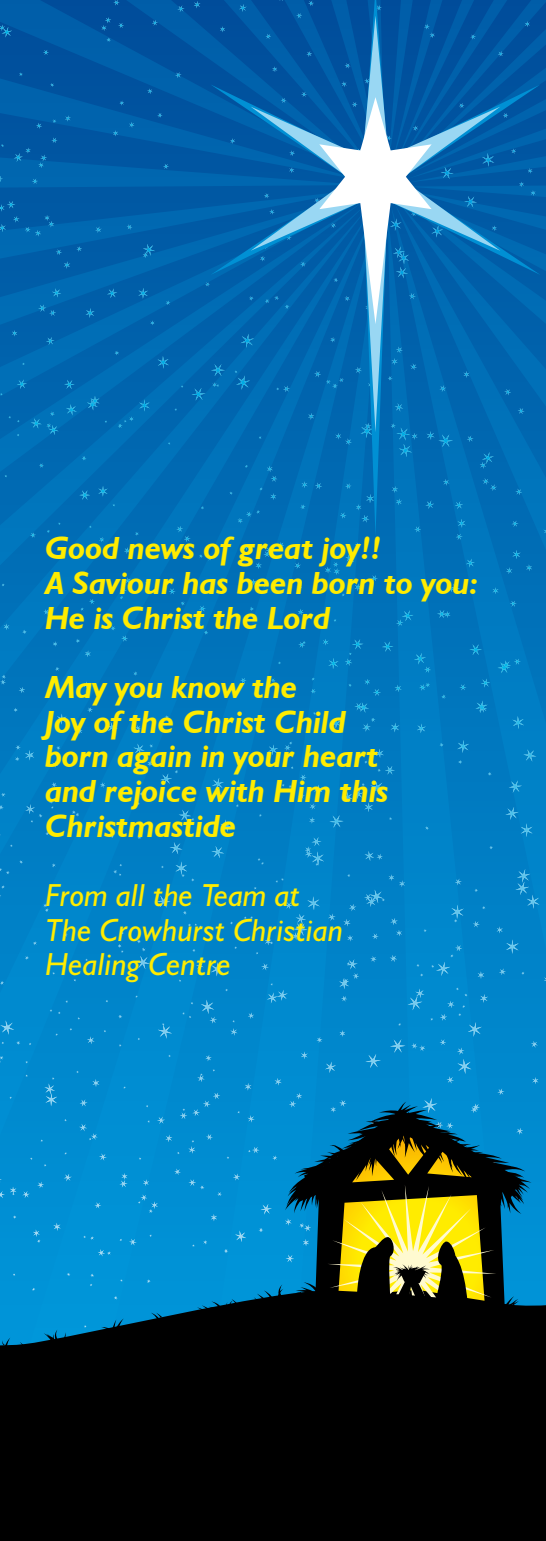


in His healing **STEPS**



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: Isaiah 9:6



**Good news of great joy!!
A Saviour has been born to you:
He is Christ the Lord**

**May you know the
Joy of the Christ Child
born again in your heart
and rejoice with Him this
Christmastide**

**From all the Team at
The Crowhurst Christian
Healing Centre**

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*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.*

*Long lay the world in sin and error pining, til
He appear'd And the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

*Fall on your knees! O, hear the angels'
voices! O night divine, O night when Christ
was born;*

O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

The words of the beautiful carol, O Holy Night, really do capture the essence of Christmas. Many shops have been bombarding us with all things Christmas since the end of September but as Christians we can at least try to put some perspective on the approaching season by reflecting its true meaning. We know that **'Jesus is the reason for the season'** and that Christmas is about so much more than spending money and eating too much food, though of course it is always good get together with friends and family and indulge a little! Before the onset of Christmas, we have the season of Advent, which gives us time to quietly reflect and prepare for the birth of Our Lord.

The Christmas story is one that we all grow up with – the arrival into the world of a tiny, helpless baby, dependent on his parents for everything. I have found myself reflecting on the Christmas story even more this year because my first grandchild, a beautiful baby girl was born in September. I was overwhelmed when I first saw Amelia and as I watch her parents care so lovingly for this helpless little babe, who is completely dependent on them, I think of how our mighty creator God actually chose to come to us in the

form of a vulnerable baby. Our God truly is an awesome God!

Staffing

Our assistant cook, Fenella, has now left the Centre for a new career. We thank her for all her work and wish her every blessing for the future. Sophia Powell, her replacement, is settling well into her new post. I hope to be able to include a photo and a few words about Sophia in the spring magazine.

Zanette has been at the Centre since May, but I haven't had the chance to catch up with her until now. She is from Latvia and has lived in England for four years. Zanette is married with two grown up children; she is sporty and enjoys tennis, basketball, and swimming. She told me that she is enjoying working at The Old Rectory very much, and we wish her every blessing in her time with us.



And finally

I would like to wish everyone a prayerful and reflective Advent season, and a Happy, Holy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you to all who have sent in contributions to the magazine over the past year, and for your words of encouragement to me as editor, and a special thank you to Mavis Williams for allowing me to use her lovely paintings of The Old Rectory at Christmas for the front and back covers.

With every blessing,
Mary Slater



Our Acting Senior Chaplain Writes...



Dear friends

As I look back over this past year I have, in my mind, a picture of the work that started here in January to build the new entrance for people with

disabilities. It all started with the digging of the foundations and the clearing away of anything that got in the way of the construction work. The picture we see now of a smart, well-constructed entrance has only come into being because of such careful preparation work and the establishing of a strong foundation. What has been true for this new building is also true for the Centre as a whole.

The psalmist says: 'unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.'

For the past eighty-one years it is the Lord who has built this house and He has built it on the strong foundation of prayer. We believe that as the foundation goes on being strengthened through prayer He will continue to build, not necessarily in the physical sense but in building up the mission and ministry of healing in this place and beyond.

We had a gathering in September of some of our Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Representatives; they were so encouraging about the Centre's future. Through prayer and words of Scripture there was a great sense of expectancy and promise of growth.

There are good signs of this growth already. We have been blessed this year by a large number of people who have come to the

Centre for the first time. And just like many who have been coming for a number of years, nearly all of them have commented: 'There is something special here.' And there is. The words of Jacob spoken thousands of years ago still ring true today, **'How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.'** And the place is awesome because of the Lord's presence. He is awesome! Jesus is Lord and is experienced in a very real way as He ministers His healing to His people today, just as He did over 2,000 years ago. Our Book of Thanksgiving and the letters we receive bear witness to this.

But there can be no room for complacency. We must always be watchful for the new things the Lord wants to do and pray earnestly for the people and the financial resources to enable this to happen. At present we have no indication as to who the next Senior Chaplain is to be but we trust that as we continue to seek our Lord on this matter, He will bring the right person at just the right time. In addition we trust that He will bring other ministers to share in the life, work and ministry of this place, as well as to provide financially through the giving of His people. He has always provided for our needs and He is a faithful God.

Daily I thank God for what He has entrusted to me in this interim period, and for His grace and gifts that enable me to fulfil my role; I thank our Prayer Partners and all who pray for me. Please keep praying for every aspect of the life and ministry of this place, dear friends. Prayer is such a powerful tool for the growth of the Kingdom.

Every blessing

Kath

Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Representatives Retreat – September 2009

The recent Prayer Partners Retreat was a time of great encouragement and expectation of good things to come. Sylvia Rust and Christine Wain have written in with their thoughts.

I have been a Prayer Partner since 1979 and what a joy and privilege it was to join twenty three others from different parts of the country for our autumn retreat. In our welcomes and introductions, we were encouraged to take time out to listen to the Lord in the quietness of our own rooms, and later to share what He had given us. The Acting Senior Chaplain, Kath Batte, and our co-ordinator, Shirley Dawson, shared with us and we were challenged to pray for the ongoing work of the Centre. It was encouraging to hear about the Outreach Healing Courses planned for the future. Many experienced His Healing Touch at the Communion and Healing Services.

The Powerpoint presentation showing the highlights of Thanksgiving Day, including Peter and Kay's departure, was very moving. We were also shown Stephen's incredibly beautiful photographs of flowers and wildlife around the Centre, and his wonderful gift of playing the piano for worship, was much appreciated. The meals were really tasty and nicely presented; the gardens were beautifully tended; the rooms were comfortable and the Indian summer? Well what more could we ask for? We went back home from our 'mountain top' experience with renewed vision – determined to undergird the ongoing work with our intercessions and prayers.

Sylvia Rust

The next Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps retreat will be held on 16-20 February 2010.



And from Christine ...

It was so enjoyable to meet with others again and develop the friendships begun a year ago. There was a good feeling of shared concerns and support for the new sense of 'partnership' in the ministry of The Old Rectory.

The programme was designed as a time of 'retreat,' with plenty of opportunity for prayerful reflection and relaxation (the extra day made this very successful). It was skilfully guided by Kath and Margaret, to include worship, prayer, discussion and times for listening to what God might be saying. Many experienced His healing touch and enjoyed relaxing in the warm sunshine or painting pictures, encouraged by our resident artist, Maggie.

There was prayerful anticipation and expectation regarding the new senior chaplain and of good things to come!

ME/CFS Retreat:

A New Venture for the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Last year I was invited to lead two healing retreats for people suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). The recent week also had two people with other chronic health conditions. This has been a new venture for Crowhurst, meeting the need for an increasing number of people with these conditions.

I myself suffered from ME for seven years, during which God led me on a healing journey back to full health. My passion is to help others with their journey through life using a creative approach. I am a former Occupational Therapist with training in Person-Centred Art Therapy, Counselling and Spiritual Direction.

I have written a book – ‘*Creating Gardens in the Desert*’ – to help others in their suffering, based on tools I have found in my healing journey.



During this retreat there are no other guests in the house and this gives a great sense of security. A lot of care has been taken over the programme to provide a balance between teaching and worship, group work and prayer ministry, rest and relaxation.

My approach is very creative. I run the morning session in the lounge so everyone can be comfortable; I often get people to lie down as I introduce them to using their imagination in relaxation and meditation.

The emphasis of the week is on healing and health and getting a balance between body, mind and spirit. There is opportunity in the afternoons to reflect on the morning's talks, either alone or with myself in the art room, or in prayer ministry. There is plenty of time to rest and enjoy the grounds, and the opportunity to join in the

healing services that are central to the week.

Feedback from these two weeks has been very positive. For many, their perspective on their individual situations has changed and they are clearer as to what they need to do to gain health. Others have found practical healing tools, and with the handouts these can be reflected on after the week.

God is a God of surprises and many have found His healing touch in different ways during the week. The care and love of the staff at the Centre, the lovely home cooked food, the care given to special diets and the understanding that comes from being in a group of people with similar problems, makes the week special.

The next ME/CFS healing retreat is 19th - 23rd April 2010, starting on Monday afternoon and finishing after lunch on Friday. Numbers are limited to fifteen so it is advised to book early.

The retreat from 20th-24th September 2010 is a follow up week for those who have already taken part in one of the earlier ME/CFS retreats.

Helen Warwick

Before I knew thee

You saved me before I knew thee,
How can I not be thankful?

My life was an eruption you saved me from
destruction, How can I not be thankful?

From certain death, you saved, now for your
love I crave, How can I not be thankful?

From pain and stress, I do feel blessed
How can I not be thankful?

I am, and so I will, Be thankful. Amen

*Thank you to the person who sent this
reflective prayer*

Beautiful Butterflies

Our resident pianist, Stephen, is a keen photographer. He has written a few words and kindly supplied some of the many pictures of butterflies that he has taken this year in the grounds of The Old Rectory.

Of common blues, Clouded Yellows and Painted Ladies.

Studying the flora and fauna of the grounds of The Old Rectory is a great joy to me. When outside I have a special feeling of being with God among his creatures. I often pray as I walk, 'Lord show me some interesting things today' and something unexpected often appears.

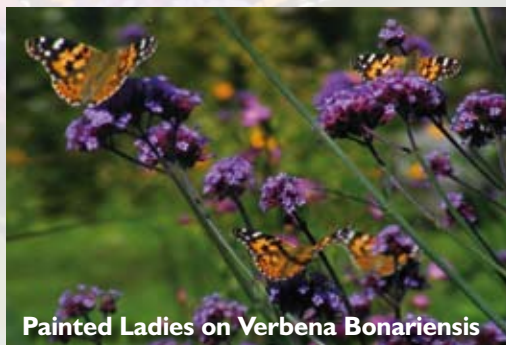
This year my focus has been on butterflies. After a slow start (I didn't see my first butterfly of 2009 at The Old Rectory until 31st March) there was the spectacle on 26th May of hundreds of Painted Lady butterflies streaming through the grounds.

As I write this (mid October) there are still butterflies around the grounds, mainly on ivy flowers and the tall, purple flowers of Verbena Bonariensis. These include several of a new generation of Painted Lady.

My total recorded species of butterflies for The Old Rectory has now reached twenty two, about half the number of species recorded in all of Sussex!

I thank the Lord for this beautiful place and for all his creatures big and small.

Stephen



Painted Ladies on Verbena Bonariensis



Clouded Yellow



Common Blue on Fleabane flower

The Syro-Phoenician woman's

People often find this Gospel reading puzzling. This is because we look at it through 21st century eyes. To understand it we need to transport ourselves back to the time of Jesus on earth, to discover one of the most amazing events in His life.

"Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre." Tyre is on the Mediterranean coast, about forty miles north-west of Capernaum. It was an important city in Phoenicia, which was at that time part of Syria. It was wealthy and had its own coinage.

Jesus went into Gentile territory, and this is most important for us to understand because it is the only record we have of Him on foreign land. He had just left the area of Galilee, where He had been badly treated in Nazareth, fed the five thousand and walked on water. He had been followed by vast crowds, and had now moved into a foreign land. Somewhere in the vicinity of Tyre, He found lodgings with His disciples.

What Jesus needed most was a time of privacy after a period of intensive ministry, but even in Tyre but He could not keep his presence a secret. A woman had heard of Him. She *"was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia."* Mark makes it perfectly clear that she was not a Jew. The word Greek here refers not to her nationality, but to her religion. She followed Greek gods, yet despite her own religious beliefs, she believed that Jesus could help her. She sought Him out, fell to her knees and begged Him to help her daughter, who was possessed by an unclean spirit; and by doing so she broke all of the rules. We also have to remember

what Jesus had just been through. He had been opposed by the Jewish leaders, doubted by His own family, followed by crowds often for the wrong reasons, only half understood by His disciples and recognised by evil spirits!

Jesus' response to her pleading was to say "First let the children eat all they want, for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." He does not close the door on this distraught woman but makes it clear that His first calling is to the Jews. First the children of God have to be fed, and then others can eat what is left over. Jesus called this woman and her kind 'dogs.' Now Jews often called Gentiles 'dogs,' and it was certainly meant as an insult. So what Jesus said may appear very insulting, but He is actually using the diminutive form of the word. The word He uses applies to a loved household pet. This was no insult.

Often it is the way in which you say something that imparts meaning. What is missing here is the tone in which Jesus said *"It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."* What if there was irony in His voice? The woman was Greek in her thinking, and the Greeks loved repartee. If she sensed a twinkle in the eye of Jesus, or a smile upon His face, then she would know that He was looking for a response. He was feeding her a line to take up - and she did. *"Yes Lord, but even the dogs under the tables eat the children's crumbs."*

Here we need to know a little about middle-eastern customs. At a meal they didn't have knives, forks or nice table napkins. They ate with their fingers. Meat is very greasy so they

faith Mark 7:24-30

Banner (Flag) Workshop

Saturday March 20th 2010, 9.30am to 4pm

used a bit of bread to wipe their fingers on and then threw it under the table, where the family pets would be waiting. So effectively this Syro-Phoenician woman was saying, "I know that the children are fed first, but can't I even have the scraps that they throw away?" Jesus loved that response. "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." The woman's faith was tested. Her faith was real; her prayer was answered and her daughter was healed.

But theologically we have a point here which is far more important than the deliverance of that woman's daughter. She stands for the Gentile world which reached out eagerly for the bread of heaven that many of the Jews had rejected. This is the first indication that the gospel was for all peoples and for all nations – a gospel that is not restricted to the Jews.

So the story of the Syro-Phoenician woman gives us two very valuable insights. The first relates to the ministry of Jesus Himself. This account clearly shows that His salvation would reach out to the Gentiles, even if few could envisage it at the time. The other insight that this gives is about those in need. Christian love crosses national and political boundaries. Here we have a foreign woman with a sick child. Jesus reached out. He still reaches out. Are we also ready to reach out as He did? Are we ready to help our Muslim neighbour? Or the Asians who live down the street? Are we ready to be like the Good Samaritan because of what Jesus has done for us?

Colin Crook

Come and experience a different way to worship through movement and the use of banners (flags) etc.

The workshop will be led by Mavis Williams and Yvonne Taylor and will cost £25.00 for adults and £15.00 for children (lunch, coffee and tea are included in the price.)

Book early, because numbers are limited, by phoning the office on 01424 830033.

More details of the workshop may be found on our website.



Money matters



One of the ongoing miracles of God is that the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre continues to operate. The fees that guests pay never cover the costs of running the place, which is currently nearly £1,100 per day. In the last year staff salaries have risen by 3%, and many of the staff are on the minimum wage. Food costs have risen by 10%.

We always strive to maintain an efficient and economic household but this year it looks as though our operating expenditure will exceed our income by £80,000. The good news is that at present we have sufficient funds to cover this shortfall.

In addition we have been able to carry out important and essential work on our buildings. Last December three new boilers were installed, which will reduce both our fuel bills and our carbon footprint. Cavity wall insulation and loft insulation have also improved our fuel efficiency. Unsafe wiring in the large chapel has been replaced, with the added advantage of redecorating and refurbishing it. We have also had sufficient funds to create a new entrance with electrically operated doors for wheelchair bound guests.

So how has all of this been possible? In short, the answer is through the generosity of our supporters. We have received several generous legacies over the past couple of years to cover both running costs and building maintenance. We are so thankful to God, and to those who have remembered us in their wills. We are also extremely grateful to those of you who month in and month out make a regular financial contribution to our running costs. It makes such a difference to us and to our guests.

However we cannot continue to have substantial deficits year on year, and in difficult financial times we cannot raise fees sufficiently to cover the full costs. (Indeed for the past eighty years fees have rarely been at the full economic level.) The reason for writing this article is to ask you to consider remembering us in your will. A brief codicil to an existing will is all that is needed. If you are able to help in this way, you are ensuring the healing and wholeness of people for generations to come.

Colin Crook

Chairman of the Trustees

Jean Burton Brown

In the autumn magazine, I included an article on Jean Burton Brown. I was informed at the editorial board meeting in September that Jean had died. She had been coming to The Old Rectory for many years and told me during the brief chat I had with her, that despite its changes over the years, it remained a lovely place of peace and prayer. Jean certainly lived her life to the full, including a trip in a glider for her 100th birthday! It was a privilege to meet this remarkable lady and I don't think it was a coincidence that I just 'happened' to be there when she was staying, more of a God-incidence! Our prayers are with her family and friends; may she rest in the peace of the Lord.

Prayer Requests for Winter 2009

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Winter 2009

Prayer Focus

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." [Hebrews 4:16](#)

Prayer and Thanksgiving

"May the favour of the Lord God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us."

[Psalm 90:17](#)

Prayer

■ Give thanks and praise for the way in which Kath has settled into the position of Acting Senior Chaplain with dedication and enthusiasm. Continue to pray that the Lord will strengthen and uphold her day by day.

■ Continue to pray for an increase in numbers of the Chaplaincy Team. Give thanks that Colin has been able to rejoin the team.

■ Pray for more visiting chaplains to lighten Kath's workload and enable her to develop more teaching courses. Give thanks for Marion, who has joined the team.

■ Give thanks for the many blessings and guidance received during the Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps autumn retreat.

■ Give thanks and praise for all our house guests and those who come to the healing services, particularly those visiting for the first time. May they continue to be richly blessed.

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to His name." [Psalm 96:8](#)

December Prayer Focus

"... I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." [Luke 2: vs 10 & 11](#)

December

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 - 4 | Advent Retreat |
| 9 | Quiet Day – Waiting in the Father's love, led by Gill Payne |
| 11 - 13 | Healing Retreat |
| 24 -27 | Christmas Celebration |
| 30 to 3 Jan | New Year Retreat |

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests." [Luke 2:14](#)



January Prayer Focus

"Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; He is holy." [Psalm 99:5](#)

January

13 Quiet Day – Living life within your season: Ecclesiastes 3 v1, led by Helen Warwick

15 - 17 Healing Retreat

29 Trustees meeting

29 - 31 Healing Retreat

"May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in His works." [Psalm 104:31](#)

February Prayer Focus

"Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands." [Psalm 112:1](#)

February

6 Training Day

10 Quiet Day – The word is very near you, led by Greta Wakeham

12 - 14 Healing in the Psalms

16 - 20 Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat

26 to 28 Healing Retreat

"Praise the Lord ... for great is His love towards us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever." [Psalm 117:2](#)



Prayer for The Old Rectory

Prayer Focus:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses ... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Hebrews 12:1

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. Pray for wisdom and discernment that we may be obedient to the Lord's leading.

■ Give thanks for all who support the ministry of Christ's healing love at The Old Rectory. May we be good stewards of our resources, especially during the present economic climate.

■ Give thanks for the prompt provision of a new assistant cook to fill the vacancy left by Fenella's departure. We pray that she will settle in well to the daily routine and become a valuable member of the staff. We shall miss Fenella and her cooking skills, and wish her every blessing in her new career.

■ Continue to pray for Jan, our former Office Manager who is nearing the end of her course of chemotherapy. Praise the Lord that the tumour has reduced in size.

■ Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife Prim; may the Lord strengthen them day by day.

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

Prayer focus for staff at The Old Rectory

"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**

Acting Senior Chaplain: Kath

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

Visiting Chaplain: Marion

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

Centre Manager: David Batte

Book Keeper: David Podevin

Office Administrator: Jayne

House Manager: Heidi

Maintenance Manager: Geof

Office Staff: Gillian, Juliette and Wendy

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

"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**

Many of you will remember Canon David Byford, who had been a locum at The Old Rectory since 1990. David has recently gone to be with the Lord; please remember Elizabeth and the rest of their family in your prayers.

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre The Old Rectory, Crowhurst, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9AD

Telephone: 01424 830204

Bookings: 01424 830033 **Fax:** 01424 830053

E-mail: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

'The Miracle Continues'

by Peter McIntosh



If you haven't yet read **'The Miracle Continues,'** you can still purchase a copy from the office for the price of £3.50 plus postage and packing. Peter writes as he preaches, in his own inimitable and down to earth style. The story is an encouraging and affirming one, which describes how God continues to provide for His faithful people at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Change and renewal are part and parcel of life; without change, we would not grow or develop into the people God wants us to be, and the Centre would not be able to minister to people in the way that it does. Renewal and further development are necessary for continual growth and we give thanks that in His infinite wisdom, it is the Lord Himself who brings about necessary changes in order to continue His work. Peter describes the Spirit led renewal which was experienced at The Old Rectory between the years 2005 to 2009.

"As the Centre's renewal developed, so Christ's healing ministry within it developed. It is never easy to describe this work of Christ's love. The more you try and explain it, the more you seem to diminish its power and effect." (Page 23)

God's perfect timing is evident throughout the story; staff came and went and gaps were left but He always seemed to send the right person along at the right time and as Peter writes on page 17, it was no coincidence that people turned up when they did!

"God's timing was perfect, as usual, and once again the Centre was provided for in every way!" (Page 17)

The Centre was running out of money in 2005 and in 'Christ's Amazing Provision' on page 18, it is remarkable to see how God intervened through His faithful people.

"God's financial provision for the Centre is always a fascinating and at times awesome story." (Page 18)

The office regularly receives letters of thanks, some mentioning individual staff and others thanking all staff. As Peter writes:

"The Centre's life and work, just like the church itself, is never dependent on any one person serving in its midst. The renewal we experienced taught us this. Everybody who worked and works at the Centre, whether they are cleaning toilets or leading worship, washing floors or laying on hands, planting seeds or posting mail, cooking or praying, Christian or non-Christian alike, they all matter" (Page 28.)

Folk who come to The Old Rectory are from all walks of life. Many are at rock bottom when they come but are always carefully and lovingly ministered to according to their needs.

"It is always a privilege to see people who go to the Centre at Crowhurst finding new freedom and release. They go there for all sorts of reasons, from just wanting a few days away for rest or spiritual refreshment, or seeking a compassionate experienced, listening ear, to asking that some deep rooted need be addressed." (Page 25)

These are just a few extracts from a publication well worth purchasing and whether you are new to The Old Rectory or have been associated with it for many years, you will find it an inspiring and uplifting account of how God continues to work through His people at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Ed

Divine Providence

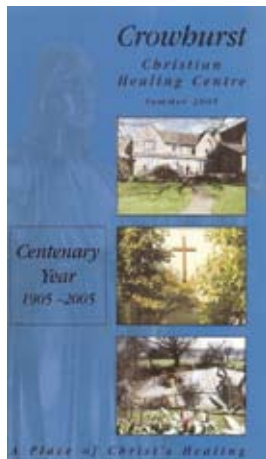
I decided to do some much needed turning out and began to read some old Crowhurst magazines, which belonged to my dear twin sister, Julie Howick, who died almost three years ago. They went back a few years so I enjoyed reading some articles I had missed.

I was in bed and engrossed in an interesting article, but it was getting late so my husband suggested I turn off the light. Having finished the article, I just turned over the page and there (in the summer 2005 edition) was a short piece called *My Testimony*, by my darling and much missed twin. It was entitled *The Ministry of a Monk* and in it she recalled her first visit to the Old Rectory at Crowhurst in the 1970's. She even mentioned me in the article!

I never realised when I began turning out that I would find such a wonderful hidden treasure. It meant so much and made me feel so close to my dear twin. Praise God for such an unexpected gift. Needless to say I won't be throwing that edition out!

Marnie V Simmons

Summer 2005



My Testimony – The Ministry of a Monk

I shall never forget my first visit to The Old Rectory. It was in the 1970's and I had just completed radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatments over two years for lymphoma cancer. It seemed I was free of the disease but that the toxic remedies had taken a huge toll on my body. I felt far from well and decided it was now time to seek a deeper healing and wholeness.

After being welcomed warmly by the warden, Paul Peters and his wife Mary, I walked rather nervously down the corridor to the chapel. Just ahead of me walked a monk in a brown habit – a member of the Franciscan order. He had a 'hunched' back and I remembered that my sister had told me about a monk who had led several retreats that she had attended. She described how his appearance reminded her of

'Pilgrim' with his burden. Surely this was the same Brother Richard! I approached him and he confirmed that this was so.

As the week progressed, a close friendship with Brother Richard and a few other guests developed and proved to be a great blessing. We were all seeking a healing encounter with the Lord. In addition to the wonderful healing services in the two chapels, we were able to share in fellowship, supporting one another.

I returned home a very different person; an inner healing had begun. I continued to correspond with Brother Richard until his death a few years ago. It was surely Divine Providence that our paths met outside a chapel at The Old Rectory.

Julie Howick

Miracles do happen!

I recently spent four nights at The Old Rectory. It was my first stay as a guest, though I lived there for three years from 1991-94 as a member of the resident community. Much has changed, but the atmosphere of peace still prevails and the staff are wonderfully kind and caring.

On my last evening, I attended the Healing Service. After receiving prayer and anointing, I sat in the chapel and remembered all the people who had prayed for me during my years on the staff and I thanked God for them. To myself I said, "Oh ye of little faith!"

I have been progressively deaf since my teens and when I joined the community I had taken early retirement from teaching because of my deafness. I never asked for healing for my deafness because I didn't believe it would happen. I asked for acceptance and peace of mind. However, I know that others sometimes prayed for my hearing to be restored when they gave me the laying-on of hands with prayer. When you are hard of hearing, you rarely hear what is prayed over you, but if I heard the words "restore her hearing," I would think to myself, "They're mad; why would God restore my hearing when there are so many far greater needs in our world?"



Since leaving Crowhurst, my hearing continued to deteriorate and in 2008 I reached the point where I was using the maximum volume of the most powerful aids available on both ears. So I began assessment at St Thomas's Hospital for a cochlear implant and on June 5th 2009 I had the

surgery. On July 8th I was 'switched on,' having been warned not to expect too much too soon.

I am one of the lucky ones and I heard clearly at once. Within one week my 'hearing with lip reading' test score went from 0% to 92%! I am already using the telephone, listening to music and hearing without lip reading – none of which I have done for many years.



The finger is to show the size of what has been put inside my head!

The main reason I'd never been to Crowhurst as a guest before was because I found group situations, such as the dining room so difficult as a deaf person, but since my implant, that is not a problem. I am still deaf when I remove my headset but, through the wonders of modern science and technology, my hearing has been restored.

And so on that evening at the healing service, I thanked God for all those who had the faith to pray that my hearing would be restored, and for those scientists and engineers used by God to make it happen. To me this is no less a miracle of healing than when Jesus healed the deaf man in the Gospel narrative.

Jo Rivers

Inscription seen on a churchyard memorial seat, East Dean, Sussex:

To have Faith is to create

To have Hope is to call down blessing

To have Love is to work miracles.

Garden news

The grounds have looked beautiful this year. One guest recently wrote: *"What a lovely layout! Always a new path to explore; lovely flower beds and hanging baskets; everything is so peaceful and harmonious, and nurturing too."*

Though autumn and winter isn't quite as colourful as spring and summer, there is still beauty all around; God has blessed us with winter flowering shrubs, bulbs, fruits and berries which apart from giving us pleasure to look at, also supply the birds with their winter food!

As every gardener knows, there is always something to do in the garden! Planning and preparation is essential to successfully produce the abundance and variety of lovely flowers that we have seen in The Old Rectory this year. With the onset of winter, much of Desmond's work involves tidying up, which includes the endless sweeping up of fallen leaves, removal of dead branches, the cutting down of brambles, and the application of bark to various flower beds. If we have a mild winter, he will keep an eye on hedge growth. Renovation of garden furniture will be undertaken and mangers will be planted up with winter bedding, and it won't be too long before he is planning for spring and summer!

Gardening is never ending but we do have help, as shown in the following reflection on psalm 23:



Psalm 23 - A Gardener's Version

The Lord is my Head Gardener; He tells me when and where to sow the miraculous seeds.

He waters the tiny plants with His life-giving rain, and when that is withheld He allows me the pleasure of seeing thirsty plants revive under the nozzle of the hose or watering-can.

He walks with me in the morning and in the scented stillness of evening down the garden path, and I marvel at the beauty that he spreads before me in spite of the pests and diseases which seek to destroy my garden.

Even in the depths of winter He causes tender shoots to pierce the deadness and to bring reassurance of rebirth.

In the time of harvest, He rewards my toil with His abundance spread before me, to have and to share.

I know that when my soul is ripe for plucking I shall share in His great harvest in my dear Lord's garden of eternity.

K O Theis



Crowhurst through the year

Visitors to the Centre always remark on how much the beauty of the grounds add to the enjoyment of their stay, and also of the diverse wildlife that can be seen. We have certainly been blessed with nature at its best this year; here is just a small selection to keep you going when winter is at its worst!

Spring and Summer



An assortment of spring flowers



Three of the sixteen ducklings that were on the pond during April



Male blackbird in spring looking for food outside the art room



A variety of summer colour

Autumn



This beautiful geranium greeted visitors in the height of summer



Autumn leaves in all their glory!

Winter



The Old Rectory in the snow

Music Review



1 x Psalms 4, 5 & 6 Double CD
(LMSTPS8D) - £12.75

1 x Psalms 1, 2 & 3 Double CD
(LMSTPS3D) - £12.75

If you love the psalms, then you will love these CD's!

Many folk will agree that music can minister to people in a very special way. When we are low, or even feeling quite cheerful, music can 'speak' to us where words or people cannot.

The CD's I am reviewing are by a Christian musician by the name of Ian White. Ian formed Little Misty Music in 1985 and is the company's main recording artist. He made these CD's in partnership with Chris Eaton and together they have produced something very unique.

I discovered Ian White's music while at a boot sale seven years ago! I was on my stall selling plants and the stall next to me was selling general bric a brac. It was a quiet moment so I started browsing the other stall. There amongst all the odds and ends (it seemed to jump out at me!) was a CD called 'Simply the Best, a collection of Psalms, by Ian White.' It was only £1 so I thought it worth a gamble. Well my gamble paid off! The CD was amazing and I warmed to it instantly. The first time I listened to it, I was transported into the world of the psalmists and over the years, through the highs and lows of life, it has comforted,

encouraged and ministered to me in so many ways.

I have always loved the psalms because we can often relate them to our own experiences. Sometimes it could be our own story; someone, somewhere has been through what we are feeling, be it fears and anxieties or joy and laughter.

I was very sad to lose my copy of 'Simply the Best' last year and it doesn't seem to be available any more, but I have found something even better! (Divine intervention I believe!) I found Little Misty Music's website and discovered these two double CD's, which are actually the original CD's that Simply the Best was compiled from. So not only will I hear all the ones that I have found so inspirational and encouraging, I also have the bonus of hearing many new ones that weren't on the original CD. Thank you Lord!

The CD's can be ordered from Little Misty Music's very user friendly website. However, if you do not have internet access, I am sure your local Christian bookshop would be able to order the CD's for you if you give them the order information in this review. Alternatively, you could phone 01738 6345654, which is the number given on the website for any queries.

The double CD sets are very reasonably priced at £12.75 each. Postage and packing is just £2.00 and delivery is within a few days. Thirty eight psalms set to great music is well worth having!

Ed

Book Review

‘Revelation’ by C J Sansom

ISBN: 978 0330447102: Publisher: pan Books, 2009



So why review a fiction book in this magazine? Well for a start it is a very gripping novel – a guaranteed ‘page turner.’ Once you start it you will find it very hard to put down until you reach the end. C J Sansom also wrote the highly acclaimed ‘Winter in Madrid.’

‘Revelation’ is the fourth title in the Shardlake series. They are all set in the very turbulent times of Henry VIII and the Protestant Reformation. Sansom has a wonderful ability to portray the sights, the sounds and even the smells of Tudor London. He takes us right into the heart of that overcrowded city with all its dangers and difficulties.

Matthew Shardlake is a hunchback lawyer whose disability is seen as a weakness in Tudor London, yet he is honest, hardworking and compassionate. In each of the novels he gets involved somewhat reluctantly in the intrigues of the Reformation. They are essentially very well written Tudor Thrillers. If you like the Cadfael style of thriller then you will love the Shardlake books.

‘Revelation’ is set at the time when Henry VIII is wooing Catherine Parr, whom he wants as his sixth wife. Archbishop Cranmer and the embattled Protestant faction at court are watching closely since Lady Catherine is known to have reformist sympathies. At this time Matthew Shardlake takes on the case of a teenage boy incarcerated in Bedlam for religious mania and in danger of being burnt as a heretic.

When a long-term friend of Matthew is brutally murdered, he promises to bring the killer to justice. His search leads him to Archbishop Cranmer, Catherine Parr, and, the Book of Revelation. Matthew soon finds that he is on the track of a serial killer who is using chapters 15-17 of the Book of Revelation for his justification.

‘Revelation’ cleverly intersperses a first rate fictional story with historical people and situations. By reading it you can assimilate much of the complex church politics of the time. It dramatically shows us how dangerous it was to be a Christian at that time, be it Catholic or Protestant.

The other three Shardlake novels are – ‘Dissolution,’ ‘Dark Fire,’ and ‘Sovereign.’ They can be read in any order and are all worth considering.

Colin Crook



Reflections on Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd. **That's Relationship**

I shall not want. **That's Supply**

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

That's Rest

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

That's Refreshment

He restoreth my soul. **That's Healing**

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.

That's Guidance

For His name's sake. **That's Purpose**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. **That's Testing**

I will fear no evil. **That's Protection**

For Thou art with me. **That's Faithfulness**

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

That's Discipline

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. **That's Hope**

Thou anointest my head with oil.

That's Consecration

My cup runneth over. **That's Abundance**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. **That's Blessing**

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord.

That's Security

For ever. **That's Eternity.**

Source Unknown

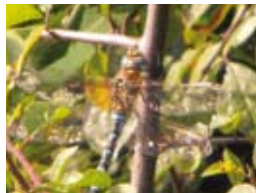
Thank you to Joan Law for sending in this prayer and beautiful picture of the sunlight through the tree



QUIET DAY HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

Praise the Lord, what a wonderful day. The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather as we looked at the might, wonder and greatness of our God in creation, in the heavens, in the world about us and in the gift of His precious Son, Jesus.

In the closing session many of us were able to share what we had received during the day. There were poems, words, pictures and treasures that had been found while walking in the grounds. I was inspired to paint a picture. I wanted to show the greatness and wonder of our amazing God, our Creator. He made everything unique – not one person, not one blade of grass, not one tiny insect is the same. How awesome is that!



Such an amazing God!

Yvonne Taylor

The quiet days are an ideal opportunity to come and spend time in the peace and stillness of The Old Rectory. They run from 10 am to 4 pm; you can book in for lunch or bring your own. Tea is served at 3.45 when fellowship can be shared with each other.

Future quiet days are:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 9th December: | Waiting in the Father's love, led by Gill Payne |
| 13th January: | Living life within your season: Ecclesiastes 3 v1, led by Helen Warwick |
| 10th February: | The word is very near you, led by Greta Wakeham |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like a copy of the full programme for January 2010 to January 2011, please ring in and the office will send you a copy.

December

1-4	Advent Retreat
9	Quiet Day – Waiting in the Father's love
11-13	Healing Retreat
24 - 27	Christmas Celebration
30 Dec - 3 Jan	New Year Retreat

January

13	Quiet Day – Living life within your season (Ecclesiastes 3 v1)
15 - 17	Healing Retreat
29	Trustees meeting
29 - 31	Healing Retreat

February

6	Training Day
10	Quiet Day – The Word is very near you
12- 14	Healing in the Psalms
16 - 20	Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat
26 - 28	Healing Retreat

Weekly healing services are held on Tuesday at 7.30pm and Thursday at 10.15am with Holy Communion.

Advance notice:

Prayer and painting week for beginners, 2nd to 7th March 2010, with our resident artist, Maggie.

This week is very popular and gets filled up quickly, so don't leave it too long to book!

Noticeboard

Sorry, but ... we've had to increase our prices!

Since the Brochure with the 2010 Programme was printed, we have had to review the prices we charge for accommodation and retreats. As you will see from an article earlier in the magazine, we continually struggle to balance our income and expenditure and cope with rising costs, just like everyone else.

We have managed to keep our prices unchanged for two years, but have now reluctantly decided to increase them from 1 January 2010. The basic rates for full-board accommodation will increase by £3 to £63 (£53 for rooms without en-suite facilities.)

- The rates for Themed Retreats and Weekend Healing Retreats will increase by around 6%
- The prices for day visitors will increase by a similar amount.

If you are on a low income or in receipt of benefits, please let us know. We will endeavour to keep to our policy that no one should be prevented from coming for financial reasons.

The revised tariff is as follows:

Weekend Healing Retreat £150 Non en-suite £130
Weekend Themed Retreat £150 Non en-suite £130
New Year Retreat £310 Non en-suite £270
Easter Retreat £210 Non en-suite £180
ME/CFS Retreat £350 Non en-suite £300
Advent Retreat 210 Non en-suite £180
Prayer and Painting £370 Non en-suite £320
Daily full-board rate £63 Non en-suite £53
Day visit including lunch £22

10% discount on Sunday -
Thursday nights during January

For further information and bookings:
Telephone 01424 830033

Web Site www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

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



How to contact us

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
The Old Rectory, Crowhurst,
Battle, East Sussex TN33 9AD

Telephone: 01424 830204

Bookings: 01424 830033

Fax: 01424 830053

E-mail: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

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

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every £1 you give. Details of Gift Aid can be
obtained from the office. Cheques should be
made payable to The Crowhurst Christian
Healing Centre.

Who's who

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Chaplaincy Team

Margaret Gubbins, Colin Crook

Magazine Editor

Mary Slater

Prayer Partners Co-ordinator

Shirley Dawson

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