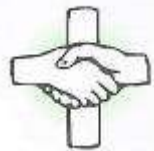




CROSSWAYS COMMUNITY

*Spring 2006
Newsletter*

Number 8
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A Thought from the Chairman

My wife and I recently enjoyed the privilege of visiting India. It was so exciting to see the deep commitment of Indian Christians as they gave themselves to sharing their faith with those who did not know Him. And yet a quarter of the billion people living in India exist in abject poverty, far beyond the wildest imaginations of the majority of us living in this wealthy country.

This experience caused me to ponder again as I read a piece this morning (you may have read it too) about a man who was visiting a missionary school in Tibet during World War II. He noticed a little girl on the steps, malnourished, ragged and her eyes revealed a lifetime of suffering. When he asked about her, one of the teachers said, 'Oh, she sits there every day. She wants to attend the school but we've no room'. The man replied, 'Can't you make room for just one more?' The teacher replied, 'We've made room for just one more so often that our food has run out, we have to draw the line somewhere'. The man replied, 'A child needing help shouldn't be turned away, why isn't something being done?' Quietly the teacher picked up the little girl, plonked her into the man's arms and asked, 'What are you going to do about her?' That man did do something about it, he bought rice for one little girl. He then founded an organisation called World Vision!

My wife and I saw many little girls and boys like this; risking their lives in busy streets begging for money, children unable to attend school due to their parent's poverty but holding out their hands in hopeless expectancy as we walked by.

We can only do the little we can, but the Lord is perhaps asking us all the question, 'What are you going to do about it?' There are so many people in need, some of them are staying at Crossways. Thankfully we can do something for them, as we have been doing for just short of almost 40 years. Any contribution we can make to the work of Crossways will be blessed.

Alan Harvey, Chairman

WHAT'S IN STORE IN THIS EDITION...

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IN THE LATTER PART OF 2005 THREE FRIENDS OF CROSSWAYS WERE CALLED HOME TO BE WITH THE LORD –

Leslie Moxham, along with Lilla, began the work of the Crossways Trust in Tunbridge Wells at No 8, Culverden Park Road. With five others they had started the work in Croydon in 1967.



Leslie was a man of great passion who loved the Lord wholeheartedly. Whenever you met somebody who had known Leslie and his name came up in conversation there would be a broad smile on their face. He was loved and appreciated, not just for the support he gave to people, but also for the spiritual wisdom he received from God and passed on to others in a most gracious manner.

Along with others, Leslie laid down the Christian ethos and vision of Crossways, and it is this foundation that has kept the organisation focusing on God over the past 30-plus years. For this alone, but also for every remembrance of Leslie, we give grateful thanks to God.

In the early days at Tunbridge Wells **Donald Eddison** was the vicar of St John's Church, in whose parish Number 8 was situated. Donald welcomed Crossways and gave pastoral, practical and financial support over many years. His love for the work was seen in his coming here and taking 'chapel' once a week for more years than I can count.

We praise the Lord for his faithfulness.

Faithfulness too was the hallmark of **Betty Snelling**; she, with her husband Len, (who died some years earlier) supported not only Crossways but many other local charities through their jewellery stall. Those of you who come to our coffee mornings or Service of Thanksgiving will know just how popular this stall was. Betty always managed to make sure a bargain could be found, especially for the younger ladies who frequented her stall.

For each of these dear friends we give thanks to God and continue to remember their families in our prayers.

BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

My dog Kai is a very intelligent collie dog (supposedly). She loves her walks in the woods and spends much of her energy chasing birds or squirrels up trees. In fact that seems to be the focus of a walk these days. She stands at the bottom of a tree and barks and barks; if they had been there they would have left even before her arrival! In fact she will often go back to the same tree that gave her much fun yesterday to find that it only brings disappointment and frustration. She has been known to bite great lumps out of the tree in her temper. Her sister Leala is more discerning. She looks and listens, planning her moves with care, and has been known to catch a pheasant!



Where is your focus in 2006? For most of us our lives are very busy and the focus may change over time; family, work, hobbies, food and fun. But when you reach the top of a tree what will you find? Nothing but sky, a big empty void. This year, as well as the necessities of life, make time to think about what the Bible means by the Tree of Life. Why not visit one of the local churches and begin to think, "am I barking up the right tree?"

Kathy Lewis

New Staff

Penny Jones will be employed as our new Care Coordinator, we hope in early May. **Mark Goodsall** who has just started, and **Paul Russell** who will start in early April, both come to us as care workers. We welcome the three of them into the Crossways team and look forward to the contribution they will each bring.

John Starkey has been Deputy Manager at Culverdale for a little while now, so we asked him to introduce himself.



How do I start introducing myself? There was distinct confusion at the start as to who I was. Because I share the same name as my colleague John Neel, my name changed three times in as many weeks from John, Johnny and finally to William, but now I have settled down working at Crossways answering to all three names.

Where have I come from? Originally from Buckinghamshire, I settled in Kent in 1971 and have mostly lived in and around Tunbridge Wells. I became a Christian when I was 16 whilst at school and attended Tunbridge Wells Baptist Church, where I met Hayley, my wife. We now have one fantastic daughter called Sarah, who is nearly 11. During my times at church I have been used in many different ways – the Lord has pushed me into youth work for many years but I have also led many house groups and I am presently running a house group with Hayley at Pembury Baptist Church.

Working at Crossways has been a great departure for me; I feel that the Lord has led me here. I was asking Him what he wanted me to do and I thought he wanted me to go into counselling work but each time I tried to go on a course it never happened. So I gave up and changed my prayer and asked the Lord for the right job for me, and as they say, the rest is history! ... So here I am.

Number 8 News

IN-HOUSE HOLIDAY ~ FEBRUARY 2006

On the Monday we drove a group of residents to Eastbourne for what turned out to be a good day out. We visited Berwick Church, then to work up an appetite we had a short stroll along the prom before having lunch at a fish restaurant. We even had time to buy a few odds and ends. Next day, a smaller party went searching for bargains in Maidstone Market, but we were a bit disappointed with the stalls. We found our way along the river to the new Fremlins Shopping Centre, before taking a country route back home, thankfully without getting lost! Next day, more food, but a firm favourite – 'Breakfast in the Park', always good grub. Thursday passed by too quickly with ten pin bowling, some of us getting quite competitive. Thankfully we didn't book a lane on the M25. Finally, on Friday we went to London and visited the famous Harry Ramsdens, nice fish I must say, but Harry was away down in Worthing. We then took in the National Gallery and went to Trafalgar Square to see the pigeons and that new statue with the long name. To sum up, the week was a bit fishy but certainly good fun.

David Garland

Residents' Summer Holiday 2005

The 2005

summer holiday was spent at Crossways – oh no! not the same Crossways that you have all come to know and love, but a place called Crossways just outside Weymouth. This year it was decided to go self-catering, our accommodation being three woodland chalets. I think our presence motivated the squirrels in their efforts to prepare for hibernation!

The site had its own activities which included snooker and pool, ten pin bowling, a swimming pool and, for the very brave, a large outdoor ski slope which, from where I stood (the bottom), looked fantastic. Of course for the less adventurous there was a café and bar with evening entertainment. We did venture off-site too, visiting Dorchester, the very splendid Portland Bill and of course Weymouth.

Although we self-catered on site, we also had meals out. It was nice relaxing together over a meal and for us all to be waited on!

I would like to especially thank the residents for making the holiday such a great experience. Self-catering, never for the faint-hearted, meant we all had to pull together and find our own way to relax and we did!

Peter Cornford

NEW BABIES !

Angie Solanky, who works part time as a Crossways care worker, recently gave birth to Caleb Joseph Rajesh who weighed in at 6lbs 12oz. She says, 'Wow, time has just flown by. He is the most adorable cutest thing we have ever seen and we are just loving it. Ben and I are absolutely exhausted from the sleepless nights, but Jesus is just so awesome that amongst the tiredness is just the most special times of bonding with such a wee little person. I'm definitely seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.'



As we went to press, **Donna Farmer**, our part-time Health & Safety Advisor, had safely delivered Joseph William who weighed in at 8lbs 1oz. Donna's husband Peter says, 'He was born via an emergency C-Section; however Donna and Joseph are both doing really well'.



Steve's Trip to Mozambique

Last July I had an opportunity to help lead a group of teenagers from St John's Church (Tunbridge Wells) to Beira in Mozambique. A couple from our church have been Oasis Trust workers there for several years and we were invited out to see the work they were doing. We had planned to go for three weeks and thanks to some generous donations, raised £1,750 each to pay for the trip. Unfortunately, a strike by South African Airways meant that our trip was delayed by 3 days with a further 6 days stranded en route in Milan (Italy)



whilst we waited for a connecting flight to Southern Africa. Lovely though Milan is, we were disappointed not to get to Mozambique, but after a long delay we landed in Beira very relieved and grateful. For the first two days, we helped run with seven other leaders/helpers already in Beira (including members of local churches) a Ministry of Fun club for three hundred

7-12-year olds. It had been planned for us to do it for the full six days so when we arrived, the people already leading were relieved to see us.

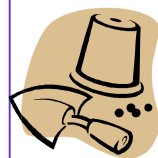
We also visited several PEPEs, which are pre-schools for 4-5 years olds, devised by a Brazilian Christian who trains up local teachers. Although there is a public education system in Mozambique, it only starts at aged 6 and because of the poverty, children usually only go for part of the day. The PEPE gives them an advantage in learning basic Portuguese, numbers/letters and also has a strong Christian ethos. Because the churches must provide the buildings and pay for the teachers, they tend to be more committed to them than if they were just provided for free by Western agencies. We were based for a few days at a local church helping them build a baptistry, and spent an afternoon at a local orphanage set up by an American Christian. It was a real awakening to see how one of the poorest countries in the world cope with 35% incidence of HIV/AIDS and a life expectancy of 41. Without exception, the local Christians we met were incredibly warm and welcoming and had a strong faith that helped them overcome the conditions they faced; and we all came away very humbled and challenged.



Steve Howcroft



Culverdale News – John's Meanderings



Can you believe it, SPRING at last. Well that is what the garden bulbs are trying to tell me, but every time I think we are there, old Jack Frost pops in just to remind me that he has still not gone into hibernation. Talking about gardens, William and a couple of the residents have been frantically scurrying about, tidying, planting bulbs and even seedlings – so all going well we should have a blooming good year.

We continue to do well, which we thank the Lord for, as we have had a very busy winter with no let-up on activities, Christmas parties, outings and the occasional spontaneous outings, these mainly on quiet Friday afternoons. The Bible Studies on Monday evenings continue to remain a great blessing for those who participate, we have just completed a series on the Beatitudes and are now doing a series on the Fruits of the Spirit.

Since we last chatted we have had two residents move on from Culverdale, one to more independent living and the other into more supported accommodation, and as far as I know, they are both doing well. We have also welcomed two new residents in January – Stephen Kemp and Ian Kitley. Ian came across from Number 8 and is settling in very well, Stephen who is originally from the Goudhurst area, is also settling in well.



We hope to have (let me rephrase that, we HAVE) three residents who are looking towards moving on into more independent living within the next six months, which is a double-sided coin. On the one side it is a joy to see our residents doing so well that they can move on; on the other side there is also a little sadness, but the joy of seeing growth and experiencing the excitement of our residents moving on more that compensates for the sadness.

A new experience for me a couple of weeks ago – I went to an Ash Wednesday Service for the first time, which to be honest I found very liberating and for the first time in my walk with the Lord I found silence comforting and in a sense felt very secure. Now, you can imagine for a Penti this is a foreign concept as we like to make lots of noise and have

very few periods of silence. Now I have learned two very valuable lessons, one I need to allow the Lord to challenge my thinking and preconceived ideas and then act on that. The second is to allow myself to spend more time in silence, the scripture that comes to mind is "Be still and know that I am God", and it is when I am still that I will hear the Lord speaking to me. So you see, sometimes it does pay to keep quiet.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers, I would ask if you could at this time pray especially for the residents who are moving on. God Bless you all

John Neel

David Cooke is a resident at Culverdale and has worked as a doctor, carer and printer; he now paints with oils, writes poetry and plays music. David says, "I love walking and going to see friends in Tunbridge Wells whom I have known over the years. I love to read books that tell me how to be a better person and pray for a more loving and peaceful world. All I hope is that I will live to do all God's good pleasure and that one day I will hear His 'Well done' in Heaven."

Friends

*Thank you for friends to share with
Through life's joys and sorrows
Through the good times and the bad times
For without friends I would be nothing
Friends who make my life brighter
With music to soothe my soul
And creative art to help me appreciate
All that is good in the world
And books to make me wiser
To accept that your will is best
And my desires are only earthbound
To lift me nearer Heaven
With your purity and light
And make me into a true child of God.*

THE BLACKTHORN TRUST

Every Monday and Wednesday I attend the Blackthorn Trust at Barming near Maidstone. I find it a long but worthwhile day. It is a stepping stone for me finding paid, part-time work in the future.

The Blackthorn Trust is an organic vegetable garden. Here we grow fresh vegetables and herbs. On a Monday I help in the greenhouse; I often pot plants and write on sign posts about what the plants are and which country they've originated from. One day I enjoyed making and tasting herb tea, such as peppermint and marigold. We also had a two-day willow workshop when we coppiced willow and then did some weaving with it. On a Wednesday I help in the garden.

When I arrive in the morning the first job I do is the harvesting of vegetables. We have to go and pick or dig them out of the ground or sand box, this is a brick box full of sand where carrots, beetroot and artichokes are kept warm over the winter. We then wash them for use in the kitchen. One skill I have learnt is pruning redcurrant, blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes. This was difficult because they're all done differently. You don't want to cut too much or too little of the branches. Recently I planted lots of onion seeds in rows, hopefully they will grow into tasty onions.

I've just started the NVQ level 1 in Horticulture. We're learning about planting vegetables, compost and health and safety. Also at Blackthorn there is a craft room where you make cards, preserves, yogurt and gifts. In the kitchen vegetarian meals and fresh bread are prepared for sale in the café.

Claire Schwaner, Culverdale resident

Martin's Musings

At last! Over the past few Newsletters we have shared with you about two new initiatives, namely the new flats and Restoration. Well, it is with some relief that I can tell you that they are beginning to take shape!

New Flats

The tenders have now been sent out and we eagerly await the contractors getting back to us. I know from experience there will be

some initial shocks price-wise, when we are first presented with the cost of the building work. However our experience has always been that God meets us at our point of need – abundantly!

One of the conditions of the planning application being passed was that the car park at Number 8 should be extended. The work on this will begin very soon. My reason for mentioning this is that there will be great disruption to the lives of people living and working at Number 8, also to those attending the Winfield Trust's computer school which is in the grounds. Please do pray that this will be kept to a minimum for all concerned. The same applies, for a much longer period of time, for those who live and work at Culverdale.

We should be grateful if any of our readers would let us know of any grant-making trusts that we might apply to for grants towards the cost of building this new accommodation.

Restoration

So much has been happening regarding this project. In February we had an induction session for volunteers, and then on March 4th the first Restoration meeting for those for whom it was created.

Fifteen people came for the 'taster' session. They settled in and related to one another very well. Fourteen want to come to the remaining seven sessions over the next six months.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts for Restoration, please do continue to remember us in your prayers.

Martin Granger

Looking ahead

Coffee Morning

at Number 8, Culverden Park Road,

Tunbridge Wells

on Saturday 8th July 2006

10.30am—1.00pm

(Please note that the date has changed this year)



Remember to log on to the Crossways website for current news and up-to-date information: www.crosswayscommunity.org.uk