

in His Healing Steps



Winter 2015

Contents

- 04 Steve's letter
- 05 Healing week feedback
- 06 Healing mercies and love coming in power
- 06 God's great timing!
Testimonies of healing
- 07 A Match made in Heaven!
- 08 - 09 Weekend for women: Sept 2015
An MOT with the Divine Juggler
- 09 Healing weekend feedback
- 10 Weekend and Teaching Day for Women: January 2016
- 11-14 Prayer Focus
- 15 My time as a Trustee and my experience of His healing touch
- 16 You ARE enough!
- 17 Prayer through painting week feedback: August 2015
- 18 Songs of Praise
'Abide with me'
- 19 Garden News
- 20 Appreciation of Shirley Dawson, Trustee
- 21 Prescription Bible verses
- 21 A glimpse at our 2016 Programme
- 22 Farewell to Geof
- 22 New Year Celebration
- 23 Winter programme
- 23 Forthcoming events

What is the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre?



The CCHC is a friendly Christian Healing Centre where a warm welcome awaits all who come through its doors. Situated in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is just four miles from the coast in the Sussex High Weald. The peace and comfort of this place creates an ideal setting in which to draw closer to God and experience His love.

The saving, healing work of Jesus is all about Kingdom come/coming. Every time a person is drawn out of darkness, slavery or dis-ease, it is a Kingdom moment; the Kingly rule and authority of Jesus breaking into our world. Every time we allow Him to be King in our life or in a situation around us, the Kingdom has come. The ministry of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is a Kingdom ministry where we seek to co-operate with Jesus (as junior partners) in the bringing in of His Kingdom.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

Editorial



I love jigsaw puzzles and it occurred to me as I began my editorial, that assembling this magazine is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle, but without a picture of the finished product! Instead of a box of pieces to fit together, I have articles and photos to lay out and pages to arrange into a flowing format.

Like with a jigsaw, which puzzle enthusiasts will know can often take a great deal of time to work out where a particular piece fits, I can spend many hours deciding how to arrange the magazine content. Once all the pages are in place, I then write the editorial, and this can feel like the final piece of the 'magazine jigsaw!'

Life can be a bit like a jigsaw puzzle can't it? Pieces are sometimes missing or seem jumbled, but we know that our Lord will always bring those pieces together if we wait and trust in Him because *His timing is always perfect* (Ecclesiastes 3:10); *He knows the plans He has for us* (Jeremiah 29:11) and *He orders our steps* (Proverbs 16:9). I have been particularly struck by all three of these Bible verses as I have read the various articles in this issue, and have also been reminded just how important each one of us is to God. We are, as Psalm 139:14 reminds us, fearfully and wonderfully made!

In his letter on page 4, Steve G refers to us as 'bespoke' and that has really resonated with me. Out of all that God has created, WE are His masterpiece, a work of art, 'beautiful people' as Steve often tells us at the services!

With the hustle and bustle of Christmas fast approaching as I write this editorial, I am trying to keep my focus on the real reason for the season, that of God giving us THE best gift ever, His Son, Jesus. The Lord is the Light of the World, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; our creator God, who came to earth to live among us:

"The Light of the World now shone as a man, and walked through the valleys He'd carved with His hands. A servant to those He'd breathed into life, He felt our injustice and shared in our strife." (Extracted from his song, Light of the World, by Stuart Townend.)

And as C S Lewis in his book, 'Mere Christianity', succinctly puts it: *"The Son of Man became a man to enable men to become the sons of God."*

Trustees' News

Two of our long serving trustees have recently stepped down from the Board of Trustees. Shirley Dawson and Mavis Williams have faithfully served the board for fourteen and nine years respectively. We're happy to announce that both will continue to serve the Centre in different capacities.

Prayer Rooms

Work has now begun on the games room and once finished, there will be two prayer rooms available for use. Step by step, we're moving forward with the 'new thing' and vision that the Lord has given us for the CCHC.

Contributions for the magazine

Thank you to everyone who has sent in contributions for the magazine; please do submit your articles and testimonies if you feel prompted (maximum 500 words). Your stories and testimonies are such an encouragement to others. If anyone would like to send in contributions for the spring issue, I would need them by January 17th 2016. You can email me directly on marys56@hotmail.co.uk

May the Lord bless you all over the festive season. *Mary*

Steve's letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
We know the Bible says we are the crown of our Lord's creation, but when I consider some of the sounds and sights of our recent Zambian holiday I do wonder:



The sounds ... the eerie whoop of a hyena uncomfortably close to camp, the strange, pig-like grunting of the Giant Eagle Owl and the exquisite, barely audible love song of the tiny Melba finch.

The sights ... stunning sunsets, lakes teeming with water fowl, the prim, leggy Secretary Bird and the dazzling Black Cheeked Lovebird, belly-flopping hippos and kamikaze warthogs! I could go on and on. God's creation is spectacular but be reminded, we, you and me, are the **'top of the range!'** Bespoke.

Whilst in Zambia the Lord led me to the three letters of John in the New Testament; I am still thrilled with the opening verses of John's first letter, and his delight at seeing and hearing Jesus.

'That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make your joy complete.'
(NIV)

These verses give you a sense of John's excitement at having seen, heard and touched Jesus as he repeats it again and again. John, who was probably the last remaining Apostle (aged nearly ninety years old), was writing almost sixty years after walking with our Lord. Yet when you read his letters this is not a tired old man about to burn out from decades of Christian journey, but one who kept burning, on and on - shining brightly in the then dark world offering the light, love and life of Jesus. John wrote not just because of his passionate love for Jesus but because of his passionate love for his readers. He wrote that his readers, you and me included, may know our place in Christ with confidence and joy.

What kept John so fresh? For me it's three things; his union with Jesus and Father (verses bottom left); 'the Holy Spirit teaching him everything he needed to know' (2.27) and thirdly, the love he shared with fellow believers. We do well to take his example on board.

In confidence and joy from us all at the CCHC,

Steve



Healing Week led by Bishop Graham Dow: 12 - 16 October

This well attended Conference about the Christian healing ministry was led by Bishop Graham, a humble fun-filled, approachable teacher who is eager to see Christians bringing God's wholeness to a broken world, fulfilling Christ's commission to, "Preach the kingdom and heal the sick." (Matthew 10:8).

The first evening saw us praying for physical healing for each other in pairs and one lady, who had walked with the aid of two sticks since 2006, spent the rest of the week walking without them!

Bishop Graham said that Christ's commission in Matthew 28:18-20 includes both sharing the Gospel and healing.

Jesus has all authority but Christians are kingdom people, co-operating with Jesus. His authority to heal is fixed and given to all believers. The power is entirely the gift of God in the Holy Spirit, which we must receive by faith.

There was teaching concerning our identity and the importance of our thinking, attitudes and choices.

We were reminded that the devil deceives us into believing his lies, giving him a foothold into our lives. The invisible heavenly realm is always pressing in on us, engaging us far more than we think. We have to learn every day to think 'Heaven.'

Further teaching sessions included inner healing, the use of spiritual gifts, spiritual healing, confession and forgiveness.

Throughout the Conference, Bishop Graham gave examples from his own and others' experiences, and also taught about pitfalls to avoid.

A quote from Russ Parker resonated with the gathering: *'Forgiveness is getting on the bus for healing. Forgiveness of sins is central to the Gospel. Repentance and forgiveness*

are inseparable.' We learnt that God tests us to see if we are really prepared to 'do' forgiveness of others.

All the teaching sessions were followed by practice. We divided into groups for prayer ministry for inner healing, with the Chaplains, Veronica, Penny and Bishop Graham each leading a group.

Confidentiality was respected throughout and there was much healing experienced from wounds, sins and life's baggage.

The ministry reflected the gentleness, yet also the authority of Jesus. One felt accepted, loved and able to open up to group members and God's life giving Holy Spirit. Healing and blessing flowed.

This Conference was much more than teaching and practice; it was God moving powerfully through His Holy Spirit, releasing, confirming and equipping His children.

There was much fun and laughter, time for walks, quietness, art work, questions and testimonies. Lavish care was provided by the hospitality, house, office and catering teams.

Throughout the Conference, there was worship and Holy Communion. We ended with a time of anointing, sealing in all God had graciously done in each participant during the week, and a sending out.

Thank you Jesus. Thank you Bishop Graham for being so willing to share honestly and deeply. Thank you Chaplains for all the organisation.

Marilyn

Healing Mercies and love coming in power

I had come to the Thursday Healing Service with a sense of peace. In my heart, I carried a couple of people to bring in for prayer, and I was expectant for ongoing blessing for myself.

I heard Steve G say that God's presence was tangible in the Chapel and I felt my heart quicken. When I went forward, it was to a different person. Immediately I experienced God's love and power flowing into me and all around me. It didn't stop. I was anointed as a seal in what He was doing and we both knew that in Spirit and Truth I was having healing balm poured down over me. When I went to sit down, I realised that the pain in my neck that had caused some stroke damage, and which had been present for eight months, non-stop, HAD GONE. I was quite drunk in spirit and also realised that the fear with the pain had gone too! I had been afraid of stroke damage.

I got home later feeling quite euphoric but was met with a situation that was abusive and reduced me to tears. I was worried that all the wonderful healing might get lost. It didn't! I then heard God saying that what He had given in joy and healing would NOT be stolen away. I had been giving thanks in my spirit. I continue to do so and with greater expectancy of Him finishing what He has begun. Yay Jesus! Yay Abba God and Yay dear friend, Holy Spirit!

Kay Bradbury



God's great timing! Testimonies of Healing

It is often said by the Chaplaincy Team that the Lord brings people to the Centre at His appointed time and I know many folk, including myself, would agree how true this is! The testimonies below show how God directed the steps of Edward and Jackie to the CCHC to receive His healing touch at His appointed time.

Edward writes:

This is my first visit and I am eternally grateful to my loving Father through Jesus my Saviour. I did not come with any expectations, rather I thought that God was displeased with me, but God showed me compassion, great compassion and great love, and that I am free to love Him, free to choose, in Him.

I bless the Lord for the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. God ordered my steps here and I praise His holy name. Thank you Jesus for hearing my cry.

And from Jackie:

This has been the most beautiful, loving, peaceful place I have ever been to. As soon as I came through the front door, I felt such a gentle atmosphere. Everyone has been so kind, loving and helpful. I have made some new friends and feel much closer to the Lord, having spent more time with Him in this special place.

I believe I have gone a step further with the Lord in my life since I have been here and I thank God for all His faithful Prayer Warriors, Ministry Team and staff who have served us so faithfully. I love the sweetness and simple beauty of this lovely house and gardens. I have received many blessings from the Lord and pray that He will pour out His abundant blessings on you all. With my love and grateful thanks.

A Match made in Heaven!



(I used to go to the church John now attended!)

The couple spent two hours on the phone that first night and haven't stopped talking since! They went to the park a couple of days after their first meeting and introduced their two boys to each other, who both got on as well as their parents! John later played some of his Christian music to Heather and they both spent the afternoon worshipping the Lord. This seemed like a match made in heaven!

John proposed just after Heather's birthday, three weeks after their first meeting! Heather, wanting to be sure if this was the Lord's will for her, fasted and prayed for a whole day to seek His counsel. She said this was the first time she had ever done this but she wanted to be sure that the marriage was what the Lord wanted for her. After the period of fasting, the Lord gave her so much peace that she knew the wedding was part of God's plan for her life. Later she sent John a text which said she believed God had orchestrated their meeting, and she was sure that their wedding was His will for them both.

Their news did raise a few eyebrows within their family and friends, but they both knew that their decision was ordained by God and three months after first meeting, they were married!

Like John, Heather had also been trusting and relying on God's will for her life. She was at that time in a place of contentment and didn't feel that she needed anyone other than God. But He had put on her heart to pray for a husband, so she started praying for one; the rest, as you can see, is history!

The message from both Heather and John is to always trust in God's will for your life. They both did this and He in turn gave them the desires of their hearts. *'Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.'* Psalm 37:4

Heather and John met at the CCHC in May this year. Heather was on the last day of her Taster Retreat and John had come along to the Thursday morning healing service. They got talking after coffee and haven't stopped since! Little did they know at the time, that three months later, they would be married!

John tells the story of how the Lord brought them together.

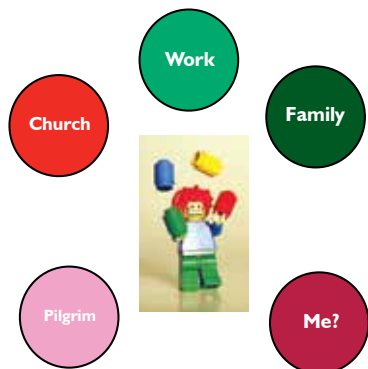
I'm very passionate about Jesus and love to worship Him. I saw Heather worshipping and I thought 'now there is a lady after my own heart!' I had been praying for ages to meet a lovely Christian woman, who like me, had a real passion for Jesus. I was in Mauritius a week before meeting Heather and I had said to God, *"I accept whatever your will is for me; anything that pleases you, I will be happy."* So I left it all to God and came home on the Tuesday. Two days later, I met Heather!

Heather writes

The healing service had ended and I had been in the gardens enjoying the beautiful grounds. I came back into the lounge looking for my friend Kate, who I found talking to John and another lady. John and I got chatting, and never stopped! We sat at lunch together and found we had such a lot in common. We both knew the same people.

Weekend for Women: September 2015

An Mot with the Divine Juggler



I had been so looking forward to the women's weekend and it did not disappoint. Revd Ruth Wyld and Revd Sarah Chapman led the weekend, which was full of fun, creativity, teaching and sharing. It included our own personal time to meditate and pray, and to see what God would show us.

It was amazing! I had huge fun trying to juggle - only managing two balls in the air - but Ruth was so encouraging and as I dropped one, she was holding out another for me.

The floor was littered with various coloured balls! Ruth didn't give up on me and this made me think afterwards that God has not given up on me and where I have been trying to keep so many balls in the air, He has showed me that it is okay to drop one or two - or even lay them down altogether.



Gwen and Yvonne try their hand at juggling!

Time in the large chapel with Jan (one of our Prayer Ministers) was very special as she shared with us how to dance in a gentle, spiritual way to some lovely quiet songs.

I love to dance and even though I felt nervous as we were invited to join in, and could interpret and dance as we felt led, I shut my eyes and just listened to the music, letting my body be free. It was such a sense of freedom and love - dancing for Jesus. I have carried this on at home when I am able to.

There were creative times in the Art Room with Dee, another of our prayer ministers. Some of the ladies made little gardens and gave personal testimonies as to what was in their gardens, and what they meant. It was a very healing and releasing experience.



On Saturday night we enjoyed a wonderful barbeque out on the patio and then fellowshiped around the fire pit, toasting marshmallows - 'divine!'



Healing weekend

The teaching and input was sensitively done and I found I was able to look at different areas of my life with Jesus now and what, if anything, I might need to change.

I decided I needed to make changes, and with God's help and courage I can move on, dropping some things and taking up new things, putting fun back into my life. We all need balance - work, rest and play - and the weekend helped me to seek and search for this; already I am on a new journey.

I must mention the wonderful food, the lovely ladies I met and chatted with and the fun watching "Sister Act" on Saturday night. What a feel good factor that was! We laughed, we cried, we sang, we praised the Lord. We lived!

I came home feeling loved, encouraged and excited to see what God would do as together He and I look at my life and journey on.

Gwen

And Karen writes:

"What an awesome women's weekend. So relaxed and great fun. I made new friends and found myself again in this lovely place and in the arms of God. I have been so blessed. Thank you all for helping me to be in a place where God can restore the peace in my heart again and help me in my caring role at home. How does one show how much they appreciate all that God has done? I will never ever forget the weekend it was a BLAST and such fun."

I recently attended a healing weekend at the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre. I knew I was privileged as I had been invited to take up a last minute vacancy.

From the start, we realised each of us had accepted God's personal invitation to "*come aside and rest awhile*" and that it was by His grace we were there. At the outset, we were invited to consider our response to Jesus' query, "*What would you like me to do for you?*" I thought I knew, but we were told that it was quite possible our response might well change as the weekend went on; and it did!

In addition to Bible teaching, all participants had private prayer ministry with two of the prayer ministry team. These are trained folk, who have gifts of discernment, listening and understanding. At the same time a group of prayer ministry team members were meeting in the Chapel and without having any background knowledge of me, apart from my name, were able to receive a word of God for me. The knowledge they were able to share completely bowled me over! I found that God's agenda for my healing was quite different to mine and I really was touched and amazed.

In the evening we had a period of silent prayer, when we were able to sit quietly and take in all that had been given to us, and all that we had heard during a momentous day.

Next morning we had a service of communion and anointing, and were then sent back out into the big wide world with a greater understanding of God's love for us.

Audrey Cowie

Redeeming the Rose: Weekend and Teaching Day for women 29 - 31 January 2016

Previous weekends for women have proved to be very popular and we expect a good number to book in for this one, which will be led by the Crowhurst Team.

The Teaching Day on Saturday 30th is part of the weekend and will be led by Veronica Gendall (see more in the next column).

There will be worship and an introductory session on the Friday evening and on the Sunday, there will be a service with a healing theme to it.

The cost of this residential weekend will be £180 for an en-suite room and £160 for a non en-suite.

Meals for day visitors:

Friday dinner: £10.00

Saturday: Lunch and refreshments: £12.00

Sunday lunch: £12.00

Folk who would like to take part in the weekend on a non-residential basis are very welcome to come and join in with the Friday and Saturday evenings, and Sunday morning for worship.



Teaching Day: Saturday 30 January Redeeming the Rose



The Rose is universally recognized as a symbol of beauty and perfection, but often, harmful elements, such as insects or disease, attack the developing rosebud, blighting its growth and preventing it from blooming as it should.

Ever since the Fall, humanity, along with the rose and the rest of creation, has been subject to the damaging effects of sin. Our Teaching Day will look specifically at how this has affected women, also designed for beauty and perfection, and explore God's purpose to heal and restore; to "redeem the rose" in all of us.

There will be ample opportunity for individual reflection throughout the day, which will conclude with a time of worship and ministry in the chapel from 4.30pm.

There is no charge for our Teaching Days, but we do ask visitors to consider making a donation towards running costs and materials.

Winter Prayer Requests

Winter Prayer Requests

Please pull out and keep for the coming months

Winter Prayer Requests

PRAYER FOCUS

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs." Psalm 100: 1 & 2

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

"Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God who performs miracles?"

Psalm 77: 13 & 14

PRAYER

- Give thanks and praise for the completion of the programme for 2016. The new format includes enough information to hopefully appeal to our friends and beyond. A big thank you to Hilary for the many hours she spent making it so attractive.
- During February, there is an invitation to bring someone who has not stayed at the CCHC before, to come for free, for up to three nights. (This does not include 8th - 14th or 26th - 28th.) Pray that those who come will receive the healing touch of Jesus and His love and peace that passes all understanding.
- Pray for the staff at the CCHC, particularly during the winter months. Pray for good health and safe journeys, that the roads may be free of ice and snow. We give thanks for the way they cover staff absences by doing extra shifts.
- Give thanks that Sarah has returned safely after a month in South Africa following the death of her mother. Pray for all her family in their time of bereavement.
- Give thanks and praise for the Lord's provision for all our needs during the past year. Pray that we will continue to be obedient to His leading in 2016. May we have listening ears and open hearts to do His good and perfect will.

December Prayer Focus

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will him Immanuel"- which means 'God with us.' Matthew 1:23

DECEMBER

2 Advent Quiet Day:
*Highway Maintenance:
Walking the Kingdom Road*
Led by Revd Paul and Olive Deeming

17 **Last Healing Service of 2015**
(10.15am)

20 - 28 House closed.

30 Dec - New Year Celebration
3 Jan

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests." Luke 2: 13 & 14

"But the plans of the Lord stand forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations." Psalm 33:11

January Prayer Focus

“Therefore confess your sin to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

JANUARY

- 5 **First healing service of 2016:**
(7.30pm)
- 6 Editorial Board Meeting
- 7 Healing service: 10.15am
- 8 - 10 House closed:
Weekend for CCHC Ministry Team
- 20 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Revd Colin Crook
Snowy Daze – How can we know God more clearly, love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly?
- 22 - 24 Healing Weekend
- 26 - 29 House closed:
Prayer Partners Retreat
- 29 - 31 Weekend for women:
“Redeeming the Rose”
(Led by the Crowhurst Team
To include Teaching Day:
Led by Veronica Gendall)

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15

February Prayer Focus

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” Hebrews 2:18

FEBRUARY

- 8 - 12 Lent Silent Retreat: *“Me being me, in the presence of God being God.”*
Led by Canon Clare Edwards.
Includes Lent Quiet Day on the 10th (see below)
- 10 Lent Quiet Day:
“Be still and know.”
Led by Canon Clare Edwards
- 9 Trustees Meeting
- 12 - 14 Healing Weekend
- 26 - 28 House closed:
Parish weekend

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So, do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.” 2 Timothy 1: 7 & 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.

- At the beginning of November, Shirley Dawson stepped down from the Board of Trustees after serving for fourteen years. She will continue to be the Prayer Partners Co-ordinator and help prepare and serve teas and coffee after the Thursday morning healing service. Please pray earnestly for a person of the Lord's choosing to fill the vacancy on the Board.
- We give thanks for all who so generously support the ministry of Christ's healing love at the CCHC. There has been an increase in the number of people who give regularly as a result of the Gift Days Response Form. In addition to the 'one off' gifts, it has been recommended that the £22,000 donated through the Gift Days should be allocated as follows:
 1. £10,000 - £11,000 for refurbishing the games room as a 'drop in' prayer centre.
 2. £10,000 to refurbish the old art room, or replace it with a similar size timber building for use as a prayer space for resident guests.
 3. £2,000 to provide some more all year parking spaces using heavy duty matting on the grass area adjacent to Meads End.
- Please pray that these improvements will proceed smoothly and without further cost. May they enrich the ministry of Christ's healing love at the Centre.
“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.”
Hebrews 10:23

Prayer for staff at The Centre

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men ... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”
Colossians 3:23 & 24

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

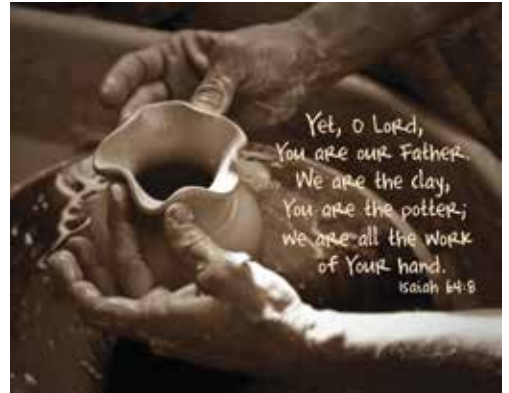
MAINTENANCE AND GARDEN

Kim, Brian, Cliff, Dave, David, Desmond and Ronnie

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10



My time as a Trustee and my experience of His healing touch



What a privilege it has been to serve the Lord as a Trustee of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre since September 2008.

For the first few years of my time on the board, Colin Cook was Chair of Trustees, followed by the current Chair, Martin Granger. Both have skillfully and prayerfully led us.

There have been three Senior Chaplains at the Centre during my years as a Trustee; Peter McIntosh, Kath Batte and currently Steve Gendall, who is ably assisted by Steve Clark. All have contributed so much and each has been used by God to renew, revive, and restore the CCHC to its ancient paths and purpose, yet adopting new ways to interpret His will to bring His healing touch and presence to the very many people who come to this Christian healing centre.

For the past few years, we as Trustees have met together for prayer days in addition to the business meetings. We have included the Chaplains and their wives, who are right in the middle of all that happens here. These prayer days have been very special times, bonding us together as a group and leading us to a greater insight of God's will for this special place.

I want to share with you my own experience of the Lord's healing touch. Two years ago, lumps in my neck turned out to be Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL). This sounds worse than it is, because with older

people CLL is very slow progressing, so fortunately no treatment is necessary unless the condition worsens. The consultant recommended 'watch and wait' with regular blood tests and an annual CT scan. I have found that I do get exhausted when I try to do too much and on such occasions I have gone forward for anointing and my strength has come back, praise the Lord.

In the light of my health, I felt it right to stand down from being a Trustee as soon as another Trustee was appointed. Suzanne Owen has now joined the Board and was featured in the Autumn magazine. With her years of experience in the healing ministry, Suzanne will be a great asset to us and I am happy to step aside for a new, younger member who has so much to offer.

Two years ago I also laid down leading 'dance in worship' but since last year the Lord has opened up the opportunity of helping Maggie with the 'Prayer through Painting' weeks, which have been such a blessing. I've found before in my life that when one door closes, another opens.

Back in May, following my last CT scan, I was told that I needed to have a further investigation as it appeared that my womb was enlarged. Before my appointment in August I was getting lower back pain when I bent down, which I thought may be connected with my swollen stomach, so one Thursday I received prayer at the CCHC and was anointed. The next morning I didn't have to struggle to put on my shoes and realised that the back pain had disappeared! Then when I had the womb investigated, the camera showed that there was nothing abnormal!

How can I praise the Lord enough for His goodness, mercy, healing and grace. Thank you Jesus.

Mavis Williams

You ARE enough!

I often check out Facebook to see what has been posted by Esther, our Facebook administrator. I found this descriptive piece of writing from Steve Clark about Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19:1-10). For those of you who don't have access to Facebook, I thought it would be good to share it in the magazine.

.....

Maybe you identify with Zacchaeus who perhaps feels the words **“you are not enough”** embedded in his mind like barbed wire embedded in a tree.



It's never enough.

The black hole in my heart sucks dry the care and concern of all who dare to approach. In desperation, the longing heart swallows whole each gift of love, each tender encouragement or provision. A ravenous, insatiable desire to be noticed, approved and accepted.

To be enough for ... a parent, a teacher, a friend, a lover or even myself.

Buried deep, the barbed wire in the mind shrieks, **“You're not enough, not good enough, not ever enough!”**

There will never be enough to satisfy. The inner weeping barely recognises the origins of the pain, for the early lies are embedded

in my core, colouring every comment, activity and relationship. I have learnt well these patterns for my life and even wear the chains as if they were made of gold.

I will never be enough, I will never have enough.

Bound by fear, bound to fail. No human endeavour, mine, a myriad of friends, colleagues and counsellors can sift this empty pain. Crippled for life. “O to be significant.” Every affirmation, every success, every touch of love leaking out of the colander that is my soul.

But this is the moment of Good News, **MY** Good News. He pauses by my tree and knows my name. A Son of Abraham! A family, an identity. My Father? Jehovah Jireh, the God whose provision will satisfy my soul.

Fathered by the One who looks on His children and treasures them. “You are my child, I love you before you have done anything, and you are pleasing to me.”

Lord, do you know, do you really know the abandoned terror of my childhood past? Ignored, abused, belittled through tender years. Shaped through those malleable days and my own wrong choices into the sieve that is my soul. All goodness and nourishment, like water, passes through without refreshing, leaving only the mire of my little life to condemn me, shouting “not enough, not nearly enough.”

“STOP my child, for this is my moment, your moment. **I** am the Lord of Time that makes all things new. I know the wounds that hold you in your past. I, the surgeon of your soul, remove the barbs and heal the moments of your years. My Abraham child, my family.

I am the ENOUGH to satisfy your soul. Come, my little man, come down and lead me to your house. You have enough for tea.”

Prayer through Painting Week: August 2015

I knew there was something God wanted to do here, but had no idea what it was. At the Tuesday evening healing service, I had a picture of a shrivelled up 'walnut' which I understand was an undeveloped area in me.

Tuesday night, I woke at 2.30am and God showed me the thing He wanted me to deal with - a small incident when I was a baby of five to eight months old, which had been overwhelmingly terrifying to a baby of that age.

I felt very agitated, but after a bit I was able to give it to the Lord and leave it with Him. A great peace came to me and remained.

But it was as if I was going about in a mist. At the Thursday healing service during communion, I again had the picture of the walnut with a crack in the shell.



I understood this shell represented a lie from the enemy, which had enclosed the area that remained undeveloped through my life (connected to the baby incident). I went forward and God revealed the lie. I repented and renounced it.

Then a third picture – the shell was gone and the 'nut' had germinated a small root and also a small shoot.

I also felt my head filled with light, but as if I had no shell because the light extended

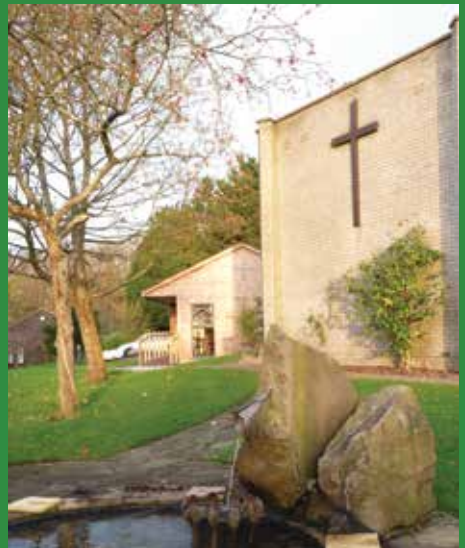
outside too. It was an extraordinary sensation! I also felt very joyous.

Glory to God. Isn't He wonderful? I am so grateful that so often He explains to me what He is doing by pictures. I understand them clearly.

Many thanks for the wonderful team of people here. The whole garden and house are filled with peace. God bless you all.

Shirley Bickner

Our Prayer and Painting weeks are always very popular. The next one will be held from 1st to 5th March. If you have never been before, why not come along and see where the Lord leads you in terms of creativity. The bright and spacious art room is situated in a perfect setting (see below) to help get your creative juices flowing!





Songs of Praise



Abide with me

This well known hymn was written by Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847, who also wrote 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven.'

While watching the FA Cup Final, I was struck by the enthusiasm of that huge crowd as they joined the 'fans' choir' to sing 'Abide with me.' It has been sung on sinking ships, at major sporting events and at the passing of loved ones since it was first penned.

In 1844 Henry was diagnosed with TB and his health began to decline. On September 4th 1847, at the age of 54, he gave his farewell message in his church, went for a walk along the beach, then retired to his study and wrote 'Abide. With Me.' A few days later he died and his last words were 'joy and peace.' The music was composed by William Monk, Choir Master at York Minster, and was played at Henry Lyte's memorial service. As He often does, God took a sad ending of a life and made something of lasting worth.

The opening words of the hymn were taken from the story of the Emmaus road, which you can read about in Luke 24:13-35. In this final chapter of Luke's Gospel, we read of two disciples who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the day that Jesus rose from the dead. As they travelled, a man joined them - the resurrected Jesus, although they did not recognize Him. As they arrived home they asked Him simply, to 'stay with us,' or as it is put in the old version, 'abide with us.' It was only then that they recognised Him.

I love this hymn. It deals so honestly with the feelings of grief, fear and helplessness that is felt at times of heartache and suffering or impending death, no triumphalism here. The remedy is not in having great faith, but

having faith in a great God. It is the heart's cry of a child to a loving Father.

'For neither death nor life.....nor anything else will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'
(Romans 8:37) 'I triumph still if Thou abide with me' (verse 4).

1. *Abide with me, fast falls the evening tide,
The darkness deepens, Lord with me
abide. When other helpers fail and
comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O
abide with me.*
2. *Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away; Change and decay in all around I
see, O Thou who changes not, abide with
me.*
3. *I need thy presence every passing hour,
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
power? Who like Thyself my guide and
stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine,
O abide with me.*
4. *I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where
grave thy victory? I triumph still if Thou
abide with me.*
5. *Reveal Thyself before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies. Heaven's morning breaks and
earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death
O Lord abide with me.*

Judith Barnes

Garden News

We are so blessed to have a number of volunteer gardeners who assist Desmond, our head gardener, with keeping the grounds in such good shape. Part of the Crowhurst experience (apart from the lovely food!) is walking and sitting in the picturesque grounds, and we are so grateful for all the hard work that our gardening team put in to enable our guests and visitors to be so blessed by the beauty of God's wonderful creation here at the Centre.

As we do have a rota of gardeners now, they are taking turns to write for the magazine, and for this issue, Cliff, who works voluntarily two days a week, has kindly put pen to paper (beware of his jokes!)

Captions are most welcome for this photo of Cliff on his hands and knees outside the Chapel! The prize for the best caption will be an audience with Cliff and his jokes!



Cliff writes:

As I write my contribution, we are waiting for the leaves to drop, which will eventually will be turned into mulch, ready for soil improvement. This year's mulch has enabled turf to be laid around the new art room, which in time will lead to more edging for me to do!

During the summer, when a truck full of rolled grass arrived in the grounds, I asked, "Do we now send it away to be cut? Things are looking up!" "No," was the reply. "It's turf for the area round the new art gallery." "So," I asked, "Does this mean that Chris, our Treasurer, is also a 'Turf Accountant?'"

When I asked Desmond about the planting of bulbs, I had to laugh when he said, "The bulbs help the worms see where they are going!"



Groans all round I hear, but these humorous comments are what makes the Centre such a happy place to work and a sense of humour keeps us all going, even on damp days!

So when I'm not raking leaves, the grass edges need to be trimmed, weeds dug up and all the other necessary tasks, which I enjoy and which will always keep me busy!

The grounds may settle down for the winter but with the rebirth of spring, it will soon be full steam ahead again!

Blessings,

Cliff

Shirley Dawson - Trustee

Another Trustee to step down from the Board of Trustees this year is Shirley Dawson. Former Chair of Trustees, Colin Crook has sent in this appreciation of Shirley.



Way back in 1995 Shirley had never even heard of the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre (or The Old Rectory as it was fondly known in those days).

In March 1995, Shirley's husband, Fred was diagnosed with cancer. Someone suggested he attend a Thursday morning healing service and he received such powerful ministry at the rail that day, that he attended every Thursday morning afterwards.

In June 1995, Shirley retired from teaching. A plea was put out for volunteers to provide the afternoon teas and Fred immediately volunteered them both! I first remember them in this capacity of serving the tea, sandwiches and cakes in the dining room. Soon Shirley started serving the teas and coffees on Thursday mornings and for many years she worked with Evelyn Walmsley, who in turn recommended her as a Trustee.

So in 2001 Shirley was appointed when Fred Scales was Chair of Trustees. She was on the Board at a very difficult time in the life of the CCHC in the early 2000's and her deep prayer life proved invaluable.

I joined the Board in 2005 and chaired it from 2006 to 2012. Shirley proved to be a very loyal supporter. Never one to push herself forward, she always cared deeply about Crowhurst and the work. Her observations were always given with a quiet authority and always worthy of attention.

Being around every Thursday for refreshments, she had a keen ear for the comments of guests and would feed these in. She has been part of the decision making with three consecutive Senior Chaplains and major building refurbishments, including the new art room.

So in the fourteen years that she has been a Trustee, we have much to thank her for.

Shirley remains very actively involved at the CCHC. She is still the Prayer Partners Co-ordinator and continues to serve refreshments on Thursday mornings.

God bless you Shirley.

Colin Crook

Earlier in the year, Shirley shared on our Facebook page, one of her favourite Bible verses, which is from the book of Isaiah.

.....
"For your Maker is your husband - the Lord Almighty is His name." Isaiah 54:5
.....

Shirley says that this remains a special verse for her. She finds comfort and peace in the knowledge that the Lord will always take care of her and she is never alone.

Prescription Bible verses!

Many of us take pills and medication for various ailments but God's Word should be our most important daily 'medication', as well as our daily meditation!

Susie Chandler has sent in some of her favourite Bible (prescription verses), which she likes to meditate on daily or a week at a time.

She first heard former Chaplain, Peter McIntosh, use the term 'prescription verses' so here are a few 'doses' to get you through the winter months!

You are my help and my deliverer:
Psalm 40:17

You are my King and my God:
Psalm 44:4

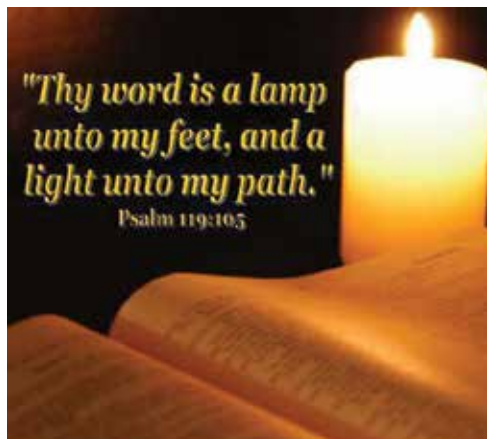
You are my God, my stronghold:
Psalm 43:2

He is my stronghold, my refuge and my saviour: Psalm 18:2

The Lord your God is with you:
Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord, the Lord is my strength and my song: Isaiah 12:2

The Lord is my strength and my shield:
Psalm 28:7



A glimpse at our 2016 Programme

As you will see from the separate brochure outlining our activities for 2016 - available from the Centre, or from the website: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk - we have planned a variety of events to appeal to folk of all ages and gender, including separate weekends for women, men and families. Below is a synopsis of some of the many things we have planned for 2016.

In January, we have a **'New Year Offer'**, in which you can pay for two nights and get the third free (except for programmed events) and we will also be having a **'February Special,'** when you can bring someone for free, for up to three nights, who has never stayed at the Centre before.

In addition to the regular and popular favourites like Prayer Through Painting weeks, Guided Quiet Days, Teaching Days and Healing Weekends, we have a number of new retreats scheduled.

In June, Dr Stephanie Thornton, psychologist and co-author of 'Finding Forgiveness', will lead a weekend on healing and forgiveness. *Forgiveness is a spiritual gift open to us all, but why is it so hard to forgive or to feel forgiven? Understanding the psychological stages of forgiveness can help us.*

Bishop Richard Jackson, who preached on Thanksgiving Day in July 2015, and spoke on suffering, will be returning to the Centre in September to lead a weekend exploring glory and suffering in more depth.

Throughout November, we have planned an **'Autumn Special'**, where a paying guest can bring for free someone who has never stayed before.

Outside the scheduled programme, there will still be plenty of time to enjoy the peace and presence of God. You are welcome to book a personal retreat with us, enjoy our pattern of daily worship, the art room, grounds and receive some prayer ministry.

Farewell to Geof

In August this year, we said goodbye to Geof, our Maintenance Manager, who had faithfully served at the Centre for eight years.

Steve G writes: *"Finding a replacement for Geof made me more aware of the uniqueness of the man*

whose range of skills, peppered with good humour makes him in cricketing terms 'an all-rounder.'

It's always sad when a loved member of the team leaves, but it was also an enjoyable and fun filled occasion, which included a great piece of literary work from Steve G, who wrote a humorous poem!

*There once was a man called Geof,
Who asked us on Tuesdays to play deaf.
I'll be testing the alarm, and it'll cause you no harm,
unless it's Christmas Day and I'm the chef!*

Geof's resourcefulness far exceeded expectation, each day began with Mabel's flirtation. He'd supply Ollie and Mel* and Hurrah we would yell! With Marion* on coffee, flowers and occasionally administration!*

*But to Geof we now say Godspeed; you're a blessing we say, yes indeed! For the work and the fun, we've enjoyed this long run, but at last we declare **you are freed!***

**For those of you who haven't met Mabel, she is a beautiful little Wire Haired Daschund who loves everybody she meets, and will roll on her back to have her tummy tickled for as long as anyone will do it! Ollie and Mel are Geof's grown up children and Marion is his wife.*



New Year Celebration 30 Dec to 3 Jan 2016

After the hustle and bustle of Christmas, perhaps you would like spend the New Year recharging your physical and spiritual batteries.

New Year at the CCHC is a time to come aside and relax in the presence of our Lord. There will be worship, prayer and rejoicing together.

For those of you who have never been to one of our New Year celebrations before, here are just a few comments from previous guests.

"What a wonderful way to kick out the old year, reflecting on all that has passed, and to welcome the New Year in with fun, friendship and fellowship!"

"A wonderful way to end the year and step into the next one, placing my hand firmly in the hand of God."

"The retreat gave me space and time to reflect and be with God; a time to rest, a time for good food and company, and of course, a time for fun!"

"What more could anyone ask? Good food, good preaching, all wrapped up in love. A real sense of peace, especially in the Chapel."

If you've never been to the Centre at New Year before, why not give it a try this year? There are still some spaces available at the time of print.



Winter Programme

DECEMBER

- 2 Guided Quiet Day
*'Highway Maintenance:
Walking the Kingdom Road.'*
Led by Paul & Olive Deeming
- 17 **Last Healing Service of 2015**
- 20 - 28 House closed
- 30 Dec - New Year Celebration
3 Jan

JANUARY

- 5 First healing service of 2016: 7.30pm
- 6 Editorial Board Meeting
- 7 Healing service: 10.15am
- 8 - 10 House closed:
Weekend for CCHC Ministry
Team
- 22 - 24 Healing Weekend
- 29 - 31 Weekend for women:
"Redeeming the Rose"
Led by the Crowhurst Team.
Includes Teaching Dayon the 30th.
which will be led by Veronica
Gendall
- 20 Guided Quiet Day
Led by Revd Colin Crook
(See column top right)

FEBRUARY

- 8 - 12 Lent Silent Retreat: *"Me being me,
in the presence of God being God."*
Led by Canon Clare Edwards.
Includes Lent Quiet Day on 10th,
also led by Canon Clare.
- 12 - 14 Healing Weekend
- 26 - 28 House closed: Parish weekend

Forthcoming events

Guided Quiet Days:

20 January: Led by Revd Colin Crook
*Snowy Daze - How can we know God more
clearly, love Him more dearly and follow
Him more nearly? (Based on the prayer of St
Richard of Chichester)*

9 March: Led by Pam Vale-Taylor

Changed from glory into glory
*When we begin 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!"*

Lent Silent Retreat: 8 - 12 February

**'Me being me, in the presence of God
being God.'**

The Retreat will include a Quiet Day on
Weds 10 February - *Be Still and Know.*
Led by Canon Clare Edwards, Canon
Pastor at Canterbury Cathedral.

Easter Celebration: Thursday

24 March to Sunday 27 March.

*A journey through Holy Week - moving from
the shouts of 'Hosanna' to the shouts of
'crucify.' The waiting and then into new life
and freedom. What parts of me need healing
as I walk with Jesus through His last days, so
that I may step out into the freedom of the
resurrection?*

Led by Revd Sarah Chapman, Chaplain at
The Living Well and Diocesan Advisor on
Wholeness and Healing for the Canterbury
Diocese.

How to contact us

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre

The Old Rectory, Crowhurst,

Battle, East Sussex TN33 9AD

Telephone: 01424 830204

Bookings: 01424 830033

Email: bookings.cchc@btconnect.com

Email: crowhurstrectory@btconnect.com

Web: www.crowhursthealing.org.uk

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

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



Follow us on Twitter @Crowhurstchc

Who's who

PRESIDENT

Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Martin Granger

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Gendall

DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

Revd Steve Clark

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

Penny Button

PRAYER PARTNERS CO-ORDINATOR

Shirley Dawson

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Mary Slater

