

# Restoration

*Bringing peace of mind in a troubled world*

*December 2006*

*We thought it would be a good idea to bring you up to date with our news and to thank you all for your prayers and support over the past year.*

*It seems a long time ago that the course we held at Christ Church finished in August. There is so much to praise God for regarding the course.*

- This was a pilot course and we learnt so much from planning and running it.*
- The members were terrific and really helped us to see what was working and what needed to be changed.*
- An average of seven people attended the course with highs and lows in numbers either side of the seven.*
- However for special occasions we had good numbers, just last Saturday we had lunch together, it was a really lovely occasion being together and catching up on each other's news.*
- The feedback we received indicated that for some of the course members it enabled them to view their lives from a different perspective. Some have gained the confidence to take risks and start doing new things.*

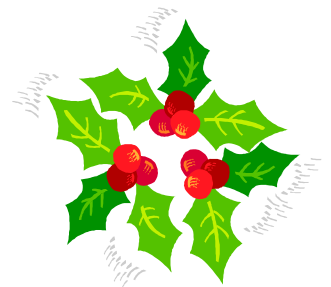
*We were very sad that during the course one member died, as did another member shortly after the course. We were reminded again how fragile our lives are - please do pray for their family and friends as they grieve.*

*For the Steering Group it has been a journey that has brought great joy and has entailed for some a considerable amount of work. This was true for Kathy especially as she prepared and led the teaching sessions.*

*As a team we grew together as we worked through our different ways of approaching situations and I think it is true to say that God met us at every step.*

*We are thankful too for the small number of volunteers who supported us, they made and still do make all the difference.*

*The venue was proved to be ideal and has perhaps spoilt us for the future. Our thanks go to Christ Church for the way they so lovingly supported us.*



Crossways Community

8 Culverden Park Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9QX

Tel: 01892 529321

[number8@crosswayscommunity.org.uk](mailto:number8@crosswayscommunity.org.uk)

## *So what of the future?*

*During 2007 we would like to run two more pilot courses in different venues from the one held at Christ Church. There is a possibility that we may link up with a church in Maidstone. We have met twice to discuss the possibilities and would value your prayers that God would clearly show us and the church involved what his will is for us both.*

*In the meantime there is still a lot to do. Kathy is now fine-tuning the teaching sessions and getting them on to the computer. Jo is also busy looking at the volunteer awareness sessions. We tried to cover too much at this session last April back at the beginning of the course. All of this material too will be put on to the computer.*

*By 2008 we are hoping to have all of the material ready for others to be able to use and run their own courses. We would ask for your prayers that the Lord will bring us into contact with people who have the IT and technical skills to make this possible.*

*God is meeting us financially and we are grateful to the directors of Crossways Community for their commitment to the project. It has also been so encouraging to receive gifts from both individuals and churches to help meet our costs.*

*We are looking to God for one or two churches to stand with us at this time as well as individual folk praying for us. If you know of anyone who might be interested in doing this please ask them to contact us.*

*At this Christmas time it is good to remember that God reaches out to all mankind as Emmanuel (God with us). However just as the course was about looking at life from a different perspective, we too need to look afresh at Christmas. Ann Clifton one of our number has written:*

### *GIFT-WRAPPED*

*Gift-wrapped - not in gaudy paper  
With bows and Christmas stickers.  
Gift-wrapped with care in swaddling clothes.  
Gift-wrapped with love by One who saw  
Our deepest need - a Saviour, a Redeemer.  
Gift-wrapped and laid, not beneath a tree  
But in a manger bare.  
Gift-wrapped and labelled  
With your name, with my name,  
With love from the Father.  
God's present, gift-wrapped for us  
Today.*



*WE ALL JOIN IN WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.*