

in His Healing Steps

Spring 2015

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What is the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre?

We are a friendly Christian Healing Centre where a warm welcome is offered to all.

Situated in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is just 10 miles from the coast in the Sussex High Weald. The peace and comfort of this place creates an ideal setting in which to draw closer to God and experience His love.

The saving, healing work of Jesus is all about Kingdom come/coming. Every time a person is drawn out of darkness, slavery or dis-ease it is a Kingdom moment; the Kingly rule and authority of Jesus breaking into our world.

Every time we allow Him to be King in our life or in a situation around us, the Kingdom has come.

The ministry of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a Kingdom ministry where we seek to cooperate with Jesus (as junior partners) in the bringing in of His Kingdom.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a non-denominational, residential place with a vision to grow the Kingdom of God by continuing 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.

Who's Who?

The Chaplains

Our Senior Chaplain is Revd Steve Gendall, who was appointed in September 2012.

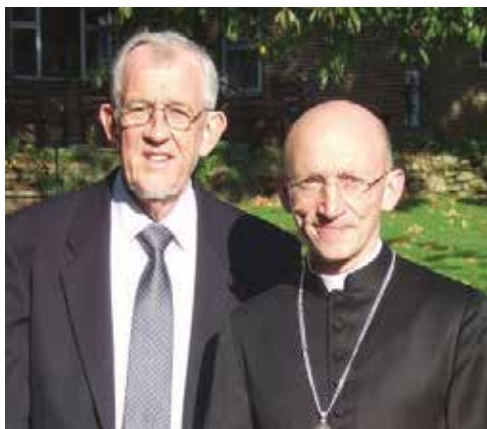
Revd Steve Clark is the Deputy Chaplain and was appointed in October 2012.

Penny Button has been our Associate Chaplain for five years.



The Board of Trustees

The activities of the Centre are overseen by a Board of Trustees, chaired by Martin Granger, pictured left, and our President is Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester, pictured right.



Editorial



Spring is on the way - at least that is what I'm telling myself as I write this in the middle of January! The evenings are definitely getting lighter and it's lovely to feel the rays of the sun when it breaks through the clouds. The warmth and brightness really help to focus the mind on brighter days, baby ducks and spring lambs like this cute pair below.



By the time this magazine is printed, it will indeed be spring and the grounds of the Centre will be full of a variety of flowers.

This issue has the usual mixture of articles so I'm sure there will be something of interest to everybody. Thanks to those of you who have sent in contributions. Do keep them coming as it is always so encouraging to read others' testimonies. Please send articles directly to me at marys56@hotmail.co.uk or you can post them to the office, who will forward them on.

Every blessing, *Mary Slater*

Steve's letter



Dear Friends,

You may recall that the saying 'a man after my own heart' is from the Bible? The words are spoken by God himself. It warms my heart thinking that we may be described by God as people after His own heart.

"After removing Saul, He made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"
(Acts 13.22)

David was, among other things, a great songwriter and musician, and I have no doubt that it was when he was in the jubilant dance of praise that he was caught up in the heart of God. The song I've quoted below includes the words which I'm sure David would identify with, 'Great Heart of my own heart', but it is the first verse that I want to offer for your personal reflection.

*'Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art.
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.'*

Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931) & Eleanor H
Hull (1860-1935)

The words of this much loved hymn form a personal prayer that seeks the presence and power of God as protector and inspirer. I want to be so caught up in the mystery of our Triune God that I can say with these hymn writers, nothing matters to me but Him.

May we never cease to adore Him and the miracle we remember at Christmas; and to survey with wonder the cross and all Jesus has done for our forgiveness and freedom. As we offer the Lord our sacrifice of praise, from our hearts, it does truly glorify Him.

I exhort you to sing from your heart, to God's heart, each day, and with us here to seek to do everything He wants us to.

Be blessed with joy, peace and a singing heart!

With our love,

Steve



New Year Celebration



The New Year Celebration at the CCHC is always a time of great joy, fellowship and reflection, and as you will read in the following comments, this year's was no exception. Why not put a date in your diary for this year and experience New Year Crowhurst style!

- ◆ There are few better ways to start a New Year. *D Hilsdon*
- ◆ A wonderful way to end 2014 and step into 2015, placing my hand firmly in the hand of God.
- ◆ Wonderful atmosphere among friends - I hope to repeat the experience.
- ◆ Wonderful - inspiring - challenging - a real blessing and joy. Thank you to every member of the team for your generous love - God's love pouring from you all.
- ◆ What more could anyone ask; peaceful, good company, good food, good preaching, all wrapped up in love. A real sense of peace especially in the chapel. *Mavis Robinson*
- ◆ Communion, covenanting, conversion, laughter; love and the Lord!
- ◆ Thank you for a relaxing time in God's presence and your care to me when I was sick.
- ◆ Tears of laughter, tears of joy; the chill of the last few months has begun to thaw. Thank you!
- ◆ A relaxed but challenging few days: good teaching, food and company.
- ◆ There is such a sense of welcome and security that surrounds one upon arrival. We are made to feel so special from everyone, from the hospitality team to the Chaplains. Truly a place of prayer, where the Holy Spirit leads and guides. *Jean Babey*
- ◆ How can I say it all in a few words? Superb, warm, friends new and old, welcoming and caring staff, a balance of fun and reflection, excellent food for the body and the soul. And the constant presence of the Spirit too. For food, for fun, for fellowship, we thank thee, Lord. *JMW*
- ◆ What a wonderful way to kick out the Old Year, reflecting on all that has passed, and to welcome the New with fun, friendship and fellowship - not forgetting the house staff. Thank you for giving up your time to wait on us, and the kitchen staff for the wonderful food, which gets better each year. Thank you, Lord, for being with us in this place. *DD*

A journey into forgiveness

I have just spent a very enjoyable Christmas with some of my family of origin. This doesn't sound like a very remarkable opening line until I tell you that I don't come from one of those happy families in the Christmas TV adverts; I come from a family where an abuser lurked within, someone who abused me as a child on every level.

It was not until many years after I left home that the worst memories started to emerge; my mind had disassociated or hidden these as a self-protection mechanism. It became clear that as well as the abuser, there was also a family member who knew what was going on. Whilst the abuser had passed on by this time, the other person remained and I found their 'crime' worse almost.

(While my journey back from childhood abuse has been long and challenging, it is not the subject of this piece.)

For a time I cut myself off from the other person; my anger and resentment were such that I was barely able to send a Christmas card, let alone speak with them. Even when I did agree to a meeting after a few years, I was full of hatred and rage which would bubble up repeatedly into cutting remarks. This continued for some years, until I came to realise that I did want to fully repair my relationship with the family member and yet I was at a loss as to how to go about this.

I was greatly inspired by a talk I attended given by Jo Berry and Patrick Magee. Jo Berry is a truly remarkable woman. Her father, Sir Anthony Berry MP, was killed by a bomb in the 1984 Brighton bombings, planted by Patrick Magee, then a member

of the IRA. Jo Berry now gives talks with her father's murderer about peace and reconciliation. It was so inspiring to see these two share a platform and talk honestly about their experiences on both sides without blame.

Attending the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre helped me enormously. I was struck by the kindness and sensitivity of those whom I spoke to in prayer ministry and how balanced their view was.

Over a period of months, through prayer and simply spending time in the chapels and gardens, I came to make contact with Jesus and slowly a few remarkable things happened.

1. Understanding

Understanding brought healing. I saw the other person's own unhappy childhood full of fear. I also strongly suspect that they were abused themselves as a child, so continuing the cycle of abuse which sadly so often occurs. I have attracted a series of bullies into my adult life myself, so repeating some of the behaviour of my childhood abuser.

2. Surrender

After yet another conversation with this family member that left me feeling frustrated, I decided one day at Crowhurst to simply surrender this relationship to the Lord. I felt we were both on the attack in different ways. I also dropped my strong need for both an apology and acknowledgement of my suffering as I realised these were blocks to any real progress.

3. Forgiveness

I realised that forgiveness could not enter through a closed door and so one day at Crowhurst, I opened that door, slowly and quietly within me.

I was able to sit with the other person at Christmas with an open heart and in a place of forgiveness. I felt no resentment and I even said that I loved them, which was a miracle indeed.

In the end, I realised my choice, either to spend the family member's last few years in anger and resentment or in love and understanding, I chose the latter and I feel like a great burden has been lifted from my heart. What is also alive in me is a desire to reach the same place with the abuser themselves.

As my healing journey continues, I feel more freedom and at peace in myself and I am truly grateful to the Lord for taking me to this place with Him. It is my tiny contribution to my prayer for world peace.


The author of this article, who has chosen to remain anonymous, was also greatly inspired by The Forgiveness Project - theforgivenessproject.com.

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If you are worried about a child or want information on Child Protection then please contact the NSPCC who have a 24 hour helpline.

www.nspcc.org.uk/Helpline 0808 800 5000.

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in this article then you may wish to contact Victim Support – 0808 1689111 for confidential advice and support.



***Be kind to one
another, tender
hearted, forgiving
one another as God
in Christ forgave
you. Ephesians: 4:32***

The miracles continue ...

I first came to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre in September 1970 when my wife was poised between life and death; in fact she had been very unahppy and so attempted to take her own life. At the time we had four children - the youngest was only ten. I had a wonderfully reassuring talk with the Chaplain, who stated firmly that we should leave the matter in the hands of the Lord. My wife did not recover, but the words of support that he spoke sustained me for the next twenty or thirty years.

Throughout this time I kept in touch with Crowhurst, doing all I could to support you and encourage others to visit.

Many years later I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and as a result, was in considerable pain. I remember lying awake at night and thinking how much less it must have been than the agony that our Lord suffered on the cross. So I returned once more to the CCHC, where the Senior Chaplain at the time, Kath Batte, laid her hands on me and within quite a short time, the pain almost entirely disappeared. This was to me a miracle, of which there have been so many at the Centre over the years, for which again, may the Lord be praised!

Christopher Barker

The testimonies below have been received by the office in recent months.

"I am rejoicing and giving thanks to our Father, the Great Physician. The lumps that were visibly growing fast and for which the medics were considering radiotherapy, have shrunk and disappeared! Busted by the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead! Hallelujah!"

In December last year, the office received a letter from someone who had come to the Centre against the advice of the doctors because she was being investigated for cancer. On her return she was found to be clear of cancer and wrote giving thanks.

In another healing, a lady who had been prayed for at the Thursday morning Healing Service for 'her eyes', testified that she had been told she was going blind. She has now been told by the specialist that there is no longer any problem with her eyes! To God be the glory!



Prayer Ministers' weekend: 2nd to 4th January



About 27 of the prayer ministers gathered together for a weekend in January. An excellent working relationship has developed between CCHC and the 'Living Well' in Canterbury Diocese, and it was lovely that the weekend was led by its Senior Chaplain, Sarah Chapman.

There was a mixture of worship and sharing, with aspects of team building and times for reflection. We exercised our creative skills in forming small teams and devising prayer corners – the resulting displays were remarkable.



The Communion service on Sunday morning was both moving and powerful. We shared communion in the round and also anointed each other.

Often at the Healing Weekends we concentrate on prayer and ministry. With a number of new members joining the team

in the last couple of years, this weekend provided informal opportunities to get to know each other better. There was also a lot of fun and laughter.

The weekend both refreshed and encouraged us.

Colin Crook



Songs of Praise!

Singing hymns and worship songs are a powerful way of drawing close to God and most of us will have one or more favourite hymns that particularly speak to us.

Our Associate Chaplain, Penny Button, shares one of her favourite hymns, 'Great is thy Faithfulness.' Penny writes: *"It is a great hymn, speaking of Father God's consistent love for us, His children. He promises pardon for sin, everlasting peace, strength and guidance, and His presence with us as we journey on through the seasons. He is our hope, and He lavishes His blessing on us. Awesome; what a great God we have!"*

Behind many hymns, there is an inspiring story and I wonder how many of you know how this particular hymn came to be so popular? Well, I was curious to know more and with one click of my mouse, have discovered the fascinating story behind this encouraging hymn. I've had to shorten the account for the purposes of this article but there is plenty of information on the internet if you would like to know more.

The hymn was written by Thomas O. Chisholm, with the music composed by William M. Runyan, and was published in 1923.

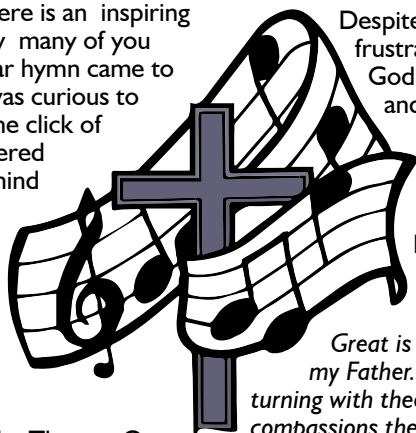
Chisholm was born in 1866 and suffered poor health throughout most of his life, which confined him to bed a lot of the time. Chisholm became a Christian at the age of 27 and was ordained a Methodist minister at the age of 37. Unfortunately he had to resign a year later because of his health, though between bouts of illness, he would have to push himself to put in extra hours at various jobs in order to make ends meet.

Through his struggles with illness, he found God to be faithful and it was out of that faithfulness that he drew his strength.

During his lifetime, Chisholm wrote over 1200 poems and hymns, but the most well known is the great hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness, which was inspired by these verses from Lamentations 3:21-23:

"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Through a series of 'God-incidences', the hymn was later to become a regular at Billy Graham's crusades, and it has remained popular ever since!



Despite what must have been a frustrating life, Chisholm held onto God's promises and faithfulness and the words he wrote all those years ago still speak to so many people today. Our Lord remains faithful day in and day out, in the largest and smallest of circumstances.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father. There is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not. As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning, New mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand has provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest. Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above. Join with all nature in manifold witness, To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Powerful words indeed! Thanks to Penny for sharing this with us.

Do you have a favourite hymn or worship song that you would like to share? Please do send it in and let us know the story behind it. If not, I can probably do the research. It would be good to know what the song means to you and why.

Spring Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests for Spring 2015
Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Prayer Requests for Spring 2015

PRAYER FOCUS

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him all you peoples. For great is His love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever."
Psalm 117: 1 & 2

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's provision for all our needs during the past year.
- Pray for protection and good health for all the staff and those involved in the ministry of Christ's healing love at the CCHC. May they be kept free from colds and viruses that cause health problems at this time of the year.
- We are delighted to welcome Maria as a permanent member of the office staff, who is taking over Gill's duties. We pray that she will enjoy being part of the Crowhurst family.
- With the increase of numbers of guests and visitors, car parking is becoming a major problem, especially on Thursday mornings. The recent heavy rains have added to the difficulties as the grass areas have become waterlogged and therefore unable to be used. Please pray for wisdom as how best to tackle this problem.
- Pray that we will be obedient to the Lord's leading in 2015. May we have listening ears and open hearts to do His good and perfect will.

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

March Prayer Focus

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:3

MARCH

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 3 - 6 | Prayer Partners Weekend
<i>Praying in God's Kingdom</i> |
| 13 - 15 | Healing Weekend |
| 18 | Editorial Board Meeting |
| 20 - 22 | Ordinands Retreat: House closed |
| 25 | Guided Quiet Day
<i>'Oases in the desert'</i>
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor |
| 27 - 28 | Signs of His Kingdom -
<i>Resourcing Individuals</i>
(27 th evening, 28 th day) |

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." Psalm 100:4



April Prayer Focus

“He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

APRIL

- 2 - 6 Easter Celebration
- 15 Guided Quiet Day
“Whose perception - His, mine or theirs?” led by Kay Smith
- 17- 19 Healing Weekend
- 25 Teaching Day:
“When I am old, I shall wear purple.”
Led by Steve Gendall
- 23 - 30 Gift Days

May Prayer Focus

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1

MAY

- 2 - 4 Church Weekend - House full
- 5 - 9 Prayer through painting
- 14 - 17 Authentic Men’s Weekend
- 20 Guided Quiet Day
‘Bread of life: Love’s gift for the journey’, led by James Bamber
- 23 - 25 Families Weekend
Refreshing the family
(23rd (Arrive am, depart pm 25th))
- 24 Families Day (for those who are unable to attend the weekend)

“He is not here; He is risen, just as He said.”
Matthew 28:6

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.”
Isaiah 43:1



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

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

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Before the house closed for the Christmas break, the two Steves invited all who serve at the Centre to a social evening. Husbands, wives and partners were included. It was a great opportunity to get to know one another in an informal way. At the beginning of a new year, it is fitting that we give thanks and praise for all who serve at the CCHC. May the Lord bless, strengthen and watch over them in the year ahead.
- Give thanks for the 2015 programme. We look forward to the new series, 'Signs of His Kingdom - Resourcing Individuals', which will follow on from 'Resourcing Churches'.
- Pray for the Families Weekend in May. We pray that 'Refreshing the Family' will give an opportunity for parents with young children to enjoy a fun, but healing experience for all the family, including worship, teaching, activities and prayer. Pray for God's blessing on widening the net for the young.
- We give thanks for all who support the work at the Centre. From Thursday 23rd to Thursday 30th April, we are having Gift Days. Please join in prayer and giving as we move forward with the Lord, to bring His Kingdom through His work at the CCHC. With God, nothing is impossible.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Penny, Andy, Brenda, Carole, Colin, David, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegard, Jan, Jenny, Judith, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Pam, Pat, Paul, Pete, Peter, Phyllis, Pippa, Roland, Stephen, Veronica, Vivien, Yvonne and Visiting Chaplains

OFFICE

Chris, Jayne, Diane, Esther, Hilary, Jenny, Jo, Juliette, Maria and Rosemary

HOUSE

Heidi, Abigail, Chrissy, Clare, David, Diane, Ian, Julian, Justine, Marion, Mavis, Sarah, Shirley and Steve

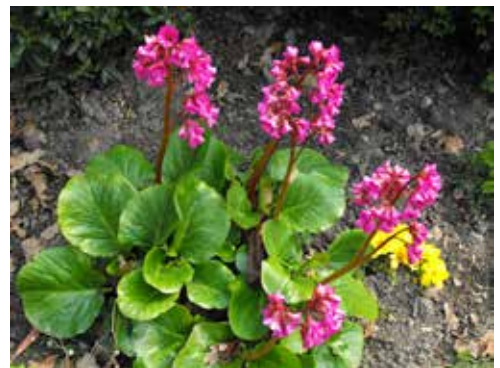
MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Geof, Brian, Cliff, David, Desmond and Ronnie

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

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



Jesus and the barber!



When Steve Gendall went for a haircut recently, he did something that he had not done before; he started to imagine what Jesus would say if he were to visit the hairdressers. Can you imagine how the conversation might have been?

Hairdresser: "How are things with you?"

Jesus: "*Great thank you, and you?*"

Hairdresser: "I'm good thanks. Have you got a day off today?"

Jesus: "*No, I've been working for my Father but I've just come from a picnic.*"

Hairdresser: "Lovely. Great day for it. Was it a family event?"

Jesus: "*No – in the end thousands came.*"

Hairdresser: "I hope they brought their own food!"

Jesus: "*Actually they didn't - I was in charge of the catering.*"

Hairdresser: "How on earth did you feed that many?"

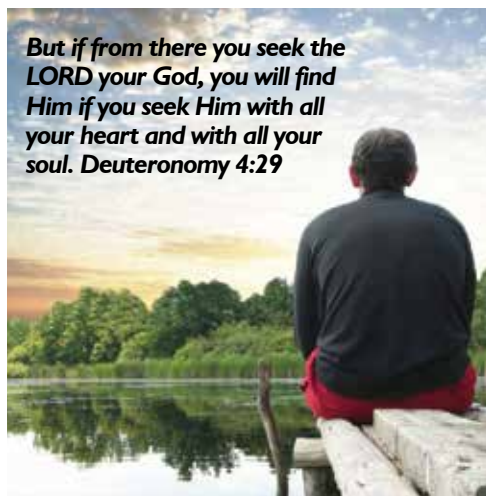
You can imagine how the extraordinary conversation might continue!

In some cultures having your hair cut is a big deal for boys and can signify a rite of passage. Luke 2 describes a Jewish rite of passage where Jesus, a twelve year old boy, goes to the Passover with his parents.

The story tells how Mary and Joseph lose Jesus and return to Jerusalem to search for Him. When they find Him at the Temple talking with the teachers they explain that they have been searching for Him. Just like the imagined conversation at the hairdressers, Jesus gives an extraordinary reply: "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Even at twelve years old Jesus knows He is the Son of God.

Do you find yourself frantically looking for Jesus? Do you feel like you have lost Him along the way or that you have run on ahead and left Him behind? When something of value is missing, the right thing to do is to search for it. Turn around, go back and look until you find it. Jesus promises that He is not far away: "I am with you always." And when you tell Him you have been searching for Him, await His extraordinary reply.

At the hairdressers, Steve's experience was transformed by imagining Jesus's conversation. Jesus can transform our experience today. He wants to, so come and find Him.



But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 4:29



In August last year, Helen Warwick and Veronica Gendall led a creative few days entitled 'Be Creative', and as you can read from these comments, those who attended were very blessed.

- * An inspiring course, and the joy of making new friends.
- * **Wonderfully varied opportunities to show our creative side and plenty of different materials to develop it. A relaxing time in pleasant company and beautiful surroundings.**
- * This week has been truly blessed, blessed in many ways, but for me it helped to bring a creative side to the fore which truly surprised me. *Irene*
- * **I have learned the difference between being creative and being artistic – it's in the waiting and the listening.**

Advent Retreat: Welcoming the Light

A well attended silent Advent Retreat, led by Canon Clare Edwards from Canterbury Cathedral, was held at the end of November.

This was a blessed and deeply moving experience, greatly facilitated by the silence.

The three-day retreat was very well attended and on the Saturday many folk joined us for the Quiet Day, which formed part of the retreat.

The programme and sessions were clearly planned as a whole and carefully designed to encourage us to reflect on our spiritual walk with God. The sessions included worship, visual stimuli and meditations that sensitively encouraged reflection and prayer.

As always the food and care provided by the staff was excellent. *Diane Crook*

His blessings flow...!

For many people, the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a special place, a 'thin' place where they can feel particularly close to the Lord, as can be seen by some of these comments.

- * Thank you so much yet again for making my stay so wonderful. Please be assured of my daily prayers. I came here overwhelmed with so many people to help and all my ministries, and was running on empty. Thanks to the CCHC I can come here and be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit.
- * Thank you to all the staff for yet another wonderful stay. This is a 'thin' place for me, in the Celtic sense of the Lord. I love the peace and presence of God here.
- * The minute I walked through the door, I felt the presence of the Lord. I am starting to think of Crowhurst as a second home, although I have only stayed three times! I received a very blessed ministry time, which made me feel beautiful, special and loved.
- * For me Crowhurst is the most precious place on earth - 'Heaven come down, glory fills my soul!'

Penny Button discovered the poem below, which she felt is a good description of our guests after a week's stay at the CCHC!

**'Richer by fellowship
Fatter by food
Filled in the depths
Loved, precious and stilled within.'**

The poem, which is called Tailpiece, is from a book called 'Step Aside' and the author is one of our Prayer Partners, Mary-Joan Lloyd. It is on sale at the Centre for the bargain price of £2.00!

Authentic Men's Weekend: 14th - 17th May

The CCHC held its first men's weekend last May and it was a big success. If you missed it, you have an opportunity to join in with this year's, which will be held from Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th May. These few days are specifically designed for men and provide space to unplug from the daily grind.

There will be time to focus on your unique story and the key issues men face. The conference is led by the Authentic Men's Team and is a unique and life-changing journey into the heart of a man. It will explore how to live life in all its fullness and will process life's big issues with freedom and honesty, such as fatherhood, sonship, calling, wounds and our relationship with God.

Each day will be a balance of seminars, personal space and some time to unwind. Most evenings we will have an outdoor log fire going.

Here are a few comments and photos from last year's men's weekend.



- * *I crawled to the weekend, tired, passive and somewhat beaten. I feel my spark has returned and I'm leaving feeling inspired, challenged, healed and excited to see my family. I feel like I've been given a second chance to step into the man, husband, father and friend God has created me to be. I'm aware the battle has now stepped up a notch but I want to fight it – full, alive and free in who I've been created to be. Bring it on!*



- * *All the sessions on the Battle, Adventure and Beauty were very powerful and insightful. Each presentation was very real and helpful.*

The weekend starts on Thursday 14th May with a meal together at 6pm. The programme kicks off at 7pm. You can book into your accommodation from 2pm and if you are arriving late we can keep a meal for you.

The cost of the weekend is £150 full board, inclusive of all meals and materials.

Contact the office for booking and further details.

- *This weekend is a place where you will have the time and space to hear God, along with the freedom to respond and change. I have more understanding of what I have lost as a man and fresh hope as I've been reminded that God wants to restore it in my life.*

We are an Easter people!

This article has been inspired by a recent sermon I heard at my church regarding Unanswered Prayer.

It's difficult when we or our loved ones are going through hardships or illness and, when prayers appear to be going unanswered, it can be a real test of our faith. There are many stories in the Bible where various characters experienced God's silence and long awaited answers to prayers - Abraham, Moses and Joseph to name but a few.

That God **can** heal all our diseases is not in dispute (Psalm 103:3), so it's a mystery as to why not everyone is healed in the way they would perhaps like. Of course healing takes many different forms, physical, emotional and spiritual and sometimes healing happens in folks' lives in areas in which they hadn't actually sought prayer! I know the Ministry Team at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre could recount many such testimonies.

The CCHC has a wonderful prayer ministry team who will listen gently and pray with you for your needs. This is available for guests staying in the house and also, by appointment, to those from outside. Two Prayer Ministers come alongside and spend about an hour with the individual seeking to pray like Jesus, 'according to the Father's will.' It's about trying to co-operate with God who delights to set people free whether the dis-ease is physical, emotional, relational or spiritual. A briefer form of prayer ministry happens at the twice weekly healing services, where you can receive the laying on of hands.

When God seems silent, it can be helpful to think about Eastertide. On Good Friday, Christ was crucified and the disciples were grief stricken; they just couldn't understand what had happened. Their Saviour and friend who had been with them for so long was gone, seemingly forever.

The following day (which we now call Holy Saturday) they hid in the upper room, afraid and bewildered at the turn of events.

Though the disciples didn't realise it at the time, during that long and sad Easter Saturday, God was in fact working in the silence, behind the scenes, so to speak, and on Easter Sunday Jesus triumphantly rose from the dead. Their despair at His death was replaced by their joy at His glorious resurrection.

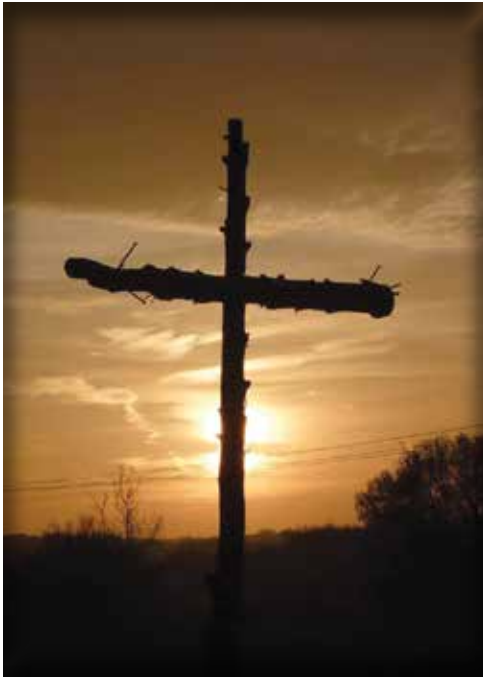
We are an Easter People and that means our hope never dies, even if at times our situation might seem hopeless. When our prayers seem to be going unanswered, or we or our loved ones haven't received the healing we've hoped for, we need to hold onto God's promises, that He is still working His purposes out in the silence, and we must always try to focus on the bigger picture - God.

Many things have stayed with me from the minister's inspiring sermon but two things remain strongly in my mind. One is not to walk away from God because where would you go? The other is to always trust in the source and not the outcome. The source of course is Almighty God, who created us and ultimately knows what is best for us. All will never really be lost if we always keep Him at the centre of our life.

And as God told the prophet Jeremiah ...

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

Easter Celebration 2nd - 6th April

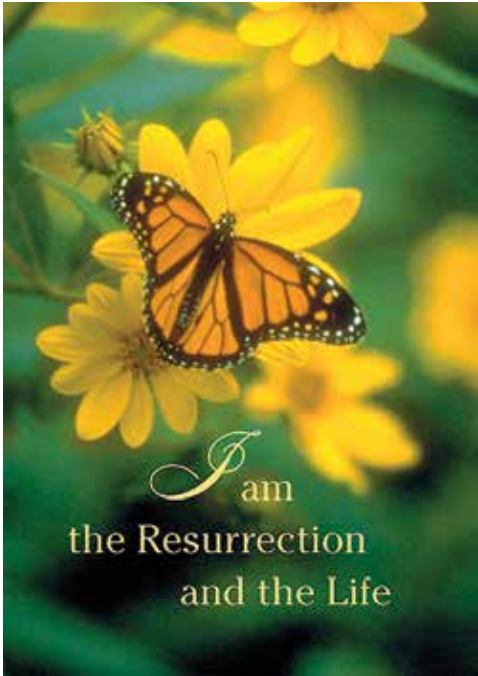


- *We had a full house and it was good to meet up with old friends, and make new ones. We were all deeply touched and blessed.*
- *Wonderful to come apart and spend Easter together, celebrating its true meaning. This is my third Easter Retreat and God always speaks to me in different ways. Thank you Lord.*
- *Wonderful! One of the best Easters I have ever had. I received so much kindness. The services and Easter garden were so lovely.*

I could include many more comments but would run out of room on the page so if you have never been before, and/or would like to come again, do ring and book. There are still spaces at the time of print, but by March when you receive your magazine, they will be booking up fast!

Easter at the Centre is always a very special occasion. It gives you the opportunity to share our Lord's last three days on earth, from the Last Supper to His glorious resurrection. Many return yearly for these few days as they find it such a meaningful and refreshing time. Here are just a few comments from previous Easter celebrations ...

- *My first Easter Retreat and it was a very moving experience, especially Good Friday, which I will never forget. The Weekend was so special.*
- *Thanks be to God for a marvellous Easter weekend.*
- *The peace and love surrounding me was a great blessing; the Easter Retreat was amazing.*



We welcome Maria, Bookings Secretary



As soon as I walked through the front door of the CCHC, I was amazed at how peaceful and friendly it was. Everyone made me feel

so welcome and helped me to settle in.

I'm married to Ray and have two daughters, Natasha, 26 and Amy, 17. I enjoy walking my springer spaniel, Buster, I'm interested in nature, and particularly enjoy feeding and watching wild birds. Ray and I like to spend time visiting National Trust and English Heritage sites. One of our favourite sites is Knole at Sevenoaks. It has such a beautiful house as well as lots of deer roaming freely around the extensive grounds.

When I need to unwind, I pick up my knitting needles. At the moment I am knitting toys that I give away to family, friends or charity. I knitted the nativity scene below, which was displayed at the Centre during the Christmas period.



I am really thankful for being given the opportunity to work at the Centre, and for being the newest member of the Crowhurst family.

Website update

Our new website has been up and running for six months now. It is managed by one of our office team, Esther, who also looks after Facebook (we now have 362 likes) and Twitter. Esther has kindly written a report about the website to date.

The majority of first time guests to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre have come because of a friend's recommendation or because they have found us online. This knowledge has focused our attention on promoting "Friends of Crowhurst" and on improving our digital presence.

The Centre's vision is to extend God's Kingdom by continuing the healing, preaching and teaching ministry of Jesus. Our new website, launched on Thanksgiving Day last July, is part of this vision. It encourages people to personally experience God at Crowhurst and provides resources and encouragement for people unable to visit.

The website remains easy to navigate and the large sliding photographs and welcome video give a good impression of what to expect from a visit or a stay.

Visitors to the site can be confident that the information displayed is relevant and accurate. We post regular news items and keep the programme regularly updated. Resources and handouts from quiet days and teaching days can be downloaded and the website is linked to Twitter and Facebook.

Six months in, we are continuing to develop the website's potential and are excited about podcasting the twice-weekly healing service sermons in the near future. In response to demand we are starting to work on an online bookings facility.

Please let us know what you think of the site through Facebook and Twitter, email, post or via the 'contact us' form on the website.

Garden News

I wasn't able to touch base with Desmond for this issue, but I'm assuming that many of the usual spring duties will include cleaning hanging baskets with Jeyes fluid, thorough cleaning of used pots in readiness for spring planting, and there will be observance of roses for Black Spot, which will be sprayed accordingly.

Summer bedding will be planned and seedlings will be planted up. Hedges will be attended to and Hydrangeas will be pruned when the danger of frost has passed.

Cliff has submitted a few words of his duties over the winter months.

.....

Earlier last year, we had a few trees trimmed and the cuttings turned into bark chippings which came in handy for weed suppressant around the circle of shrubs and other places. Alas the great annual leaf clearance still took time as our oak trees hung onto them, dropping on the wet grass, which made it hard work.

But working here makes any task easier. So while Desmond sorts out what bulbs and annuals to plant, you will find me preparing the beds for him and restoring the edges of the grass, making it pleasing on the eye for all our visitors.

Blessings, *Cliff*



The rest of the gardening Team

Guided quiet days

Have you experienced a guided quiet day at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre? If not, why not come along and try one? These days have a guided reflection on a theme, worship, time for personal prayer and include a silent lunch. They are ideal for people who are looking for space to recharge their spiritual batteries.

The day begins with tea and coffee in the lounge, with registration at 10am. A silent lunch (with quiet music playing in the background) is at 1pm. The day ends with afternoon tea and fellowship at 3.45pm.

The programme ensures time to enjoy the peace and quiet of the chapels and the beautiful grounds. There is a fully equipped art room available to help you to express through painting or drawing what cannot readily be expressed through words. The lounge and library also provide comfortable places of quiet for your own relaxation.

Quiet days at Crowhurst are led by a variety of experienced leaders. You can download an information flyer with dates and leaders' details from our website at www.crowhursthealing.org.uk or if you prefer we can post one out to you. Please phone the office on 01424 830033.

The cost of the quiet day is £25, payable at time of booking, which includes, tea and coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, or by donation if you are a guest in house.

Do give one of these days a try. You can be assured of a warm welcome at this God given place.

Families Weekend/ Families Day

Refreshing the Family
Saturday 23 - Monday 25 May
£150 adults, children free



The norm is for adults and children to worship separately in church on a Sunday; children in their groups and adults in the main church services. Outside of Sunday we all have busy lives. How often do you get the chance to worship God as a family together? This weekend offers time as a family to experience God together, being encouraged and equipped together, growing in faith together and having fun together. In addition learn some new fun creative skills to worship, pray, listen to and talk to God together.

Families Day: Saturday 24th May
Adults £25, children free.

If you can't make the weekend, don't miss out. Come for the day and take part in the activities.

Spring Programme

MARCH

- 3 - 6 Prayer Partners Weekend
Praying in God's Kingdom
- 13 - 15 Healing Weekend
- 20 - 22 Ordinands Retreat:
House closed
- 25 Guided Quiet Day
'Oases in the desert'
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
- 27 - 28 Signs of His Kingdom -
Resourcing Individuals
(27th evening, 28th day)

APRIL

- 2 - 6 Easter Celebration
- 15 Guided Quiet Day
"Whose perception - His, mine or theirs?", led by Kay Smith
- 17- 19 Healing Weekend
- 25 Teaching Day:
"When I am old, I shall wear purple."
Led by Steve Gendall
- 23 - 30 Gift Days

MAY

- 2 - 4 Church Weekend - House full
- 5 - 9 Prayer through painting
- 14 - 17 Authentic Men's Weekend
- 20 Guided Quiet Day
'Bread of life: Love's gift for the journey', led by James Bamber
- 23 - 25 Families Weekend
Refreshing the family
(23rd (Arrive am, depart pm 25th))
- 25 Families Day

Advance Notice

Where is God in depression?

25 - 28 June 2015

This weekend is for those who are struggling with depression and for those who are caring for sufferers. There will be an opportunity to explore personal suffering and to listen for God's voice. The weekend will be led by Helen Warwick (pictured above), who has personal experience of depression when she went through a long and chronic illness.



Thanksgiving Day

Our yearly celebration of the life, work and ministry of the Centre will take place on Saturday 18th July.

Coffee will be available from 10am and the morning service will begin at 11am. Our preacher this year will be the Bishop of Lewes, Revd Richard Jackson, pictured right.



This year there will be an open invitation for everyone to share a simple snack lunch. As with last year, we will have a marquee.

The afternoon will focus on our Vision for the Future and there will be feedback on activities that have taken place at the Centre over the last year.

We encourage all those intending to come, to reflect on their own thanksgivings for all that God does at the CCHC and to perhaps bring a stone to place on the Thanksgiving Cairn.

How to contact us

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre
The Old Rectory, Crowhurst,
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Telephone: 01424 830204

Bookings: 01424 830033

Email: bookings.cchc@btconnect.com

Email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

The office is open from 9am - 6pm
Monday to Friday and 9am - 4pm Saturday

For a brochure, programme or further
information please contact the Secretary



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

Who's who

PRESIDENT

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Martin Granger

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

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