 there is a chorus as David returns again and again to his choice to trust God.

*Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Saviour and my God.*



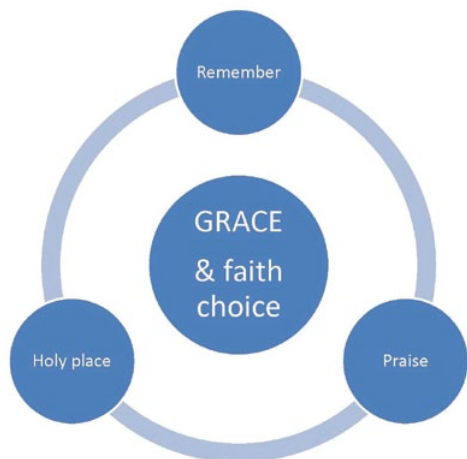
"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



God's SHAPE for Me

Friday 15 – Sunday 17 March

This constant choice to return might be called 'The Cycle of Freedom'. The diagram below sketches out a little more of its content. Have a look at it and see if you can see David's determination to live in relationship with God.



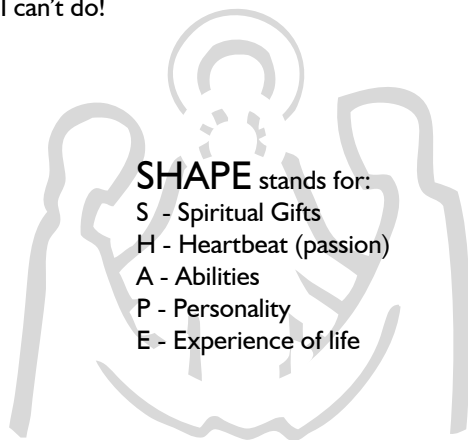
Are there any other passages in Scripture where this 'cycle' is seen? Is this cycle being worked out in your life or how can this cycle be worked out in your own life? (We'd love to hear your thoughts to maybe add to the next magazine and to help us grow what may be a significant tool for the Freedom Journey.)

Healing comes not only from the hoped for miracle at the Centre, or wherever, but also by how we live out our daily relationship of trusting God. Please pray about this with us as we explore 'A New Way of Living' for us and for all who seek God's healing at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Steve Clark

Who am I and what should I be doing with my life? Knowing the answer to these questions brings peace, purpose and power. In order to discover this we have to explore aspects of ourselves by looking at our SHAPE.

I came to this weekend last year and can thoroughly recommend it. It really helped me to look at my strengths and skills, to accept the things I'm naturally good at and then not feel frustrated or annoyed at what I can't do!



And some comments from last year's guests...

The Saturday was a lovely, warm, sunny day and in the afternoon I enjoyed a walk and time to sit outside. I pondered my life experiences and thought about my personality. The Lord confirmed to me that the things I am doing are in accordance with His unique SHAPE for me.
Margaret

'God's shape for me' was brilliant; such an eye opener, and it was great to share the things about what we learnt of ourselves.
Rick

New Year Retreat

Reflections – Joy of the Lord

The New Year Retreat was well attended and joyful. It was good to see friends old and new and some of their reflections below show what a blessed time they all had.

- What a perfect way to end the year at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. There was such a sense of God's loving presence helping us to let go of the old and with great joy go humbly with HIM into the New Year, holding tightly to HIS righteous right hand. Joy in HIM is indeed the strength of my heart. He has indeed given me beauty for ashes. The oil of joy for mourning. Bless His Holy Name.
- A lovely stay – I go away with a lifting of the burdens with which I came. Praise God!
- A wonderful four days. The Presence of God is felt immediately you enter the building. Lovely times of worship and teaching. The joy of the Lord fills the place. Thank you.
- I felt a deep sense of peace and being loved and cared for. The communion was special and I felt very close to God.





This was a first visit (but hopefully not the last) to the CCHC. I felt very 'safe' upon arrival; reception was quick and pleasant and the reception rooms and bedrooms were attractive and spotlessly clean. First impressions were good and we were made to feel at home. Delicious meals followed, and as much as the outer person was catered for, this was equalled by the renewing and refreshing for the inner

person. Crowhurst seemed such a place of peace and joy, with the presence of the Holy Spirit felt everywhere and given pre-eminence in the chapel. An especial time was the personal prayer ministry where the team sought for guidance in a caring non threatening atmosphere. I particularly enjoyed Maggie's help and long-suffering patience in the art room!



A day in the life of Yvonne and Sarah

Sarah is a member of the housekeeping team and Yvonne is a member of the Ministry Team. She also helps with tea and coffee after the Thursday morning Healing Service and in addition is involved with the Creative Movement in Worship days that take place at the Centre.

1. *How long have you worked at the Centre?*
2. *What does your day include?*
3. *What gives you most job satisfaction?*
4. *What makes you smile?*
5. *What would you like other people to know about this special place?*
6. *Anything else you would like to say?*

Yvonne

1. Quite a while, can't remember exactly how long!
2. Ministering to people as I am part of the Ministry Team. I help serve the teas and coffees after the Thursday morning healing service. I am also involved with the Creative Movement in Worship Days that are held at the Centre, and when led by the Holy Spirit, I dance with banners during services in the Chapel.
3. Seeing people healed by just being here.
4. All the people and I simply just love being here.
5. That it's a **very** special safe place. You meet Jesus here.
6. Come and find out for yourself, it's great!



Sarah

1. I have worked here for nine months.
2. My day includes general cleaning around the house, helping in the kitchen and safety & hygiene.
3. Most job satisfaction is gained with a kind word, when someone says to me 'well done'.
4. It makes me smile that people here are so friendly and encouraging; it's like being part of a family.
5. I would like people to know that it's a special place and that God really does work miracles here.
6. I would like more people to come and see what we do here at the Centre. With a willing heart, keep smiling.



Prayer Requests for Spring 2013
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Spring 2013

PRAYER FOCUS

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Be joyful always; pray continually; 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 the Lord's provision for all our needs during the past year.
- Give thanks for the way in which 'the two Steves' and their wives have settled into their new homes. They make a great team and are already working together to seek God's will for the future ministry of Christ's Healing Love at the Centre. This is God's place - He is the Sovereign Lord.
- Pray for protection and good health for all the staff and those involved in the ministry at the Centre. May the Lord continue to provide people of His choice as and when vacancies occur.
- Zanetta has returned to Latvia to care for her mother. We give thanks for her time with us and welcome Abigail, who has taken over her duties.
- Pray for guidance as to how best to publicise the Lord's work at the Centre and encourage others to 'come aside and rest awhile'. May we be accessible to all those with healing needs. Let His light shine.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this." Psalm 37:5

March Prayer Focus

"You did not choose me, but I chose and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." John 15:16

MARCH

1 - 3	Healing Retreat Weekend
5	Strategy Day
11 - 13	Prime Conference (House closed)
12	Trustees Meeting
15 - 17	God's Shape for Me <i>Led by Angela Seaton-Mills</i>
20	Guided Quiet Day: Justice and Mercy <i>Led by Kay Smith</i>
23	Teaching Day Burnout - Self inflicted injury <i>Led by Steve Clark</i>
28 - 31	Easter Retreat

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

April Prayer Focus

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10

APRIL

- 2 - 7 Prayer and Painting Week
- 3 Editorial Board Meeting
- 12 - 14 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 17 Guided Quiet Day
Who do you say I am?
Led by Chris Delivett
- 20 Teaching Day:
Healing through Pastoral Care
Led by Paul Deeming
- 27 Art, Music and Reflection Day
Led by Maggie & Stephen Freeman

May Prayer Focus

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:6*

MAY

- 3 - 5 Finding God in Chronic Illness
Led by Helen Warwick
- 10 - 12 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 18 Teaching Day: Relocation,
Relocation, Relocation: The
Trauma of Displacement
Led by Steve & Veronica Gendall
- 25 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Pat & Peter Lockley
- 28 Trustees Meeting
- 31 May - 2 June Healing Conference:
Great Expectations
(In conjunction with the
Diocese of Rochester)

*"Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight."* *Psalms 119:35*

*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
... and be thankful."* *Colossians 3:15*

Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS:

"I am the Lord your God who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go." Isaiah 48:17

PRAYER FOR THE TRUSTEES

Colin Crook (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Shirley Dawson, Martin Granger, Paul Raynor, Jane Thomas and Mavis Williams.

- We give thanks and praise that we have now appointed a new member to the Board of Trustees. We welcome Paul Raynor, who has a real heart for the healing ministry and we look forward to his input. Please continue to pray for more trustees as Colin's term of office will be completed later in 2013.
- We give thanks for the ease with which 'the two Steves' have settled into their ministry at the Centre. Join them in prayer as they earnestly seek the Lord's will for increasing the work of Christ's Healing Love here at Crowhurst and in the surrounding area.
- Give thanks for the testimony of Peter McIntosh and his healing from prostate and bladder cancer. Praise the Lord and bless his Holy name.
- Please pray for Kay McIntosh, Peter's wife, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is now undergoing a course of treatment. Pray that the Lord will place His healing hands upon her and that she too will be restored to full health.
- Please continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim, that the Lord will bless them, and keep them, and surround them with His peace.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." Psalm 3: 5 & 6

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

SENIOR CHAPLAIN: Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN: Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN: Penny

MINISTRY TEAM: Andy, Carole, Colin, Gwen, Hildegard, Jenny, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Paul, Pippa, Stephen, Veronica, Vivien and Yvonne

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR: Chris

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Jayne

HOUSE MANAGER: Heidi

MAINTENANCE MANAGER: Geof

OFFICE STAFF: Esther, Gillian, Juliette

HOUSE STAFF: Abigail, Chrissy, Clare, Justine, Sarah and Steve

COOKS: Diane and David

GARDENER: Desmond

PIANISTS: Pippa and Stephen

FLAUTIST: Vivien

VOLUNTEERS: Christine, Cliff, Diane, Jenny, Margaret, Mavis, Michal, Rosemary, Shirley and Yvonne

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mary

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

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We trust that you enjoy reading this magazine. We see it as a vital link between the work that goes on at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and you the reader. From time to time we need to ensure that our mailing list is up to date, and so in this magazine you should find a slip inviting you to continue to receive "In His Healing Steps". If the slip has been missed out, or you misplace it, then please contact the office on 01424 830304 or email office.crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com.

Please do respond as we shall use the replies to update the mailing list. We aim to set a high standard with the magazine as this is honouring to our Lord, and we have never charged a subscription for it, preferring to rely on donations. Whilst production costs have remained constant over the last couple of years, postal rates have increased significantly. In the current financial year, In His Healing Steps has made a loss of over £5,000 and this will increase with the Spring issue. If everyone who receives a copy makes a donation of £10.00 a year then we would fully cover our costs.

The Lord bless you.

Colin Crook, *Chairman of Trustees*



We know that the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a place of prayer, and that one of the sure foundations is the deep, constant 'speaking with God' in prayer. So when on a recent visit I heard that later that day there would be 'Beating of the Bounds' prayers in groups, I very much wanted to take part in praying for the wonderful place that is Crowhurst.

There were three groups; one praying outside the many and various buildings, one doing the same on the inside of each building, and then one actually 'Beating the Bounds' – praying around the perimeter of the site.

I joined with two others outside the buildings and we started naturally at the double entrance doors of the Centre. We prayed for all those who enter there, and in prayer we felt that for some it is a courageous step of faith to actually come to a place like this.

We anointed the two entrance doors, calling for protection for all who come, and for protection for the physical buildings themselves, that God would protect these buildings from all evil, and from all the works of the evil one.

We moved on to Steve and Veronica's cottage and then Steve and Hilary's bungalow, praying in gratitude for their calling to be with us here. We prayed that they would all speedily settle in with the Crowhurst visitors and community family, and that their houses would soon become their real and special homes.

All the buildings, great and small were covered, from the art building to the former games building. What a privilege it is to pray with others like this, so much so that I have now become a prayer partner!

Roger White

ps: Would you like to become a prayer partner? Contact the office for more details.

A Word from one of our Visiting Chaplains: Revd Ian Wales



It seems incredible to believe that it is about twenty five years since I first came to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

I was a Circuit Minister in the Grimsby West Circuit, where we had a Local Preacher, Pauline Redford, who had worked at the CCHC and was then running 'Christholme' a home in Cleethorpes offering healing ministries. A Probationer Minister in the neighbouring Circuit had done a placement at the Centre too and one day when I was praying about a visit, he turned up at the Manse, asking 'Are you coming to Crowhurst?' That was a word from the Lord, so I came and immediately discovered what one person had said to be true, which is when you walk through the door it feels as if God is giving you a big hug!

I've lost count of how many times I have visited both as a guest and as a visiting chaplain. (We used to be called locums.)

In 1993, I was on Sabbatical and had arranged to stay for a few days. The then Warden, Ray Jones, had become ill and so for about two weeks I stayed to help. I learned a lot and so began a much closer tie, which I value greatly. I have received so many blessings from the Lord and many touches on my own life. I have seen many other people wonderfully healed in body, mind and spirit too.

When I was due to leave my last Circuit in Essex, I received a call from my then District Chair following our Stationing Committee meeting. 'We want you to look at the Superintendency of the Hastings, Bexhill and Rye Circuit'. It felt like a homecoming, a completion, and I am privileged to share in the leadership of a wonderful Methodist Circuit, with many blessings and many challenges.

At the beginning of that year I had led those who had gathered for the New Year Retreat at the CCHC in the saying of the prayer in the Methodist Covenant Service which begins 'I am no longer my own but yours, Put me to what you will...'. It seemed like once again God had proved himself faithful as He has so many times before. It is good to be near enough to the Centre to support the work and to bring people too.

When I come to a service you will often see me sitting facing the banner which says 'I am the Lord who heals you'. It's a reminder that He is faithful, He keeps his promise and He is the one who heals.

Revd Ian H Wales is the Minister of Christchurch, Little Common and Ninfield Methodist Churches and the Superintendent of the Hastings Bexhill and Rye Circuit.

Nothing is too difficult for thee!



I visited the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for a healing service in August last year, travelling from East Croydon and changing at Tonbridge.

I usually do this journey approximately once a month with no problems, but on this particular day my train leaving East Croydon was a couple of minutes late and when I got to Tonbridge, I heard the announcement for the Hastings train. Because of mobility problems I had to use the lift and by the time I got to the platform, the train was pulling out.

I spoke to the platform staff, who told me that the next Hastings train was due in thirty minutes but would not be stopping at Crowhurst. The next train scheduled to stop there was in an hour so I would miss the service.

I explained that I wanted to be at Crowhurst at 10.15 and the guard said he would ring the controller to ask if they would make a special stop. He thought that the answer would be no, but he would try.

While I waited for the reply I quietly prayed and put it in God's hands. The guard came back looking surprised that the controller had said yes, they would stop for me! My husband is a train driver and told me later that they never usually do this as the controller would need to ring the signalman, and it would mean that the knock-on effect would be that all trains would be running late that morning.

I rang my husband to ask him to ring the office to say that I would pay for my lunch after the service. I arrived at Crowhurst station at 10.10, thanked the guard and waved a thank you to the driver. The service was just starting as I entered the chapel. The first song was No. 3 in Songs of Fellowship and the verse was:

*Nothing is too difficult for Thee,
Nothing is too difficult for Thee,
O, great and mighty God,
Great in power and mighty in deed,
Nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing,
Nothing is too difficult for Thee.*

The service was led by Revd Ian Wales; and I felt that I was so meant to hear his sermon that morning. The day at the Centre was a real gift.

Marion Young



Words of Thanks

The office regularly receive thank you notes and cards from guests after their stay at the Centre and the pink feedback forms also provide an opportunity for their comments. Here is just a small selection.

- My thanks to everyone at the Centre. I felt 'at home' immediately; this is a place where 'batteries' can be recharged and the soul restored. The love of God was evident everywhere, with everyone. I have returned inspired from the Prayer and Painting week and emotionally healed from the Healing Service and Prayer Ministry.
- Thank you for the amazing word and the sensitive way everything was done. We both went home considerably better than we came. The art room was a lovely way to finish.
- I recently stayed in Room 6, on the wing. I met some wonderful individuals and was able to get some peace and quiet. I came away feeling so loved and accepted by the Lord, and blessed by His peace.
- I felt really pampered, have listened to God in the time here and found direction. This is the best Christian Retreat Centre we have been to.
- The pure love of God radiates from this place. I feel rested and ready to cope with situations at home.
- It has been a place of peace, rest, refreshment and God's love; a time to be in the Lord's presence and enjoy the lovely garden and good food. It was a bonus to be here when there was a Quiet Day.

- I came with apprehension seeking healing from the Lord following an ankle replacement, having strayed from Him. I felt His presence, felt manifestations of His healing and know that He shall restore me to my normal health. Everything I needed was provided and I had quality time in the presence of the Lord, fellowship and a strong desire to return. I only wish the Centre was geographically closer to my home!

Due to requests, we are happy to inform you that we now have gift vouchers available. You can purchase vouchers in denominations of £5, £10 or £25 or a mixture. Each voucher comes with a lovely gift card of your choice to write your personal message or, if you wish we can write a message on your behalf and send it direct to the recipient.

Choose from seven different cards: Little Butterflies, Pink Rose, Gold Bow, Paisley, Shooting Stars, Birthday candles, or soft green leaves. For full terms and conditions please phone the office. 01424 830 033/204



Crowhurst: My second home!

Thanksgiving Day Saturday July 20th

I have just returned from my beloved 'Crowhurst', where I have been coming for ten years. Every time it gets better and better and there could not be any improvement. Let's say it's my second home!

I go through the door to peace and quiet. What more could I ask for? I look forward to the companionship I am going to have while there, the friends I am going to meet and the new ones I am going to make. And when my week is over, what memories I am going to be left with until I return again!

Thank you special Penny and Yvonne for the time you spent with me; I will never forget you both and how I listened to you. My prayers now include you both, so my list gets longer and longer!

Thank you Crowhurst. You mean so much to me.

Blessings, Hilary Booth.

Make a date in your diaries for our annual day of Thanksgiving and Celebration to God for the life, work and ministry of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. It is always a day of great blessing and enjoyment as we meet with God and share fellowship with friends old and new.

Bring your own picnic lunch (tea and coffee are provided) and enjoy the beautiful grounds (weather permitting).

If you have a long way to travel, why not book yourself in for a few days either before or after the day, and take the opportunity to really relax and unwind.

Thanksgiving Day is always well attended and folk arrive early, so if you want to be sure of a seat in the large Chapel, make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

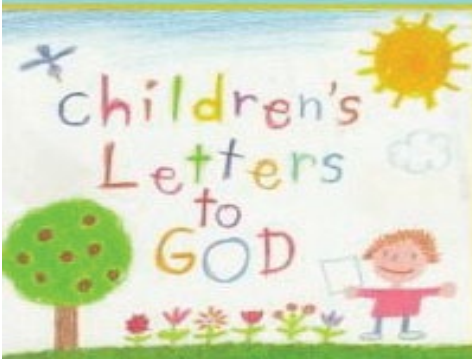
Further details of the full day's programme will be available in the summer issue, and also on the website in due course.



Book Review

Every leaf matters

Children's Letters to God, compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall, illustrated by Tom Bloom ISBN 978-1-85626-910-0

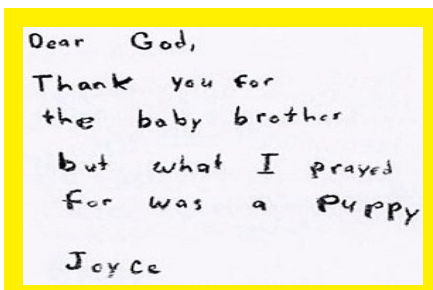


One of the Bookstall's current 'Best Sellers', this book is guaranteed to bring a smile to your face. Using the original writing, spelling and grammar, Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall treat the reader to a compilation of children's letters to God which, express their thoughts and wishes.

The book is divided into three sections: Puzzlements, dilemmas and other imponderables. Fervent wishes, suggestions and complaints. Approvals, confidences and thanks.

I am sure there have been times when we all empathise with Frank whose letter concludes the book: 'Dear God, I am doing the best I can'.

This is an ideal gift for a friend - or a treat for yourself! Rosemary Froggatt



I visited Crowhurst in October for a healing service. The centre was really busy that week and the chapel was full, with extra seats having to be brought in. The atmosphere was amazing and the worship very enthusiastic. It was really good to have the two new chaplains leading the service.

On my way back to the station I was walking very slowly taking in the beauty of the grounds. I noticed Cliff, one of the gardeners, sweeping up some leaves. I slowed down and watched how carefully he worked, putting the leaves in small piles along the path. He stopped as I got nearer and was about to move the leaves out of my way, but I quite happily weaved my way through them.

What struck me was the way Cliff worked; it was as if every leaf mattered. We so often see the falling leaves as a problem with blocked drains, delayed trains and slippery paths.

I often see him on my way in and out of the Centre from the station; he does the most mundane gardening tasks like weeding with a joy that often goes unseen.

It is people like Cliff and members of staff behind the scenes that make the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre such a special place.

Marion

Garden News

Desmond writes



During the winter months, there has been plenty of work carried out within the grounds, including the continuation of hedge tidying and clearing of leaves that still continue to fall.

Roses have been sprayed to minimise

parts that may be lurking within the soil around the roots and possibly their main stems. Weather permitting, moss killer will be sprayed around the car park, balcony and pathway down to the small gate leading to the station, and bark will be applied where necessary. Bonfires have been in evidence, thus disposing of much garden refuse. Brambles near the railway have been cut down and burned and garden furniture will be prepared, ready for the new season.

Planning for the spring takes a lot of thought and preparation. The hanging baskets will have been cleaned out and sprayed with Jeyes Fluid prior to new compost being used ready for planting. Flower pots that are to be used will have been treated in the same way. At the time of writing, our plants have yet to be decided upon, but I am hoping that many of the favourites will be in attendance, namely Sweet Peas, Cosmos, Geraniums, Trailing Lobelia, Dwarf Marigolds and Impatiens.

All through winter, the work within the grounds have kept Cliff and myself very busy. There was the usual leaf clearing; hedges have been regularly trimmed and there has been a lot of pruning carried out. Not surprisingly, weeds have continued to grow during the winter months, so have had to be attended to.

With best wishes to all, Desmond

And from Cliff

In my last note, I mentioned 'Au de Bonfire' (the smoke) but with so much rain falling over recent months, this has not been possible. Mulch, however, should be in abundance so no excuses for not aiding nature in new growth.

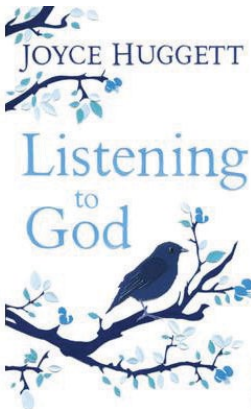


Daffodil shoots are already appearing around some of the trees. One Sycamore tree is always the last to shed its leaves so we have to be careful not to damage new growth. Paths may be clear and rakes put away, but the spade and hoe will soon be busy.

A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever! Des and I thoroughly enjoy it.

Blessings, Cliff





Don't read this book, use it! Use it until your confidence in listening to God has moved you into a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him.

For us as Chaplains at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, we desire to do and say what our Father does and

says. I hope as we learn to listen and watch, we will improve at it. God is calling us in to a deeper relationship with Himself and this is for every day because God is an everyday God. Every day God loves to talk with us; He is calling us into a deeper relationship with Himself and this is an everyday experience. God is an everyday God, an everyday communicating God.

Joyce Huggett says how much she has changed in the years since the first edition of her book came out in 1985, and she compares her pilgrimage with an apprenticeship. It is a lifelong learning experience and yes, we do get better and grow to maturity, but there is always learning to do. That's why this book is not just to be read, it is to be used.

Reading the opening chapters of the book, 'Tuning in to God', 'A Taste of silence' and 'Contemplation', remind me how much we miss because of our noisy and busy lives but the lessons Joyce gives can be applied daily (today), practised and learnt and this will only improve our love relationship with God. Would you like to do that?

Listening to God explains how through visions, dreams, voices, angels, nature, imagination, tongues, prophecy, words of wisdom and knowledge, we can hear God speak to us. Then there is the Bible too and

Joyce gives a number of tools to help the reader just not study the Bible, but also use it to meet its Author.

Listening to God is an honest account of Joyce's own lessons and learning and it includes personal accounts of life experiences, good and bad, the joys and difficulties and how through listening to God she was able to persevere.

Was Joyce ever tempted to give up? Did she make many mistakes? Both questions get a whole chapter each and any Christian will be encouraged and reassured.

I gave this book to a friend and after reading it a bit they said, 'I'm enjoying this book so much I want to 'rejoice', hold it close and 'hug it''. I trust Joyce Huggett would enjoy that.

I recommend this book be used, and not just read. It may change your relationship with God!

Steve Gendall

Joyce Huggett is the author of several internationally bestselling books, including Listening to God and Listening to Others. She has travelled extensively to lead retreats as well as to speak at meetings and conferences.

Listening to God is published by Hodder & Stoughton and is on the bookshelves at the Centre. ISBN No: 0340864257

With a lack of Christian bookshops in the local area these days, the Centre's well stocked bookstall is really worth a visit if you live nearby. There is a wide variety of books and CD's, plus a good assortment of greetings cards and gifts for all occasions. You are welcome to pop in any time and have a browse.



Calendar of Events

March

- 1 - 3 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 11 - 13 Prime Conference
(House closed)
- 15 - 17 God's Shape for Me
Led by Angela Seaton-Mills
- 20 Guided Quiet Day:
Justice and Mercy
Led by Kay Smith
- 23 Teaching Day
Burnout - Self inflicted injury
Led by Steve Clark
- 28 - 31 Easter Retreat

April

- 2 - 7 Prayer and Painting Week
- 12 - 14 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 17 Guided Quiet Day
Who do you say I am?
Led by Chris Delivett
- 20 Teaching Day:
Healing through Pastoral Care
Led by Paul Deeming
- 27 Art, Music and Reflection Day
Led by Maggie & Stephen Freeman

May

- 3 - 5 Finding God in
Chronic Illness (See below)
Led by Helen Warwick
- 10 - 12 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 18 Teaching Day: Relocation,
Relocation, Relocation:
The Trauma of Displacement
Led by Steve & Veronica Gendall
- 25 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Pat & Peter Lockley
- 31 May - 2 June Healing Conference:
Great Expectations
(In conjunction with the Diocese
of Rochester)

**FRIDAY 3RD – SUNDAY 5TH MAY
FINDING GOD IN CHRONIC
ILLNESS: LED BY HELEN
WARWICK (£170) FULL BOARD**

This weekend is an opportunity for those going through chronic illness to have some time out to review what is happening in their lives, and to connect to God within those situations. There will be creative opportunities to explore personal journeys and to seek God within the suffering.



How to contact us Who's who

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Email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

The office is open from 9am - 5pm
Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday
For a brochure, programme or further
information please contact the Secretary

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CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

Revd Colin Crook

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Revd Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

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