

in His Healing Steps

Spring 2016



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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.

Word from the Editor



Many of us will have technical gadgets which occasionally malfunction. If all else fails, and we can't fix the problem, there is often an in-built system which will restore things back to factory settings. This 'fix-it' button got me thinking about how great it would be if we could press 'reset' in our lives and be restored to a time when everything was once working perfectly!

But would this really be a good thing? Would we grow as people if we could reset the past? Who remembers the Superman stories? When tragedies happened, he would fly in reverse around the world, undoing all the bad things that had occurred, effectively operating the reset button! Sounds great in principle but going back in time would also mean missing out on the good things that happen too!

We may not have a reset button that can be pressed when we want to opt out of difficulties, but God does restore us according to His will and purpose if we put our trust in Him.

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre (CCHC) provides the perfect setting for God to bring about restoration. As we spend time in this place of His presence, in worship and in His Word, we are able to receive His peace and healing. We know from the many testimonies we receive that

folk experience restoration, refreshment and renewal from a visit or stay at the Centre.

Restoration is an on going process in the ups and downs of life, but unlike a factory reset, which renders the gadget back to its original state, God restores us in a new and unique way, to be the person He wants us to be. It's a lifetime journey and one day, in His timing, we will reach perfection and will never need to be reset or restored ever again. Hallelujah!

God's ways may not be our ways, but He does know what is best for us; if pressing reset was an option, then His plans for each one of us would never come to fruition and we would miss out on many blessings along the way!



Spring is such a beautiful season. Soon the clocks will go forward and the evenings will be lighter. Spring flowers will be covering the grounds of the Centre and the warm spring sunshine will be very welcome!

Our programme for the year ahead is a busy one and if you don't already have a copy, they are available from the office, or you can download it from our website.

Every blessing, *Mary*

Steve's letter



As John the Baptist points towards Jesus at the beginning of our Lord's ministry, he says an unusual thing; 'I did not know Him.' How

could someone who had lived with Jesus not have known who He was?

I remember doing a funeral in which the eulogy was entitled, 'The Lucky Man.' The deceased had lived in the village all his life and was known by all who filled the church. Yet no one knew his secret; he bet on the horses and was good at it! So much of what he owned and did was a result of his winnings. Imagine the surprise! (*Some trust in horses but we trust in God - Psalm 20:7.*)

John the Baptist said; "I did not know Him." What John was saying was 'I did not know **this** about Him.' The Baptist had known Jesus of Nazareth, but had not known **this** about Him. John's cue was; the one on whom you see the Spirit rest is **the one**. However even with this cue, John failed to grasp that Jesus was the Messiah and what that would look like. It is true to say that neither did the disciples until Peter's great

revelation from Father God: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God", (Matthew 16:16). Even then Jesus had to explain what it would mean.


I suspect you can think of examples of when you have been surprised by people and the things you didn't know about them. In some cases this may be a painful memory or experience and the Lord's healing, forgiveness and grace need to be applied. I thank the Lord that at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, we see the Lord zealously working at repairing individuals, relationships and the broken world that the Lord created very good. Thank you Lord.

Whilst I don't know all about Jesus, I thank God for what I do know, and I enjoy listing those things as an act of praise to Him. (Why not try it?)

One thing I have learnt is that knowing Jesus does not give me a right to know what tomorrow will bring.

This is being made very clear during our present time at the CCHC. We know our Lord is shaping us for His purpose but we don't know what the end result will look like. (*Please see the enclosed letter for more details.*) We know that whatever happens, with the help of our Lord, His Kingdom will come more and more to the CCHC and beyond, as it is in heaven. Please pray for us as we walk in faith and confidence.

With love from us all at the CCHC, *Steve*



But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

Kingdom Moments

Advent Quiet Day: Led by Paul and Olive Deeming

This Advent Quiet day was really inspiring! Paul and Olive gave us so much to think about, which would take too many pages to write, but what particularly struck me and many of the other folk present, was the focus on 'Kingdom moments'- times when God breaks through into our world.

I have thought a lot about Kingdom moments since the Quiet Day and now regularly see how the Lord's Kingdom comes into our world. Do we not pray in the Lord's Prayer ... 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven?'

The terrible flooding in Cumbria, just before Christmas, evoked an immediate response of help, not only from the rescue services, but also from the community and beyond. Was this not God in action (Kingdom moments) through the love and compassion of others, some of whom even came from outside the village to lend a hand in whatever way they could? As a result, folk who otherwise would never have met, have now cemented lifelong friendships from reaching out to those in need. A non-Kingdom moment has resulted in many Kingdom moments. Hallelujah!

At the CCHC, where the Lord is at the heart of the Centre, Kingdom moments are experienced not only during the services, or prayer ministry, but also during relaxing and social times, through fellowship over meals or in the lounge.

Then there are every day random acts of kindness. I hadn't really thought about this before but I now see these as Kingdom moments. It might be something as simple as a smile from a stranger, a courteous driver giving way, a surprise phone call from a friend or relative, or even an unexpected visit.

If I look back on my own Kingdom moments, I would probably lose count as there have been very many! As with many of us, the list would never be exhaustive because it will be added to continually as we journey through life.

Finding Crowhurst in 1996 was most definitely a huge Kingdom moment for me. The 'God-incidences' that led me there, I can now see were a series of Kingdom moments!

Apart from discovering the CCHC, other Kingdom moments have been the birth of my daughter and grandchildren, plus special friends, but the biggest Kingdom moments have got to be God's continued provision throughout my life; He has always met me at my point of need.

Thank you Paul and Olive for this wonderful Quiet Day, and for highlighting how God's Kingdom comes into our lives daily.

Mary



**Sometimes I just
look up, smile and
say,**

**"I know that was
you God, thanks!"**

The Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre – a brief history

The fascinating story of the CCHC begins with James Moore Hickson, who felt called by God to revive the ministry of healing in the Anglican Church. In 1925 Mr Hickson met the Revd Howard Cobb and was invited to take a mission in his church at Mill Hill, London. Before it could take place, Howard Cobb contracted sleeping sickness and was close to death. Mr Hickson laid hands on the sick man and within the day he began to recover. During his period of convalescence, Howard Cobb felt called by the Lord into the healing ministry.

In 1928, Howard Cobb became Rector of St George's, Crowhurst while taking in guests in need of restoration and healing at the Rectory. He soon discovered that it was impossible to do both jobs, so in 1930 he resigned as Rector and with his wife, May, bought the Rectory and gave himself full time to the work of healing. Revd George Bennett took over as Warden in 1958. The story of the Centre's subsequent renewal is told in his book 'Miracle at Crowhurst', which is available from the Centre's bookstall.

A new accommodation wing was completed in 1962 and the large chapel was consecrated in 1966. The CCHC now has two chapels. The smaller one, pictured below, dates back to the earliest days of the Centre, and is frequently used for daily services.



Visiting Crowhurst

You can be assured of a very warm welcome at this small and friendly Christian Healing Centre. Folk often comment on the peace that immediately greets them on arrival.

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

The house is set in attractive gardens and features a beautiful prayer walk, with Scriptures to aid meditation and reflection.



Accommodation comprises of nineteen comfortable bedrooms, six of which are twin-bedded and mostly en-suite, with the remainder situated close to a bath or shower room. Eight of the rooms are on the ground floor, including two with walk in showers for those less physically able. All bed-linen and towels are provided, and tea/coffee-making facilities are available in each room.

There is a large comfortable lounge overlooking the garden, a dining room, a library and a beautiful art room with superb views. Maggie, our resident artist, is available to assist you if you need guidance.

Healing Weekends

Meals are freshly prepared on site and include a varied choice. Special dietary requirements can be accommodated by prior arrangement.

The daily programme revolves around Christ-centred worship and Holy Communion. Each day concludes with the service of Night Prayer.

There are also twice-weekly healing services, which are open to the public. - Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Thursdays at 10.15am. Our three current Chaplains pictured below, are, left to right, Steve Gendall, Penny Button and Steve Clark.



Prayer ministry is available to our guests and also by appointment to those outside the Centre. Two Prayer Ministers come alongside 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 our public services, and when the need arises.

Please visit our website for more information, www.crowhursthealing.org.uk or telephone the office on 01424 830204.

Healing Weekends, which are held several times during the year, provide an opportunity to come aside for personal reflection and renewal of body, mind or spirit. The weekend begins at 3.45pm on Friday with welcomes and introductions, although you are free to arrive any time after 2pm. We have a time of quiet worship to settle you into your time away and after an evening meal, there is a light session, often exploring your own needs.

On Saturday morning there is an optional Communion service before breakfast, after which we explore the 'Timeless Good News of Jesus.' This input is followed by space for guests to notice and process what God is saying to them.

The weekend, above all else, is about meeting God so that He can touch and heal, and after a second input exploring the breadth of Jesus' healing work, the rest of the morning is a quiet, spacious time with God.

Here is what one of our guests said after coming on one of these weekends:

"Thank you all for my amazing Healing Weekend. I came full of doubt, weighed down with depressive thoughts, tired and questioning my faith and God's existence.

From the moment we arrived we were welcomed into a warm comfortable lounge. Your love, your faith and your amazing sessions started to heal me. Over the weekend, and especially in the incredible service on Sunday, I felt God's love so strongly. I felt the Holy Spirit. I was loved - I could feel it. God is amazing and He does love me!

What you are doing at Crowhurst is so powerful, so wonderful, thank you so much for being there."



Crowhurst Team Christmas party 2015

On 17 December the Centre closed for the Christmas break and in the evening around ninety folk - staff, volunteers and trustees - plus their companions, gathered together for festive fun, delicious food, a mini-panto and Christmas carols.

We played a 'getting to know you game', which involved each of us being given the name of a well known character. Our task was to find their partner - I was Robin Hood and needed to find Maid Marian; someone else had Mark Anthony and was looking for Cleopatra, while another had Batman and was searching for Robin. Most found their partners, but strangely enough, I never did find Maid Marian; I think she was hiding!

After a delicious buffet, we were entertained with Roald Dahl's version of The Three Little Pigs, superbly performed by the Chaplaincy team. Who can identify the different characters from the top photo?

After the hilarious panto, we went back into the lounge, where Steve G gave thanks to the Lord for His many provisions at the CCHC during the 2015.

Following this, we sang a selection of carols, including one in French - 'Il est né le Divin Enfant', which was challenging to say the least! I did manage to remember some of my French from school days and although I wasn't completely sure of what I was singing,

I knew it was about the baby Jesus from the words Divin Enfant! For those of you whose French is as rusty as mine, the English translation of the carol is 'Born is He little child Divine.'

It was a really enjoyable evening and a great way for the whole team to come together and wind down after a busy year at the Centre.

Who is this naughty Big Bad Wolf?



Lesley and Terry Valiant: Visiting Chaplains



Our first visit to the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre was on Thanksgiving Day 2013. We remember well the cheerful welcome in the car park, the warm reception in the entrance hall, and the helpful stewards when we arrived in the packed chapel and sought seats. Two were found, and in the front row. Wow!

Not knowing anything about the Centre a month earlier, we were now embraced in the heart of things. This was all due to two stalwart Crowhurst supporters in Devon, who from their own visits over many years knew the healing benefits and joys of the place.

These two ladies regularly met to pray and had a word for us that, 'we should go to Crowhurst.' We felt compelled to do a search for the Centre and on looking at the programme, saw that there was an open day on as we were on our way home from holiday in Suffolk.

Everything seemed to fall into place. Here we were enjoying the celebration, sitting in the sunshine eating our lunch, when we were approached by one of the Chaplains. Having heard it was our first visit and how we had come to be there, she introduced us to Steve G.

It was an amazing conversation I'm sure, but I only remember Steve and Penny saying 'at Crowhurst we need people like you!'

I had trained in the past at a Healing Centre in the Forest of Dean and had been hoping for many years to again serve in a residential setting. The CCHC had the warm, comfortable ambience, and the ministry seemed to be in a similar style. It felt like coming home.

We were so encouraged that we arranged a short visit two months later, followed by a further visit to talk with the Chaplains.

Early the next year we attended a Healing Retreat weekend. We knew that the Centre was really growing on us and tentatively started on the road to becoming Visiting Chaplains.

We now live in Kent and serve at the CCHC as much as we are able. We often look back on our amazing first encounter!

We give our thanks to God and those two lovely ladies for their kindness, faithfulness and friendship. As we write, we again realise the amazing way we found the path to ministry at Crowhurst and realise again the importance of prayer, listening to God and following His will and ways.

Lesley and Terry



Christian Meditation - Resting with God

Be still in the presence of the LORD and wait for Him to act. Psalm 37:7



Cats certainly know how to relax and rest in the presence of their surroundings! We humans are always so often rushing around aren't we? Meditation is a perfect way of taking time out to rest in the Lord's presence.

This 'taster' article was kindly sent in by retired URC Minister, Keith Havers, as an introduction to the important work of Christian Meditation which, during his ministry, he introduced to churches, healing sessions, prayer groups, and individuals. Keith's association with the CCHC goes back to 1960, when as a young Congregational Minister in Hastings, he visited the warden, George Bennett. Keith says he learned a lot from Revd Bennett, and shared conferences with him at High Leigh and at the Centre. Over the years, Keith has visited Crowhurst many times and has always received 'enormous help.'

Introduction

Meditation is a way of becoming aware of the presence of God, of growing in Him and in service, and it can be used to help others. Sitting comfortably, spend a few minutes in silence discerning God's presence ... and then with spine upright, feet on the ground, hands on lap, relax the body, toes, ankles, calves, tummy, thighs, face, eyes and fingers. Keep the head still and breathe in and out deeply about three or four times.

If you are new to this, start with a short time, say five minutes, increasing as experience is gained. It helps to take a word

or short sentence from Scripture and repeat it over and over, allowing the truth to sink into the mind. There it will begin to bring about healing by change of character at this deep level.

Perseverance yields its fruit; we become more peaceful and calm, and learn a deeper love. Personal relationships can be transformed and it can also have positive effects on the body, giving a greater resistance to disease. We begin to experience our Lord's fullness of life. *"The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness."* John 10:10 (New Living Translation).

Aim for two sessions of meditation each day, morning and evening. Meditators use a word or phrase for a week and then change. Always conclude meditation with thanksgiving. To get started here is one example of a simple phrase to meditate on.

'Be still and know my presence'

The Christian based organisation, the Fellowship of Meditation, is a fellowship which provides an opportunity for people of all denominations, and none, to learn and practice meditation. They use a particular method to make space for stillness in their lives in order to be open to God in regular contemplative meditation. The Fellowship's method of meditation centres on the use of sentences, containing 'Words of Life', which are based on eternal truths and teaching in the Bible. They help to focus attention on God.

If you would like to know more about the Fellowship of Meditation, you can write to them at, 8 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1PW. Tel: 01305 251396; or if you have internet access, type www.fellowshipofmeditation.org into your browser and see what they have to offer.

Spring Prayer Requests

Spring Prayer Requests

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Spring Prayer Requests

PRAYER FOCUS

"Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 119: 89 & 90

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him." Psalm 147:1

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's provision for all our needs during the past year.
- Give thanks for the blessings received during the Prayer Ministers' and Visiting Chaplains' weekend at the beginning of January. This was a rare opportunity to come together in fellowship, and to receive refreshment and ministry at the beginning of a new year of service at the CCHC.
- Give thanks and praise for all the staff and volunteers who give so sacrificially to the Lord's ministry here at the Centre. May the blessing of love, peace, hope and joy be theirs in abundance.
- Give thanks and praise for the refurbishment of the games room as a 'drop in' prayer centre.
- Please continue to pray for the refurbishing work on the old art room as it is transformed into a quiet prayer space for guests.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him." Jeremiah 17:7

March 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

MARCH

- 1 - 5 Prayer through Painting
 - 9 Guided Quiet Day:
Changed from glory into glory
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
 - 15 Trustees Prayer Day
 - 11 - 13 Healing Weekend
 - 24 - 27 Easter Celebration:
"Healing; as we walk together with Jesus through His last days."
Led by Revd Sarah Chapman
-
- "He is not here; He is risen, just as He said."*
Matthew 28:6



April Prayer Focus

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.”
Hebrews 10: 23 & 24

APRIL

- 8 - 10 Healing Weekend
- 13 Guided Quiet Day:
 Keys for Kingdom living
 Led by Kay Smith
- 15 - 17 Ordinands Retreat (House closed)
- 23 Teaching Day led by Steve Clark
 ‘The Lord is my Pacesetter’
- 30 Apr Parish Weekend (House closed)
- 2 May

May Prayer Focus

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10

MAY

- 6 - 8 Healing Weekend
- 10 Trustees Meeting
- 10 - 14 Prayer through Painting
- 19 - 22 Authentic Men’s Weekend
- 25 Guided Quiet Day
 In all the changing landscapes of life - God is’ - A day to reflect on our pilgrimage with Abba
 Led By James Bamber

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
Hebrews 11:1

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” Hebrews 13:8



Prayer for The Centre

PRAYER FOCUS

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

Martin Granger (Chair), Jim Beveridge, Suzanne Owen, Paul Raynor, Jane Thomas and Nigel Thonger.

- On December 18th, Jim Beveridge suffered a severe stroke and was rushed into hospital. He is now back home and continues to receive specialist care. His speech is improving and he is becoming more mobile. There has been much progress but more is needed. Please pray earnestly that the Lord will heal Jim completely. Pray too for Jenny, his wife, and his family, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them at this difficult time, that they will know the Lord's abiding presence with them each day. We need people with a love of the Lord and an understanding of the Healing Ministry of Christ's love at the CCHC.
- Please continue to pray for the Trustees as they discern the Lord's will concerning a couple of candidates who may join the Board.
- Having partially addressed the car parking issues with matting on the lawn by the entrance gate, this has been seriously tested by the on-going rain, which has at times led to waterlogging. Pray that our efforts may prove useful, and for wisdom as we struggle with car parking space - especially on Thursday mornings.
- We give thanks for the generosity of all those who continue to financially support the work of Christ's Healing love at the CCHC. Continue to pray for the Lord's leading in all we do. Knowing that the Centre is His place, may we be obedient to His perfect will and timing.

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

Prayer for staff at The Centre

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality." Romans 12: 12 & 13

CHAPLAINCY AND WORSHIP

Steve Gendall, Steve Clark, Penny, Andy, Brenda, Carole, Colin, David B, David F, Dee, Gill, Gwen, Helen, Hildegard, Jan, Jenny, John, Judith, June, Maggie, Margaret, Mike, Nigel, Olive, Pam, Pat, Paul, Pete, Peter, Phyllis, Pippa, Rachel, 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, Ian, Justine, Marion, Sarah, Shirley and Steve

MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Desmond, Brian, Cliff, Dave and David

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58



My second Prayer through Painting Week

This was the second time I'd attended a prayer through painting week and once again it was a real blessing in many ways. The theme of light and dark flowed through the week; from the readings, songs, talks and through our paintings too. All of the services during the week linked with the light and dark theme, and we sang various songs which spoke of light and darkness.

Readings included Psalm 27:1 - *The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear?*

John 8:12 - *I am the light of the World, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*

John 9 has the account of Jesus healing the man born blind; we need our spiritual sight restored over and over again because we won't truly see until we enter eternity.

Where is God in our circumstances? Jesus came into the World; He shows us who God is and He opens our spiritual eyes.

We need to be lights in this world... Be the light ... shine the light. Who remembers the song ... *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine?* Pass the light of Christ to just one person; let it make a difference.

On the Wednesday evening we watched a short film 'Simplifying Watercolour with John Hoar.' It was really interesting watching him demonstrate painting in Norfolk and seeing how he painted the light and dark areas, and the shadows.

During the Friday morning communion service, Revd Bridget Jenkinson gave us all a glowstick on a string. After bending and shaking them, they glowed and were really effective, though they didn't last for long!

On the Saturday Bridget commented that *"the Glowsticks are not glowing much today. They are not everlasting"*, she said, *"but*

The Lord will be your Everlasting Light. God has always been light. He is constant."

The sunlight varies and so does the moon, which waxes and wanes, but everlasting light is constant. Can we say to Jesus, *"You are the Light of my life?"*

"I am the Light of the World", declared Jesus when He was on earth. Holman Hunt's famous painting depicts Christ holding a lantern, lighting up Himself, His features, the doorway, and the way ahead. To those living in spiritual darkness, He is waiting to enter their lives and flood it with the light of eternal life. One of the guests on the week produced a beautiful painting of the lower half of this picture.



"In this world of darkness so we must shine. You in your small corner and I in mine."

If you have never been before, I would really encourage you to come to a Prayer and Painting week at the Centre. The art room is such a peaceful place, with lovely views and you don't need any previous experience as our resident artist, Maggie, will prayerfully guide you. *Helen Smith*

Guided Quiet Days and Teaching Days

Guided Quiet Days encourage and offer a deep sense of Christ's peace. Running from 10am to 3.45 pm, they are led by a variety of leaders who help us experience God's presence in our midst. The cost is £25, payable at the time of booking, and includes, tea and coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, and is by donation if you are a guest in the house.

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9 March: Guided Quiet Day 'Changed from glory into glory'

Led by Pam Vale-Taylor

When we start to walk with Jesus, we find that God begins to change us; maybe we should wear T-shirts with the slogan 'Caution! God at Work!' On this Quiet Day we will consider the journey of change - the Lord at work in us and how we might co-operate with Him to be "changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place!"

13 April: Guided Quiet Day: 'Keys for Kingdom Living'

Led by Kay Smith

The three sessions will be:

Thanksgiving, Focus and Honouring.

25 May: Guided Quiet Day: 'In all the changing landscapes of life - God is.'

Led by Revd James Bamber
This will be a day to reflect on our pilgrimage with Abba.

TEACHING DAY: 23 April 'The Lord is my Pacesetter'

Led by Steve Clark

God has a different perspective on time to ourselves. As we search Scripture, we will discover Jesus as the Lord of time. There will be plenty of space in the day to allow God's transformation of our busy lives.

Our Teaching Days - open to all - offer an opportunity to actively explore aspects of Christian Healing in more depth. Payment is by donation, plus £12 for lunch and refreshments.

Authentic Men's Weekend: 19 to 22 May 2016

This weekend could be one of the most liberating experiences of your life! Based on the book "Wild at Heart" by John Eldredge, the weekend starts with arrivals on Thursday 19th from 2pm. There will be a meal together at 6pm and the programme kicks off at 7pm. Each day will be a balance of seminars, personal space and some time to unwind. The weekend will finish after lunch on Sunday 22nd. To take advantage of the outdoors, we recommend you bring suitable walking equipment, including walking boots and waterproofs.



Here is just one of the many comments from a previous weekend.

I crawled to the weekend, tired, passive and somewhat beaten. I feel my spark has returned. I'm leaving feeling inspired, challenged, healed and excited to see my family and 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!

The cost of the weekend is £150. The basis is full board, inclusive of all meals and materials. If you would like to come, don't leave it too long to book as the last couple of weekends have been full!

Crowhurst Youngsters

We held our first ever families weekend last year, which was a great success. Fun was had by adults and children alike and another is planned from August 27th - 29th, which includes a 'Families Day' on Sunday 27th. If you would like to read an article about the previous Families Weekend, you can find it in the Autumn magazine, which can be accessed via our website.

Children are always very welcome at our public services; there is a box of toys at the back of the Chapel to keep them entertained during the quieter moments!

Amelia and Imogen sometimes visit the CCHC in their summer holidays; they are both very good during the service as they know they have their picnic to look forward to afterwards!

At one of the Thursday morning services last year, the two little girls were very captivated by Natalie, who dances so gracefully and worshipfully with banners. At the end of the service, while Pippa was playing the piano, they picked up two of the banners and started dancing around the Chapel. The banners were a bit large for them and they did bang the altar rail a few times, but I don't think the Lord minded! They do look very caught up in their worship!



The art room at Crowhurst is always a popular magnet for all who visit the Centre. During their day at the CCHC last year, Amelia and Imogen decided to paint some stones for the Thanksgiving Cairn. They wrote their own messages of thanks to God and laid them on the Cairn. It will be fun for them to look for their stones each time they visit.

The girls loved the art room and I expect these stones won't be their first piece of art produced on future visits to the Centre!



Prayer Partners Retreat: October 2015

Praising, loving and Serving Our Lord at the CCHC



We 'Beat the Bounds' on the Friday afternoon, praying for the inner and outer boundaries. This was to form a protective Prayer Shield around the CCHC.

On the Sunday we were Commissioned and Anointed to carry out our mission as Prayer Partners for the Centre.

The fun element took the form of a competition to find a caption for the Baby photo, which was won by Anisah, who wrote: *Smile and the world smiles with you ...!*

John and Elizabeth

*The hymn below was sung during the weekend.
Some of you may know it?*

The Prayer Partners Retreat was both a joyous and prayerful weekend; a chance to renew acquaintances and make new ones. Our programme had this cute little baby on the front, a 'very young Prayer Partner' saying, 'Praise Jesus', which was the theme for the weekend.

The Worship themes, which were sung each day, were 'Praise Him in the morning', 'Love Him in the noon time' and finally, 'Serve Him when the sun goes down'.

There were two workshops on Protection and Prayer and we were divided into discussion groups to consider these topics. We discussed how we both sought and encountered God's Love in the light of our own experiences, which we shared within the groups. Bible Readings were provided to kick-start our thoughts in question and answer sessions. We were asked how we prayed and who and what we were praying for - e.g our Christian brothers and sisters who are facing persecution throughout the world, and the work of the CCHC.

We were asked how do we recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit and where do we seek encouragement when we are feeling down?

Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him in the morning, Praise Him in the noon time. Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him when the sun goes down.

Love Him, love Him, love Him in the morning, Love Him in the noon time. Love Him, love Him, love Him when the sun goes down.

Serve Him, serve Him, serve Him in the morning, Serve Him in the noon time. Serve Him, serve Him, serve Him when the sun goes down.

Healing Week: October 2015 A real blessing

The healing week, which we were so pleased to be able to attend having been on a waiting list, was a real blessing to us personally, and I am sure to all who were there.

From being greeted at the office to the time of leaving, it was a warm and comfortable, welcoming place. And most importantly of course, the Lord was there too!

The teaching was led by Bishop Graham Dow, who gave us helpful notes to take home. Everything taught was backed up by a wide range of Scriptures. He 'laid the foundations' for the Christian healing ministry, and we were then 'thrown into it' - but with the help of some experienced Prayer Ministers from the Centre. Their leadership was invaluable as we broke up into five or six groups of six.

It was all done quietly, tactfully and lovingly. Several reported that they had been healed of a physical problem, while others were blessed in an emotional area. The fact that some are not healed was discussed and some possible reasons given. God is Sovereign.

However, it was not all learning and doing and we did have some free time in the afternoon. Whilst some went for a walk around the lovely grounds, others ventured into the art room where, with the help of Maggie, they were encouraged to use their hidden talents. (I was surprised at what I produced!) However, others (namely my husband) actually went for a sleep and missed that blessing!

We are hoping to visit the CCHC again very soon.

Nell Elly

Outreach Could we come to you?



We have been thrilled to receive requests from home and abroad to come and teach churches and Christian groups a little of what we know and experience of the healing ministry of Jesus. We are particularly excited because we believe that God is calling us to return to “ancient paths” or the old way of doing things. In the early days of the CCHC, an important part of the work was taking the vision, experience and skills of the Crowhurst team and sharing it with others by teaching, equipping and praying for them.

We would therefore, be delighted to receive requests from congregations and groups of any denomination to provide teaching, encouragement and equipping. Whether you have a well established healing ministry and ministry team, or whether you feel your church or group needs basic training in the healing ministry, we can tailor our provision to meet your needs. Contact the office via email (crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com) for more information or to make a request.

Songs of Praise



Sing to Him,
sing praises to Him;
speak of all His wonders

I had only sung this song a few times before it became a firm favourite of mine. Our grandson, Joshua, had chosen it for his baptism and after the service, the chorus (with which the song begins) kept going through my mind. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name."

A month later I was attending a 'Praying in colour' weekend and a poem we were given contained a line which really jumped out at me: 'I'll sing **YOU** as no one ever has', strongly echoing a line of the chorus of the song, Ten Thousand Reasons.

In 2014 I was due to come to the CCHC and as it was the week of Thanksgiving Day, I decided to make a thanksgiving collage based on Ten Thousand Reasons! I gathered together a collection of magazines and photographs that would, I hoped, provide enough suitable pictures for the collage; and although I wouldn't be able to put ten thousand on it, I wanted it to be really crowded with pictures of the many blessings I have received. Maggie provided card for the collage and I managed to finish it in time for Thanksgiving Day. You can imagine my delight when I found that one of the songs chosen for the morning service was the song, 'Ten Thousand Reasons!'

Ten Thousand Reasons by Matt Redman

1. The sun comes up; it's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again. Whatever
may pass and whatever lies before me; let
me be singing when the evening comes!
2. You're rich in love and You're slow to anger;
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.
3. And on that day when my strength is failing.
The end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing our praise unending.
Ten thousand years and then forevermore,
forevermore!

Verse two reminds me of some of the most important and reassuring qualities of God - His love, His greatness, His blessings - things we can rejoice in and celebrate.

I love this song because there is such joy in it; it's an exuberant song, full of thanksgiving. I love the idea that each new morning means it's time to sing again. The dawn is a beautiful time and just as we get excited when we see the sun rise, God gets excited when we wake up in the morning - just ask Steve G!

'But are there really ten thousand reasons for giving thanks and praise to God?' I asked myself. My answer was "yes!" To me, every flower, every robin, every ladybird are things to praise God for. In addition to the more personal blessings of husband, family etc, and as an ME sufferer, my walking, conversations, reading and so on - all are reasons for thanksgiving. And then there's Crowhurst; what a blessing to so many of us!

In July 2014, I was singing like never before, in the belief that I was being healed. For various reasons, I did not progress in the way I expected, but I do believe that God is healing me and He is the pacesetter. 'Bless the Lord, O my soul.' And yes, I am still singing that song!

G.H.



Gardening for God

I've been hugely blessed to have enjoyed the privilege of 'Gardening for God' at the CCHC over the last two years but I have now decided to 'bow out' from my role for the foreseeable future. This is not through want of enthusiasm, but due to having too much other gardening work to attend to, mainly back in Hastings, including my vicar's garden!



It's taken several years to regain the sense of a balanced working life. This has been the answer to many prayers and I thank God for providing me with sufficient work. The Lord brings us healing in so many different ways!

Life at the Centre is about encountering the healing Christ. Yet for those who serve there ... *"do it all to the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10:31). By His grace alone is also a key imperative.

The CCHC's grounds are very special. You find the Lord so easily and thus sense a holy, wholesome quality imbuing them, a healing radiance. Folk who walk up the pathway from the station often comment that they immediately sense the Lord's presence and peace!

Some areas of the grounds are formal, and therefore geared to put on an impressive floral display in spring and summer. Other areas are more wild and countrified - and therefore all the more pleasing to birds, butterflies and insects. This composite of the two dimensions enhances the sense that this little part of the world is truly in harmony with God! A jewel in the crown is the circular Prayer Walk, which has multiple stopping off points of spiritual significance.

As the 'Gardener of gardeners', the Lord truly knows what's best for us. He never gets His timing wrong about when to plant, when to prune and when to harvest! *'A garden always needs vision'*, said Evelyn Underhill, former Trustee and long serving volunteer. So true! It also needs transformation, as do human and Christian lives. For both gardens and those created in the Divine image, only *'God gives the growth.'* (1 Corinthians 3:6)

I will miss that unique feeling of gardening on what is distinctively 'God's ground', but will continue to be closely involved with the Centre as a Prayer Partner.

May I invite you all to look with fresh eyes at God's Creation in 2016. Be amazed at the wisdom you perceive in its design, at the power sustaining it and at the love radiating towards you through it. This will be a healing from the Lord. *Ronnie Carless*

Healing and Forgiveness: 24 - 26 June 2016



These two cute ducks, which were photographed by Veronica Gendall, look as if they have had words! I wonder how long it took them to forgive each other!

Forgiveness is never an easy subject but it is something that we do need to be open to. In the article, 'Journey into forgiveness', which featured in last year's spring magazine, the author wrote:, "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."

Difficult and challenging as it is, forgiveness is not something that we can ignore because the Lord reminds us of it in the prayer He taught His disciples, with the words, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us."

If the topic of forgiveness is something you would like to explore further, the CCHC is holding a 'Healing and Forgiveness' weekend from 24 - 26 June, which will be led by the Crowhurst Team and Dr Stephanie Thornton, a psychologist and co-author of the book, "Finding Forgiveness."

The weekend will be looking at how forgiveness is a spiritual gift open to us all, so why is it so hard to forgive or to feel forgiven? Understanding the psychological stages of forgiveness can help.

Crowhurst magazine



We consider the magazine an important means of outreach and information on the work of the Centre, and it is greatly appreciated by nearly 2,000 people each quarter. However the donations we receive do not cover the cost of production, as a significant proportion of our readers currently read it 'for free.'

Whilst we have no intention of stopping production, or reducing the quality, we need to address this shortfall of several thousand pounds a year. In the summer edition there will be a flyer giving you the opportunity to continue to receive the magazine by donation; otherwise we will sadly need to cease sending it to you.

If you do not currently make a donation directly for the magazine, or to general funds, then you can of course read each issue for free on line ... www.crowhursthealing.co.uk. There are twenty seven back issues on the website, which are easy to read with the click of a mouse on a computer, or the swipe of a finger on an Iphone or Ipad!

We are very grateful to our many readers who do provide a donation, sometimes well above production cost.

Colin Crook
Chair of the Editorial Board

Spring Programme



MARCH

- 1 - 5 Prayer through Painting
- 9 Guided Quiet Day:
Changed from glory into glory
Led by Pam Vale-Taylor
- 11 - 13 Healing Weekend
- 24 - 27 Easter Celebration:
*"Healing; as we walk together with
Jesus through His last days."*
Led by Revd Sarah Chapman

APRIL

- 8 - 10 Healing Weekend
- 13 Guided Quiet Day
Keys for Kingdom living
Led by Kay Smith
- 15 - 17 Ordinands Retreat (House closed)
- 23 Teaching Day led by Steve Clark
'The Lord is my Pacesetter'
- 30 Apr - 2 May Parish Weekend (House closed)

MAY

- 6 - 8 Healing Weekend
- 10 - 14 Prayer through Painting
- 19 - 22 Authentic Men's Weekend
- 25 Guided Quiet Day



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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



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