

HARVEST

The Harnhill Centre Magazine

Summer / Autumn 2023



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Programme for July to December 2023

The Resurrection and the Life

Someone mentioned to me recently that it must be rather challenging to manage all the comings and goings of staff and volunteers at the Harnhill Centre. We are a close-knit community, but with fourteen employed staff and over 100 volunteers, we don't remain static for long. Recently, we said goodbye to Simon and Janie Cameron, who finished their long season as residential members of the team at Harnhill (see page 5).

Time does not stand still and there will always be changes of seasons in the life of any community, which need to be navigated and adjusted to. Some find this more difficult than others, but saying goodbye to those we have grown to know and love can be especially challenging. Of course, the loss of a loved one through death, concentrates all of these emotions in the deepest of ways, and requires particular space and support. Having worked as a hospice nurse for a number of years, I am aware that those who grieve may find it increasingly difficult to open up to family and friends, with the feeling that the lives of others have 'moved on', whilst their own pain continues. As a team, we have been thinking about this for some time, and I am pleased to now share that we will host a Bereavement Journey retreat in September for those who have lost a loved one, whether a family member or friend. If you feel this would be helpful for you or someone else you know, please take a look at our programme for more information (page 10). We hope this additional retreat may become a regular event on our programme, and it will be a helpful option for those already coming through our doors, who are living with grief.

Loss and change will impact all of our lives at different times and in different ways. As well as the death of loved ones, there are many situations which can uproot us physically, emotionally and spiritually, resulting in the confusion of painful feelings which can be challenging and exhausting. The range of emotions related to any loss need to be acknowledged, felt and grieved. Throughout the year, Harnhill offers an extensive programme of retreats and opportunities to receive ministry as guests seek the Lord for comfort, healing and renewal. The hospitality offered by the team provides a space to help guests express and untangle difficult emotions. It may be tempting, otherwise, to put these emotions

to one side. They will eventually make themselves known if not attended to.

As I write these words during Holy Week, my heart is focussed on the journey Jesus made to the cross and His crucifixion, but my prayer is that we will develop a deeper understanding of the resurrection, so it has a growing influence on our current experience. I pray for a refreshed understanding to underpin and strengthen our faith, so that whatever we are dealing with in this life - pain, difficult circumstances, health problems, relationship or financial challenges – we can trust there will be a time when everything is redeemed. The resurrected life of Jesus is, after all, the beginning of the resurrected life of this world, and of all who choose to follow Him.

Jesus said to her,

'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'
She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

John 11: 25-27



Rev'd Kate Picot
Director

From our Guests . . .

Once I arrive at Harnhill, I feel like my whole being is wrapped around with the 'comfort' of Jesus, and on leaving it is with His Peace in my heart. DB

The food was good. I was very well looked after as a coeliac. PJC

Such a wonderful welcome, I was apprehensive coming alone, but the kindness and gentleness of everyone was amazing. MCN

Trip to Kenya

I have been a Christian for over 35 years and during all that time, had no sense (or desire!) to head off on a mission trip. Imagine my surprise (and disbelief!) when I sensed a faint and strange stirring in my heart after hearing about a trip planned for February of this year.

Trinity Church in Cheltenham has a partnership with the Diocese of Kericho in Kenya which has been established over many years. In November, whilst attending church one Sunday morning, details of a trip were announced. I knew in my spirit immediately that God was asking me to go. It felt very unreal and, on many levels, completely out of my comfort zone. I did my best at trying to say no! Despite my reticence, God cleared away all my excuses and stumbling blocks and I was booked on the trip.

Eleven of us made up the team: 7 women and 4 men. We all had varying experiences of mission trips – ranging from some who had been to Kenya many times, others to different parts of Africa and the rest of us (which included me!) with no previous experience at all.

One of the main focuses of this trip was to establish a sewing project to enable and bless the local women. This project was multi-faceted and grew somewhat, whilst we were out there!

By establishing this project, women will learn to sew, enabling them to mend clothes, learn to make different things to sell and provide an income for themselves and their families. The principal desire for all of this was to promote women's health and well-

being, by teaching women how to make reusable sanitary towels.

There is a massive stigma around menstruation which often leads women and girls to miss out

on education and work as they don't have the appropriate resources available to them. There had been much preparation put in place before we left the UK (spanning back a few years) with a number of people from Trinity Church working to ensure that there were enough resources in place in order to be



ready to teach the women when we arrived.

Personally, this trip felt like a big deal as I hadn't ever travelled abroad on my own, been away from my family for an extended amount of time and travelled with a group, most of whom I didn't know very well. Despite all this, I knew that God was with me in every moment.

On Tuesday 7th February we met at Heathrow airport to start our trip. Our luggage allowance was generous, allowing us to each take 2 large cases as well as hand luggage. This enabled us to have one bag for ourselves and another packed with a variety of other things which we planned to leave out in Kenya. Amongst other things, we took 7 electric sewing machines, lots of ready-cut fabric for the project, printer ink, and baby blankets.

Landing in Nairobi, following a night flight into 30C+ heat was a bit of a culture shock! I quickly established on the drive from the airport to our initial stop off point, that there is (so it seems!) no highway code in Kenya!

There is so much to share about this trip, that changed my life, and not enough space to share it all. We had a full programme for the two weeks we were there, some of which, I feel that I am still processing. The highlights were many, but to share a few...

The Kenyan people were so kind and generous. Even though at times, it seemed that they had so little, they shared so much, and their love of God and sense of worship was inspiring. In talking and listening to them, their sense of thanksgiving, even for the seemingly 'small' things, really made me think about how I take so many things for granted. The culture was vibrant and noisy and it took some time to adjust. As a team, we loved looking out for the most bizarre item to be carried on a motorbike. We spotted chickens, a goat, a motorbike (on a motorbike!), a car bumper and a large volume of eggs!

There were a number of times where I reflected on all that I'd seen, and there were many occasions, when I just could not reconcile what I was seeing and experiencing. During these times, as I spoke to God about them, I sensed Him saying "Look through my eyes and not your eyes." I began to see things differently, sensing His love for each and every person we met.

The team I served with were incredible. Bearing in mind, that at the beginning of the trip, I didn't know most of them, we bonded very quickly.

There was such a sense of love and care amongst everyone. We had a lot of laughs as well!

Sewing: it's been many years since I've used a sewing machine and I felt that I wasn't the best person to teach someone else how to sew! Especially with a language barrier! Initially I spent a lot of time cutting fabric for eager women to make bags. After a while I managed to practise and gained some confidence and was then able to sit alongside the Kenyan women and help them. We had some amazing gifting amongst the team, not just in sewing expertise, but also sewing machine maintenance! Being a part of enabling women to learn a new skill and be empowered was wonderful.



The project was more successful than anyone ever dreamed of, and we have heard that the machines that we left there are being used, and more lives are being blessed. There are currently plans being put into place to enable the project to be developed further.

Prison visit: One morning we visited the local prison in Narok. As a team we went, the men on team visiting the men's prison and the women visiting the women's prison. That day felt one of the most difficult of the trip. We met in their compound, in the intense heat, next to their cells which probably slept 10 women to each room. The prisoners, many of whom were yet to go to trial, wore striped dresses with the letters F.O.R. sewn on the front. This stood for 'Female On Remand'. We spent time worshipping God with them, sharing a message and praying with them. We gave them gifts of the most basic toiletries that so many of us take for granted. We had an opportunity to talk to them with an interpreter and pray again. We learnt that some of the women were single mothers and didn't know what had happened to their children. Many of the women were being remanded for offences that would be classed in the UK as a misdemeanour.

As we left and drove away, the silence was

tangible. Those men and women were, I felt, in hopeless conditions. My question to Jesus that day was "where were you in that place?" and I was reminded of Matthew 25:35-36:

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes
and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you came to visit me.*

Jesus was already present in the prison that day. He didn't come in with us and leave with us, because he was already there with those prisoners.

Visit to the Mara: We spent a couple of days at the Mara, staying at the newly opened Mara Empiris Safari Camp. This camp is owned by the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), as a place for holidaying and retreat. We were the first Westerners to stay and were able to share our thoughts with the Kenya team. We also had an opportunity to go on a Game Drive and see the most amazing and beautiful animals in their natural habitat.



So just a few highlights amongst many. As I've reflected since I've been home, I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity I was given. Grateful for those who supported me, released me to go and prayed for me – there were tough times amongst the blessings!

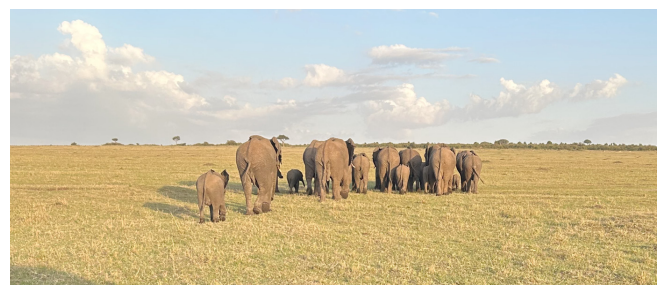
But most importantly, so grateful to God who placed the stirring in my heart, who blessed me so much and allowed me to lean closer into Him than I have ever done before.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13

And I can't wait to go back!

Alison Goddard



An Ode to Cheques

We are thankful for your donations,
They are such a joy to receive
But sadly, there are bank rejections,
Causing the finance office to grieve!

“Christian Center”, “Harnhill Manor”, “Christian
Healing”, “Harnhill”
All returned uncashed!
The computer that reads them unable to say
who exactly you meant to pay.

“Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing”
Is the correct payee to use,
They'll even accept “Harnhill Centre”,
But not if the words are confused.

Remember to sign and date your cheque,
Or we will need to return it.
You don't have to donate by hi-tech,
In order for us to have benefit.

Without your support,
We'd be financially caught short.
You help us to continue to minister
So we Thank God for the blessings we administer!

Finance Team

From our Guests . . .

God has taken me by surprise, beyond
what I expected. ... I was in a straight
jacket and God has taken it off. DJW

Meal times were exciting. We looked
forward to seeing what the chef had
created ... and afternoon cake too! SH

The meals were served with great
cheerfulness, and always ready on time -
and delicious. It was such a treat to have
'breakfast in bed'. JH

Came brokenhearted. Left feeling I
know God is in control of my
circumstances, not me! KY

Leaving Harnhill

Janie writes:

At times I find it difficult to believe that we
have been here at Harnhill for over eight
years. The time has gone by in a flash.
Harnhill had become Home to us. Driving over the
cattle grid, we knew we are entering into space and
peace - and Home.

We know we are both very different people
from when we first arrived here. Looking back, I
remember feeling very inadequate. I felt I couldn't
do the job as well as everyone else... Kate would
gently remind me that each team member is unique
with different skills - she didn't want clones! She
wanted individuals to be a part of the team. We, of
course, can only do the work with the Lord's help.
Initially I tried very hard to work here in my own
strength... It didn't work and it was very exhausting.

Seeing God at work here is such a privilege.
Seeing Him touch the guests' lives in the unique way
that suits that particular individual is what Father
God does. We have also learnt a lot from our guests
as well as our colleagues. We see many of our
guests as determined and brave individuals who long
for more of God in their lives.

Being here, living at Harnhill, is far more than
a job - it's a way of life - a way of being.

This has been an incredible journey, being
here. It hasn't always been easy - but it has been
good for us. Every step of the way we have seen
God's hands holding us. Sometimes it's been as we
look back, that we see and recognise that He has
been doing a deep work in us.

Thank you Harnhill.

Janie and Simon Cameron



Worship Leaders

We are soon to release our debut album of new worship and outreach songs called *Journey by Faith*. Some who know us at Harnhill might be surprised at the instrumentation on much of this album given that we mostly worship acoustically, but hopefully the following will put it more in perspective! Here is a bit of background about our ministry...

We met at an open mic night in Gretton near Winchcombe in 2006 and realised straight away that we had an eclectic mix of musical tastes and influences between us, and many of them were in similar. Whilst we had both known something of God as children, both of us had drifted from Him as teenagers. Matt was just coming into his adult faith when we met and Tilly followed suit shortly after – much of the journey of understanding what Jesus had done for us at Calvary we experienced together (and we both had a lot to learn!). After we were married in 2012 we decided to focus our musical efforts on worshipping Him. We have spent much of our marriage learning the worship songs and hymns we missed out on as teenagers and young adults and it has been a joyous journey!

In early 2014 Matt started writing worship music using scriptures and friends' poetry whilst we were at Elim Church in Swindon. One of the poets was Anna Henson, a well-known and loved attendee of Harnhill. The music to one of Anna's poems was written by Matt in the hostel at the Bristol Royal Infirmary when Tilly was recovering from open heart surgery. Another song was written from a praise poem Tilly wrote when she was recovering from one of several eye operations at the BRI. The songs written during this period make up the bulk of the songs on the album. One, however, was written at the first Craft Day at Harnhill for which we provided the worship music in 2018, using Psalm 80. The latest song was written from a poem by Dan Wyatt, a well-loved former chef at Harnhill.

Many of these songs, therefore, have come from a place well acquainted with suffering, but in a spirit of turning everything back to Him in praise. And praise it is when we have seen Him deliver us, emotionally, spiritually and physically over these years, to the point where we are able

to record them! An example is God's healing of Tilly's sight in her left eye during the worship at a Harnhill healing service in 2016, which negated the need for further eye surgery. Matt has also experienced God's complete healing from severe depression, with Harnhill having been elemental in the recovery.

Towards the end of 2014 we were invited to be part of a Gospel choir for Christ for all Nations at an event in Wolverhampton. It was here we met Bubele and Diana Kihayile originally from Tanzania, who were experienced worship leaders and who welcomed us into a fellowship of Tanzanian Christians in Europe. From 2015 we have been involved in national conferences as part of the worship team, which in turn has provided another hue to the musical influences on the album.

All of the musicians on the album we have journeyed with along the way, including John Chirgwin, one of Harnhill's former drummers. Paul West, our co-producer, engineer and main drummer, is a friend Matt played with in a Christian band 13 years ago and who built and opened his own professional studio at the same time we were looking for somewhere to record. This is yet another example of God's goodness, and that he truly does work all things together for the good for those who love Him.

Matt and Tilly Taylor



Matt and Tilly Taylor are freelance Christian worship leaders and have been involved with sung worship at Harnhill since 2014.

Fear not, for I am with you

I was asked to write an article on how God had blessed me ... where do I start?

What has really sustained me, been a consistent source of blessing and an anchor and food for my soul - has been learning verses that resonate with me. (I couldn't do that I hear you say - I will tell you how, a bit later!)

When I was first married, we went to Iran where my husband was chaplain to the Irani Bishop of the little Anglican church there. We were there from 1974-1980, three years of apparent peace and three years of revolution (the Shah left and Khomeini came). It was in the revolution that I found God closest to me. At times we had martial law and nightly riots, and the hospital, school and other institutions that belonged to the church were confiscated (revolutionary guard to missionary doctor who ran the hospital; 'if you come here tomorrow I will shoot you: now give me the keys of the hospital and, by the way, show me which key fits where!') Missionaries left and the Bishop's son was killed.

Life was very unpredictable, anything could happen. We trusted that God would show us when and if to leave. I, however, stayed with real inner peace, partly because I addressed everything with one verse:

*Fear not, for I am with you;
Don't be afraid, I am your God,
I will strengthen you, I will help you.
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.*
Isaiah 41:10

I said this verse over and over every time there was a difficulty (later I paid my children 50p to learn that verse!) The truth of it became more and more real to me. God is greater than what we face. He promised to strengthen and help us, but does not guarantee safety ... this is sufficient.

How do I learn a verse? I see it, visualise it, repeat it, dream it and go back to it. I write the first line and the reference in the front of my Bible. When I have my time with God, I review three verses I have learned. This has become, for me, like living water, welling up. (John 4:15).

Another time I leaned heavily on verses, was bringing up our teenagers. This did not go according to plan ... how to balance discipline and freedom, my desires and theirs. My prayer was 'help! I've never been a parent before!' Verses that helped were:

*They will not labour in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,
they and their descendants with them..*
Isaiah 65:23

*I myself will be the shepherd of the sheep ...
I will seek the lost, I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the crippled
and strengthen the weak.*
Eze 34:15

And now as I get older, I have learned this verse:

*Listen to me O house of Jacob,
you who remain in the house of Israel.
You whom I have upheld since you were conceived and
carried since your birth:
Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am He,
I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will
carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*
Isaiah 46:3

You will probably find you already know many verses - for example:

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.
Psalm 23

*O come let us sing unto the Lord, let us rejoice
in the strength of our salvation!*
Psalm 95

Hold them. Note them. If you want some really easy-to-memorise short verses, then here are two:

I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:20

*Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Lord.*
I Timothy 1:1

Treasure for all! Have a go!



Diana Hunt

Programme July to December 2023

“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10

July

4th - 9th Personal Retreat
7th Open afternoon
11th - 14th Journeying into Wholeness
14th - 16th Personal Retreat
18th - 23rd Rest & Refreshment Break
25th - 30th Personal Retreat

August

1st - 4th Journeying into Wholeness
4th - 6th Personal Retreat
8th - 11th Personal Retreat
15th - 20th Rest & Refreshment Break
22nd - 25th Journeying into Wholeness
25th - 27th Personal Retreat
29th - 3rd Sept Personal Retreat

September

5th - 10th Personal Retreat
12th - 15th Journeying into Wholeness
15th - 17th Personal Retreat
16th Quiet Day
19th - 24th Rest & Refreshment Break
26th - 30th Bereavement Retreat
29th - 1st Oct Personal Retreat

October

3rd - 6th Journeying into Wholeness
7th Thanksgiving Celebration
10th - 13th Leaders' Retreat
13th - 15th Personal Retreat
17th - 20th Rest & Refreshment Break
24th - 27th Journeying into Wholeness
27th - 29th Personal Retreat
28th Training Day
31st - 5th Nov Rest & Refreshment Break

November

7th - 12th Personal Retreat
14th - 17th Journeying into Wholeness
17th - 19th Personal Retreat
18th Training Day
21st - 26th Personal Retreat
28th - 3rd Dec Personal Retreat

December

5th Advent Quiet Day
5th - 8th Journeying into Wholeness
8th - 10th Personal Retreat
12th - 17th Personal Retreat

RESIDENTIAL RETREATS

The Team at Harnhill are pleased to be able to offer a range of Residential Retreats depending on your spiritual needs, time and budget.

Journeying into Wholeness

(Led Retreat)

(previously called Walking into your Healing Retreat)

'Bringing healing and wholeness through Jesus Christ.'

3-night stay Tuesday to Friday

This retreat is aimed at those working through deeper issues. This is a structured, led retreat with a programme of teaching, prayer ministry, worship, reflection and space. The retreat has been prayerfully structured in order that we may support you as you seek the Lord for healing and restoration.

During this retreat, you will receive two prayer ministry appointments with two members of our prayer team

Price: £360

All stays are from 3pm on Tuesday until 2pm on Friday (after lunch) and includes full board.

Special offer!

If you would like to extend your stay following a Journeying into Wholeness Retreat, there is an opportunity to book for 1 or 2 extra nights at £90 per night. To ensure availability, it is advised that you request this with your initial booking. (Please note, we are unable to offer further prayer ministry during these days.)



During our Residential Retreats there are opportunities for:

- **Prayer Ministry** during *Journeying into Wholeness* and *Personal Retreats*.
- **Spiritual Accompaniment** during *Personal Retreats*.
- **Prayer at our services** on Wednesday evening and Friday morning.
- **Creativity** - do bring your own projects with you. We can provide easels for painting.
- **Worship and Reflection** during our daily rhythm of worship in our Chapel.
- **All meals** are provided with a choice of enjoying fellowship with others or eating silently at a quiet table.
- **Enjoy** the surrounding countryside - you may like to bring walking boots or wellies.

Personal Retreats

(Partially-led Retreat)

2 to 5 nights from Tuesday to Sunday

A partially led, flexible retreat with an option for prayer ministry or spiritual accompaniment. Come and step away from everyday life, to spend time in the presence of God. Enjoy a spacious place to be renewed and restored.

These retreats are aimed at those whose desire is to take time away from everyday life, or those who have attended a Journeying into Wholeness Retreat and wish to continue their journey of healing. We are pleased to offer one Prayer Ministry or one Spiritual Accompaniment appointment during your stay - please request at time of booking.

For further information about Prayer Ministry and Spiritual Accompaniment, please see our website.

Everyone is welcome to join in the *Rhythm of Worship* and prayer during their stay.

Choose 2 to 5 nights (Tuesday to Sunday) to suit your time, availability, and budget. All stays are from 3pm on the day of arrival until 2pm on the day of departure (after lunch) and includes full board.

**Prices: 2 nights - £200, 3 nights - £300,
4 nights - £400, 5 nights - £500**

New for 2023!

Rest & Refreshment Break

**Stay between 3 nights and 5 nights from
Tuesday to Sunday**

‘Come away to a quiet place.’

A self-led ‘time aside’ retreat with an opportunity to ‘go with the flow’ each day. Are you looking to step aside for a slightly longer break (minimum of 3 nights), from the busy-ness of everyday life, into a place of peace, where you can *rest* and *refresh* your soul and draw closer to God?

You may want to spend time relaxing in the beautiful and quiet spaces around the Centre, or venture further afield (we are very near to many local attractions).

There will be some activities on offer during the week and you are also welcome to bring your own creative or leisure project with you. Feel free to enjoy our daily *Rhythm of Worship* as much or as little as you would like to.

These breaks offer increased flexibility, as we will provide you with a packed lunch each day, to take out with you or enjoy on-site at a timing of your choice.

Choose 3 to 5 nights (Tuesday to Sunday) to suit your time, availability, and budget. All stays are from 3pm on the day of arrival until 2pm on the day of departure and includes full board.

Prices: 3 nights - £325; 4 nights - £415; 5 nights - £505

Please note, we are unable to offer Prayer Ministry or Spiritual Accompaniment during these breaks. There will be an opportunity to receive prayer at our Wednesday evening and Friday morning services.



Bereavement Retreat

Tuesday 26th to Saturday 30th September

The Harnhill Team are pleased to host 'The Bereavement Journey' course as a residential retreat.

If you are interested in attending this retreat, please contact the Bookings Team to discuss your particular situation and need.

Price: £420

The retreat starts from 3pm on Tuesday until 2pm on Saturday (after lunch) and includes full board.

Guests are welcome to stay an extra night for £65. (Please advise at time of booking.)



Leaders' Retreat

Tuesday 10th to Friday 13th October

We are delighted to be able to offer this retreat specifically for those currently in full-time Christian ministry as an opportunity to step aside, rest, and receive God's healing.

These retreats are for 3 nights (with an option to stay for 1 or 2 extra nights, at £90 per night, if you would like to), and you will receive 2 Prayer Ministry or 2 Spiritual Accompaniment appointments* during your stay, as well as times of worship and reflection.

Price: £360

*Please indicate preference at time of booking.

The retreat starts from 3pm on Tuesday until 2pm on Friday (after lunch) and includes full board..

Quiet Days

Quiet Day

'Finding Freedom'

led by Alison Goddard

Saturday 16th September

10am - 4pm

He brought me out into a spacious place;
he rescued me because he delighted in me.
(Psalm 18:19)

*We will be considering the areas of our lives
which may feel restricting and will be seeking
God's spaciousness in our lives.*

£30 bring your own lunch, refreshments provided.
(Registration from 9.30 am)

Advent Quiet Day

'Signs of the Times'

led by Rev'd Denis Smith

Tuesday 5th December

10am - 4pm

£40 to include lunch and refreshments

£30 bring your own lunch, refreshments provided.

(Registration from 9.30 am)
(Please indicate which option at time of booking)

Thanksgiving Celebration

Saturday 7th October

Save the date!
More details to follow.

Prayer Ministry Training Days

'The Ministry of Healing within the Local Church'

Saturday 28th October

10am - 4pm

This day is ideal for Healing Ministry groups and individuals with an interest in the healing ministry. The course will include the 'health' of the prayer minister, practical advice for prayer ministry and an opportunity for prayer ministry practice.

The cost is £40 per delegate.
Tea and coffee provided.
Please bring a packed lunch.

'Tools for the Healing Ministry'

Saturday 18th November

10am - 4pm

This course, led by members of the Harnhill Team, is the next step on from the 'Ministry of Healing within the Local Church' course. We will cover topics that include forgiveness, how to listen well and handing over burdens to the Lord. There will be practical opportunities within the sessions.

The cost is £40 per delegate.
Tea and coffee provided.
Please bring a packed lunch.

Special offer!

If you are booking onto one of our Training Days, you may like to stay 1 or 2 nights (Friday and/or Saturday) for £90 per night (full board)

Worship at Harnhill & 'The Dwelling Place'

There are different opportunities each week to step away from the busy-ness of life and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Harnhill, including time to receive prayer on Wednesday evening and Friday morning.

Monday mornings 10.30am to 12.30pm

On alternate Monday mornings, come and join this group for a gentle and supportive time with chat, coffee and cake in the peaceful surroundings of Harnhill. Space is provided for you to work on your own craft project if you would like to. For further details and dates, please contact the Bookings Office.

(Please note, we are unable to offer personal prayer during this time.)

Wednesday evenings 7pm to 9pm

On Wednesday evenings we offer a quiet space for personal reflection. Members of the Harnhill Team will be available to pray with you from 7.30pm to 8.30pm, when we will move into the night-time service of Compline at 8.30pm to 9pm.

Fridays 10.30am to 2pm

On Fridays the Barn will be open from 10.30am for personal prayer (tea/coffee is available). The Healing Service runs from 11am to 12pm, after which there is an opportunity to receive prayer with members of our Team. Pre-booked lunches will be available at 1pm. Please book for lunch by 5pm on Wednesday.

Morning Worship on Sundays 10am

Join the Harnhill Team for a traditional Morning Prayer service at 10am in Harnhill Church.

Refreshments will be available after the service.

(Please note that we are unable to offer personal prayer during this time.)

The Harnhill Centre - The Ideal Venue

Residential Accommodation | Prayer Ministry

Personal Retreats | Conference Centre | Teaching & Training

Church Groups - Parish Away Days - Diocesan Team Weekends - Seminars and Workshops

The Harnhill Team is delighted to offer the facilities at Harnhill to religious, charitable or not-for-profit organisations looking for meeting or conference facilities for residential or day events. Harnhill Manor is available for weekend or weekly hire on a self-catering, half or full board basis. The Barn Complex, Henly Room and breakout rooms in the Stable are suitable for daily events, depending upon your group size. Located in rural Gloucestershire, just 3 miles from Cirencester, the Centre provides a peaceful space for all.

The **Manor House** consists of seven twin-bedded rooms and six single rooms, all of which are en-suite. This gives the Centre a 20-bed capacity. The House includes a kitchen, dining room, chapel, lounge, and library.

The Manor House is set in an attractive, peaceful garden.

The **Barn Complex** offers seating for 125 people or 88 seated at tables, and the Henly Room for 75 or 56 seated at tables. More informal spaces are available for smaller gatherings in the Stable, with rooms accommodating 6 delegates, the Manor House lounge and library both accommodating up to 20 and the chapel providing seating for up to 40.

Amenities in the Barn Conference Centre include a media suite with multiple large screens for presentations and sound desk. Portable multi-media facilities are available for the Henly Room and other areas of the site. There is Wi-Fi access for delegates throughout the site. Full on-site catering is available for groups of any size.

All meals are prepared on-site in the fully-equipped catering kitchen in the Barn.

Flexible parking is available on-site, with two car parks available accommodating 50 cars.

We welcome enquiries from churches, diocesan bodies, and other charities and not-for-profit organisations who wish to use this space.

Please do get in touch by email: facilitieshire@harnhillcentre.org.uk

New Trustees



Dr Ian Donald

Ian is a retired doctor, and son of a GP, who grew up in Edinburgh, but then worked most of his life as a consultant geriatrician at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. He has a special concern for those

experiencing frailty in later life, to ease suffering and improve quality of life. He believes passionately that medical care should be used wisely, sometimes sparingly, and as just one part of more holistic care. Beyond the health service, he has been involved with the healing ministry in the diocese at a number of parish churches, and also as a member of the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group for the last 15 years. He is married to Philippa, an ordained priest, and together they have three sons, and three grand-daughters. He is also a Trustee with Age UK Gloucestershire, and enjoys golf and playing the organ and keyboard whenever free!



The Reverend Canon John Swanton

John has been our local Rector for the past eleven years and a frequent visitor to the Centre. He has preached regularly at our Friday morning service, so he knows the Centre and its work really well. He has

encouraged the Centre to make use of St Michael and All Angels Church, next door to our premises, for worship and as a place of peace, prayer and reflection. John is an Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral. He is Team Rector of the South Cotswolds with overall responsibility for 22 church buildings and 15 parishes. He has been on a number of Diocesan committees - though is laying these down to make room for other priorities. Before coming to the South Cotswolds, he was a Non-Stipendiary Minister and worked for a local authority running their Housing Department. He also serves as a Secretary of State Nominee on the Board of the Cotswold National Landscape. We are delighted that we can draw on his wide range of experience and his commitment to the work we do at Harnhill..

Promise Boxes

I work at *Shalom*, an independent shop in Bourton on the Water, which sells new and second-hand Christian books and resources. Jennie Heming established the shop 23 years ago, and our café soon followed. Her vision was to create space for prayer and fellowship, as well as resourcing Christians. I meet such lovely people daily!

As an ex-English teacher, it's a joy to be surrounded by inspiring books. Each season brings exciting new titles, but I equally relish unpacking boxes of donations and discovering hidden treasures. Occasionally, promises boxes find their way to us - yellowed with age, well loved and exquisite. They're filled with up to 365 paper scrolls, each containing a Biblical promise, so tiny they need to be picked out with tweezers!

Promise boxes are still crafted and sold today. They help us dwell in God's Word and grow in faith, as individuals or in community. Some families pick out a scroll before eating together every day. In America, boxes shaped as a loaf of bread became popular last century, as did rock-shaped boxes; both are metaphors for feeding on God's word and trusting Him to meet our needs. In Psalm 81, we hear God's appeal to Israel:

Oh, dear people, will you listen to me now?

Israel, will you follow my map? ...

You'll feast on my fresh-baked bread

spread with rock-pure honey.

Psalm 81:13 & 16 (The Message)

God's promises to the children of Israel are true for us today - His Word never changes! I'm so grateful to Harnhill for stocking my Promise Boxes. They differ from traditional ones. The 'Identity in Christ' boxes contain ten cards to remind us of God's promises to us - that as new creations we're profoundly loved by God, no longer under condemnation. I hope they encourage newer Christians and those recently confirmed. My other boxes contain verses of comfort for specific circumstances, such as times of illness or anxiety. Each box is hand-decorated and unique. I pray over them, that the truths inside will encourage the recipient. As I write out

each verse with my italic pens, dwelling in God's promises certainly blesses me in my walk with Him.



Helen Pike

Immeasurable

I have a yearning desire to tell people about Jesus. This started 12 years ago when I gave my life to Him. At 62 years old, this passion has not faded. Nothing seems to phase my husband Brian but an encounter with a young chap called Tom, from Teeside, left him bemused.

One spring afternoon, while cutting the scented daffodils, a young chap walked up our front path. He was carrying a large shoulder bag filled with household goods which I had no intention of buying. However, nudged by the Holy Spirit, I knew that this was no time to be picky.

Tom was confident, polite, and said that he was trying to build a rapport with people after serving a sentence in prison. He needed to sell something, and I wanted to share something.

I asked Tom what he hoped to do next. He looked down and his veil of confidence dropped off. I said, "Tom, I know what your Creator has imbued some wonderful and extravagant gifts inside of you and I reckon His plans are beyond our thoughts - but we could ask Him."

Immediately he put his heavy sack down and faced me eye to eye. Tom replied, "I'd love to know but it's not worth asking." Holding my gaze, I said that I'd love to know and I could pray and ask Him. "OK, give it a go" he said, then took a step back. As I prayed, the Holy Spirit gave me a picture of two sharp, shiny chef's knives. They looked to be of excellent quality. When I shared this picture with Tom, he said, "No way, I've been thinking about a chef's course at our local college in Teeside. I'd love to be a chef."

We both laughed and he shot off down the path laughing and shouting back, "Awesome!"

Eight months after that even, I was upstairs in the sewing room. My husband called me downstairs. He said that there was a young man at the door who wants to see the lady who 'tells fortunes'. He had told the chap that there was no-one here who does that, but he will bring his wife to see him.

What a surprise to see Tom again. He was completely at ease and wanted to share his good

news, and, yes, sell another car wash mitten! He had finally found a job and would be starting in 4 weeks. He was joining a firm to make window frames and was so pleased to be employed again. I sensed a 'but...' in his tone.

I said, "Tom is there anything in this new job which might be difficult for you?"

"Yes, I hate it when people judge me. It makes me angry," he quickly replied.

Nudged by the Holy Spirit, I told him to wait there. With the door open, I rushed to into the kitchen to fetch my traditional weighing scales and weights. Meanwhile, our house rabbit Nigel, tried to escape through the open door. Tom caught him just in time. Tom simply laughed and said, "I like it here." I knew that we had captured that wonderful divine chaos.

Then I held a 500g weight in one hand and a 200g weight in the other. I told him that the 500g weight represents a really big sin and the 200g weight represents a much small sin. But that was how the *world* sees it.

I then held a 200g weight in one hand and a 200g weight in the other. I explained that God sees it differently. Sin is sin and has the same measure. I explained that my sin of pride and judgement has the same weight as any other sin. Sin is simply sin.

He blurted out, "I get it, I really get it!" I said that the cross of Jesus Christ covers all our sin.

"Then I must show you this." He replied. Tom started to undo his jacket, then his shirt. It's times like this when I wonder if my yearning desire to tell of Jesus should be quenched.

There on his torso was an ornate cross, artfully tattooed. I admired the work and asked him if he was ready to ask Jesus into his life. Tom said that he would - but not today.

As I hold my new blue car wash mitten, I wonder if I will see Tom, the tattooed torso chap from Teeside, in Heaven. I believe I will - and he will probably be serving divine meals!

Kathleen Armstrong

From our Guests . . .

Oh wow! I was able to release past hurts and start a journey of forgiveness. It was a liberating experience realising I didn't have to be defined by my past. JG

I had rest of body and mind and, best of all, words from Jesus. GW

Welcome ...

As the most recently arrived member of the Bookings Team, Martine asked me to introduce myself to you. So, I checked past articles and have borrowed Martine's interview questions:

Q: What has brought you to Harnhill?

A: I was looking for a change of employment and a friend, who is a real advocate for Harnhill, told me about the vacancy in the Bookings office. I was unsure, as I had always said I would 'never return' to an admin role. Much to my surprise, however, I secured an interview, and was offered the role extremely quickly. It was very clear God wanted me here. As I was being introduced to staff and volunteers, I was encouraged several times by people saying enthusiastically 'You're a real answer to prayer.', which was delightful to hear. After several years of a very high pressure, deteriorating environment, it has been very refreshing to work in such an encouraging and affirming place.

Q: Where were you working before?

I was at New College in Swindon for the last 13 years, teaching English at various levels. It was another role I felt was given to me by God, as it not only allowed me to be paid to teach, an activity I thoroughly enjoyed, but enabled me to gain skills and qualifications to teach English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), something I knew God wanted me to be involved in as an outreach.

After developing my skills in this area for so many years, I was very sad to resign. However, staff cuts and poor management made working conditions untenable. When I ended up taking a month off with stress, something I had never done before, I knew the writing was on the wall.

Q: Tell us about yourself and your family.

My parents emigrated to England from Ireland in the year before I was born and when I was 5 we moved to Swindon, when my father was appointed as a lecturer in what was then The College. He died when I was 14 and my brother and I were brought up by our mother. I studied Linguistics with French and German at the University of Surrey and went on to become a bilingual secretary, then a teacher.

I am married to Lars who, despite his name, is from London and not Scandinavia. He is a Project Manager in Electronics and is in constant demand for his Superman skills in all things computer. We have

two lovely children, both of whom have left home – Stephanie who has nursed many people through Covid as a respiratory nurse - we stand in awe of the things she does in her daily work - and Phil, who has just completed a PhD looking into gravitational waves around black holes. We no longer help him with his homework!

We have been committed to Gorse Hill Baptist Church in Swindon for the past 40 years and have served in a variety of capacities (Sunday school, newsletter editor, teaching English, AV/PA among others, as well as serving terms on the leadership team).

Q: What pastimes do you enjoy?

I love reading books, gardening, cooking, speaking French and walking in the countryside. To keep fit I enjoy Pilates and Nordic Walking.

Q: What do you do when you are not at Harnhill?

I have a heart for working with refugees and immigrants to help them learn our language (through ESOL) and navigate the idiosyncrasies of our culture and occasionally the Home Office. I run a language café, *iCafé*, at my church, to reach out to people who come to our Community Fridge.

I enjoy meeting up with family and friends and spend a significant amount of time at the moment, caring for my mother, who is becoming very frail.

Q: Please tell me about your Christian Journey.

I was brought up as a Catholic by my mother and always had a strong faith in Jesus Christ. Attending a Christian mission in my second year at university, I was challenged to make a personal commitment, rather than just follow rituals. I was surprised to find out that there were Christians who were delighted about their faith and wanted to tell everyone about it. Age 20, I made my own decision to follow Christ and joined a local Baptist church, which was a big disappointment to my mother. I have committed myself to follow Jesus for the last 40 years, though often questioning and struggling with aspects of how it works out in my life. I am definitely a 'work-in-progress'.

Marie Relton



From the Finance Office

It has been a joy to see the sheep back in the field this April, and the lambs increase in number each day over the last two weeks. The grazing agreement has been issued for the next year, although it only brings in a small sum.

We have been incredibly blessed by the recent notification of an unexpected legacy. Prayers once again have been answered. This will be invaluable to us – today the oldest boiler was all but condemned, but we have bought a little extra time thanks to our engineer sourcing increasingly hard to find spare parts. The legacy will provide much-needed capital to boost the reserves seriously depleted by an exceedingly difficult financial year in 2022. We thank God for this provision and trust in Him to help us discern how to apply these funds and maximise the benefit from them.

Operationally, we are making a deficit, bridged only by your generosity and by God's grace. Our projected shortfall for 2023 runs at £258 per working day. I recently drew up three appeals for projects which are needed:

1. Refurbishment of Simon and Janie's flat. We had anticipated that this would need about £4k spending on it but when we lifted the old flooring we discovered the floor beneath to be in bad shape and so the flooring alone will be £5.6k. We also need to replace the cooker and have been so grateful for the volunteers who have redecorated throughout. We look forward to welcoming Lynn and Steve in July.

2. Conversion of Room 14 and adjoining room to create an additional small staff flat to enable us to expand the residential Community. Kate is very keen for us to offer an internship for a year to a suitable candidate to fully participate in the life at and work of Harnhill.

3. Upgrading a Bathroom to provide a shared bathroom facility in the lower corridor for one, (possibly two) non-ensuite rooms to allow us to offer some retreat accommodation at a lower cost to a guest. Through changes of use we think we can convert the old finance office, and more recently the staff room, in the lower corridor, into a single bedroom.

You may recall that Amazon Smile has changed its donating model and Harnhill will no longer benefit as before. I have been looking at alternatives and have set Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing up with "Give As You Live".

Mike had used this for the Harnhill Charitable Trust which predated our change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2017. Please take a look: <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/how-it-works>. Sign up, download the App, shop through the site but when nominating Harnhill as your chosen charity, please select the correct one!

The Charity number to use is **1176053**.

Below is the Centre's QR code for donations:



Thank you.

Rachel L Severn
Bursar



We are on Instagram!
Please join us!

This is the Harnhill
Centre's QR code::



Please contact the office for bookings or visit our website for more information.

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