

in His Healing Steps



Summer 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



What's in a name?

Names are very powerful and can evoke many thoughts depending on the association of the name.

Take the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. When we speak of it in conversation, we will usually affectionately refer to it as 'Crowhurst' but in writing, we refer to it with its full title, or the CCHC, the Centre and sometimes Crowhurst. I know whenever I talk about this special place, I get a feeling of joy, peace and thankfulness, because I know how much I have been blessed by the Lord there over the years.

When Revd Howard Hobb began his ministry in 1928, the Centre was known as The Rectory. Later it became known as 'The Old Rectory'.

Speaking of names, the office recently received some old Crowhurst publications in the post and discovered that the much loved pond (pictured on page 2) is actually called 'Spring Pond', and the field on the Prayer Walk is called 'Church Meadow'. Something to reflect on when you next walk or sit in the beautiful grounds.

Names were particularly important in Biblical times. God has many names - Adonai, El Shaddai, Elohim, to name just a few, and when Moses asked God what he should call Him, God replied ... *"I AM WHO I AM."* This is what

you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you." (Exodus 3:14).

Abraham's name means 'Father of many nations' (Genesis 17:5). Abraham and his wife, Sarah, named their son Isaac, which in Hebrew means laughter. Both had laughed when God told them Sarah would have a child at the age of 90. I think I would have laughed too but the lesson then, and now, is never to underestimate God because we know that with Him, all things are possible!

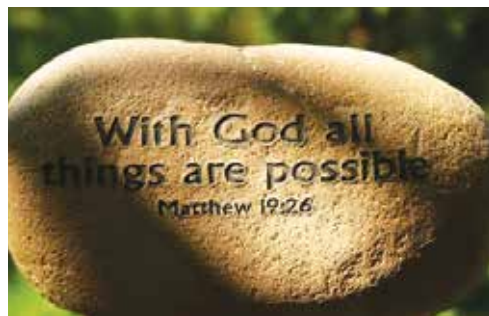
Thanksgiving Day: Saturday 16th July 2016

Do make a note in your diary for our annual day of thanks and celebration of the life, work and ministry of our Lord. Enjoy worship and fellowship; come and see our new Prayer Rooms and other work that has been done in and around the grounds.

Going back to names - Thanksgiving Day used to be known as Open Day, but as the theme is always one of thanksgiving to God for His generous and on-going provision at the Centre, the name was changed in 2007 to Thanksgiving Day to reflect this and give Him all the honour.

Healing Testimonies

On pages 6 and 15, there are two amazing testimonies of the Lord's healing, and the word 'miracle' is very much evident with both of them!



With every blessing, *Mary*

Steve's letter



Dear Friends,

Whilst on Retreat at Ffald-y-Brenin after Easter, Veronica and I enjoyed walking in the wonderfully spectacular Welsh mountains, which were covered with thousands of snow white balls of wool, skipping, leaping and bleating, 'maaam'! One day we came across this little lamb trapped in a fence. The lamb was helpless and afraid with no way out.

I climbed over the barbed wire boundary fence and approached the immobile lamb. One confident upward pull released the lamb and within moments the free animal was being comforted by mother's love.

We do not intend to get trapped in situations that bind, break and cause us to bleed do we? Jesus died, was buried and rose again, so that whatever our circumstance, whatever our condition, He as the one True Good Shepherd could free us and reconcile us to Father's love, that we may be 'white as snow', free to skip, leap and call out Abba, As you read this now, be sure the Lord is near to save and heal, to offer hope, peace, joy and love. Helen H Lemmel's chorus comes to mind, *'Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth may grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.'*



Shape Update

Thank you so much for the generous response to the spring letter!

The writer to the Hebrews says, 'Fix your eyes on Jesus' (Hebrews 12.2) and Jesus says be flexible enough to be blown wherever the Spirit pleases (John 3.8). Whilst there are things that mark our identity as the CCHC, the Lord is graciously reminding us not to be bound by a structure or anything that is not of Him. Please continue to pray as we seek His will for the Centre in the following areas: Daily prayer and worship; Outreach - E-Learning, use of website and Parish visits; Prayer Rooms - resourcing; 2017 Programme; Review of income and expenditure.

A not unexpected change to our 'Shape' is the recent retirement of Maggie, our dear Resident Artist. Maggie's fingerprints and brush strokes are all over the CCHC. I know you will all join me in blessing Maggie for all she has offered of herself here - her prayerful guidance, friendship and steadfast reassuring presence.

I'm delighted that Stephen will continue in his position, meaning that with Maggie they remain resident. Maggie has generously offered to continue as a volunteer prayer minister, giving her much earned free time and space. Thank you Lord. Whilst the art room will not be the same without Maggie, we are fortunate that Mavis, who has helped with previous Prayer through Painting weeks, will lead the one in August, assisted by Dee.

Please pray with us as we see which way the 'Spirit blows us' for the future.

With love from us all at the CCHC.

Steve

Gift Aid it!



Many of you are aware of the importance of gift aiding your donations. There is no catch; it is absolutely legitimate providing you pay enough tax to the Inland Revenue each year to cover the gift aided element, either in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax. The Government gives us back 25% of any love gift or donation you give the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre if you Gift Aid it. So if you give us £20.00, we can claim £5.00 back! Your gift is then worth £25.00. There is no limit; a donation of £200 is worth £250.00 if gift aided! **But you have to ensure you have completed the form and gift aided your donation, otherwise we lose the benefit and that would be sad!**

If you are not sure how it works, or you require a form, please contact our office on 01424 830204. Although we can't give personal tax advice, we can help you make your donation go further through gift aid. If you wish to consider leaving a legacy in your will, please do the same and we will send you some literature. It really is very simple.

Thank you one and all for your wonderful love gifts and donations. We are so grateful! Your kind generosity, and also the thoughtfulness of those including a legacy to the Centre in their will, enables God's work to continue. We see His healing love poured out daily. He is an awesome God!

The Lord loves a cheerful giver and we appreciate too the Tax-man who gives us a return on the donation received, if it is gift aided!

To God be the glory!



My name is Colin Beadle and I was the Maintenance Manager at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre from 1991-2006.

During this period and after retirement, I sometimes served on the ministry team as I am a firm believer in God's power to heal and save. It was a real privilege to serve the Lord in this way and I would like to share my recent experience of God's Healing in my own life.

Whilst in hospital earlier this year, I had a scary experience, which nearly resulted in me dying. All my body was shutting down and I felt like I was slipping away.

On this particular night in hospital, I heard the *Lord speaking to me*. He said, *"Son, it's not yet your time to come home. I still have much for you to do on this earth."*

Wow! I thought about this for a long time, wondering, how is this going to happen with me so weak etc? The Lord, knowing my thoughts, again spoke, *"My son when you share your testimony about how you have been saved from near death, My Spirit will empower you so you will not be nervous or tongue tied, and what you say will be powerful and to My glory."*

So, at a suitable moment during the Healing service at the CCHC one Thursday in March, I called out to Steve G that I felt I had something from God to share with the congregation. He

looked round rather startled and seeing how weak I was said, *"If you can make it to me then I will support you, and you can speak into my microphone."*

God gave me a strength and delivery I had never experienced before. I was able to look at all the congregation (as usual the place was packed, with many folk sitting in the corridor). There were shouts of **"Praise the Lord!"** and other such expressions, with clapping etc. Furthermore it fitted in beautifully with what was later to come in Steve's sermon, the theme of which was, *'Look at that!'*

I am just so grateful to God, who is giving me day by day strength, for whatever He wants me to do and be, and I believe that although I have further tests to go through, He has healed me. Praise His name!

During my entire life I have learnt to trust God whatever life may throw at me, and this is where faith plays a very important part. The Bible talks about faith being the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. In Hebrews 12 we read of folk who did amazing things by having faith in God, but none of them received all that God had promised until they were called home.

I am just so thankful to God to have experienced God's healing in my life, and for all those dear friends and family who have prayed for me to be healed.

To God be the glory - great things He has done!

Colin

In all things, give thanks!



This lovely 'Pause for thought' prayer was sent in by one of our prayer partners.

Thank you Lord for saving me
Thank you Lord for blessing me
Thank you Lord for forgiving me
Thank you Lord for calling me
Thank you Lord for guiding me
Thank you Lord for teaching me
Thank you Lord for housing me
Thank you Lord for clothing me
Thank you Lord for feeding me
Thank you Lord for healing me
Thank you Lord for using me
Thank you Lord for believing me
Thank you Lord for wanting me
Thank you Lord for receiving me
Thank you Lord for trusting me
Thank you Lord for showing me
Thank you Lord for choosing me
Thank you Lord for loving me
Thank you Lord for sustaining me
Thank you Lord for yesterday
Thank you Lord for today
Thank you Lord for tomorrow, yet to come!

May at least one line apply to you.

Thanksgiving Day: July 16th

Our annual celebration of the life, work and ministry of our Lord is fast approaching and the theme this year will be '**Thanksgiving is for Every day.**'

Tea and coffee will be available from 10am and the morning service will begin at 11am. We will be keeping the successful format of last year, when everyone was invited to share in a simple snack lunch together, provided by the CCHC. As you can see from the photo below, the weather on last year's Thanksgiving Day was sunny and warm, enabling folk to enjoy their picnic lunch in the lovely grounds and share fellowship with each other.



We will be hearing from the CCHC community in the afternoon, after which there will be the opportunity to walk in the grounds, place a stone on the Thanksgiving Cairn and enjoy our traditionally delicious afternoon tea.

Come along and see the new Prayer Rooms, and the restored old art room, which is now known as 'Shalom', plus the various other works that have been done to make us safer, fresher and welcoming.

Please come and join us for the day, or come for a few days and meet up with friends old and new. We would love to welcome you, celebrate the Lord's goodness with you and share a meal with you!

Our Resident Artist retires



As part of the 'New Shape' of the CCHC, God has been doing a little pruning. Sometime at the end of 2015, the Lord told me to think about stopping my work as resident artist and after much prayer and discussion, I decided to retire on the last day of March this year. I remain as a member of the Prayer Ministry Team on a voluntary basis.

Many years have passed since I first began working in the old art room. I have seen many changes at the Centre over the years and God's hand has been in them all.

I arrived at Crowhurst in the autumn of 1999, but it was not until April 2002 that I was asked to take over the art room and teach painting one afternoon a week. My Art Ministry has gone from strength to strength since then.

When I first started I worked in the office as well, and sometimes had to make a quick mental adjustment over lunch, changing from a receptionist into an art teacher for the afternoon! But God knew what he was doing, and I soon settled into my real identity as an artist.

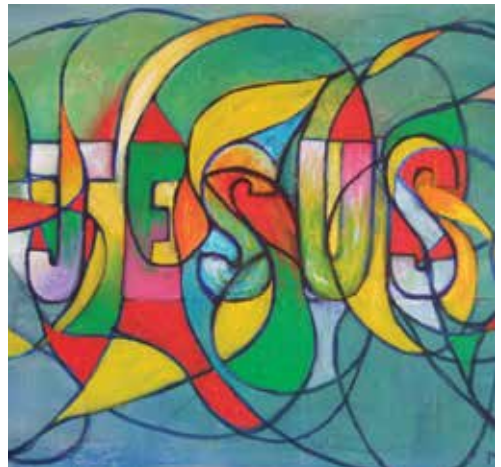
My first Prayer and Painting Week was in 2003. I would like to thank many people for their love and encouragement, especially

Trevor Blackshaw for employing me in the first place, and his wife Pamela for her help and support. Also Geoff Lackey for giving me more work-time in the art room, Peter McIntosh for making me an 'official' resident artist in 2008, and Kath Batte for giving me even more opportunities for using my gifts in God's service. Last, and not least, my thanks go to Steve Gendall who because my husband Stephen continues to work as Chapel Warden and Musician, is allowing me to remain in residence.

I have many happy memories of working in both the old and the new art rooms. Helping, guiding and instructing people in how to paint has been a great privilege, and the Lord has been with us in every session. Prayer - before, after and during our painting time - has been a priority, and God has often given inspiration when people have been 'stuck', not knowing how to complete a picture.

God Himself is always the beginning, middle, and end of every 'picture', as my life changes through the different seasons.

Maggie



One of Maggie's many lovely paintings.

Redeeming the Rose, January 2016



During a very cold, wet spell of weather in January this year, the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre held a ladies weekend, entitled 'Redeeming the Rose'. Those of us staying for the whole weekend were joined by many more for the Teaching Day on the Saturday; how we were all cherished and loved during that time!

Around the house were many of Maggie's beautiful rose paintings; there were roses on the tables at mealtimes, with beautifully folded rose serviettes and what a surprise when the dessert arrived at lunchtime - exquisitely and lovingly made 'pastry roses',

the outer petals of which were thinly sliced apple - absolutely delicious! Then for afternoon tea, cupcakes decorated as roses!

I had been staying at the Centre for the week and thinking about the weekend on the day before everyone arrived, I spent some time in the art room, where I painted this rose.

As the weekend unfolded, we thought about the perfect rose, the fallen rose, the Rose redeemed and how so many of us had experienced things in our early life which had badly affected us. We then reflected on how when a damaged rose bud does not open into a perfect rose, we do not become fully the person God created us to be.

The final session on Saturday was a practical one, 'Restoring the Rose' and we had the afternoon free to either take a walk, use the art room or visit the many prayer stations which had been set up around the house.

I made my way into the newly refurbished prayer rooms for some quiet time with the Lord and as I sat there, the sun finally broke through. I soaked up the wonderful warmth and light and felt Him say to me "You are not a rose, you are a sunflower, always turning to face the sun!" I hurried over to the art room and expressed this thought in a painting, which was so different from my usual style of painting; I felt it expressed the insights I had received, the joy I felt, the healing I had received and a new confidence.

The joyful celebration of the Eucharist on the Sunday with my favourite hymns, including, "Colours of Day", ended a weekend which was both thought provoking and so full of laughter and joy. A huge debt of gratitude is due to the housekeeping staff as well as to Veronica and her team who led this special weekend; it certainly blew away the 'January Blues'!

Sheila Powell

All creatures great and small, the Lord God made them all!

Animals play an important part in the lives of many people, and are often the only companions of those who live alone. The Lord knows how important our pets are to us and I believe that He cares when they are ill, and hears our prayers when we pray for them.

My cat, Purdey had a difficult start in life. At just seven months of age, she was found hiding in a hedge, having given birth to six kittens. Two had sadly died but four survived. I 'temporarily' fostered her and the kittens; the girls found a home, but Purdey and the two boys ended up staying with me!

Purdey has an immune disorder, which leaves her vulnerable to infections and recently (not for the first time) she became very ill. One night she was lying next to me on the bed, when suddenly she became very rigid. Her limbs went stiff and she was staring wide eyed, not seeming to know where she was or what was happening. She looked very scared and I feared she was dying. I tried to reassure her and laid hands on her in Jesus' name, praying for her healing, in whatever form that would take - either for her to slip away peacefully or to be fully healed. I told God that I trusted Him in the situation because He had created her and placed her in my care. My main concern at that moment was that she wouldn't suffer any pain or distress.

Almost immediately after my prayers, Purdey settled down and slept soundly throughout the night (which is more than I did as I couldn't relax at all, and kept checking to see whether she was still alive!)

When she woke up in the morning, she was again very poorly with rigid limbs, and when she tried to stand up, kept collapsing. I rushed her to the vet and the two on duty diagnosed epilepsy, on top of all her other problems!

I was told to take her home and monitor her closely. Expecting the worst, I waited for further episodes, but they never occurred!

From the moment we got home from the vets, she has gone from strength to strength, praise the Lord! I knew she was on the mend when she started grooming one of her youngsters (not so young at eight years of age!) She still clearly 'rules the roost!'

I took Purdey back to the vets a few days later for a check up and both were amazed at her remarkable and speedy recovery.

I have laid hands on Purdey on several occasions for the Lord's healing, and have seen her recover from many different health issues, including a reversal of chronic kidney disease and inflammatory arthritis.

I thank God for Purdey's latest healing and also for my kind and knowledgeable vets, who have always been so quick to treat her with the necessary medication when she has been so ill.

A couple of days after Purdey began to recover, I took this cute photo of her with one paw on my Bible. I thought how appropriate; it was as if she was standing on every promise of God's Word! Purdey is definitely a little miracle cat and I thank God for bringing her into my life.



Mary

Summer Prayer Requests

Summer Prayer Requests

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Summer Prayer Requests

PRAYER FOCUS

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O most high, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night."
Psalm 92:1 & 2

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds. Praise be to His glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with His glory." Psalm 72:18 & 19

PRAYER

- Give thanks for the Lord's provision for all our needs. Numbers are increasing. During February people were encouraged to bring for free someone who had not visited the Centre before (up to three nights). As a result of this 'taster', people were greatly blessed. There will be another 'taster' opportunity in November.
- Give thanks and praise for Revd Sarah Chapman, Chaplain at the Living Well, who led the Easter Celebration. She led us on a powerful walk with Jesus on His last days. The Good Friday service of two hours at the foot of the cross, meditating on the seven last words, was particularly moving. Thank you Sarah for a very special weekend.
- Pray for Pippa, our beloved pianist. She has been spending time away from the CCHC nursing her father, who has sadly died. Pray for Pippa and her family in their time of bereavement. May they know that *"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted."*
Psalm 34:18.

"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 108:5

June Prayer Focus

"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go." Isaiah 48:17

JUNE

- 11 Teaching Day: *"God's mercy - Twice blest rain from heaven."*
Led by Steve and Veronica Gendall
- 15 Guided Quiet Day:
My grace is sufficient
Led by Chris Delivett
- 24 - 26 Healing and Forgiveness:
Led by Dr Stephanie Thornton
and the Chaplains



July Prayer Focus

"Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." Psalm 146:2

JULY

- 2 Guided Quiet Day:
 *God's jigsaw: A work in progress -
 Finding our fullness in Christ*
 Led by Paul & Olive Deeming
- 8 - 10 Healing Weekend
- 16 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 29 - 31 Prayer Partners Retreat:
 House closed

August 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

AUGUST

- 3 Guided Quiet Day:
 Divine Exchange
 Led by Dee Arrand
- 5 - 6 House closed
- 9 - 13 Prayer through Painting week
- 19 - 21 Healing Weekend
- 24 Teaching Day: "Why? -
 Living without the answers."
 Led by Steve Clark
- 27 - 29 Families weekend, including
 Families Day on 27th
 Led by Revd Sally Dryden and the
 Crowhurst Team



Prayer for The Centre

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

TRUSTEES' PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- Thank you for your love and covering prayers that have surrounded Jim and his wife, Jenny, following his severe stroke in December. He is making steady progress and is now able to walk slowly with the help of a special frame. His speech is becoming clearer and he was even able to attend a recent Trustees meeting and contribute to the discussion. Praise the Lord! Please continue to pray for Jim and Jenny, that the Lord will strengthen and uphold Jim through this challenging time and provide for all their needs.
- Give thanks for the completion of the work on the art room. It has now been refurbished and transformed into a quiet prayer space for guests, and will be known as 'Shalom'.
- Give thanks for the heavy duty matting on the grass area by the entrance gate and the grass area leading to the lower car park. This has been a great blessing, especially on a Thursday morning.
- We give thanks for all who so generously support the ministry of Christ's healing love at the CCHC. Thank you to everyone who has donated directly to magazine costs or to general funds. May you be truly blessed.
"Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you received it, and it will be yours." Mark 11:24

Prayer for staff at The Centre

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

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, Chris L, 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 and David

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 forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:11



Grounds and Garden news



My name is Kim Vessey. This is my first article since taking over from Geof as Maintenance Manager and what a year! So much has been happening around the grounds

with Des, our gardener, and the team of volunteers all working so hard to keep the grounds looking fantastic. A massive thank you to them. Do come along to Thanksgiving Day and see all the work that has been done.

The Prayer Room and 'Shalom' (the old art room - see photo) are now up and running, and the areas outside have been landscaped with hard and soft features to enhance what God has provided already.

The exterior of the Prayer Rooms is being painted and outside Shalom paving slabs have been laid, with a ramp to the raised ground to allow disabled access into the building. Slate chips, enclosed by a recycled brick border, have been added and existing beds have been unearthed from below a large overgrown bush which was blocking the light. These have now been planted up with a variety of shrubs, perennials and herbs, including Fuchsias, Geraniums, Aubretias, Pinks, Verbena, Oxalis, Saxifrage, Campanula, Curry plants, Chives, Rosemary and Thyme for all year-round colour and contrast. Two blue planters holding evergreen Cyprus Goldcrests give it the finishing touch.

The courtyard outside the sun corridor has been revamped - the rockery replanted, a water feature installed in the pond and the gate given a new coat of paint.

The main path from the station has been re-surfaced and a new path has been created next to Shalom to allow easier access to the

lawn outside the offices. The ramp up to the large Chapel now has a new handrail to match with existing ones and there is a new metal gate across the farmer's field, next to the cottage.

We have a new contractor employed to cut the grass twice a month which really enhances the look of the lawn areas. A bit more turf has been laid to fill in the gaps in various places, which will make mowing that bit easier, but slightly longer.

There are plans to try and reintroduce some of the paths around the small pond next year, when time and funding allows. This will be a big job so needs careful planning. I will keep you updated on this. The gazebo by the pond and the well near the patio both need a little love and attention this year.

In the meantime, the cutting of brambles, dead-heading of daffodils, lawn edging and trimming will continue in earnest!

Every time I walk around the grounds I marvel at the beauty of Crowhurst and all that God has provided. A place of peace to sit and reflect. A joyful place to work.

Blessings to all.

Kim





Chapel Intercessions Book

“LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.” Psalm 30:2

Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at the Centre and many of you will know of the daily prayer list, which is compiled from people phoning the office, either for themselves or someone else. In the Chapel corridor, there are slips of paper for guests and visitors to write names for prayer and each day all the names received are typed up and later read out during the evening service or night prayer (Compline). Following this, the list of names is placed inside the Intercessions book, on top of the previous day's list. The minister then lays hands on the book, so praying to the Lord for all the names inside (where they remain for three months). This is repeated daily with new names that come in.

On the inside cover of the Prayer Book is a photograph of James Moore Hickson, the founder of the Divine Healing Mission. In 1925, James met the Revd Howard Cobb (Crowhurst's first warden) and invited him to take a mission at his church at Mill Hill, London. Before it could take place, however, Howard contracted sleeping sickness and was close to death. James laid hands on the sick man and within the day he began to recover. During his period of convalescence Howard felt called by the Lord into the healing ministry and in 1928, founded the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.

No one knows exactly when the prayer book and prayer list were started, or when the photo of James Hickson was added to the inside cover, but judging from the diary entry on August 21st 1931 by a departing guest called, Lucy Yates*, it was probably during Howard Cobb's tenure.

Lucy writes: *“I have seen my name in the book on the Altar, and by that book I shall be remembered at every celebration as long as I live. My name will be on the Intercession paper for some time.”*

(*Lucy Yates stayed at the CCHC from 24th to 31st August 1931 and kept a daily diary. This fascinating account of what it was like in the early years at Crowhurst is available from the Centre, priced £2.50.)

After many years of use, the book's spine was in a very sorry state (see photo below) though the bronze hard cover was still intact.



In 2013, a supporter of the CCHC offered to pay to have the book re-bound, requesting that the photo of Mr Hickson be carefully lifted and placed back on the inside cover. The book-binder was Mrs Iris Ding, the same lady who binds our magazine every two years for the archives. Iris did a lovely job, re-covering the book in faux leather, in the same deep red. The spine was made bigger to hold more prayer lists and on the back some golden studs were added to provide more durability. (The photo at the top left of the page shows the book as it is today.)

The picture below shows the open book with Mr Hickson's photo on the inside cover, and the prayer lists on the right.

Jayne Stevens



Remembering Jenny Tripp



I was privileged to have been asked to read the lesson, on behalf of the CCHC, at the funeral of Jenny Tripp on 2nd March this year.

I met Jenny when I started working at the CCHC in September 2005, when she was the full-time pianist. I always thought how beautiful the white grand piano sounded in the large

Chapel! Jenny was well known at the Centre and very popular with the guests, many of whom asked after her on the phone. She always enjoyed catching up at meal times with the many friends she had made when they came to stay.

I remember well the special leaving service organised for Geoff and Viv Lackey. We all enjoyed a service in St. George's church, Crowhurst and Jenny played the organ for us.

Jenny and Diane Baker (our former resident cook, now retired) were firm friends. They went on trips and holidays together and visited many interesting places. After Jenny's retirement, Diane was a regular visitor to Jenny's home in Battle and continued to see her after she went into a home in Ninfield when her health began to deteriorate. Diane moved into Jenny's flat, having been a resident at the Centre for many years and she was able to enjoy the extra space and feel close to Jenny.

Jenny was an amazing person, as we found out at her funeral. Apart from her musical ability, she was a highly skilled and experienced nurse, who had worked in Afghanistan and when the Russian tanks came rumbling in, she showed no signs of fear. She was always calm and composed and was very popular with her nursing companions.

We always learn so much about people when they are no longer with us!

Juliette Vane

Crowhurst magazine update, and some interesting facts!

Many thanks to all of you who generously contributed towards the running costs of the magazine. This proved to us what we already knew, that this magazine is loved and appreciated by many people! Please see the insert about the magazine as we do need a response from you if you wish to continue receiving it.

The purpose of the magazine has always been to promote the healing ministry of Jesus, by featuring stories of the Lord's healing, and encouraging folk in their walk of faith. And of course it keeps everyone up to date with all that is going on at the Centre. Although our website and Facebook are great sources of information, not everyone has a computer, so the magazine is particularly important for folk without internet access. And for those who can no longer visit the Centre, the magazine can to some extent fill the void as they look forward in eager anticipation to it dropping through their letterbox each quarter.

Did you know that the magazine has had several names over the years? It started life in 1908, when it was known as 'The Healer' and in the 70's, it was called 'Abundant Life'. What a great name that is because the Lord wants us to have an abundant life doesn't He? "*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*" John 10:10.

The name, 'In His Healing Steps' was chosen in 2007 during Peter McIntosh's tenure, when the format of the magazine was updated. The Prayer Intercessors were asked to come up with a name during one of their visits and as everyone gathered together in the small Chapel, various names were suggested. Kay McIntosh mentioned the name, "In His Healing Steps", after former Warden, George Bennett's book of the same name. Everyone agreed this was what the Lord wanted. We love this name because it reflects perfectly how Jesus so often heals - in steps or stages.

An Unforgettable Easter Celebration! March 2016

We may all agree that the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord draw together a weekend mix of extraordinary events - mystery and miracle. Little should we be surprised when our own recollection of that monumental weekend may be unforgettable! Words on a piece of paper can't capture it well but I will try.

The foot washing and vigil on Maundy Thursday, which included having our feet kissed, was followed by standing around a smoking fire in the rain until 11.30pm, and being described as 'smoked kippers' as a result!

There was silence on Good Friday until after the very impactful presentation of the seven words of our Lord. This was followed by space for further reflection or time with a Chaplain to pray or make a confession.

Easter Saturday began with the fire alarm going off at 5.30am ... and then again, and again! The Lord used even this to speak to guests, with one being woken from a dream in which a fire was raging all around, and another counting the alarm sounding thirty nine times (it literally did!) - but note the significance ... Our Lord received a total of 39 lashes.

The rest of the day was spent in Bible study on Salvation journey, creating individual Easter gardens, like this one below, walking, painting or 'just being.'



Easter Sunday began with a sunrise service in which we can honestly report we saw some blue sky through the gentle occasional drizzle. It also included calling an ambulance for a fallen guest who needed taking to hospital with a broken wrist!

The Easter Celebration was followed by an Easter egg hunt, after which we enjoyed a delicious roast lunch.

Through it all, the presence of the Lord was experienced. Truly Jesus Christ is risen, hallelujah!

Steve Gendall



The Fire Alarm Easter!

Thank you to Susan, who also shares her thoughts and reflections of this memorable weekend.

The Easter Celebration was led this year by Revd Sarah Chapman (pictured below), Diocesan Advisor in Healing and Wholeness and Chaplain of the Living Well in Canterbury.



After a sunny afternoon journey to the Centre on Maundy Thursday, there was an excellent Crowhurst supper, which was followed by a reflection and vigil.

Good Friday dawned bright and sunny, truly a day that God had given. The 12-2pm reflection was such a well prepared and thought provoking service of songs, readings and reflections.

In the early hours of a drizzly Saturday morning, we were all gathered together in the new prayer suite, wearing a varying array of nightwear and coats in response to the faulty fire alarm, which continued to ring after we had returned to our rooms!

Saturday afternoon was a free, creative space with several colouring and writing activities

in the excellent art room. One of the guests later shared a picture he painted, which was of a very dark night, with rain, much smoke and three kippers, who looked like they were wearing clerical collars!



Some of us attended the Sunday dawn service, which was later than originally planned due to the clocks changing the night before and the interrupted early hours of Saturday morning!

The Holy Communion celebration, which was held in the large Chapel, was full of joy, love and the very real presence of God.

At the end of the service, Steve G thanked Sarah and gave her a card, chocolates and wine, of which of course, she knew nothing, even though Steve G asked her if she had signed the card!

Although this weekend was led by Sarah, it would not have been possible without the ongoing 24/7 work and ministry of the whole team, who make Crowhurst such a valuable resource and wonderful place to stay. Our praise and thanks to them all for their time and talents given to the glory of God, and for the benefit of so many of us.

It was a really wonderful weekend, probably to be referred to in the future as the 'Fire Alarm Easter'!

Susan Coleman

My medical miracle!



In February this year I was admitted to hospital as an emergency after developing an increasing pain in my left calf muscle. No pulse could be found so I was given an urgent CT scan and blood tests, which indicated Peripheral Arterial Disease and showed my abdominal aorta to be completely blocked. The test results were very serious, revealing that my right leg had a slight blockage behind the knee and my left leg had a total blockage behind the knee, leading to my popliteal arteries. The Lead Consultant told me that I was a 'very, very interesting and special case' because the abdominal aorta blockage had been in place for at least ten years, but more likely nearer to twenty years. He said he was amazed! I was stunned as I hadn't had any indications before then that anything was wrong.

As we were talking, I recalled a car accident that had occurred eighteen years ago, when a newly qualified driver smashed into me at 60+mph as I sat stationary. The accident caused muscular damage and injury to my lower legs, leaving me with painful calf muscles and hip problems that affected me when I walked. I asked the Consultant whether the accident had caused the blockages, but his view was that it had actually disguised what was an already underlying health condition. The 'amazing

thing', he said, was that over the years, my body had developed its own alternative blood-routing system! When he told me this, I immediately said it was God working in me - a miracle! He did not reject this but went on to qualify his findings saying, *"The blood had diverted itself from the abdominal aorta blockage, through smaller blood vessels (which also had to increase in size to take the blood flow) in order to re-route my main blood supply past the blockage, and then divert itself back into the main iliac arteries to both my legs."*

Apparently I could have died at any moment and the shock as I said aloud of being a 'walking dead man' for twenty years was deeply traumatising. Yet I felt a real comfort in the knowledge that God had been working within me for all those years, busily re-routing my blood supply so that I could function. This amazed me!

I was kept in hospital to monitor whether my body might hopefully do a similar thing for the blockage problems with my legs, behind both knees. If so, it would prevent me having to have invasive surgery which apparently could be quite problematic if carried out.

The next day I was given a further ultrasound and a very faint pulse could now be found! I had REAL HOPE, though it was no surprise for me! At that moment, I had a deep sense of confirmation because, within this entire traumatic episode, I had experienced a real sense of peace, the type of peace that passes **all understanding**. A peace that my Lord was with me, sustaining me and carrying me because *"The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* Psalm 27:1 (NKJV)

This Psalm echoed two scriptures I was given when I first gave my life to Jesus on 7th June 1988 - Hebrews 13:5 & 6 (NIV) and Isaiah 58:11. These scriptures became instantly real and alive, adding to the confirmation that God was faithfully and continually working in me.

Book Review

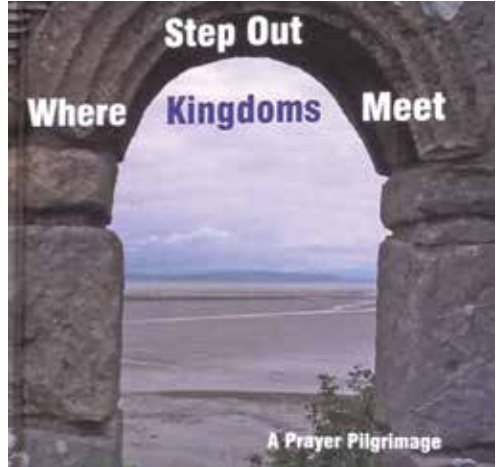
I was allowed to go home two days after being admitted to hospital, the consultant feeling that my body could address the issue. In the meantime, I would have to take medication to assist in the process and provide me with some protection from further damage. Under his direction, I placed myself on a strict, life-changing diet and started walking two to three times a day, through what was severe pain.

People often ask the question, 'Where was God?' when they were going through a difficult situation. So where was God in mine? Well I believe He was with me during the accident, and through the years that followed, performing a miracle in my body!

When I was in hospital the consultant told me that the most I could expect to walk, after a long period of time, would be 400m. I now regularly walk 350m and recently managed 570m! I am so very grateful to God for His answer to the many prayers that people have made on my behalf. I now pray for God to restore my health to a level that enables me to remain active in my walk with Him and fulfil His purpose in me.

John Brown

(John is our projector and sound operator at the Thursday morning healing service.)



This delightful book, which is available from the Centre, explores our daily walk with God, physically as we serve Him and spiritually as we spend time with Him.

In 2014, Margaret Stredwick (author) and Pat Lockley (photographer), who both combined to produce this lovely book, led a quiet day at the CCHC, called 'Step out where Kingdoms meet'. (Pat and her husband, Peter, are Visiting Chaplains at the Centre.)

Margaret writes: "Inspired by my friend's long distance prayer walks, this book explores the daily pilgrimage through our land to which God calls us. As you read, pray and contemplate the landscapes, hear His call to your heart, explore your deep inner longings, and share His desires for the people He loves."

This book is perfect for your quiet time with the Lord. As the book says, it is a prayer pilgrimage and you can journey through it as quickly or as slowly as feels right for you. It is rich with thoughts and reflections. The photographs are stunning and the accompanying reflections are comforting, while at the same time challenging to us as servants of the Lord. *"We are pilgrims on a journey. We are brothers on the road. We are here to help each other. Walk the mile and bear the load."*

Prayer and Community

Social isolation is a growing curse. As families fragment and scatter, as communities move from the real to the virtual world of the internet, as individuals get older, frailer and less able to get about, millions live solitary lives. This matters because social isolation kills: it's as bad for physical health as smoking, and destructive of mental well-being. There is a profound misery in loneliness.

This is a problem for society at large, but it is also a problem for our Church - a problem at many levels. Perhaps some parishes create strong bonds of community where everyone is included, involved, engaged - but even in those parishes, people fall by the wayside. Their health or faith falters, they stop coming to liturgies - and they effectively vanish. No-one follows up on those who disappear from the pew, and let's face it, in far too many parishes there is little real community anyway, little real inclusion; a small clique dominate, and the majority are on the fringes. This is the opposite of the loving communities Jesus calls us to.

Whose responsibility is it to build community across a Christian parish? Actually, it is everyone's job. Whoever we are, we can be pro-actively welcoming, warm and friendly to fellow parishioners. We can all make sure no-one is arriving un-greeted at a service, no-one is unknown and no-one is standing alone at coffee.

Some individuals are taking this responsibility further: for example, there is a group in Mid-Sussex who have begun holding Taize



sessions in people's homes, where six or so people gather to pray through the lovely chants of the Taize movement, and then share tea and conversation. Here is a way in which strangers can meet in the presence of the Holy Spirit and form new friendships, new contacts. Anyone could do this - and everyone from the housebound, to those slipping into dementia,

from those strong in faith to those faltering or searching, can participate.

In a similar vein, a group in Surrey promote community through art sessions, again in people's houses, and again reaching out to include the isolated and the unsure in a Christian atmosphere.

There are many ways of building community, many activities that can bring people together in the presence of God. Is there more that I can do to create the sense of inclusion and mattering, the social connection that we all need?

Dr Stephanie Thornton

Stephanie and our Chaplains, will be leading a weekend at the CCHC from 24 - 26 June, entitled Healing and Forgiveness. Places are still available at the time of print.

Advance Notice: (August Bank Holiday weekend)

Families Weekend: Saturday 27 - Monday 29 August

We build deep and loving family relationships by doing simple things together, like a family dinner, a popcorn and movie night, a walk in the woods, a bike ride or a board game - just by being together and having fun.

Taking time for each other is the key for harmony at home. We talk with, rather than about, each other. We learn from each other and we learn to appreciate our differences as well as our commonalities. We also establish a divine bond with each other as we pray, learn about, and worship God together.

Is there any better way to show someone you love them than to share your time with them? That is exactly what we are planning to do at our Families Weekend; share meals, laugh, talk, play, pray and worship together.



This weekend will be a place and space for you and your family to spend some TIME together, deepening your love for each other and for God.

If you came to the last Families Weekend, you will know how enjoyable it was; so come again and be blessed. If you didn't make it last time, make sure you don't miss this one!



The weekend, which will be led by the Revd Sally Dryden and the Crowhurst Team, begins on Saturday morning and concludes on Monday afternoon. The cost is £150 per adult (full board) and children are FREE.

If you are unable to come for the whole weekend, why not come to the Families Day on the Saturday? (£25 for adult day guest and children are FREE).

Please phone the office for booking.
01424 830033 or 830204



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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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