

Crossways Community

Time to focus

Newsletter Autumn 2009

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For your diary ...

*"He burnt his
plough ... and
obeyed God's
calling."*

Dear Friends ...

I am one of that peculiar breed of people who don't like going on holiday. Don't get me wrong, I love BEING on holiday, it's just the GOING I dislike. All the preparation: cancelling the papers and milk, sending our collie, Alfie, to his holiday home, ensuring my mother is well catered for, that the house is in good order. You know how it is: and I confess the stress can make me less than pleasant to live with for the 24-hours prior to departure.

Any change, however good, can be uncomfortable. Imagine how Elisha felt: out ploughing his fields, as he did every day, when the well-known prophet, Elijah, showed up and threw his cloak around him as a sign that he was to take over the role. Was he afraid? Probably. Did he feel confident? I doubt it. Did he hesitate? No, he burnt his plough (literally!) and obeyed God's calling. He followed Elijah, as his attendant, until Elijah was taken up to heaven and the job was all his.

What a blessing that the changes taking place in the Crossways Community have enabled the 'cloak' to be passed on to people within the family, that there has been a time of 'shadowing' so that the transition can be

smooth. I expect there have been times of uncertainty but, yet again at Crossways, we know that God has gone ahead and prepared our way. The most important thing for us as a community is to stay at the centre of God's vision for us, to earnestly pray and seek Him in all things so that we may be able to claim the promise in Romans 8:28, '...and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him'. With every blessing.

Stefanie

Times are a-changing

... Yes—with exciting times ahead of us!

Bob Dylan sang about times a-changing in the, what? 1970's, and it is still so true of today's world. Crossways is not immune from change either; if we just look at the last six months there have already been a number of significant changes, not only within the houses, but also within the directorship of the Trustees. None of these changes have been negative but exciting, positive and forward looking. Speaking about looking forward, in the next six months there are still going to be a number of exciting changes,



all so very good for Crossways. However with every change comes new challenges and this too is exciting as it creates a sense of expectation and eagerness to see what God is going to do next.

So let's look at what is ahead of us. Firstly there is the new Admin block which is going to be a great asset as well as free up some space at Number 8. We will have two spare offices, a meeting room that we can utilise for training and hosting professional and staff meetings etc. The Pavilion will be converted into a much needed rest room for staff.

We are also looking at how we can move Mental Health Awareness and Restoration forward, and once again the new Admin block will afford us the space and infrastructure to expand these two very exciting and necessary projects.

We have the appointment of Ginny as Manager of Culverdale and she will be able to bring her years of experience with Social Services as well as all that she has gleaned from her years as a Support Worker

and lessons in life. Ginny has, as do all our staff, a Heart to serve. We have Martin retiring after many years of service at Crossways. Martin is, and has been, an integral part of Crossways Community. Then we have the appointment of myself as CEO, which will no doubt herald in a whole new era. There will also be a number of staff changes as we are having to find replacement staff at both Culverdale and Number 8, not forgetting there are going to be some resident changes as well. We have just filled a vacancy at Culverdale and we still have some vacancies at Number 8 to be occupied.

Undoubtedly this is going to have an impact on all of us—by all of us I include not only management and staff, but our residents, Directors, those that support Crossways Community in the wider community, and also stakeholders in Crossways—and there is no doubt that there will be a cascading effect. I suppose that how we look at change will really dictate how we respond to change; put simply it is how we look at a glass of water—do we see it as half empty or half full? As a result, we have set aside our Morning of Prayer on the 1st October 2009 as a dedicated day of prayer so that we can pray into these matters and address the issues head on by giving our staff direction, assurance and encouragement during our morning devotion, Chapel time, and during the course of the morning. Can I ask specifically that you set aside some time during this day to pray especially for Crossways Community?

Thank you for your support and I pray that the LORD will make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

John Neel

Looking forward ...

For quite a long time now friends have been asking me if I am looking forward to my retirement and then immediately say “Of course you’ll be busier than ever!” Others have said “Do you know what God wants you to do in the coming days ahead?”

The trustee and management changes taking place at Crossways are both significant and exciting, and that too of course is true for me. It is certainly another mile post in life’s journey. I’ve been fortunate enough to be involved in social care for the past 40 years and whilst there have

been pressures, sometimes extremely difficult ones, they have also been years of blessing and great joy.

So what of my future; will I be so busy that I wonder whether I ever retired? I think not—despite the fact that I shall still be working two days a week at Crossways I know that there are other things God will lead Ann and I into, and that’s exciting. I want to spend more quiet time with God, listening to what he is saying. We live in such a busy age and for many people they do not have the opportunity to set much time aside to spend with God but now that I am ‘older’ perhaps I will be able to do that more often!



One thing I do know for both myself and Crossways is that God is faithful and will go before us into the future. As we all look to God and trust that his grace is sufficient for us we will see his presence and blessing in our lives.

There are so many people that have travelled with me over the last 28 years whom I have reason to be grateful to. I particularly want to thank the Directors and Management Teams that I have worked with, as without their loyalty and support I could not have done the job. And that is true of my wife Ann and my children, they have supported me wonderfully.

And of course my thanks too, to residents, staff and you our supporters, some of you right from the very early days of Crossways. Between you, you have been part of my life and in many ways made it a life rich indeed in terms of job and life satisfaction.

What of the future then? Well, watch this space with me as we see what God is going to do!

Martin Granger

From Ginny Swaffer

As autumn approaches, Culverdale too is moving into a new season. As John Neel moves into his role within Crossways and I prepare to take up the role of manager here at Culverdale, change is inevitable. New staff members will be joining the team over the next few months and this can be unsettling for both residents and staff. I do know though

that God has his hand on Culverdale. I learnt very early on in my walk with the Lord that handing all areas of my life over to Him to do with as He chose produced far better results than I could ever have imagined! I know that He is in control and I know that He will guide Culverdale through this forthcoming time of change. All we have to do is keep our eyes firmly fixed on God for what it is that He requires.



One of the many things that I am very grateful for is the most amazing team we have at Culverdale. We all come from different backgrounds and as such have much to bring. My aim as Manager is to see this team continue to grow both as a group and as individuals in their faith and also their professional lives—and not forgetting to continue supporting one another and laughing together.

Ginny

A good friend

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death on June 25th of Brian Hester who had been diagnosed with cancer just a short while before.

Brian, with Mary his wife, have been good friends to Crossways ever since we came to Tunbridge Wells. Mary for a long time was closely associated with Crossways, first working for us then as Director. During her time with us she started the Friends of Crossways which for a long time played such an important role in supporting us. Brian, whose home was invaded by Crossways events quite regularly, was always welcoming and gracious—willing to support and share his wisdom with us, very much to our benefit.

Brian came alongside so many people who experienced emotional and mental health difficulties, opening up his heart and home to them. In such circumstances he was not a quick-fix person but rather very much in for the duration. We thank God for his great faith, wisdom and love, and of course his sense of humour!

Martin Granger

Garden shots of 2009





Crossways Coffee Morning held on 6th June

Personally, coffee mornings are not just about fund raising, but a time where folk can meet up, chat, and are able to catch up with each other and renew acquaintances. This was so very evident when one just looked across at the tea area and noticed all the chit chat and laughter. What was also so very refreshing to see was the amount of families and children that were about, some with painted faces or chocolate-smudged faces. We were able to raise £2,000 in total which was far more than we anticipated, and so a very big thank you to all who made our Coffee Morning the success it was and we hope to see you there next year.

John

Forthcoming events

Thanksgiving Service 2009
*Will be held at St John's Church, St John's Road,
 Tunbridge Wells on 10th October 2009 at 2.30pm*

Thanksgiving Service 2010
*We are pleased to announce that Russ Parker will be speaking
 at Crossways' Thanksgiving Service in October 2010*

Coffee Morning 2010
*Saturday 19th June 2010 at St John's Church,
 St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells.*

Supporting the work of Crossways Community			
<p>Crossways Community is very dependent on the support of our friends. We greatly appreciate the help that many people give us in our work with people with mental health difficulties. If you feel you can help us or continue to help us in prayer, practically, financially or with your time, please indicate this below. All help, however large or small, is valued.</p>			
<p>I would like to join the 'Friends of Crossways' and receive periodic up-dates for prayer and news of events.</p>	<p>(Tick)</p>	<p>I would like to go on the Crossways Mailing List and receive the twice-yearly newsletter</p>	<p>(Tick)</p>
<p>I am interested in helping out by: </p>			
<p>Yes, I will support Crossways Community in prayer.</p>			
<p>Yes, I will support Crossways Community and enclose my cheque for:</p>			<p>£</p>
Please indicate whether you wish your cheque to go towards the:			
General Fund		Restoration	
<small>(Any surplus money will go towards the General Fund unless you tick this box)</small>			
Please contact us on 01892 540843 if you would like to make a regular gift and receive a Standing Order form.			
Gift Aid			
<p>If you are a UK taxpayer, you can make your donation even more generous by completing the Declaration below. You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the Crossways Community reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year. (currently 25p for each £1 you give). We will claim any Transitional Relief (currently 3p for each £1) that also may be due.</p>			
<p>Signed..... Date</p>			
<p>NAME:</p>			
<p>ADDRESS:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>			