



He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Revelation 21:5

Welcome to our re-named and re-styled newsletter, 'Encounter'. Its new format is just one of the 'New Shoots' that you can read about in this issue.

If you look at our website, the first words to greet you are '**REST, ENCOUNTER, RENEW**', and this is exactly what you will experience when you visit this place of God's healing. Many peoples' lives have been transformed by encounters with the Lord who loves to meet with people here, either through the services, hospitality, including the delicious food from Howard's Well cafe, the chapels, prayer rooms and beautiful grounds.

In this newsletter, you can read about some of the exciting new shoots that Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre (CCHC) are considering. Throughout our lives, we encounter fresh beginnings in many and varying ways and when they are part of God's plans, we know that they will produce much fruit. Perhaps you would like to share with us your own new shoot experience which has been birthed at CCHC.

Also, we would love to hear of the ways you have encountered God here at CCHC. These can either be sent to my email address, survivor95@hotmail.com or if you would prefer to write to the office, the address can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Mary Slater



Once a year we host a day of celebration and thanksgiving, to which all are invited — bring your friends! Please come along so we can stir each other up in faith, hope and love!

This year our guests will be John and Gillian Ryeland, who, for nearly two decades, were former Directors of the London Christian Healing Mission. John will preach at the morning service.

We start the day at the throne of God, in worship – for it is He who brings us through the good, bad, rough and smooth of each year! His faithfulness and love are highlighted as we share something of the previous twelve months. The heart of the service is being reminded of all the Lord has done for us as we share Holy Communion together.

After the service, you can enjoy a Ploughman's lunch and later afternoon tea and cake, in the company of friends you may not have seen for ages! There will be ample time to wander around our grounds and take some moments with the Lord who is very present and loves to meet people here. We look forward to seeing you!

LOOKING AHEAD!

The CCHC Centenary is just three years away – 2028. Yes, that's right; the Lord has been meeting with people here for 97 years!



Steve's Letter

Dear friends,
Our prayer at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is that you will Encounter our Lord: at the Centre in worship or during time with a Chaplain; in our hospitality or in the grounds; through our website and social media platforms and not least of all in this new look Newsletter.

We know that the Lord loves you. He sees and hears you; He wants to walk and talk with you, and to have you follow Him.

There is so much good news of all the Lord is doing daily, not least of all at CCHC, and we want to shout it loud and clear, and spread it far and wide! We suspect that you, with your neighbours and friends, and in fact all the world, are hungry and longing for news and stories that build up and do not break down, that encourage with kindness and

love, rather than discourage by lies and that perpetuate the cancel culture that is so rife these days. You will definitely find some good news in these pages!

In this Newsletter, we will share good news of the miracle-working God that we follow and His extraordinary attention to detail in people's lives. We'd also like to share something of the exciting new things the Lord is leading us into. And as ever we would like to use this Newsletter to encourage you to take time to come and meet the Lord; to bring friends, to signpost people here and your Church and Ministers too.

May you each have a precious encounter with our Lord Jesus today!

With love from us all,

Steve Gendall



We have partnered with A Rocha whose goal is to care for God's earth. Later this year we will host a launch event, to which you invited, when we will share our plans to protect and restore the CCHC environment – for God, nature and all people.

We're currently at the exciting stage of 'figuring a path forward'; 'agreeing priorities'; 'planning timelines' and finding a 'good way to implement the agreed'.

We will keep you updated in future issues.



Stewarding Love, Grace and Comfort



Our varied programme offers themed led retreats, Healing Weekends, Quiet Days, Prayer Days and time for individual space in the comfort, peace and presence of the Lord who loves your company! In the busyness of the world it can be so healing to step back and take time with Him. It is vital for your life and health!

A number of guests recently enjoyed a retreat here with popular Author and speaker, Sharon Garlough Brown.

Colleen writes: "It was a beautiful weekend, which Sharon led so sensitively and empathetically. Three particular phrases she spoke out, and which have impacted me, are:"

- ▶ ***"Beloved, love one another."***
- ▶ ***"The love of God holds the whole story." In other words, "Jesus himself demonstrated that love is everything."***
- ▶ ***"Jesus laid down His love as the purest form of love, a sweet sacrifice."***

Colleen could have written much more but these phrases were the essence of the Retreat and remain with her.

Judith was blessed by the Zulu greeting ... "I see you", to which we respond, "I see you seeing me." In other words, "Be at rest in the loving gaze of God."

And, "***forgiveness isn't about forgetting, it's about remembering without bitterness. We can continue to press playback or take the path to liberation.***"

Although I was unable to attend this Retreat at the last minute due to ill health, I can so resonate with what Colleen and Judith have written, but also to say what an amazing God we have, for whom nothing is impossible and whose timing is absolutely perfect!

As I was lamenting to God about my disappointment, I'm convinced that He led me to look at Sharon's website (sharongarloughbrown.com) where I saw she was leading an on line 'Sacred Journey' Retreat, which was based around her brilliant 'Sensible Shoes' book series. Having read these books, I was very keen to take part, but my heart sank when I noticed that there was just one week left. In hope (and faith!), I contacted Sharon's team, who said I could still register because all the sessions had been recorded and were available to watch, plus I would still be in time for the last live Zoom session! Sharon then emailed me and was so sorry to hear that I had missed out on the CCHC Retreat but said that I was very welcome to attend 'Sacred Journey'. In a matter of minutes my low mood had changed to one of huge gratitude to God!

This enriching and faith building 'armchair retreat' has strengthened my faith, and one of my 'takeaway' phrases was 'to have an ***unedited conversation with God***.' Being an editor, I just love this!

Mary

From Ashes to Beauty



There is a lot of ugliness in the world, wouldn't you agree? Even too much at times!

So what would motivate 20 folks to come to CCHC and contemplate one of the ugliest events in human history, the torture of an innocent Man on a cross 2,000 years ago?

Yet that's what we did over this year's Easter weekend, looking at the theme 'From Ashes to Beauty.' It began with the Tenebrae Service you see in the picture above, which includes the gradual extinguishing of candles following Bible readings from the Easter story, until the Large Chapel was plunged into darkness.

The Easter journey begins on Ash Wednesday with the smearing on the forehead of ashes, which represent all our (humanity's) limitations, failings and falling short. It culminates in the Easter events that highlight not only extreme injustice to an innocent Man, but also the pinnacle of

man's rebellion to God as we nailed Jesus to a tree.

Yet amazingly beautiful things happened in the midst of this ugliness. God showed what He is like in His incredible self-sacrificing love and vulnerability, taking all our sin into His body. He rose again three days later as death couldn't hold Him, showing the beauty of renewed hope and purpose to those who put their trust in Him.

As we gazed afresh on the beauty of the Lord (Psalm 27:4) through activities such as Stations of the Cross and a Holy Saturday Easter Vigil bonfire, we felt somehow that in some small way, we were being transformed into His likeness '*with ever increasing glory*' (2 Corinthians 3:18).

That's what Messiah Jesus still loves to do today. In the midst of much ugliness, to bestow on a needy people, 'a crown of beauty instead of ashes' (Isaiah 60:3)!

David Mayhew

Forthcoming Events

Prisoner of Shame 16 – 18 May A weekend for women



How securely is your identity rooted in Jesus? The Bible reminds us that we are children of God and God has lavished his love on us (1 John 3:1), but we also know that *'shame is the most powerful master emotion - the fear that we are not good enough'* (Brene Brown), and so it can feel very difficult to accept God loves us. The weekend will be led by Suzanne Owen and Julia Lewis.

Healing Weekend 23 – 25 May

These special weekends of healing provide an opportunity to come aside for renewal of body, mind or spirit. They are open to those of any church denomination, or of none, seeking Christian healing and wholeness.

Receive from God at this 'thin' place where He has been worshipped for over 90 years.

Healing Encounters Weekend 25-27 July

These weekends are for those who are seeking to facilitate a deeper personal encounter with the Lord who heals. During this weekend, we will be looking at the story of the woman at the well. Over the weekend guests will have opportunities to apply the gospel story in their own lives and meet with the Lord in a healing encounter, which can happen in a variety of ways.

The Story of Elijah – so far! Suzanne Owen



April 15th was an incredibly exciting day for Suzanne and for all of us at CCHC when she submitted the final draft of her book about Elijah to her publishers, Instant Apostle. Suzanne shares below how her book came into being.

The book has taken about two and a half years to write. The first 18 months was spent translating all my quiet day and sermon notes into a form that people could read. When I write notes as prompts to preach from, they are only the bare bones of what I want to say, to keep me on track. Half way through doing that it dawned on me that the theme of healing needed to be part of the story and so I had to go back over it and draw out those theme! Once I had a more or less full draft, which included all the chapters except the last one, it was a case of then beginning to seek a publisher.

Instant Apostle have been very helpful to work with and I am delighted that they have accepted the manuscript. But having to having to work to deadlines has been very demanding! My Chaplain colleagues have shown enormous grace and patience as they have absorbed a greater amount of leading the daily worship than usual to allow me to meet the deadlines!

Suzanne

Nothing is impossible for God!

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who prayerfully and practically supported our move from the west of Sussex to the far east! A particular thank you to the great team I'm part of who accommodated my comings and goings over the six months that it took to complete the move, and for allowing me to stay in one of the flats for my working week. Thank you!



As many of you will know, moving house can be rather stressful; ours was no exception and if I'd had hair to fall out, it certainly would have! We needed completion by 31st March and had a deadline to exchange contracts by 24th March but the date came, and sadly went, without an exchange taking place. Our hearts sank! And then on March 25th the Feast of the Annunciation, where we hear Gabriel say to Mary *'Nothing is impossible with God'*, a quite wonderful and most definite miraculous turnaround occurred, which allowed exchange to take place that day, AND for completion to happen on the last day of the month, despite everything we'd been told to the contrary!

It is so good for my wife, Suzanne and I to now be together in the same county for more than a few short days at a time! Lastminute.God? This has been a bit of a joke between us all for quite a while. It has certainly felt like that as we were taken 'right to the wire!' But then we remember, it's only last minute to us, not to Him! *Steve and Suzanne Gurr*



Last month we hosted a group of workers and clients connected with Change for Good, a Community Chaplaincy project that supports men released from prison in the London area, providing 1-1 mentor and group support. Steve Gurr has had links with this Charity from his previous role as Chaplain at HMP Ford.

The day included walking together in the grounds of Forewood, lunch at Howard's Well, and some time in the art room, plus there was a group discussion covering all sorts of aspects of well-being and belief.

This Charity is one of a number of new shoot opportunities we are exploring working with, adding to the healing work that we are already involved in.



CCHC Prayer Focus

THE LORD IS DOING EXCITING NEW THINGS!

You will have read in this first issue of Encounter some of the exciting new things we are exploring – there are others too. Pray that we will have wisdom and clear guidance with what to take on and what to leave behind.

Give thanks:

- ▶ for the many ways we see the Lord meet guests at CCHC. Please pray that we will continue to be open to the Living Water – the Holy Spirit - to flow through here preparing us for the Lord's return, saving, healing and building us into the people He has called us to be;
- ▶ for all our Team – praying for peace, prosperity and protection for all those involved in this work and their families;

Please pray:

- ▶ that this Newsletter will be a great blessing and encouragement to all who receive it, and that it will stimulate faith in the Lord who is building His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven;
- ▶ that the increasing number of new guests will be blessed by the presence of our Lord, healed and refreshed by their experience residentially, or at Howards well;
- ▶ that the many people seeking truth and a desire to belong somewhere will be drawn in to find the Lord who loves them and calls them to Himself. We are

hearing many stories of the Lord drawing in people – something is going on. It's so exciting!

- ▶ that we will be the right people and the right people will be called to do the Lord's work here – in each of the different departments;
- ▶ that we will steward our resources carefully and that our starting out this new financial year will be smooth and that the Lord our Provider will meet all our needs.



Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre has a vision to proclaim the Kingdom of God

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