

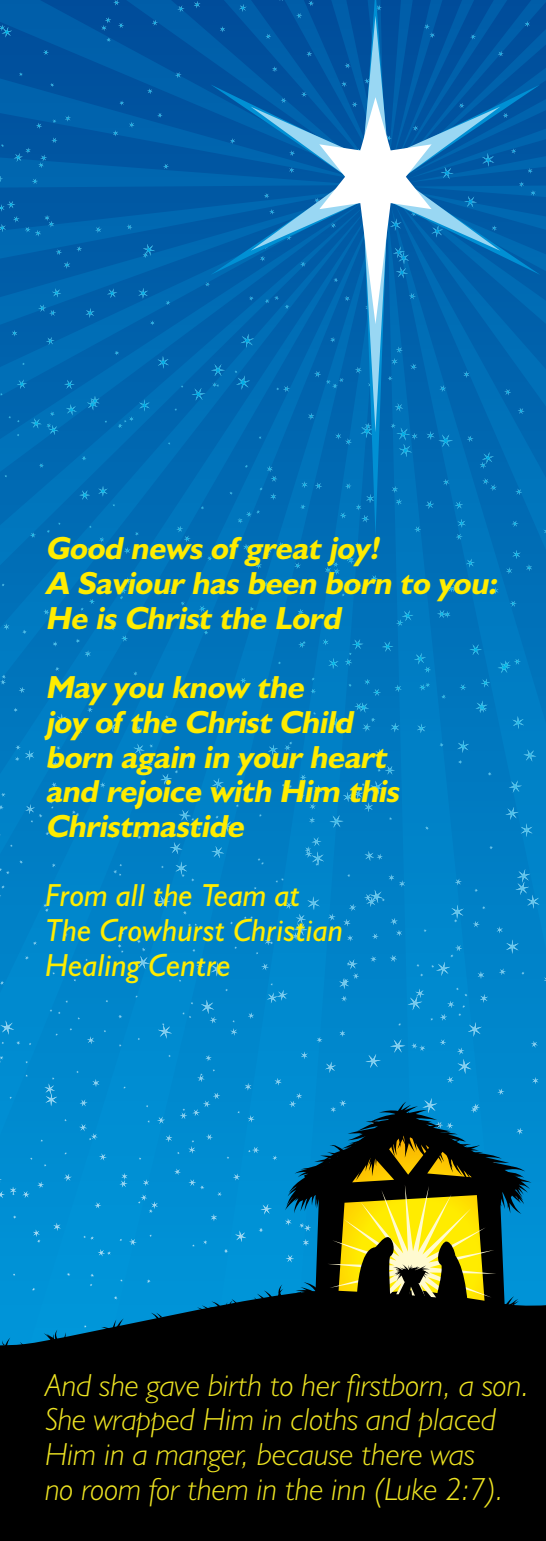
Crowhurst[†] Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

Winter 2010

in His healing **STEPS**



"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds," says the Lord. (Jeremiah 30:17)



**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**

*And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.
She wrapped Him in cloths and placed
Him in a manger, because there was
no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).*

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Editorial



I am beginning my editorial in October, on the day of the Chilean Miners' Rescue. This truly was an amazing day, when man's humanity to man was lived out in full view of the whole world, thanks to the wonders of modern technology.

It was an unprecedented rescue, and the word 'miracle' was used many times during the day. It was good to see so many miners giving thanks and praise to God for their rescue, some dropping unashamedly to their knees in full view of everyone, including the media, and therefore the whole world. This was truly 'Seeking first the Kingdom of God' (Matthew 6:33), and what a witness in this secular world in which we live!

One of the trapped miners was a Christian preacher and some of the men were helped and converted underground by his encouragement and preaching. May God continue to minister to all the miners and their families as they try to rebuild their lives after such a terrible ordeal. Their healing will be on-going, as it is for us all.

In this Issue

As Kath mentions in her letter, we still have a few places left on the New Year Retreat, but book your place quickly, they won't be available for long!

Visiting Chaplains

We are blessed with our visiting chaplains, who help lighten Kath's workload. Reverend Brenda Russell and Major Retta Gray have written a few words about themselves on pages 8 & 9. Marion Proud is also helping during her sabbatical. I hope

to include an article from Marion in the next magazine.

Visit from group from Belarus

It was lovely to see a group from Belarus at the Centre in September. They all looked well, though they do still suffer from the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. The children seemed not to have a care in the world, and it was good to see them playing so happily.

Healing Testimonies

There are several healing testimonies in this issue. All are very different, but equally encouraging.

Book Review

Our Book Review is from one of our Prayer Partners, Anisah. It is an inspiring story of courage, trust and perseverance, and a wonderful testimony to the hand of God in her life, even if at the time she was unaware of it. An ideal Christmas present!

Christmas is fast approaching as I write this editorial, but when you receive your magazine, it will be almost upon us. Shops are full of Christmas items already, but as Christians, we can at least 'take some time out' and focus on the true meaning. God came into our world as a helpless baby and the Christmas story is one of encouragement and hope.

A well known Christmas quote among Christians is that '*Jesus is the reason for the season*,' so may I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas, and may we know His purpose in our lives.

Every blessing,
Mary Slater

Our Senior Chaplain Writes...



Dear friends,

Another year is coming to its close and how much there has been in it for us to give thanks and praise to our faithful God. In our busy lives it is good to take time to stop and

reflect on God's faithfulness. One of the strengths of our New Year Retreat is that it gives our guests the opportunity to do just that as they look back over the past year and recognise His hand on their lives. Reflecting in this way is not always a comfortable process but it is a healing process as we recognise His hand upon the painful times, as well as the joyful times.

As I write this there are still a few places left on the New Year Retreat so if you would like to enjoy a time of reflection, thanksgiving, looking forward and celebration, give the office a ring.

Reflecting on this year, I rejoice at the number of lives that have been changed through meeting our healing Lord in this special place. The peace and hospitality of this Centre, the gentleness of the worship, the prayer ministry on a day to day basis, and during the retreats, have all soothed bruised and hurting hearts, minds and bodies, and given space for our Lord Jesus to minister His healing touch. It is awesome!

It has been good to recognise that although there have been no new additions to the chaplaincy team, our faithful God has ensured this vital ministry to His hurting people has

continued. At times it seems a humanly impossible task to meet the needs - and so it is, humanly speaking - but God always provides the people to lead worship, to teach and to minister. During a devastating famine Elijah asked the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17: vs 8) to use her remaining oil and meal to make him a cake. This was to have been the last meal she and her son had before they died of starvation. Doing as Elijah asked, she discovered God's amazing providence for her and her son. Just as Elijah promised, the oil and meal did not run out until the period of famine was over. And I believe this is a message for us at the Centre. He will provide. The oil of His anointing will equip us and sustain us in the lean times.

You will be pleased to learn that a number of people are in the process of testing out their calling to join the chaplaincy team and we also have a few ministers interested in becoming visiting chaplains. This is encouraging. We know that through the process set in place God will reveal His choice of ministers. The discerning process does take time; we must wait patiently and trust Him for the right people to join the team, and for the finance to support them in their work.

As we look back with thanksgiving for all that the Lord has provided, we also look forward with expectancy to what He will do in this coming year. Our programme for 2011 is quite full and offers some different areas of healing to explore through teaching days and themed retreats. We are blessed with gifted people to lead these events - God's provision for us.

FEEDBACK FORM COMMENTS

I am also delighted that we will be working with Burrswood in offering a Healing Conference: 'Windows onto Healing and Wholeness' in April.

Although the programme is a full one, be assured that there is always space for people to 'come apart and rest awhile' without having to join in what is on offer.

As this year draws to a close, I pray God's blessing as we all look back in thanksgiving and forward in faith for what is yet to come.

Peace and joy be yours.

Kath

WINDOWS ONTO HEALING AND WHOLENESS

A conference for church leaders, healthcare professionals and all involved in pastoral care.

Led by a team from Crowhurst and Burrswood.

Open to residential and non-residential guests.

**Monday 4th – Thursday 7th April 2011 at
Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre**

**For more information contact the
office on 01424 830204**

We invite guests to fill in Feedback Forms at the end of their stay; here are just a few of their comments:

I felt cherished here and cradled in prayer in the peace and safety of this amazing place. Bless you all in that you do.

This weekend has been a love gift from the Lord through human hands and voices. Thank you for your amazing servant hearts.

Time, beauty, prayer; God in every place and space. I have done artwork for the first time; what a joy and healing.

The Lord through you all was just so close, who could ask for more?

I got rid of some unforgiveness I did not know that I had. The Lord brought it to my attention and I felt the power of the Holy spirit.

My stay has been lovely, peaceful and quiet, full of the Holy spirit.

This is the best Christian centre I have ever stayed at.

I feel refreshed in body/soul and spirit.

I am encouraged to go forward into a year of prayer.

My visit this time has been memorable because I have just completed forty years. Every year I have loved this place; it is my second home.

You feel tangibly the peace of God when you walk through the front door.

MORE BELARUS BLESSINGS



Two years ago, for the autumn 2008 magazine, Kate Woodman wrote an article called Belarus Blessings. While staying at The Old Rectory, she had met a group from Belarus, who were staying at the Centre. Their visit had been organised by the charity, Chernobyl's Children, which was established by Janet Wadhams in 1995.

Two years on and another visit was organised by Janet. I managed to catch up with some of the group after the Thursday morning healing service. It would seem that they came to England just at the right time because we have had a very hot summer this year. Valya told me that they were all very grateful for cooler weather as it had been so hot in Belarus. Sun is dangerous for them because it can cause their skin to blister. This is due to the long term effects of the dreadful nuclear reactor explosion at Chernobyl back in April 1986, which still affects people twenty four years on. Children are often born with birth defects, due to the effects of radiation.

I managed to speak to Valya, mother of Tanya (aged 10). Valya's English was quite good,

much better than my Russian, which is non-existent! She told me that her daughter Tanya had suffered from a brain tumour when she was just three years old, which, thank God, was successfully operated on. However, she does suffer from some tummy problems. Valya herself suffers from problems with her legs.

Natasha is the mother of Petya, aged four, who was born early and had to be ventilated for three months. He suffered from skin blisters and had problems with his lungs, but seems well at the moment; it was really good to see him so happily running around and kicking his ball.

They were a lively bunch, and given their circumstances, it was heart warming to see them all looking so happy. To see their smiling faces, you would not know of their sufferings. These holidays are a welcome break from their radiation affected country and we give thanks to God for the charity, Chernobyl's Children, who make it possible for these visits to the Centre.



Music Ministry



Music has been a big part of my life since my childhood. I learnt both the flute and the piano, and sang in choirs while I was at school. As an adult I continued to sing and play intermittently, but listened and went to concerts more than playing myself.

I became a Christian in 1988 (the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre played an important part in that, but that's another story!). Even before I had joined Battle Baptist Church I started playing my flute in worship, and have been doing so ever since, although now at the Methodist Church. I also played the organ in the days when the Baptist Church still had one. I am not an organist, but I seemed to get a reasonable sound out of it provided I avoided bottom Bb which sounded like a fog-horn! I am now called upon to play the organ in the Methodist church from time to time (no fog-horns thankfully). I also had the great privilege of leading worship at the Baptist Church for several years.

I became part of the music ministry at the Centre in May and it has been an amazing blessing to me. I do want to say what a joy it has been to be so readily accepted into the team and to play alongside Pippa and Stephen.

To be anointed in a service, and to have prayer and anointing each time we play, is an awesome thing. It is so good to know that music is valued as a means of God's healing.

I love playing the flute in worship and count it as a gift from God. I know that the Holy Spirit takes my 'offering' and translates it into something God uses as He wills. I do want to play my best for Him and I have started having lessons again. None of us is perfect, and we all make mistakes. Arthur Rubinstein, the great pianist, once said something like 'it isn't the mistakes that matter, but how you make them....' God knows our hearts and the spirit in which we offer these gifts back to God.

Incidentally, I am also playing the piano for the Christmas Pantomime in at the Centre – God uses our gifts in a variety of ways!

Vivien



Visiting Chaplains



I am a Yorkshire lass, born in Cottingham, a village outside Hull.

At the age of 18, I began my training for state registration as a nurse, qualifying in 1966. After qualification I

served as a staff nurse in several posts and then as practice nurse with a group of doctors.

I have three grandchildren, Alison, Helen and David, who over the past few years have given me the gift of six grandchildren, providing me with the privilege of being their nanny.

Around 1984, I began to feel that God was calling me to full time ministry. I did not share this feeling with others, yet various people asked me if I had ever considered being a Minister. It was a time of looking for a new post as a nurse, but every time I applied for jobs for which I was well qualified, I was not offered the post. More and more I felt that God wanted me to change direction.

Eventually after a Communion service, when I felt God's touch and heard Him telling me to be still and know that He is God – and asking me to trust Him – I started the lengthy process for recognition of my calling. This was followed by three years of training at Luther King House in Manchester.

Now I am a retired URC minister, having served as a full time minister for nineteen years in Totton, Hampshire; Bridport, Dorset, and Maidstone, Kent.

Throughout my ministry I have had a special interest in God's healing ministry; I have developed ministry teams and led healing services in all three churches and represented the URC on various area and national committees for the healing ministry.

In the early nineties, I came in great need of healing to The Old Rectory. Over the five days I was helped by the Chaplain, Reverend Brian Coward, and received God's healing into many areas of my life. That was a time which changed my life, deepened my faith and trust and enhanced my ministry.

Since then I have come as a guest many times, receiving healing and blessings from our Lord on each visit. After several of these visits, the warden, Reverend Ray Jones, asked if I would consider becoming a locum/visiting chaplain and since then it has been my privilege to share in the Lord's ministry in this place.

Reverend Brenda Russell





Major Retta Gray

I was born into a Methodist Manse and when I was sixteen, realised that I was called to preach. I was trained as a Local Preacher and recognised as been fully accredited two years later.

After training as a nurse, I went to the Mothers' Hospital (Salvation Army) to train as a midwife. While I was there, God called me to be a Salvation Army Officer. I was commissioned and ordained in 1972 and retired after 35 years service.

During my active ministry, I worked for 25 years with the Salvation Army's social services, serving from cradle to the grave; then I transferred to Corps (church) work.

In 1993 I went to The Old Rectory to convalesce after an illness. Later I went on the then 'Clerics and Medics' training course. I subsequently did a placement and was asked to become part of the 'Locum' team. The present General gave me permission to celebrate Holy Communion when I come to Crowhurst and the Trustees have agreed to this. I now serve as a prison chaplain and am able to serve as a visiting chaplain after some weekend retreats.

Marion Proud is a

Methodist Minister of three churches in this local area.

She comes to the Centre about once a month to lead worship and is at present coming here a couple of days a week during

her sabbatical. I hope to include an article from Marion in the next issue.



Guided quiet days

These quiet days are an opportunity to take time out of our busy lives and spend a day in the presence of our Lord.

Future quiet days are:

2 Feb:

Lighten our Darkness,
led by Geraldine Wenham

9 March:

Lessons from the Prodigal,
led by Hilary Malpass

HISTORY OF THE PRAISE PLAQUES

There are several different praise plaques around the grounds of the Centre, some of which are placed around the Prayer Walk. These plaques are situated in many different countries, and their history is very interesting.

The Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary, whose England home is based in Radlett, Hertfordshire supplied these plaques to the Centre. The Sisterhood's main home is in Darmstadt, Germany, but they also have branches in ten different countries, including England.

The Sisterhood was founded by Mother Basilea and Mother Martyria, who both made a brave Christian stand during the Hitler regime. As National President of the Women's Division of the German Student Christian Movement (1933-35), Mother Basilea refused to comply with Nazi policy, which would bar Jewish Christians from the meetings. If you would like to read more about the order, you can visit their website (www.kanaan.org). From there, you can click on the UK site, plus all the other countries in which the Sisterhood is situated.

The Sisterhood has placed praise plaques in various places around the world, particularly



where there has been suffering or destruction. There are about 200 erected at scenic spots and historic sites in the British Isles. The sisters write on their website that these plaques are “all to the glory of God”, and “These ‘silent missionaries’ with a Scripture verse and brief text reach people where they are often most responsive: outdoors in nature”.

Locally, there are plaques at Fairlight, near Rye, St Leonards on Sea, Bexhill on Sea and Beachy Head. The one at Beachy Head actually saved the life of someone who was feeling suicidal, when they tripped over it. This plaque had miraculously remained in place after a landslide which altered the coastline. The sisters write: “The text on the plaque at Beachy Head is a reminder of the sovereignty of God and the words achieved a new significance when it became apparent just how destructive those mighty waves can be: ‘*Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!*’” (Psalm 93:4 RSV)

So next time you stop to look at the plaques in the grounds of the Centre, remember that they are being read and meditated on all over the world!

A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, a small pond reflects the sky and the surrounding trees. The ground is covered in a light layer of snow, with some fallen leaves visible. Several bare trees with dark trunks and branches stand in the middle ground. The background shows more trees and a pale sky.

Crowhurst

Christian Healing Centre
a place of Christ's healing

Prayer Requests for Winter 2010

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Winter 2010

Prayer Focus

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs." Psalm 100:1 & 2

Prayer and Thanksgiving

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6

Prayer

- Give thanks and praise for all the blessings we have received during the past year. For all those who give generously to support the ministry of Christ's healing at the Centre, and for the recent legacies bequeathed to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.
- We give thanks for the safe delivery of Clare's first child, a son, Daniel, born on October 10th – mother and baby are doing well.
- We welcome Chris, our new relief cook. His coming was indeed an answer to prayer.
- We welcome and give thanks for Mel and Louise, who joined the housekeeping team in October to cover Clare's maternity leave, another answer to prayer.
- We give thanks for the prayer partners and Crowhurst Reps who came to the September Retreat. We owe so much to these prayer warriors as they undergird the day to day life at the Centre. May they too be greatly blessed.

"You are my God, and I will give thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you."

Psalm 118:28

December Prayer Focus

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

December

- 3 - 5 Weekend Advent Retreat
- 7 - 10 Advent Retreat
- 16 **Last Healing Service of 2010**
- 23 - 27 Christmas Celebration
- 30 to 3 Jan New Year Retreat

"Glory to God in highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favour rests." Luke 2:14



January 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](#)

January

Dec 30 - 3 Jan New Year Retreat

3 - 9 House closed

11 **First healing service of 2011**

28 - 30 Guided Healing Retreat

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." [James 5:16](#)

February Prayer Focus

"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him, while He is near." [Isaiah 55:6](#)

February

2 Guided Quiet Day – Lighten our Darkness, led by Geraldine Wenham

5 Training Day – Healing Basics

11 - 13 Prayer Partners & Crowhurst Reps Retreat

19 Training Day – Anger, Friend or Foe?

25 - 27 Guided Healing Retreat

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you." [John 15:7](#)



Prayer for The Centre

Prayer Focus:

"What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do." **Isaiah 46:1**

Prayer for the Trustees

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

■ We said farewell to Ted Landon at the end of our October meeting. We give grateful thanks for his faithful service over the years, especially for his expertise in health and safety matters. Pray for Ted and his wife, Barbara, that they will have a happy and blessed retirement.

■ Pray earnestly for a person of the Lord's choosing to take Ted's place on the board of trustees.

■ Our main concern at present is to build up the chaplaincy team. Continue to pray earnestly that the Lord will bring the right people to the Centre to support Kath. Pray that the Lord will strengthen and guide her as she copes with a heavy workload.

■ Give us wisdom and discernment for the Lord's vision for the future. May we be obedient to His will. The word from the Prayer Partners Retreat was **"Stand still and see the Lord work. Stand on His promises, let nothing shake you!"**

■ Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim. May the Lord strengthen, bless and surround them with His love every day.

"Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear." **Isaiah 65:24**

Prayer Focus for staff at The Centre

"If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."
1 Peter 4:11

Senior Chaplain: Kath

Chaplaincy Team: Colin and Penny

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

Centre Manager: David Batte

Book Keeper: David Podevin

Office Administrator: Jayne

House Manager: Heidi

Maintenance Manager: Geof

Office Staff: Gillian, Juliette, Esther

House Staff: Chrissy, Justine, Louise, Mel, Steve, Sue and Zanetta

Cooks: Diane, Sophia and Chris

Gardener: Desmond

Pianists: Pippa and Stephen

Flautist: Vivien

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

Magazine Editor: Mary

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

2 Corinthians 9:12

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

Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat



On September 7th, sixteen of us met in glorious sunshine to begin our Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat. After the welcome and introductions, we were able to go to the Tuesday evening healing service, a time of quiet meditation and worship, which put us in the right frame of mind for the next few days.

The following morning Kath preached on 'The Lord's Prayer.' Her first point, which has stuck in my mind, was "Stop worrying about what and how you are going to pray. Words can get in the way. The fact that we don't know how to pray gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to pray for us."

In the next session, Kath brought us up to date with the special areas that are in need of earnest prayers, the most urgent being the appointment of an assistant chaplain and the enlarging of the chaplaincy team. She has a huge workload as there are eighteen services to cover per week. The house has a wonderful, peaceful atmosphere and we continue to pray that the staff will work in harmony, and that extra staff will be appointed to cover staff absences.

We then had time for personal space to meditate and pray for these issues and wait on the Lord. We were also able to receive

personal ministry if we so desired. In the evening we met together to share what the Lord had been showing us during our quiet time.

Friday was a day of prayer. We formed groups of four and spent a good part of the day praying for the on-going work at the Centre, and listening to the Lord. This was a time of intense prayer and our group was truly blessed as the Lord led us to some very relevant Scriptures. In the evening all the groups gathered together and shared what the Lord had put upon their hearts during their time of prayer. This session, led by Colin and Shirley, was most inspiring.

We felt sure that the angels watch over and protect this place and that the Lord has new plans for our future. We must be open to change and willing to take risks. **"Stand still and see the Lord work, stand on His promises, let nothing shake you."**

The Lord has promised to do a new thing; we must have patience and trust in His timing. As we shared together, we found that the Lord had given the groups very similar words – a confirmation of His will for the Centre.

The evening ended with Colin anointing each one of us and sending us out to continue as Prayer Partners for this most blessed place of Christ's healing love. The Retreat concluded on Saturday morning with a service of Holy Communion before we left for our various destinations with lots of things to think about, meditate upon and pray for in the days ahead.

**The next Prayer Partners
and Crowhurst Reps
Retreat will be held on
11-13 February 2011**

Healing testimony

I was strongly prompted by the Holy Spirit to book another stay at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in July. This was mainly for my mother to recuperate from her left eye cataract operation.

My mother has Alzheimer's and found everything a little confusing at first, but after lunch on the day of our arrival, she soon settled down. As well as the peace she was experiencing, she was enjoying the grounds and meeting other people as well. And all those beautiful meals; what a treat!

That first night we spent together in our shared room I was wondering how mum was going to cope, but she settled down before me. I informed her I would only be down at the chapel for the evening service; mum was not asleep when I came back but as soon as I retired for the night, she was out like a light!

During that night it was amazing; it's wonderful when there are no interruptions and as the Lord spoke with me and poured such peace into me, I knew He was doing the same for mum.

Songs and Scripture were coming from my lips, and such praise was flowing through me. One verse in particular, Psalm 42:7, *'Deep calls to Deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.'* And verse 8; *'By day the Lord directs His love; at night; His song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life.'* This wasn't the first time our Lord Jesus had given this to me.

Another Scripture was from Luke 24:52. *'Then they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.'* And verse 53, *'And they stayed continually at the temple praising God.'* Wow! Yes I was continually praising God as well as talking with Him; all of course was quiet, so my mum was not woken.

In the morning when my mum awoke, I asked if she had slept well and she said "better than at home". That was wonderful to hear.

The next day we had a chance to participate in a 'Quiet Day'. Again my mother enjoyed this, and was quiet. She is usually a chatty person and not normally quiet and it can sometimes be hard to get a word in. She enjoyed the morning and understood a little of what was explained and, I believe, was ministered to in the garden by our Lord Jesus, which was very precious to me as my mother could see colours as if for the first time. We stayed just for the morning slot of the meditation as mum was feeling tired.

My mother had felt a lot of peace but sadly the outcome of the cataract did not come out so well; mum's eyesight is still the same. It was found that she had glaucoma in both eyes, but she can see clearly the colours through her left eye, praise God!

Onwards the Holy Spirit has been so gracious to me; a couple of weeks later at a Thursday morning service I was healed of some deep rooted pain whilst

The carved statue in the large chapel



This short story of the carved statue in the large Chapel was originally published in the Autumn 1994 edition of the magazine.

On a day way back in the fifties, a woman came to my front door. I had not met her before and did not think she lived locally.

She was carrying in her arms the wooden statue of the Healing Christ which now stands in the large chapel and is loved by so many. It has surely come to be regarded as a kind of symbol which speaks to many of the inner purpose and the vision of TOR.

My visitor's words, which I shall always remember, were: "Could you please find an appropriate place for this carving!" As that morning went by, and I thought about what place might be best, I had no clear answer. Then I had what was for me a strange and unusual experience. As I lifted the figure in my arms, a voice seemed to say, "I would like to go to Crowhurst."

The rest followed. That anonymous gift (probably a Bavarian carving) has brought pleasure and blessing to many over the years since then – Laus Deo (Praise Be to God!).

Michael Townroe

(Before being moved into the large chapel, the statue once stood on the entrance hall cabinet and Ray Jones, former warden, mentions in the 1997 autumn magazine a letter he had received from a lady living in Spain, who told him how much the figure of The Healing Christ, had meant to her. Ray tells us that the statue was carved in Oberammergau, where every ten years the world famous Passion Play takes place.)

just sitting and listening. I believe this had been prepared for me because of a lot of sickness and discord in my family which needs to be strengthened. There is a need to keep praying for reconciliation, unity and peace in my family as well as in the church as a whole.

Our Lord Jesus has been so good to me and I can say He always listens and responds with such assurance. He has used me and will by His grace do so again in the future.

Just be expectant of what the Lord can do for you and how He will use you to further His kingdom.

With love,
Sister Sharon Wingfield

REDUCED RATES DURING JANUARY

During January all our room rates will be reduced by £10 a night (except on Fridays and Saturdays).

So why not come and spend a peaceful and relaxing post-Christmas break with us.

Visit to Kenya and a story



Earlier this year I was privileged to visit Kenya with a friend, Eleanor, from our church – St. Peter's in Bexhill. I have had a love of Africa since the early 1970's, when my husband and I, with our two small boys, lived in Kumasi, Ghana. Since moving to Bexhill, I became interested in the slum project in Mathare Valley, on the outskirts of Nairobi, which I heard about through Eleanor at a church house-group. She had first visited there in 2004 and has now been several times. She has raised funds and got people in our church to sponsor children, so that they can go to school. I was already sponsoring through 'Compassion' a child who lives in the Kikuyu area, not too far from Nairobi. When Eleanor mentioned that she wanted to visit the project again this year, I felt led to volunteer to accompany her, to visit the slums and my sponsored child. I also wanted to visit a Mothers' Union Worker who had stayed in our home a few years back, and who had invited me to visit her if ever I went to Kenya.

I am very grateful to God, to Eleanor and to the Kenyan Christian couple, Pastor Daniel Ogutu and his wife Magdaline with whom we stayed, for making this trip possible. It was so special and wonderful to meet Grace, my sponsored

child. It was also a joy to meet the MU worker (Alice) again, when we travelled north to visit her at Nyaharuru. The most moving time was visiting the slum school and the homes (huts) of sponsored children, living in unbelievable poverty. Half a million people live in Mathare Valley - an area just over a mile long and one quarter of a mile wide. The corrugated huts, approx. 10ft x 8ft, are packed together with no water, electricity or toilets. The children sleep on cardboard on the floor!

Daniel and Magdaline felt called by God to give up good jobs and work in the slums. They led a mission there in 1994 and some of the criminals' lives were transformed by Jesus. They are now pastors and teachers, helping in the school and in the Community Church, led by the Ogutus.



Magdaline started the school, at that time by renting a hut and gathering some children together to learn stories of Jesus, and to sing Christian songs. Now there are many dedicated Christian teachers and more than 750 children, who are so grateful for their education. I shall never forget their smiling faces.

of healing by Mavis Williams



The children are fed and are safe at school; they attend from 6.30am until dusk. (This school is not recognised by the authorities, so relies on voluntary contributions.) We took some gifts of stationery, given by members of our church, which they were delighted with. Next time we shall take balls too, because they used screwed up paper in plastic bags, when they played in the clearing at break!!

For more information on this project you can visit the website www.matharevalley.org



Now, what has all this to do with the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre? Well, soon after returning from Kenya, I developed a small growth on my nose, near my eye, which grew in five weeks. (The warning on the malaria tablets said to take care not to expose the skin to the sun, but I obviously hadn't put sun cream near my eyes.) I went to the doctor, who sent me to the skin specialist. He then referred me to a plastic surgeon at the local hospital.

On my next visit to the Centre, I went forward for the 'laying on of hands' after the communion service. During the following week, the growth felt different - it wasn't itchy and seemed to be smaller. Then the top (like a dark shrivelled up pea) came off, for which I was most grateful. I went back to the doctor to ask if I needed to keep the hospital appointment and I told him about receiving prayer for healing at the Centre. He still wanted me to see the plastic surgeon, to look at the remaining base.

The hospital doctor said it was a typical case of the fast growing 'Keratoacanthoma', a type of skin cancer, and no action was required. He said that it might have dropped off in time, but I know by the timing and the fact that the base has now disappeared, that I received His healing touch through His servants at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

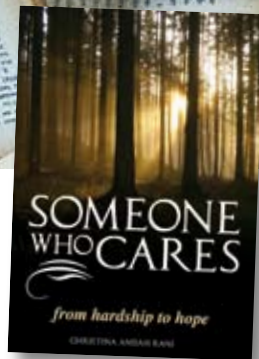
Thank you Jesus and thank you to those who give of their time to be His channels for healing and wholeness.

Mavis Williams

Book Review

SOMEONE WHO CARES – From hardship to hope

Christina Anisah Rani



Some of you may remember reading the inspiring article, 'From Muslim to Christian', which was published in the winter 2007 magazine.

Anisah, the author of that article, who is one of our prayer partners, has now written a book entitled 'Someone who cares – from hardship to hope,' in which she gives a fuller account of the suffering and trauma that she has endured through her life.

I read this book within a day (unusual for me!) because I just couldn't put it down. It is an open and honest account of triumph over adversity, with many 'God-incidences' which could only have been the care and protection of our Lord Himself.

I have extracted the description of the book from the back cover:

"Born in 1933 in Berlin, daughter of an Indian father and German-Jewish mother, Anisah has led an incredibly hard life. Her dark skin and part Asian, part Jewish family were never going to endear her to Hitler's Germany in the 1930's. As a child, whenever the Gestapo made their regular school inspections, she often had to be evacuated to the countryside.

As World War 2 came to an end, Anisah gives graphic accounts of the near starvation suffered by ordinary Germans, and of the trauma endured by those who found themselves in the Russian zone.

She and her family were helped to transfer to England by the Imam of the Berlin Mosque - but on condition that they converted to Islam. In England she endured an abusive marriage, from

which she had to flee with two of her four children. Her hardship continued until eventually she came to Crawley, Sussex and became a Christian.

All through her traumatic experiences, Anisah was aware of the presence of 'someone who cares.' Here is a story of very hard times, but also of hope."

Throughout the book, Anisah mentions that 'Someone' always seemed to be there. She eventually came to realise that this 'Someone' was the Lord Himself. Her prayers to Allah were never answered, and now she knows why!

Anisah ends her book with 'a tribute to God and His son Jesus, as she tries "to repay Him for all His blessings which He has showered upon me." She writes:

*I want to say to others what was not said to me.
I want to do for others what was not done for me.
I want to give what was not given to me.
I want to love as I was not loved.
Why? Because I still remember the pain.*

This is followed by a prayer given to Anisah by the Holy Spirit, "The Lord will guide you. So you will go where He wants you to be." And from Mother Teresa, "I don't do big things; I do little things with great love."

The book can only be obtained from the Centre at present. The price is £10.00 plus postage, which will be £2.05p 2nd class and £2.34 first. It will be sent out in a jiffy bag.

Any profits from the sale of the book will be donated to charity.



Reading Matters

When you are next at The Old Rectory, do take a look at our well-stocked bookstall. There are a variety of books and CD's to choose from. To keep the books looking as new as possible, we do ask that handling is kept to a minimum so as to preserve their new condition. You can usually find out all you need to know about the book from the back or inside covers.

We also have a well stocked library, where you can read a variety of books in very peaceful surroundings. You can simply read, write or meditate on God's word, or just 'Be still in the presence of the Lord.' If you would like to, you may take a book from the library back to your room during your stay. All you need to do is write down the title in the record book provided.

The ticking of the old clock adds to the peaceful atmosphere of this room, where many different meetings take place through the year. Much prayer has been said in the library over the years and upon entering the room, there is a sense of Christ's peace.

So whether you wish to buy from the bookstall or browse the books in the library, do take the opportunity to see what is available.



A story of healing

For about eighteen months I had been in a lot of discomfort due to a prolapse and back pain.

In December I had an operation to repair the prolapse so thought that everything would get back to normal. However my yearly bone density scan said different; it revealed that the spine was deteriorating. The doctors were concerned and said I had to have a cage put over my spine as the density was very bad. This is seriously major surgery so I was told to lose weight; 'strictly no biking and no heavy work.' I was booked in for the operation at the end of June-July, depending on my weight loss.

At the end of May I was asked by my dear friend, Jenny Becks, if I would like to go to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre with her for a healing weekend. It felt the right thing to do.

The healing of my spine started at the Centre, along with some emotional family baggage wounds, which were well buried and forgotten (or so I thought), but Jesus thought differently! Both Jenny and myself left feeling emotionally renewed.

On Sunday 13th June, we attended a meeting at King's Church, which continued the emotional healing cycle.

But for the first time in my life, I felt the full force of the Holy Spirit at our healing service on 20th June (at St Helen's Church, Hastings), the result of which has meant **NO OPERATION**. My spine is about five per cent better in density and my consultant has re-classified my condition as osteoarthritis, and no longer brittle spine. Praise the Lord!

In a couple of weeks' time, we are off on a biking weekend!

Jeanette Taylor

Steam train special through Crowhurst Station



On Wednesday 2nd October, a Black Five steam train, on a special excursion from Victoria to Ashford, thundered through the Station. And thunder through it really did! Several enthusiasts from the Centre were there, all hoping to get photos and videos as it passed by. Geof had said that when steam trains have come through on previous occasions, they have sometimes slowed down so that people can take photos; but not this time unfortunately. It was gone in a flash and its whistle was deafening!

You could hear it coming before it appeared in our sights; it looked and sounded like something from an old film, (remember *The Railway Children*?). Geof kindly suggested that I could lie down on the track to stop the train like the girl in the film did, so that we could all take pictures. Oddly enough, I declined his invitation! Stephen took a really good video, from which I have managed to 'snip' out a photo.

While I was standing on the platform waiting for the train, I couldn't help but think, old or new trains, the station is so important for folk who can't come to the Centre by car and we continue to give thanks to God for it.

Garden News

It has been a busy year in the grounds of The Old Rectory. Desmond has had Cliff to help him throughout the year, and between them they have made the grounds look very picturesque.

Winter in the garden is a time of maintenance, preparation and planning, and the grounds of the Centre are no exception! There are leaves to clear, wood chippings to scatter where needed, trees and shrubs to prune, hedges to trim, spring bulbs to plant, garden furniture to renovate, winter bedding to plant in tubs and containers and soon after Christmas our hard-working gardener will be planning next summer's flowers!



And from Cliff...

'The autumn leaves pass by your window' are the opening lines to a song. Certainly here in these grounds, we gained a



carpet of leaves, and throughout autumn Desmond and I fought a constant battle to keep the pathways clear of them.

Our Lord may be putting some of His creation into hibernation, ready to surprise us next spring, but meanwhile He still leaves (excuse the pun!) plenty for us to admire and care for during the long winter months.

So we will continue to thank Him for the sleep of winter, the rebirth of spring, the glory of summer and the harvest of autumn.

Blessings, *Cliff*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

3 - 5	Weekend Advent Retreat
7 - 10	Advent Retreat
16	Last Healing Service of 2010
23 - 27	Christmas Celebration
30 to 3 Jan	New Year Retreat

January

30 Dec - 3 Jan	New Year Retreat
3 - 9	House closed
11	First Healing Service of 2011
28 - 30	Guided Healing Retreat

February

2	Guided Quiet Day
5	Training Day – Healing Basics
11 - 13	Prayer Partners & Crowhurst Reps Retreat
19	Training Day – Friend or Foe?
25 - 27	Guided Healing Retreat



New year retreat

Thursday 30th to Monday 3rd January

£260 non en-suite

£300 for en-suite rooms.

Come and join us on this retreat as we move from the past to the future in worship, prayer and rejoicing together. This retreat is a time of reflection and fun, as last year's guests write:

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

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

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

There are still some places available on this retreat, but they will probably get booked up very quickly, so give the office a ring and book your place.





How to contact us

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

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