
in His *Healing* steps

Winter 2012

**Let everything
that has
breath praise
the LORD.**

Psalm 150:6



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OUR VISION STATEMENT

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



'The times they are a changing,' sang Bob Dylan. Change is often unavoidable but at times very necessary, whether we like it or not! When we can't avoid it, we tend to kick against it, trying to

keep things as they are because we feel safer and more comfortable.

Over the years at the CHCC, there have been many changes. Changes of staff, changes in the way things are run, changes in the format of the services etc and although some of these changes may have initially been difficult for some, they have had a very positive outcome to the running of the Centre and most importantly, for the enjoyment of the guests who come and stay.

We are now in another period of change at the Centre following the retirement in June of Kath and David Batte, and the recent appointments of our new Senior Chaplain, Steve Gendall and his wife Veronica, and Deputy Chaplain, Steve Clark and his wife, Hilary.

The couples, who were officially welcomed and anointed into their ministries during the Thursday morning healing service on 18th October (see pages 8-10 to read about this joyful occasion), are a blessing from God and we give Him all the glory and thanks for answering the prayers of the faithful. *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.* (James 1:17)

We thank our Lord that He never changes; *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever!* (Hebrews 13:8)

Steve G is also a welcome addition to our Editorial Board and has already come up with some good ideas! He has also reviewed a book called *'Listening with Understanding, Discerning God's voice', by Clifford Hill.* (See book review on page 20)

Talking of listening to God, I had to laugh at one of my cats recently! Sammy has a habit of bringing me bits of paper or cards that are lying about (he thinks he is a dog!) While I was worrying about a particular problem, he brought me a piece of paper that had the Bible verse Philippians 4:6 written on it. *'Do not be anxious about anything'.* His timing (or rather God's!) did make me laugh, but it also made me think that God always meets us at our point of need, and knows exactly how to get us to listen to Him!

Christmas presents

Do you ever get stuck on what to give family and friends at Christmas? If so, how about treating them to a stay at the CCHC? If they have never been before, and you think they would enjoy coming, it would be a lovely gift. Why not take advantage of our *Buy One Get One Free* offer in January (one full paying guest can bring a friend for free). And in February we are offering one night free for the price of two. What ideal Christmas presents!

Enclosed with your magazine will be the programme for 2013, which is also on our website. If you know anyone who would like to receive a copy of the programme, or would like extra copies, please give the office a ring and they will post one out to you.

May I on behalf of all the team at the CCHC wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas, and a blessed and healthy New Year.

Every blessing, Mary Slater

HELP!

In the Spring issue of this magazine I asked for your stories of previous Senior Chaplains, Directors or Wardens. I am immensely grateful to those of you who have responded, and for the glimpses you have given me into their personalities, hopes and dreams. I am also aware from the comments of guests who have come to the Centre in recent months, that there are still many stories to tell.

So please do not be shy and send me your stories about the people and personalities at the CCHC. I do not mind in what format you send it. It doesn't matter if you have not been to stay in recent years; each of you has a story to tell and it would be wonderful to hear it.

So write to me via the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre or email me direct on colincrook@aculang.com, and one day when I get around to writing the history of the Centre, your story might take pride of place.

Colin Crook



Our Senior Chaplain writes ...



Dear Friends,
Veronica and I give thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for calling us to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre,

where for so many decades people have enjoyed the presence of our faithful, loving and healing God. Your partnership in prayer for us and the Centre, particularly over the last four months has been a blessing. It has been a joy to meet so many people who have said how they have personally prayed for us – thank you all. Please continue to thank God for Kath and David, for their conscientious and tireless ministry here and all the staff and volunteers whose commitment and service is second to none.

When we see God answer prayer, it is a simple reminder of the truth that He is at work around us every day. This hopefully increases our faith in Him and our expectation of what the Lord may do. With our arrival and that of Steve and Hilary – more answers to prayer - there is a growing excitement and anticipation of what the Lord has planned for the CCHC. May I exhort you all to please continue to pray, and especially that we will listen to and obey our Lord. (See book review on page 20 for more on the subject of listening.)

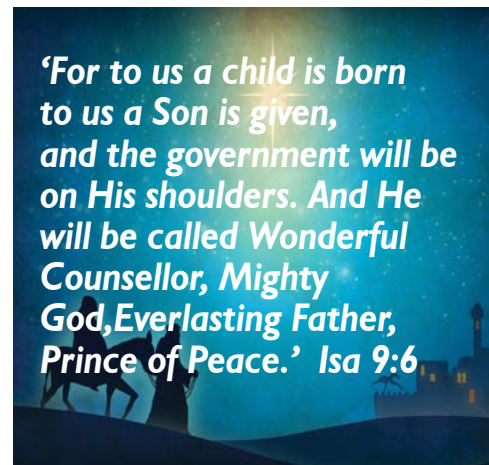
I am reminded of a verse in the Doug Horley song, 'We want to see Jesus lifted high; Step by step we're moving forward, Little by little taking ground, Every prayer a powerful weapon, Strongholds come tumbling down.'

Like Israel's progression into the Promised Land, step by step, one battle after another, so the kingdom of God advances by prayer, perseverance and practical living out our walking in the Spirit every day. Be encouraged, victory is certain. Let us, who want to see Jesus lifted high, hope in him.

I understand the name Crowhurst means 'a secluded place on a wooded hillside'. How often we read in Scripture that our Lord Jesus and many others went up a hillside to meet with God. And how often were those encounters transforming! This is such a place, where people have been transformed by the loving presence of God and then returned to their homes to advance the Kingdom. May this work not only be on-going but on-growing too. Step by step! God is faithful and will do it.

Shine as lights in the world, to the glory of God.

Steve



Healing in the Psalms Weekend 8 - 10 February 2013

If you have never been to one of these Retreats before, I highly recommend it. There are 150 psalms in the Bible, and they have been written by people who have experienced all that life has to offer, good and bad! They weren't afraid to shout and rage at God when they considered life was unfair, but they also praised Him when things were going well. The psalmists were real people who experienced the highs and lows of life on earth. People like ourselves.

Many psalms have been set to music and are a wonderful way to worship and praise God. In Psalm 103:1 it says, 'Praise the Lord, O my Soul. All my inmost being, praise His Holy name.'

Then there is Psalm 139, a really powerful and intimate psalm that says how God knew us before we were even formed. 'My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body.' (vs 15). How incredible to think that God knew us before we were even formed!

I particularly love Psalm 91:4, which talks of God protecting us. 'He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge.' Being a lover of birds, I can particularly relate to this psalm!



The psalms are beautiful books and the Healing in the Psalms weekend is a really good way of informally studying them in a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere, while also enjoying the usual hospitality and care that the Centre offers. Ed.

The George and Margaret Bennett Fund



Many years ago when George Bennett moved from Crowhurst, a fund was set up to assist him in the healing ministry. Later it was used

to support his widow, Margaret. After Margaret died last year the Trustees of that special fund gave the residue to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

The Trustees of the CCHC have decided that a significant proportion of this money should be used to set up the George and Margaret Bennett Fund. This fund will be used for those who need our facilities but could not afford the full fees. The principle is that nobody who needs our services should be denied access on the grounds of cost.

This fund is now available. There are some simple conditions attached to its use, but if you do need some financial assistance then please do not be afraid to ask.

Colin Crook



'A Most Ingenious Paradox'



except ye abide in me.' John 15:4

Gilbert and Sullivan fans will know that 'a most ingenious paradox' is a line from The Pirates of Penzance. A paradox describes those moments when two conflicting facts are both true. For Fredrick in 'Pirates' at the age of 21 years, free of his obligations as an apprentice pirate at last, he discovers that he is only five years old – born on 29th February!

Scripture contains a number of wonderful and much more significant paradoxes, and this Bible passage illustrates how the two truths together build a wonderful picture of our relationship with Jesus. Paradoxically, we are to be hidden inside Christ and Christ is to inhabit us.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5

I think this is one of those occasions when the KJV catches the meaning better than some modern translations, where abide becomes remain.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (NIV)

So the paradox is that we are to 'Abide in Jesus' and simultaneously He is to 'Abide in us'. Let's try and explore the riches of this for our own lives.

'Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye,

What does the idea of abiding conjure up for you? Staying in one place? A place of rest? Our abode is our home, a place where we are safe, protected, secure and nourished. So, abiding in Jesus has a sense of restfulness, protection and the nourishment of meals and close family around us. It's the most wonderful picture of security. It is the place where we are known without any masks and yet...are still loved. Wow!

But let's not lose sight of the other half of the picture that Jesus paints – He is to abide in us.

We are not called to be so hidden in Christ that we are wonderfully peaceful but useless servants. Jesus commands us to be witnesses to Him in the 'world', under the guidance of His indwelling Spirit. It is Christ abiding within that prompts us to love, to witness, to work unceasingly for Him. We are to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus, His listening ear and compassionate heart, bringing the healing, saving love of Christ to places of brokenness.

All this is utterly impossible unless it is the indwelling Jesus at work through us. 'Apart from me you can do nothing.' This song vividly captures the effectiveness of the indwelling Jesus on our life:

Jesus take me as I am, I can come no other way. Take me deeper into you, let my flesh-life melt away. Make me like a precious stone, Crystal clear and finely honed. Love of Jesus shining through, bringing glory back to you.

We need to know the security of being 'hidden in Christ', while simultaneously being provoked by His indwelling Spirit to be a faithful servant for Him, wherever He has placed us.

Look out for other 'both/and' paradoxes in scripture. They are like sculptures of truth to be explored from every angle.

Steve Clark

I live because He lives



Godfrey R. Sneller

Page 11

My family suggested that I should have a holiday so after a bit of soul searching, I decided to go to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in Sussex, where Joan and I had been on several occasions in the past when she was depressed. I know that I needed to get out of our house where there had been so much stress, and be at peace with myself and with God.

He did not disappoint. I went there from Tuesday 31st March until 5th April 2009. I was now able to take stock of my situation and discipline my days in what I did, where I went and what I programmed for the future.

Pages 14 - 15

Since my visit to Crowhurst in April 2009, by letting God minister to me in the dark times, it has developed my faith and given me wisdom and understanding. God sometimes leads us into the darkness to show us that faith is more important than light. Sharing feelings was difficult at first and made me feel exposed, but I took this risk and reaped the benefits of saying how I felt to those I could trust and who would support me. Getting your story out into the open helps you to hear yourself and explore what is happening to you, thereby acknowledging what is going on.

Godfrey R Sneller

WINTER 2012

Thanks to the team

The office regularly receive letters and cards from folk who have benefited from their stay at the Centre. Here are a couple of them.

This is to thank everyone for my lovely stay at The Old Rectory last week. I so appreciated all the hospitality, the delicious meals (a big thank you to the magnificent chefs!), the cakes and frequent cups of tea and coffee; the kindness in giving me blankets instead of a duvet, for keeping my delightful room so clear and nice, and that's before I mention the excellent Training Days, the Quiet Days, the wonderful services and all the fun, laughter and fellowship. So there is a huge amount for which to praise the Lord, and I do!

It was so good to meet the two new Steves and their wives, and to realise how wonderfully God has answered prayer - what a joy!

May the Lord continue to bless each of you at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and all your ministries.

With love and thanks. P

Thank you so much for an amazingly wonderful weekend. This was the second weekend that I have spent at the CCHC and both of them exceeded my expectations. I had come away this time ready to forgive a hurt, and get on with grieving for the person who had caused that hurt. The words of knowledge were very relevant and I will always be grateful for the 'Georgina on horseback!?' that only Jesus could have known about. If ever you want me to come and give my testimony, it will be my privilege. Please thank Andy and Yvonne for their words and prayers.

God bless, Georgina

Georgina sent the Chaplaincy and Ministry Team a very moving poem called 'Tough Love', which beautifully tells her story from anger and pain to healing and wholeness.

A warm welcome to Steve and Veronica Gendall, and Steve and Hilary Clark



On Thursday 18th October, on the Feast of St Luke, we officially welcomed our new Senior and Deputy Chaplains, Steve Gendall and Steve Clark, together with their wives, Veronica and Hilary.

Colin opened the packed healing service by extending a warm welcome to both couples. Also present was the Chairman of the Crowhurst Parish Council, Councillor Chas Pierce, and staff from other retreat houses who had come to give their support. It was good to see former Warden Ray Jones and his wife, Maureen. (Ray was Warden from 1989 -1997.)

The Revd Michael Fulljames (pictured right) brought us God's word, reading from the Gospel of Luke 10:1-9. Part of this reading says, 'whenever you



enter a place and its people **welcome** you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God has come near you.'

Michael said that this was a very apt reading for today's healing service, during which the two Steves and their wives were being officially welcomed.

During his address, he said what a great word 'Welcome' is. It was interesting when he broke it down into two syllables - 'Wel-come', which then interprets to ask 'Have you come well? Often people don't come well to the Centre; and that is why they come - to be made well. He said that during each of his visits, he had always been made to feel welcome, as was his father back in the fifties.

He added that many of us may not be feeling well today and may have had a difficult journey. Some may have travelled it in pain; perhaps every bump in the road was agony, or their minds were wracked with the wounds of worry. He welcomed us all, with a prayer that we would each receive a blessing from our visit.

Michael explained that although people may come to the CCHC with illnesses, worries or fears, they also bring something valuable with



them, and this can often result in those who minister to them receiving a blessing in return.

From my experience, 'Michael said, 'people bring blessing to us (ministers). They come with mutual strength, comfort and faith.'

He recalled how 50 years ago he had been blessed when visiting a sick parishioner who had been grateful for his ministry and although it wasn't an easy visit, it later occurred to him that the person he had gone to visit, had in turn ministered to him by caring and strengthening him in a very challenging moment. As God's family, we need each other, and we help each other, regardless of our situation or circumstances. To sum up he said:

'Wholeness is a perfection of relationships, such that to be me, I must be me in such a way that I help you to be the you that you are meant to be.'

Following Michael's address, Colin anointed the two Steves and their wives.



As he prepared to anoint the couples, he stressed that this was a corporate welcome.

He said that all of us have brought a blessing here today, in readiness to receive from God.

Before the anointing Colin asked the couples:

'Will you promise to be faithful to our Lord's calling to preach the gospel and heal the sick in His name?' To which they replied, 'By the grace of God we will.'

He then asked us in the congregation *'People of God, will you promise to support these people and pray for them regularly?' To which we replied, 'By the grace of God we will.'*

After anointing them, the ministry team laid hands on the two couples. It was a very special and moving moment in the service.

Following the anointing, Colin paid tribute to all the staff for their hard work during the four month interregnum and Penny Button, our Associate Chaplain, was presented with a gift in recognition and appreciation of how well she had held everything together during the interregnum.

Penny then led us in prayer, and the healing service continued with Holy Communion and the Laying on of Hands.



A warm welcome continued

Our final hymn 'Jesus put this song into our hearts' was heartily sung and beautifully danced to by one of our regular visitors, Natalie (pictured right). All the verses were apt for the service but particularly the third one:

Jesus taught us how to be a family, Jesus taught us how to be a family. Loving one another with the love that He gives; Jesus taught us how to be a family.

It was a wonderful service of welcome, healing and thanksgiving and there was great anticipation for what the two Steves and their wives are going to bring to the CCHC.

After the service, fellowship was shared in the lounge over coffee and biscuits. This was followed by a delicious buffet lunch, beautifully prepared by our cooks and served by our housekeeping team to invited guests and those staying in the house.



We were all more than ready for the buffet lunch, which was beautifully prepared and presented.



Colin Crook chatting with former Warden, Ray Jones and his wife, Maureen



Steve Clark enjoying the very tasty home made profiteroles.



Prayer Requests for WINTER 2012
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Winter 2012

PRAYER FOCUS

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

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; ... sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts" Psalm 105:1 & 2

PRAYER

- We give thanks and praise that Steve Gendall, our new Senior Chaplain, and his wife, Veronica, have settled happily into the cottage. Pray that the Lord will strengthen and guide them as they get used to the day to day life at the Centre. Give thanks that Veronica has been led to join the ministry team.
 - We give thanks and praise that Steve Clark, our new Deputy Chaplain and his wife, Hilary, arrived safely from their parish in Ireland, and are now settling into the bungalow. May the Lord strengthen and guide them as they become part of the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre.
 - We give grateful thanks as we say farewell to Hazel, a member of the ministry team. Her husband retired at the end of November and they are moving away from the area. May the Lord bless and watch over them in their new home.
- "For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations"* Psalm 100:5

December Prayer Focus

"For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

DECEMBER

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1 | Creative Writing Day
Led by Tracy Williamson |
| 7 - 9 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 11 - 14 | Advent Retreat |
| 12 | Guided Quiet Day
Open to all |
| 20 | <i>Last Healing Service of 2012</i> |
| 22 - 29 | House closed to guests |
| 30 - 3 Jan | New Year Retreat |

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." John 1:14

January Prayer Focus

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

JANUARY

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2 | Editorial Board Meeting |
| 3 | <i>First Healing Service of 2013</i> |
| 18 - 20 | Ordination Retreat
House closed to guests |

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

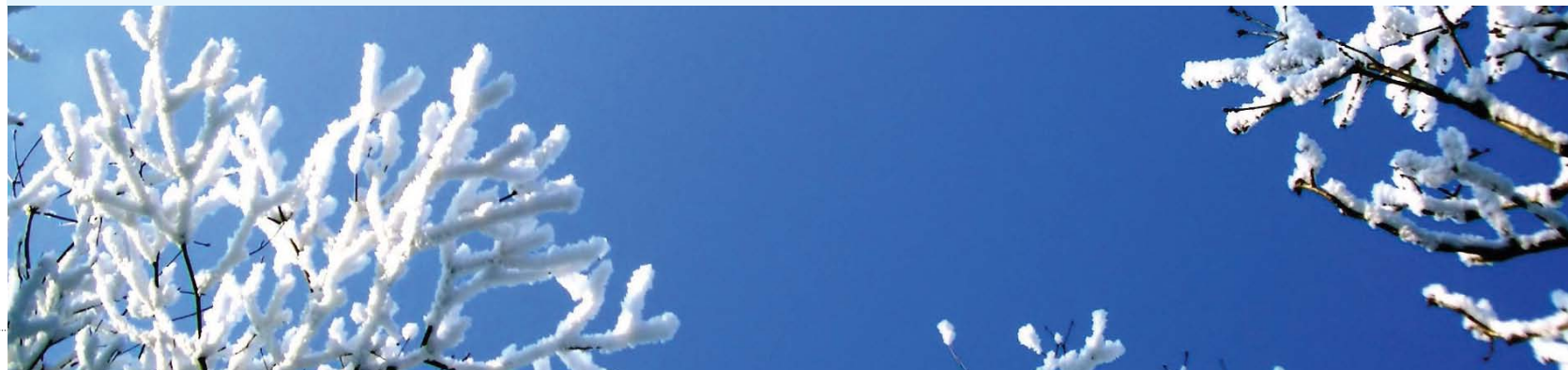
February Prayer Focus

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Ephesians 6:18

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1 - 3 | Healing Retreat Weekend |
| 8 - 10 | Healing in the Psalms |
| 15 - 17 | Prayer Partners Retreat |
| 20 | Guided Quiet Day
Led by Colin Crook |
| 23 | Teaching Day -
Being assertive like Jesus. |

"I will listen to what the Lord will say." Psalm 85:8



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS:

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."
Hebrews 10: 23

PRAYER FOR THE TRUSTEES

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

- We give thanks that the interregnum is over. We give our heartfelt thanks to Penny, our Associate Chaplain, for her sterling work during that time. Well done good and faithful servant.
- We give thanks that with the arrival of Steve Gendall and Steve Clark, we now have a new team in place at the Centre. God's timing is always perfect. Praise His holy name.
- We give thanks for the Lord's provision for all our needs; for the recent legacies and the continued generosity of those who regularly support our ministry. Without these gifts, the recent appointments would not have been possible.
- We were delighted to see Peter and Kay McIntosh at one of the Thursday healing services. Peter has been having treatment for cancer in two parts of his body. He brought us the good news that his latest scan showed no trace of the cancer. The Lord has answered our prayers and Peter has been healed. Hallelujah!
- Please continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim. Charles has been in hospital recently but has now been discharged. Pray that the Lord's healing hands will be upon him and that both Charles and Prim will know the Lord's abiding presence.

"Your ways, O God, are holy; what God is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles." Psalm 77:13 & 14

Prayer for staff at The Centre

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

SENIOR CHAPLAIN: Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN: Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN: Penny

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

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR: Chris

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Jayne

HOUSE MANAGER: Heidi

MAINTENANCE MANAGER: Geof

OFFICE STAFF: Esther, Gillian, Juliette

HOUSE STAFF: Clare, Chrissy, Justine, Sarah, Steve, Zanetta,

COOKS: Diane and David

GARDENER: Desmond

PIANISTS: Pippa and Stephen

FLAUTIST: Vivien

VOLUNTEERS: Christine, Cliff, Evelyn, Jenny, Mavis, Rosemary, Shirley, Yvonne

MAGAZINE EDITOR: Mary

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31

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WHY ME? - Peter McIntosh

"You've got significant prostate cancer and dangerous bladder cancer!"



As some of you know, these were the words given to me by an oncologist last year following a series of tests I had undergone. The good news was I did not feel the need to say "Why me?" I knew we did not live in a perfect

world, and accident, harm and disease can befall anyone. Illness is not a punishment. Cancer is a fact of life and it might just as well have been me as anyone else. "What happens now?" I asked. "Chemotherapy and radiotherapy", was the reply. ('And a lot of prayer,' I thought to myself!).

The prescribed treatment took seven months but during that time friends, groups and churches, including many at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, were praying for us, for which we were more than grateful. Indeed we asked for it and soon became aware of its healing effect. My lifelong and absolute fear of needles and injections completely disappeared. I learned to stop being proudly self sufficient so that when people kindly asked if they could do anything, from driving to grass cutting, I was able to say "yes"! There was a peace surrounding the treatment, even in the hard days of chemo. When grumpiness and frustration arose it never had the last word and the resentful and anxious "Why me?" never surfaced.

Never has belonging to the Body of Christ felt such a privilege and support. Always there was someone there. My circumstances were used to compile a short film for use by Macmillan Nurses to demonstrate the importance of home and community care for people with cancer.

I found a fresh desire and longing to receive Communion at every opportunity. I had always taught and preached that the Eucharist was a healing sacrament and now I sensed it for myself. I could not get enough of "Jesus Chemo" as someone once called it. Anointing, prayer with laying on hands, healing services at the CCHC and elsewhere, all became even more significant and sought after on a regular basis as much as any medical treatment.

Eventually the time came when the treatment was completed. By then the prostate cancer was under control; however I was still required to go for an internal investigation of the bladder. The oncologist had spoken about the possibility of major surgery and only a 50% chance of success with the treatment.

I was admitted; they anaesthetised me, went inside, and found nothing! The cancer had gone!

"Why me?" when others don't have such good result? The answers are the same as "why me?" when something bad happens to us.

We don't live in a perfect world, but neither do we live in a world without Christ's miracle, presence and hope. Medical expertise or prayer? I like to think both are needed for healing and wholeness.

Thank you for your care and thanks be to God in Jesus' name.

Peter McIntosh (former Senior Chaplain from 2004 - 2009).

Prayer and Painting Weeks



Prayer and Painting weeks are very popular. We hold four a year, so if you haven't been to one before, do give it a try. Maggie, our resident artist, can bring out creativity in anyone, even if you don't consider yourself to be creative. Her gentle and patient demeanour, together with the quiet atmosphere of the art room, from which can be seen beautiful views to help inspire you, all combine to bring out the artist in everyone! Sheila Powell writes:

I shared the following at our Healing Service last Sunday. I had not talked about it before but had such a positive response from people, so thought that it may help others. And it just shows the value of the art room at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, and Maggie's ministry there.

"Once a man had a beautiful clock made by a master clockmaker in Switzerland. It kept perfect time, was beautiful to look at and when it chimed the hours, the sound was like music. It began to lose time and after a while stopped altogether. He could not get it going again so he packed it up carefully and took it back to the clockmaker who discovered what was wrong, and lovingly repaired it.

The one who had created it knew the best way to mend it. So it is with God; He is the one who heals us through many different ways – one of these being, I believe, the arts.

On your service sheet is a picture, one I painted in January whilst staying at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for a weekend Healing Retreat. One of our daughters, Cathie, had recently separated from her husband of 18 years. They'd had what seemed to us a very strong relationship, and we had spent many happy holidays with them and our grandchildren in New Zealand, where they live. We had shared with them in difficult times as well as good and the news had come as a great shock to us. I felt so confused, angry, hurt and out of control of the situation.

During the weekend, because I love drawing and painting, I was drawn to the art room and enjoyed the gentle guidance of Maggie, the resident artist. I expressed my feelings in paint on a clean white sheet of paper.

Psalm 31 had been the subject of Morning Prayer and the words just jumped out at me. I felt they were just for me. "Be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, ... Into your hands I commit my spirit.... I am in distress... I have become like broken pottery.

The psalm ends on a positive note. "You heard me when I called for help, be strong, take heart all you who hope in the Lord". I too felt like a broken pot and needed the Divine Potter to put the shattered fragments back together again.



During that day, lost in my painting, I regained my peace, repented of my desire to be in control, realised that God could see the bigger picture, and healing began. Although not yet finished, it's like with a tapestry; on the back it looks a mess with loose ends and it is only when the tapestry is finally turned over, do you see the complete, beautiful picture.

So maybe we are a mess, but we are a mess that is accepted and loved with the hope of being sorted out. Each one of us has been given different talents, some of which we don't realise until pointed out to us by others or until we have a go, but I believe we can all find healing in the arts and creativity. "

Sheila Powell



View from the art room

And Maggie writes:

At the end of the last Prayer and painting Week in September, Steve Gendall, our new Senior Chaplain, and I created a 'masterpiece' in the Chapel during the Sunday Morning Worship. As people voiced their own ideas of something that symbolised our wonderful God, Steve and I drew the various pictures on a large sheet of paper, creating a visual explosion! This was inspired by the passage in Ezekiel, Chapter 10, which describes an amazing vision of God. It was a brilliant way to finish our week of prayer and painting, and showed us that art can be both fun and prayerful.

Unfortunately I don't have a picture of this particular work of art but perhaps readers can share what would symbolise God for them? If you feel inspired to draw or paint something, take a photo of it and send it to the office, so that I can include it in the spring magazine? Ed.

A day in the life ... Diane, our Cook and Rosemary, our Volunteer Bookstall Organiser

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

Diane - Cook

1. Oh golly, since August 2000!
2. Menu planning - food preparation and cooking. The ordering of stock and stock rotation. Cleaning and supervision of the team.
3. Hearing that guests enjoy the food provided; we try to accommodate as many diets as possible. Working in a team gives me satisfaction also.
4. When I make silly mistakes, I once put cumin in the apple crumble instead of cinnamon!
5. I would like people to know that the CCHC is a very peaceful place.
6. The Centre is a very special place to be. I look forward to coming into work as it's a really nice, pleasant environment and I have job satisfaction.



Rosemary - Volunteer Bookstall Organiser

1. Nearly four years.
2. Ordering books, Bibles and CD's, unpacking them and arranging them on the shelves. Also, if I am needed, I help at coffee time after the Thursday Healing Service. In addition, I am a Crowhurst Rep and a Prayer Partner.
3. Unpacking an order and managing to find room for everything that has come. I enjoy a challenge!
4. Hearing people say how much they appreciate the variety of books we have on sale, when they do not know that I run the bookstall!
5. The Centre is a safe place, somewhere to relax and be yourself, knowing that God loves you unconditionally, whoever you are. From the moment you arrive you are enveloped in God's love.
6. I thank God daily for the privilege of being able to serve Him in such a special place.



A Day in the Life of A guest

After another blessed stay at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, the Day in the Life series has prompted me to write about a day at the Centre from a guest's viewpoint. What can you expect when you come here? What's the accommodation like? And the food? Well, read on!

Most of the rooms are en-suite, and have views over the beautiful grounds. There are two downstairs rooms suitable for people with disabilities and in good weather the outside doors provide easy access to the patio. There also six downstairs rooms in the wing (two of which are ensuite) and all have doors that open out onto the grounds. In the cooler seasons, these rooms are greatly warmed by the sun so are lovely to sit in, even on a cold winter's day.

All rooms are serviced daily by the housekeeping team and nothing is too much trouble should you need anything extra.

Your day begins with **the** most delicious and varied buffet breakfast, beautifully laid out by the kitchen team. With several different cereals to choose from, fresh fruit, yoghurt, warm rolls or toast, and an array of seeds and nuts, the breakfast is as good as a five star hotel's!

In fact the food is first class, with so much variety. All diets are catered for and the meals are imaginative, plentiful and varied. And the puddings? Simply delicious!



The grounds serve the dual purpose of being lovely to look at and also ideal for walking off the food! There are local woods to explore if you like a bit of a ramble, and if you are a bird lover, you will spot Green and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Treecreepers and Mistle Thrushes to name but a few, and this summer there was even a sighting overhead of thirty Red Kites. If you come in the spring, you will be able to watch the activity around the various nest boxes. (Great views from the lounge - binoculars available.)

There are a wide variety of jigsaw puzzles and board games. Scrabble is particularly popular and often very competitive!

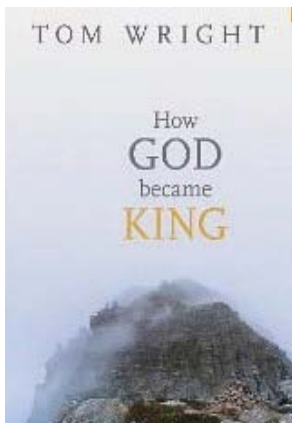


This is just a very brief account of a day spent at the CCHC. Themed retreats follow a planned programme but if you are just here to 'be', then you are free to do your own thing, perhaps walking, resting, reading, whatever feels right for you. Whether you are on a course or not, there are daily services and a twice weekly Healing Service, at which you can receive the laying on of hands.

This place is really special and unique in what it offers. Come and be fed, physically and spiritually, and allow the Lord to meet you at your point of need. From my own experience and from everyone I have spoken to, no one ever leaves the Centre without feeling refreshed, renewed, re-energised and changed in some way. Physical healing may not always take place, but inner healing most definitely does!

Book Reviews

"How God became King –
Getting to the heart of the Gospels"
by Tom Wright. SPCK, 2012
ISBN 978 0 281 06146 4



In his latest book Tom Wright starts with a radical assertion – "We have all forgotten what the four Gospels are all about". He maintains that when we read the gospels we are influenced by what we have read or heard about them.

We start with preconceptions. In short, the author wants us to read the gospels as they were originally intended.

The author describes the gospels as an 'empty cloak' – and by this he means that the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus are there, but where is the real Jesus between these momentous events? Even our creeds jump from birth to death and resurrection. A major part of the book examines the Jesus portrayed by theologians down through the centuries, and then poses the question – is this the real Jesus or should we be looking for someone completely different? Tom Wright's argument is that the image given by historians and theologians is often inadequate.

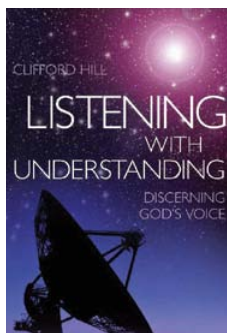
In eleven chapters he challenges and encourages us to view the Gospel afresh. There are many good and relevant examples to illustrate the theme of the book. For example he likens the historic approach to the four gospels with a hi-fi geek who installs a four speaker stereo system in his house, but who has no idea of how to adjust the volume on the four speakers to produce a harmonious sound!

Tom Wright has that rare gift of an academic who can explain things in simple terms, and in "*How God became King*" he has produced an immensely practical book of theology. If, like me, you love your Bible and are a seeker after the truth, then I guarantee that if you read – "*How God became King*" – you will never study your Bible in quite the same way again.

Colin Crook

Listening with
Understanding,
Discerning God's voice
by Clifford Hill,
ISBN 978-1852406240

Publisher: Sovereign
World 2011



Standing looking at the bookstall in the Centre one day, the word 'Listening' jumped out at me. Not literally but you know what I mean! The need to listen to God's voice is uppermost in my mind, as it is the Trustees and all those interested in the direction God may be leading the CCHC.

So I picked up '*Listening with Understanding*' and was encouraged for three reasons. It is written by Clifford Hill who is a man with a national and internationally recognised prophetic ministry. Dr Hill has decades of experience as Pastor and Prophet and has written over 40 books.

The second thing that attracted me to the book was that it was short and at first glance easy to read. We all struggle with so many demands on our time and when a book comes along with a subject on which you think that surely nothing more can be said,

you don't want to have to struggle with it. You won't with this.

Thirdly, it's less than £6.00!

With simple everyday illustrations, loads of Biblical application and four questions at the end of each chapter (so it could be used for a study group), you can't fail to learn from this book.

The beauty of its simplicity is that it helps us be honest with ourselves and our own relationship with God. There is only so much that can be taught about listening to God, and much of this book a good many Christians will know. Most followers of Jesus want to know something about, '*how to listen to His voice*'. However, because we are a stubborn and rebellious people, not unlike the Israelites, few of us master the art of listening, not to mention obeying. This book encourages practical application.

For a useful reminder of well-known truths, and some new lessons to learn, I recommend this small, easy to read book whose subject matter is much more important than we are prepared to admit.

If you would like to read a deeper and more comprehensive book on the subject, see Joyce Huggett's book, '*Listening to God*' (also on our shelves) which is described as a 'spiritual classic'. I will review this book in the next magazine.

Steve Gendall

10,000 Reasons
by Matt Redman

Matt Redman is a Christian worship leader, songwriter and author based in Brighton, East Sussex. Many of you will be familiar with his songs, '*The Heart of Worship*' and '*Blessed be your Name*', to name a couple.



At the Healing Service on 18th October, when we welcomed the two Steves, we sang Matt's song, *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*.

Singing this at the Centre prompted me to do a review of the album *10,000 Reasons*, from which the song comes. Listening to this CD, which was recorded live, is a real worshipful experience.

Like many of us, Matt has had his fair share of trials and the track "*Where would we be?*", you can't help but think back over dark periods in your own life, and wonder how would you have got through these difficult times without God's help?

'Where we be without your love? We'd still be lost in darkness. Where would we be without your cross? You made a way to save us.

This is one of those CD's that you will want to play over and over again; you will never get bored with it because it is full of praise and worship and when you listen to it, you can't not join in with the singing. This CD always lifts my mood even when I am feeling low, and it's a good one for long car journeys!

It is on the shelves at the Centre.





The grounds have been their usual picture of beauty throughout the year, with an abundance of different flowers and shrubs, bringing a variety of colour.

As we move into the winter season, the hard work from our gardeners will continue. Unfortunately I wasn't able to touch base with Desmond for this issue, so I am going to have to 'ad lib' a bit and assume that much of the work will be the same as previous winters!

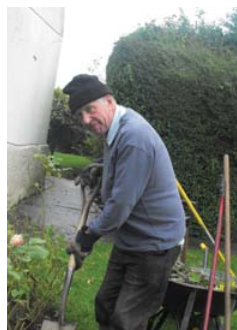
I know that there will be the usual strimming and tidying up in the grounds, plus hedge trimming and chopping back of invasive brambles. Preparation will also soon be underway for the planting up spring bulbs that bring such glorious colour to the Centre.



This cheeky little chappie will be busy digging up the nuts that he has hidden during the autumn, if he remembers where he put them!

CLIFF'S BIT

Autumn for Desmond and I means only one thing - Au de Bonfire! In other words, leaf clearing. We do have areas within the grounds for leaf mould, but with so many this is the easiest means of disposal.



During the summer, on learning that we had new occupants of both the cottage and the bungalow, my main task has been to tidy up both gardens as they had become a bit neglected, with weeds and brambles starting to take over. This is a job I enjoy doing, so it was a pleasure to get it ready for both the Steves and their families as they moved into their new homes.

Greens and browns may be the main colours within the grounds, but next year's colour schemes are already in the planning stage, ready for all our visitors.

Blessings, Cliff



December

- 1 Dec Creative Writing Day
Led by Tracy Williamson
- 7 - 9 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 11 - 14 Advent Retreat
- 12 Guided Quiet Day
Open to all
- 20 **Last Healing Service of 2012**
- 22 - 29 House closed to guests
- 30 - 3 Jan New Year Retreat

January

- 3 **First Healing Service of 2013**
- 18 - 20 Ordination Retreat
House closed to guests

February

- 1 - 3 Healing Retreat Weekend
- 8 - 10 Healing in the Psalms
- 15 - 17 Prayer Partners Retreat
- 20 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Colin Crook
- 23 Teaching Day
Being assertive like Jesus

Mid-week Advent Retreat

Tuesday 11 - Friday 14 December (£230)

Come away, relax and reflect on the Christmas story and its healing power for today. This is an opportunity to have quality space to rest, unwind and think about the true meaning of Christmas before the festivities begin in earnest! It is a led retreat that offers daily worship, reflection and prayer on the Christian theme of Advent.

Sunday 30 December to

Thursday 3 January:

New Year Retreat £340)

(Always very popular - there are some spaces still left at time of print)

A mixture of personal reflection and joyful celebration as we move from the past to the future in worship, prayer and rejoicing together.

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2013

During January, we are offering the chance for every paying guest to bring a friend for free!

And during February, we are offering one free night for every two nights booked, so if you can't manage to come in January, do take advantage of February's offer.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Easter Retreat

28 - 31 March 2013 (£235)

This is always a very popular retreat and many folk come each year. If you have never been before, do give it a try. It is a perfect way to spend Easter, from sharing Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, accompanying Him on His gruelling journey to the cross, and rejoicing at His triumphant resurrection.



How to contact us

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Email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

The office is open from 9am - 6pm
Monday to Friday and 9am - 5pm Saturday
For a brochure, programme or further
information please contact the Secretary

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in His
Healing steps