

# in His healing **STEPS**

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# Editorial

Thanksgiving Day  
Saturday 16th July 2011



How time flies! It feels like I have only just finished the spring magazine and here I am now preparing the summer issue! It is only late April, and we have been basking in

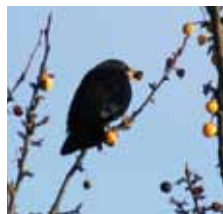
unseasonable, though very welcome, glorious summer weather.

After the gloomy and very long winter that we had, the lovely warm weather is a real tonic. Bird song is vibrant and varied and our feathered friends are busy nesting and raising their families. God's creation is hard at work!

I have just come back from the Easter Retreat, which is always a very moving and memorable experience. Read more on pages 18, 19 and 20.

As I sit in my room writing this editorial, it is an extremely hot day. Flowers are blossoming all over the place and the bluebells in particular are an absolute joy to behold. Nearby Brakes Coppice Wood and the RSPB Bird Reserve (Forewood - just down the road from the Centre) are covered in a carpet of bluebells. It is an amazing sight. God's creation at its most vibrant! These places are always worth a visit when you visit Crowhurst. The bird song in Forewood is beautiful. When walking there today, I heard several varieties of birds singing.

The bird song is also plentiful in the grounds of The Old Rectory; the beautiful song of the blackbird has been with us constantly for the last few days.



## Windows onto Healing and Wholeness Conference - 4th to 7th April

The house was full for the Conference and many people attended as day visitors. There has been very positive feedback from those who took part. Read more on pages 16 & 17.

## Miracle at Crowhurst - Reprinted

In 1970 George Bennett wrote a book called Miracle at Crowhurst. It was on sale at the Centre for a number of years but eventually went out of print. Those of you who have read it will have been amazed at God's provision for The Old Rectory over the years, if but if you haven't seen it before, you will be able to purchase it from June onwards.

Kath's letter on page 4 is full of thanks, as are the various testimonies throughout this issue! There is so much to be grateful for and in July, we will be holding our annual Thanksgiving Day, in which we openly and publicly give thanks to our Lord for all His provision at the Centre over the past year. Do come along on 16th July and join in with us as we praise and glorify our gracious and generous God, and thank Him for His many blessings.



Our yearly celebration of the life, work and ministry of the Centre will take place on Saturday 16th July. Come and join us, and share fellowship with friends old and new. A marquee will be in place for the day.

The programme will be as follows:

## 11.00 am: Thanksgiving Communion.

Guest speaker will be Rev'd Russ Parker, Director of the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation.

The service will be followed by a picnic lunch in the grounds. Please bring your own packed lunch; drinks will be provided.

## 2 pm: Afternoon talk by Russ: Finding Home, the journey we must all take.

For those able to stay for the whole day, there will be an opportunity after Russ' talk to enjoy the beauty of His creation, through photography, music and verse. This will be followed by tea and cakes, which will conclude the day.

Make a note in your diaries and come along to this wonderful celebration. Perhaps some of you might like to book in for a few days either side of the day so that you can really relax and enjoy a complete rest.

I wish you all a happy and warm summer. With every blessing,

Mary Slater





# Our Senior Chaplain Writes...



*Dear friends,*

As you read this magazine Thanksgiving Day will soon be here; and what a lot we have to be thankful to God for in this place. It has been a year of

blessing as new people have come to the Centre and experienced the healing touch of our Lord on their lives; also as God has continued to provide for us in so many ways through the prayerful support and generous giving of His people.

The chaplaincy team is still awaiting the appointment of a full time chaplain, or better still, chaplains, but we are confident that God will provide the right people in His time for His purposes to be fulfilled. We hold on to the promise He has given us during our prayer vigils - the promise in Jeremiah 29, "I know the plans I have for you, plans for your welfare ... plans to give you a future with hope". And we also hold on to His word that He has a person for this place. In the meantime we are greatly blessed with our ministry team, visiting chaplains and with those who come to lead retreats and quiet days. In addition to these blessings we are looking forward to an

Associate Chaplain joining us in the autumn for a couple of days a week. Thanks be to God.

Another blessing we give thanks for is the generosity of one of our supporters who found great comfort and strength in his time of need through coming to the Centre many years ago. George Bennett's book 'Miracle at Crowhurst' was instrumental in bringing him here. He wants other people to find similar encouragement through reading the book and he is funding its re-print. It should be on sale by early June.

Rev. George Bennett was one of the key people in the life of this Centre; it is good to look back at his time here and see how the ministry we exercise in this place and the ethos of the Centre has remained much the same. This was confirmed when George's son, Noel, and grandson, David, came recently to a Thursday morning healing service. After showing them around Noel stood in the dining room and said that nothing much had changed. Now a lot has changed through the refurbishment that has taken place over the past five or six years and in the way the place is staffed, but he experienced the power of the Lord's presence here and an atmosphere of healing and peace - just as it was in his father's time. So Noel was right when he said - "nothing has changed"!

One key element of change over the past few years is that guests can come to stay at any time for short or longer stays. We do provide teaching days and retreats, prayer and painting weeks and creative days but guests do not have to participate in these; they can simply come to relax, worship and receive ministry in this beautiful God-given haven of peace.

All of us who work here long for more people to discover this Healing Centre, and we need you to encourage others to come. Those of you who know about the place and have been here are our best ambassadors. We used to have a group called Area Representatives, who were advocates for the Centre, but numbers have diminished greatly, so the time has come to make a new beginning. We are seeking to gather together a group of people willing to be active in advocating this Centre. If you would be interested in becoming part of that group please give the office a call and let them know. During Jesus' ministry many were drawn to Him through the encouragement of others - we need encouragers!

So, we give thanks for all that our gracious Lord has provided for us and for all that is yet to come because He is Lord and He is faithful to His promises.

*Kath*

## Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Representatives Retreat

This was a wonderful time of coming apart to pray, to listen to God speaking to us and to seek guidance for the future. We were 19 in number, ably led by Shirley, the Prayer Partners Co-ordinator.

God ministered to us through beautiful Communion services, through the vibrant preaching of His word by the Senior Chaplain, Rev. Kath Batte, and by our fellowship together.

On the sunny Saturday, many Prayer Partners walked through the lovely grounds during the afternoon, thinking about what the Holy Spirit was saying and how we should pray for the needs of the Centre.

When we met for feedback, there were lots of positive Scriptures mentioned. To quote a few:

Philippians 1:6; Philippians 4:4-8; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 55:11 and Ephesians 5:2. In addition there were many positive views expressed and we left the session uplifted and ready to resume our role as Prayer Warriors, knowing that God was in control and had everything in hand.

On the Sunday morning, we were anointed for our Commission at the moving Communion service led by Kath.

A weekend of recharging our batteries in the peaceful, prayerful atmosphere always provided at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

*Margaret and Barbara Waller*

**The next Prayer Partners and Crowhurst Reps Retreat will be held on 24th to 28th October.**

# WELCOME AND FAREWELL

## God's SHAPE for me



### Welcome to Sharon

Sharon has recently joined the house team. She lives very close to the Centre, so is able to walk to work.

Sharon has a large family, which include a menagerie of animals; three dogs, ten cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and a parrot!

She is really happy to be working at Crowhurst and we wish her every blessing and happiness in her work here.



Sharon will be helping to keep the bedrooms in the house and wing clean, tidy and welcoming. The above photo shows the view guests have when staying in the wing; every room (two of which are en-suite) has a door which opens out onto the patio. The surrounding trees are home to many birds, who seem to sing all day long! It is peaceful, very pretty, and a great aid to the refreshment and rest that Crowhurst offers!

### Farewell from Chrissy

Chrissy was a member of the house team for a couple of years and left us in February.

One of her gifts was to put her feelings into word or song. Here is one of her little ditties.

I knew of the village of Crowhurst but only vaguely of The Old Rectory. Then I saw a job advertised and felt that God was talking to me.

I got the job on the house team; I made beds, washed up and more, but I always liked the dining room best, for chatting with guests is no chore!

Now I'm off to do something different; I'm hoping to enrich the lives of people who need to be cared for, to lift their hearts and engage their minds.

God's plans aren't always easy to follow; I'm sad to leave, but excited to start. Crowhurst and of all of its people will always hold a place in my heart.

*Chrissy*



### God's SHAPE For me – 18th -20th March Led by Angela Seaton-Mills

The house was full for the SHAPE weekend, which was about discovering who God has made us to be and what He has called us to do.

#### SHAPE stands for:

S - Spiritual Gifts  
H - Heartbeat (passion)  
A - Abilities  
P - Personality  
E - Experience of life



I came to the 'SHAPE' weekend, looking forward to learning more about God's SHAPE for me. We filled in questionnaires about our Personalities and Experiences, Abilities and Spiritual Gifts, and our Heartbeat or Passion.

I was encouraged as I realised that my Abilities and Spiritual Gifts corresponded, and fitted in with my Heartbeat.

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

Praise His name!  
*Margaret Barham*

Both Rick and I would like to thank you so much for such a wonderful experience. We continually live it when speaking to others and recommend Crowhurst to them. It is such a peaceful place, so friendly and not at all as daunting as we had thought. The Centre is such a blessing and a very spiritually fulfilling place. Our rector, who has been a few times, recommended it to us, and what a recommendation! Such a beautiful place, in and out. To be so well looked after and well fed, in more ways than one; the food was great. Thank you to all the staff, who were so helpful.

We were really grateful to having a quiet start to our stay before being joined by some lovely folk who were on the same course as us, 'God's SHAPE for me', which was brilliant; such an eye opener and it was great to share the things about what we learnt of ourselves.

All the services were fulfilling and inspiring, so moving. At one time everyone ended up in tears; no shame in that as we are sure it was the love of God shining through in that place.

We came as broken but were repaired by the time we left.

Thank you to so many people but especially to Kath for her love and care for us and everyone. You are a shining light of Jesus our Saviour.

May God bless you all.  
*Rick and Brenda Palmer*



# CROWHURST: *A Place to be Yourself*

In my early twenties I had to take part in an exercise as part of a job application, and in answer to the question 'What do you aim to achieve from your life?' I answered that I would like to make this world a slightly better place through my having been here.

Even though I had been brought up in a Christian family, I wasn't a Christian then, but now that I am, I see my aspiration more along the lines of wanting to help people to discover for themselves what I've discovered – that God is real, does exist, and that He made me – little insignificant me. And He loves me, cares about and for me - I am His child.

I am writing this having just completed my third short visit to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. As before, I had come with a whole basket full of my problems, crying to Him for leadership and guidance, understanding and His forgiveness for the times I have messed up.

Crowhurst is a wonderful place; a place of beauty and of peace. On a practical note it is comfortable, inviting, and hospitable. And it works! It is not in any way stuffy or remote – rather it is kindly and warm, and with a spirit of peace throughout, the peace that only comes from God.

As with many people, I often feel that in my life I've had more than my fair share of problems, difficulties, trials and upsets. But throughout I can see God's hand guiding me and supporting me – sometimes quietly and at other times spectacularly, but always His 'small quiet voice' is there to guide and sustain me.

Crowhurst has helped me greatly.

Come.....Come where God is active and real; Come and experience God's love and power in this beautiful place.



Roger

## THE GOD WHO HEALS: YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER THE SAME.

Last autumn I came with some friends from my church to a Thursday morning Healing Service.

The wonderful peace of God was very present with us. My son, who has special needs, was going through a particularly lengthy spell of mental anxiety, which had gone on for weeks.

During the time of healing, I went to the front and asked for prayer for him. One of the Ministry team prayed for him and I believed that he would come through this time and find peace eventually.

In the evening however he rang me and was perfectly calm – like that of a mill pond. I was shocked! God took me by surprise and brought him His peace straight away. I am so grateful for His touch on Christopher's life.

One of the ladies who came with me went up for the pain in her right hand, due to arthritis, I have just seen her this morning and the pain is still gone. Praise God!

*Revd Marion Trask*



Our twice weekly healing services, which provide the opportunity to receive prayer with the laying on of hands, are held on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Thursday mornings at 10.15am with Holy Communion.

You are most welcome to stay for lunch on Thursdays; it is always advisable to pre-book though. Just give the office a ring.

## THE STATUE

"A quiet day will do us good Linda said.

With four dogs, two cats, a pony, a husband, a home and a church to look after a quiet day in my life is a rarity!

"A quiet day of reflection and meditation will do us good," Linda said.

Keeping quiet for a whole day with Jesus on the menu would be for me a real test. I need to talk to others about Him; ask others how they feel. Did they love Him as much as me? What did they think about the Sermon on the Mount? The Miracles that He performed? and why, oh why, did He have to die so young?

I needed answers to a thousand questions so keeping quiet for a whole day seemed impossible!

"A quiet day with reflection, meditation and prayers will do us good", Linda said.

She had persuaded me and we set off for the Crowhurst Healing centre, near Battle to enjoy a quiet day of prayer and reflection.

A warm welcome awaited us in this beautiful Old Rectory, set in lovely grounds with amazing views over the surrounding countryside.

The room where we had our coffee was filled with cosy armchairs and sofas overlooking the grounds and there was a selection of books, postcards and other gifts for sale. It had an air of peace about it and although I had doubts about a quiet day, it didn't seem so out of reach.

The day was set out for us. Worship to start followed by a brief talk about darkness, then the day was ours until the next talk about dawn. Then it was time for a silent lunch. No

talking about Jesus then!

After lunch another short talk on daylight, followed by free time and to finish, worship with the Eucharist.

There was an art room and a library to enjoy and we were free to walk in the grounds.

As we entered the large chapel it was then that I saw it. A statue of the Healing Christ. I couldn't take my eyes away. It was so beautiful in it's simplicity. I knew in an instant that this was the reason why I was here today. There was no need for talking. All the answers to a thousand questions were here in the statue of the Christ. I wanted to touch it but did not in case it was not allowed, but my eyes and heart were mesmerised by the sheer presence felt within and around the statue. I suddenly felt at peace with myself.



"A quiet day will do us good", Linda said

And she was right!

*Michele Boys.*

### FUTURE QUIET DAYS

- 11 June: Sue Cash "Gathered in Prayer.....a day to wait in the Upper Room"
- 6 July: Bridget Jenkinson "Walking with trees"
- 3 Aug: Pat & Peter Lockley. "He walks with me and He talks with me"



# Miracle At Crowhurst—Reprinted

We are pleased to announce that George Bennett's book 'Miracle at Crowhurst' has been reprinted.

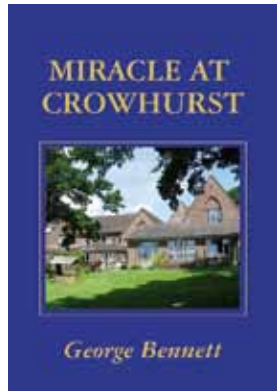
First published in 1970, the book was reprinted several times over the next 15 years. Copies were passed from hand to hand, but are becoming increasingly scarce.

'Miracle at Crowhurst' is the remarkable story of the developments at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre during George Bennett's time in charge in the late 1950's and 1960's.

The book tells how The Old Rectory grew into the present Christian Healing Centre, how the money came in to match the growing needs, how it broadened out into an ecumenical venture and became part of the whole Church's ministry of healing.

Above all, it is the story of the people involved, and their faith in the God who heals and enriches lives, often in unexpected ways. The story is as relevant to us now as it was then.

Reprinting of the book has been made possible thanks to a generous donation from a long-standing friend of Crowhurst, in gratitude for healing ministry received during visits extending over many years.



## Foreword by the then Bishop of Chichester, Roger Cicestr

"The title Miracle at Crowhurst is not just a remarkable human story but an experience of the grace of God working things which, by themselves, men could not do. The human observer can see things happening - work expanding, health restored, peace regained but a man of faith exclaims, like Jacob, with a true sense of wonder, "Truly the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." It is essentially as a man of faith that George Bennett has played his part in these years at Crowhurst, and therefore has such a story to tell."

Copies are available from the Centre's administrative office, at £5.00 each (plus postage and packing).

If you would also like to purchase the follow-on book 'The Miracle Continues' by Peter McIntosh (2009) at the same time, they are available together for £6.50 (plus postage and packing).



Give the office a ring if you would like to order either, or both of these inspiring and encouraging books. They are an excellent read; you won't be able to put them down!

**Crowhurst** Christian Healing Centre  
a place of Christ's healing

## Prayer Requests for Summer 2011

Please pull out and keep for the coming months



## Prayer Requests for Summer 2011

### Prayer Focus

*"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."* [Hebrews 10: 22 & 23](#)

### Prayer and Thanksgiving

*"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom"* [Psalm 145:3](#)

### Prayer

■ We give thanks and praise for all the blessings we have received during the past months.

■ Continue to pray for a full-time Chaplain to assist Kath and share the heavy workload. We continue to trust in the Lord to bring the right person to the Centre in His perfect timing.

■ We said farewell to Chrissy, a member of the house staff, at the end of February. We give thanks for her dedication and cheerful presence during her time with us. Please pray that she will settle smoothly in her new position.

■ We welcome Clare back to the house staff after her maternity leave. Pray that she and baby Daniel will adjust happily to the new routine.

■ Pray for the preparation of the programme for 2012. Pray for Kath, that she will be able to fit this important task into an already busy schedule.

■ We give thanks for the visiting chaplains who give so freely of their time to allow Kath to have a time of respite whenever possible."

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* [Philippians 4:4](#)

## June Prayer Focus

*"Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth."* [Psalm 86:11](#)

### June

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1       | Creative day of music and art                     |
| 3 - 5   | Healing Retreat                                   |
| 11      | Guided Quiet Day: A day to wait in the Upper Room |
| 18      | Teaching Day - Prayer Ministry Training           |
| 22 - 25 | Ordination Retreat for Rochester Diocese          |

*"You are my God, and I will give you thanks. You are my God and I will exalt you."* [Psalm 118:28](#)

## July Prayer Focus

*"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."* [Psalm 118:28](#)

### July

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2       | Teaching Day: Creative tools for the Healing ministry |
| 5       | Editorial Board meeting                               |
| 6       | Guided Quiet Day: Walking with trees                  |
| 8 - 11  | Wholeness through Christ course                       |
| 13      | Teaching Day: Thinking the Jesus way                  |
| 16      | Thanksgiving Day: Speaker is Russ Parker              |
| 19 - 24 | Prayer and Painting Week                              |
| 20      | Trustees' AGM   |
| 29 - 31 | Healing Retreat Weekend                               |

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

## August Prayer Focus

*"Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight."* [Psalm 119:35](#)

### August

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 3       | Guided Quiet Day: He walks with me, and He talks with me |
| 9 - 12  | Be Creative - an informal mid-week retreat               |
| 26 - 28 | Healing Retreat Weekend                                  |

*"The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life!"* [Psalm 121:7](#)



## Prayer for The Centre

### Prayer Focus:

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5*

### Prayer for the Trustees

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

■ Give thanks that we have two people who are willing to join the Board of Trustees. We have invited them to our next meeting, when their appointment will be confirmed. This is a real answer to prayer.

■ We give heartfelt thanks for a very generous legacy that we have recently received, which will help ease our financial burden in the coming year. Praise the Lord.

■ Please pray for the wisdom in finding ways to promote the Centre and encourage more people to 'Come aside and rest awhile'.

■ Pray for Jane Thomas, who is now overseeing the Crowhurst Reps. Pray for guidance in how to use them more effectively in spreading the good news of the blessings that can be experienced at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

■ Continue to pray for Charles Hooper and his wife, Prim. May the Lord strengthen and uphold them day by day.

*"Blessed is he whose help is in the God of Jacob, where hope is in the Lord his God." Psalm 146:5*

## Prayer for staff at The Centre

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

Senior Chaplain: Kath

Chaplaincy Team: Penny

Visiting Chaplain: Colin

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

Centre Manager: David Batte

Book Keeper: David Podevin

Office Administrator: Jayne

House Manager: Heidi

Maintenance Manager: Geof

Office Staff: Esther, Gillian and Juliette

House Staff: Clare, Justine, Steve, Sue, Zanetta and Sharon

Cooks: Diane, Sophia and Andrea

Gardener: Desmond

Pianists: Pippa and Stephen

Flautist: Vivien

Volunteers: Christine, Evelyn, Jenny, Rosemary, Shirley, Yvonne and Cliff (gardening).

Magazine Editor: Mary

*"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."*

Psalm 115:

**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

## Use of Banners in Worship

*On the first Saturday in April, a CREATIVE DANCE IN WORSHIP day was held at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. (This name is a better description of the day, than 'Banner Worship', so we shall use this title in future.) Two people have written in with their appreciation of the day.*

I had the wonderful privilege of attending the Banner Worship Day on 2nd April. This was the third time I had been to one of Mavis and Yvonne's workshops. This time the Holy Spirit seemed to really be with us in a different way, and there were some very enthusiastic ladies present. I dance some evenings at my church – my Minister is very open to different ways of worship – but I was starting to lose my enthusiasm. The Banner Worship day at the Centre reignited the flame once more and I hope to get a group dancing in my area in the near future.

Many thanks to Mavis and Yvonne for sharing your experience of worship in dance, it was a real blessing.

Jan Shrimpton

Three members of the Worship Dance Group from St John's Church in Eastbourne came to the CCHC for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed the day, learning new things.

A special mention was made by Nikki, of the worship after lunch which moved on to a time of calm and meditation. "We wrapped ourselves in a piece of cloth and sat on the floor. One of the Crowhurst ladies sang 'O let the Son of God enfold you' and we lost ourselves deeply in the moment. The presence of the Holy Spirit was simply overwhelming at this point. Then Mavis put on a CD of 'Holy Holy Holy is the Lord' and we did our own thing as a few quiet tracks played.

There was an old driftwood cross in the middle of the room, along with a basket of stones. We were encouraged, when the time felt right for us, to take a stone, which represented everything negative we wanted to get rid of, and to then place this stone at the foot of the cross.

The day ended with us all receiving Communion together, the perfect conclusion to a perfect day."

Here are some comments from Nikki's group about being at CCHC for the first time:-

"Entering Crowhurst felt like walking into God's embrace."

"We all experienced a welcoming atmosphere and the staff were friendly and helpful."

"The food we were given for lunch was lovely and it was a nice touch that we were served at the table, rather than us collecting our own food."

"The prayer walk proved to be most relaxing, thought provoking and moving."

"We definitely wish to return to Crowhurst again in the future."



# WINDOWS ONTO HEALING AND WHOLENESS CONFERENCE 4th-7th APRIL

In an exciting new venture, a joint team from the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and Burrswood led a three-day conference in April, focusing on aspects of the Christian healing ministry. The main speakers were Rev'd Kath Batte, Dr Gareth Tuckwell, Rev'd Christine Garrard, Dr Paul Worthley and Mr Steve Talmage.

Designed for church leaders, health care professionals and all those involved in pastoral care, the Conference, attended by 75 people, was over-subscribed. The residential accommodation at the Centre was quickly filled, and many others stayed at local B&Bs or attended as day visitors.

As the title of the Conference implied, there was no instruction in good practice, but rather, the opening of several windows onto those aspects of the healing ministry that are most difficult to address. Insights and experiences were shared by the team leaders, based on their years of experience in the Christian environment of caring and ministry. Time was also made for reflection, prayer and worship based around the issues raised.

In the first session Kath Batte led us in a biblical overview of Christian Healing, focusing on wholeness of body, mind, spirit, emotions and relationships and the balance between harmony and dis-ease. She highlighted



the Old Testament scriptures that point to a Healing Messiah and Jesus coming to restore humankind to wholeness. Finally she explored several of the Gospel stories of healing, drawing out what they teach us today about how our Lord can meet us wherever we are, and whatever our circumstances.

The subsequent sessions, led by Gareth Tuckwell, Paul Worthley, Christine Garrard and Steve Talmage, looked at the issues associated with the un-cured, dying, disability, grief, over-stepping safe boundaries, and God's often-strange sense of timing. Through a series of testimonies and case studies we were given insights into coping with situations that are not resolved in the ways we would expect, especially when people are brought to wholeness but do not receive physical healing.

In the session on counselling, listening and pastoral care we were reminded of how easy it is to characterise people by their condition, not who they are. We tend to put in a box what we regard as unsolvable, but God is concerned for every part of us. We also heard about healing and dying – peoples' feelings, whether of the sick person or of their family, how easy it is to get things wrong and, again, how important it is to really listen to what the person is saying.

There was time for individual prayer ministry, reflection on both afternoons and an open forum session each evening where we had an opportunity to question all the presenters. On the final morning there was a Healing Service led by Kath, and at which Gareth preached.

The overall message from the Conference was that continuation of the healing ministry of Jesus cannot be accomplished by individuals alone, but only through loving, caring teams such as those at the Centre and Burrswood, or those developing within local churches. Only in this way can wholeness be fully achieved.

The following comments were compiled from contributions by several attendees.

“

Thank you all. May God richly bless what you all gave; it was costly, but such a blessing to us all.

The love and peace of the Lord, which is always so evident and tangible at Crowhurst, was important in enabling us to hear and receive what was spoken.

It has been a great privilege to sit and learn from such experienced, compassionate and humble teachers.

Thank you everyone for your ministry, and for blessing me so much!

I would definitely recommend a future conference to my friends and colleagues. It has been really brilliant – thank you.

”



Gareth Tuckwell, from Burrswood



Group discussion in the lounge



Gareth Tuckwell, with Paul Worthley

# Easter Retreat

21<sup>ST</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011

The unseasonal weather made this Easter Retreat one of the hottest for a long time. The bird song and beautiful flowers all around added to a very enjoyable few days.

After welcomes and introductions, we were free until dinner. Later, we began our Easter journey as we reflected on the Last Supper, re-enacting the foot washing that Jesus humbly carried out for His disciples. This was followed by our sharing the lonely hours that Jesus endured while he agonised in the garden. He knew He was facing betrayal and death and He had to face it alone. I felt very sad and very humbled for what He went through for us.

Good Friday was a day of silence as we reflected on the suffering and torture that Jesus endured for the whole world. There were various 'stations' at which we could sit and pray. A wooden beam to help us think about the heavy cross that Jesus was forced to carry; large nails, some rusty; a globe of the world, and a bowl of water which represented Pilate washing his hands of our Lord's trial.

For me the nails were particularly harrowing. I pressed them into my wrists and tried to imagine just how painful it would have been when they were driven through Jesus' wrists. 'To cruel nails surrendered'. I wondered how one human being could inflict such pain on another.

In our afternoon reflection, Kath said, 'Listening to the birds singing, I wonder if Jesus heard bird

song through all his pain and torture. Did heaven penetrate, just for a moment, into His terrible ordeal?'

In the evening, Maggie, Pippa and Stephen led us in a gentle Taizé service, which was followed by night prayer. After quite a heavy and sad day, this was a gentle, peaceful and reflective conclusion.

Easter Saturday is always an 'in-between' sort of day. Martin Sully (visiting chaplain) led the service, during which we focussed on God's creativity and our creativity. Martin's wife, Wendy, read the creation account from Genesis, and one thing that came out very strongly for me is the realisation that we are all creative. Martin said that God created man in His image, to be LIKE Him; He was our creator and therefore we are creative too. Makes sense! He then read out a list of creativity gifts, some that I couldn't relate to, but some that I could. And it helped me to see that yes, EVERYONE is creative in one way or another.

We were encouraged to 'be creative' during the rest of the day; some of these creations were shared at the reflective service in the evening. There were inspirational poems, paintings, hand made cards, and even painted hard boiled eggs!

During the service we had a slide show of Stephen's beautiful photos, while he and Pippa played gentle music. Towards the end of the service Pippa played 'God so loved the world'



from Stainer's Crucifixion. Wonderful! We followed this by singing 'Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness', and ended with Marilyn Baker's 'May the blessing of the Lord our God be upon you day by day.' It was a very moving service.

On Easter Sunday, twenty one of us rose for the early morning service around the water feature. We were quiet to begin with, as we thought about the women who came to anoint Jesus' body. We imagined how they must be feeling; the emptiness, the sadness and apparent futility of it all. Then the shock and amazement when they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, followed by joy and excitement at being told He had risen! Alleluia!

We sang Jesus Christ is Risen Today and then greeted each other with heartfelt Easter greetings.

Kath and David laid on hot cross buns and drinks for us in the lounge as breakfast was a couple of hours away. The atmosphere was now joyful and happy as we celebrated the glorious resurrection!

The 10 am Communion service was a joyful and rousing one. The sense of Christ among us was wonderful. We sang, we rejoiced, we prayed, and we gave thanks to our Risen Lord.

A wonderful retreat; I can't wait until next year!

*Easter Sunday morning worship: Yvonne is sensitively and prayerfully dancing to Stuart Townend's 'See what a morning'.*



*The Easter Garden, the stone has been moved and the folded grave clothes are all that can be seen. He is risen!*



*Easter greetings to one another at the end of our early morning sunrise service.*



*Early morning in the large chapel. The sun was shining through the windows and was creating a stained glass appearance. It was a beautiful naturally created work of art by the Lord Himself! 'God's stained glass' Kath said.*



# Easter Retreat

## More reflections from the group...

What can I say? Wow! What a beautiful and God-inspiring weekend. I didn't know what to expect; I was just looking forward to a wonderful time, which I have always enjoyed the last fourteen years. But it was beyond expectation; to follow the story right through with the worship, silence and with time to really get into the agony and persecution that Jesus went through for me and for all the world. Thank you so much team for all your hard work and preparation spiritually and physically. May God bless each and every one who made such a spiritual and heavenly experience.

**Praise the Lord! He is good; O Lord Jesus, how you suffered. Thank you. Alleluia, you have risen!**

What a wonderful journey from sorrow to joy. The peace and love was overwhelming as was the closeness to Jesus.

**A very special journey. Thank you.**

Thank you daddy, for the risen Jesus.

**Thank you all for a most wonderful and spiritually uplifting experience here at Crowhurst.**

What a wonderful journey we have been blessed with. Through Maundy Thursday, with the washing of the feet and the Passover Meal, to Good Friday sharing the sorrow and agony of Jesus' death on the cross. Then Holy Saturday, contemplating the tomb and the disciples' feelings that day. We then came to the joy of Easter Day - Alleluia to the Lord! We praise and worship Him for all He has accomplished for us through His death and resurrection. What a Saviour!

The Easter Retreat was refreshing in every way and I shall return home both refreshed and strengthened.

This Easter I asked God to help me understand much more deeply what it meant for Christ to die for me. And He did! Most especially through the prayer station with the heavy wooden beam. I had a real emotional realisation that Jesus died saving my life. Thank you Lord.



Easter Retreat 21st to 24th April - group photo

# Music Review

## Stuart Townend: There is A Hope



Stuart Townend, often referred to today as the modern hymn writer, is also a well known worship leader. This CD and DVD was recorded live in Ireland. All the tracks are worshipful, prayerful and encouraging. Track No. 13 is the powerful 'In Christ Alone', a hymn that is often sung during services at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

Track No 5, 'There is a Hope' is particularly inspiring and uplifting when you are feeling low and in a dark place; the words are below:

*There is a hope that burns within my heart,  
That gives me strength for every passing day;  
a glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part,  
Yet drives all doubt away:*

*I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven;  
and Christ in me, the hope of heaven!  
My highest calling and my deepest joy,  
To make His will my home.*

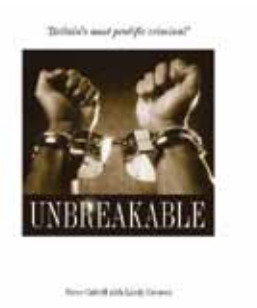
*There is a hope that lifts my weary head,  
A consolation strong against despair,  
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit,  
I find the Saviour there!*

*Through present sufferings, future's fear, He whispers, "Courage!" in my ear. For I am safe in everlasting arms, and they will lead me home.*

*There is a hope that stands the test of time,  
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,  
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine; When I behold His face! When sufferings cease and sorrows die, and every longing satisfied, Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home!*

**Wonderful words! A highly recommended CD.**

# Book Review



## UNBREAKABLE

**Steve Cattell with  
Lindy Greaves**

**Published by Authentic Media  
in 2008**

Unbreakable describes the miraculous conversions and healing of two hardened criminals, one, the author, addicted to crime and burglary, and his mate, addicted to heroin. The first half of the book is devoted to nothing but burglaries, which get even more horrific as the tale is told. They then decide to steal from all the tents at a Christian conference, whilst the participants are at the main meeting in the marquee, and this is where God comes into the story.

The story from then on is nothing less than the pure and very moving drama of the lives of two born again Christians. In particular, the reception given to Steve as he gives talks in prisons and schools about his former life is fascinating.

I am so thankful that this book has fallen into my hands.

John Attwood

The grounds are very colourful as I put this magazine together. By the time you receive your copy, the Centre will be adorned with flowers all around.

Desmond and Cliff have been very busy throughout the spring. Desmond has been busy planting up hanging baskets and mangers. The polytunnel has been nurturing seed trays which have been planted up with Cosmos, Morning Glory, Black Eyed Susie's and Nasturtium.



During early spring, plenty of deadheading, hedge trimming and strimming was being carried out, which I caught Desmond in the process of doing (see above picture!)

## And from Cliff

We may not have had the April showers which help the flowers that bloom in May, but grass and weeds still grow to give Desmond and I never ending work!



Many flowers now abound to give the grounds a carpet of colour and along with the pots, hanging baskets and plants still to come, the grounds will be pleasing on the eye to all our visitors.

Working here is certainly a joy!



The Wisteria was at its very best during the Easter Retreat



The Rhododendron near the pond was in full bloom



Beautiful Bluebells

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

- 1 Creative day of music and art
- 3 - 5 Healing Retreat
- 11 Guided Quiet Day
- 18 Teaching Day - Prayer Ministry Training
- 22 - 25 Ordination Retreat for Rochester Diocese

### July

- 2 Teaching Day: Creative tools for the Healing Ministry
- 6 Guided Quiet Day
- 8 - 11 Wholeness through Christ course
- 13 Teaching Day – Thinking the Jesus way
- 16 Thanksgiving Day
- 19 - 24 Prayer and Painting Week
- 29 - 31 Healing Retreat Weekend

### August

- 3 Guided Quiet Day
- 9-12 Be Creative – an informal midweek retreat.
- 26-28 Healing Retreat Weekend

Our programme is full and varied; below are some retreats that may be of interest to you:

### Wednesday 13th July

**Teaching Day: Thinking the Jesus Way**  
A day designed to enable individuals to understand themselves and others better in order to bring healing within the body of Christ (£22).

### Tuesday 19th to Sunday 24th July

**Prayer and Painting Week**  
Come and enjoy a few days painting or drawing under the expert tuition of our resident artist. This course is for beginners or those more advanced, and includes time for worship and prayer. A creative experience for all (£370).

### ADVANCE NOTICE

### Monday 10th to Friday 14th October

A gentle but powerful week of music and teaching from Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson (£350). These weeks are always very popular so don't leave it too long to book!

### Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th August

#### Be Creative

These few days offer different creative ways to explore your situation and your relationship with God, through creative writing, art and collage, looking at nature and giving your imagination free reign (£210).



The art room backs onto the grounds and when the weather is nice, you can sit and paint outside, listen to the bird song and take in the beautiful scenery as you paint or draw.





## How to contact us

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

**Telephone:** 01424 830204

**Bookings:** 01424 830033

**Fax:** 01424 830053

**E-mail:** [crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com](mailto:crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com)

**Web:** [www.crowhursthealing.org.uk](http://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk)

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

## Who's who

### President

Rt Revd Nicholas Reade BISHOP OF BLACKBURN

### Visitor

Rt Revd Wallace Benn BISHOP OF LEWES

### Chairman of Trustees

Revd Colin Crook

### Senior Chaplain

Revd Kath Batte

### Chaplaincy Team

Penny Button

### Magazine Editor

Mary Slater

### Prayer Partners Co-ordinator

Shirley Dawson

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Published and distributed by: The Divine Healing Mission, Registered Charity Number 208738

Produced by **Yeomans**, 2 Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6BT

[www.yeomanscreative.co.uk](http://www.yeomanscreative.co.uk)