

HARVEST

The Harnhill Centre Magazine

Winter / Spring 2023



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Programme for January to June 2023



Bringing healing and wholeness through Jesus Christ

Who we are

www.harnhillcentre.org.uk

We warmly welcome you to this edition of the Harvest Magazine. The Harnhill Centre provides a safe place offering rest, refreshment and support to those damaged by the challenges and traumas of life events. We offer both personal and healing retreats with prayer ministry or spiritual accompaniment appointments. We offer the healing love of Jesus Christ to all with whom we have contact. We host regular public worship services and organise and run training courses in Christian healing, wellbeing and wholeness, with an emphasis on offering pastoral care and hospitality, alongside which is a deeply-founded intercessory prayer ministry. By offering our facilities for religious, charitable and not-for-profit organisations to use for conferences, seminars and meetings, be they residential or day events, we extend our ministry to the wider community who experience much of the essence and ethos of Harnhill while with us.

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 three miles from Cirencester, the Centre provides a peaceful space for all.

Facilities Available

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



Fireside Thanksgiving

Each week, I have the privilege of reading guest feedback, sharing their initial insights into what God has been doing during their stay at the Harnhill Centre. Although there is often a celebratory tone, a feedback form is not always necessary to spot this, because signs of healing are often already noticeable. We regularly see guests who have arrived heavy-burdened who, towards the end of their stay, look rested, healthier and peaceful.

On the final evening of the Walking into Your Healing retreats, there is an opportunity for guests to burn pieces of paper, on which they have written their deepest burdens, concerns and prayer needs. Some guests burn letters expressing true feelings, which will never be sent to those who have caused hurt, or letters of surrender and trust to God. Usually, this is a gentle and reflective time, with tears of relief or grief, and often a sense of God's peace.

During one recent Thursday evening, this act of prayer became an overflowing expression of joy and thanksgiving, as everyone stood together. One of our guests let out a cheer as the paper was thrown onto the fire, and her joy rippled out to the others, who erupted into three "hip hip... hoorays!". It was moving to witness fruit of healing and, although the details were unknown to each other, the camaraderie as everyone stood side-by-side was obvious. We had journeyed alongside for a short time and our guests were getting ready to return to their daily life from a place of greater strength and wholeness. For this, we all gave thanks to God.

As I reflect on this natural outpouring of gratitude to God, I think about Jesus healing a group of people suffering with leprosy. Only one of them came back to give thanks. I wonder what the others did? – perhaps they were just relieved they could live freely again and so off they went. Apart from the Samaritan (who was not the obvious chosen-by-God religious type), they didn't feel a need to return and seek the one who had actually cured their illness. Or, maybe they had thought about it, but got distracted.

During my early attempts to follow Jesus, I once sought to make a deal with God to gain a particular healing outcome. It makes me smile

to think about that prayer now. Experience and God's grace has taught me not to seek a cure for its own sake, but to draw close to the One who brings about our salvation and healing. I have been changed in many ways since then and I am very thankful. When we experience a real encounter with God, who brings healing in the way we need (which may be different to what we think we need), then worship will pour from our hearts. As a community at Harnhill, we seek God who offers true healing, and invites us to draw closer. It is so important to stop and respond, to be 'one of them' who returns to glorify God and to allow grateful thanksgiving flow from our hearts.

*"And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned with a loud voice glorifying God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan."
(Luke 17:14-16).*



Rev'd Kate Picot
Director

From our Guests . . .

I have a sense of peace running through me, and hope. SEM

As always I am totally amazed and overwhelmed with the way that God works so powerfully here. DR

I believe He has done a deep work within me ... Burning the letters was like a funeral for those I had lost, but never grieved over - a sacred moment. BM

... having the opportunity to share my emotions with trusted servants outside of my context. Jesus always speaks in profound ways at Harnhill. JT

The Gardening Team

The beautiful gardens at the Harnhill Centre are looked after by a wonderful team of volunteer gardeners. Each has written a paragraph about their work:

Cheryl Laycock

Looking after the water feature is an absolute joy. I have been told that when it was first installed it attracted a lot of wildlife but sadly, during the Covid lockdown and the retirement of our head gardener, Trudy, the water lost its sparkle. When I took over last summer, I was helped by Bob, Jo and Graham Giddens, and David, our Facilities Manager, to get the gravel surround reinstated and the pump and filters working again so that the water could be oxygenated; my sincere hope was that it would once more support life. Imagine my surprise and joy to be told that guests staying on retreat at the beginning of August had spotted a number of frogs – including a very fat little ‘chap’ that one guest had named ‘Kermit’. My prayer is that the sight and sound of the water - and hopefully a view of ‘Kermit’ - will remind our visitors and guests that Jesus is the source of living water. My ongoing thanks to Jenny (who leads the Hospitality and Gardening Teams) for helping me to keep the water levels topped up during this lovely hot summer:



Bob Foulkes

I do so much enjoy coming to Harnhill to garden! No two days are ever the same. Even if the weather is dull or cold, the garden is still attractive. It is a very special place, as so many others have found. In winter there is still plenty to see, and throughout the year something somewhere is in flower. At the beginning of the summer I was looking out for butterflies, but saw very few. Now we are into August and at last there are more. I have seen Meadow Browns and Commas in the less public places near the garden shed. I saw a Speckled Wood in the lower car park back in June. It's not a good year for butterflies, so the experts tell us. Perhaps more next year. There are plenty of birds and bees around, filling the space with birdsong and a low hum near the petals,

which starts and stops intermittently.

There are many ‘private’ places where guests can go to read or pray. I try not to disturb them when I am working nearby. The peace is always there, even on a windy day!



That peace is not just ‘quietness’, but it goes deeper than that. It is surely the peace of God’s presence in this place. It is not so surprising, because God loves gardens. He walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day. In this garden we are aware of His Spirit all through the year, and He finds us as we enjoy its beauty. Thank you, Lord.

Christine Burston

If you had told me that I would volunteer to undertake weekly gardening at Harnhill three years ago, I would have been amazed. Gardening was not one of my loves or skills, but seeing the need for help during the lockdown, Richard and I tentatively offered to help for an hour or so a week. Our hours have now increased... and the reason is simple...



We have been so encouraged to see the fruits of our labours. I look after the pots, and seeing them flourish has been such a fillip. The riot of colours that our Heavenly Father has designed is staggering. Season after season God has given me a real love for His palette of nature.

More importantly, however, I have come to realise that the garden has such a special part to play in this unique place of healing, and seeing folk blessed within its lovely environs is such a blessing to me. In fact, any blessing we give through garden volunteering is paid back a hundredfold by the joy we see in the guests, who have said they have felt the presence of Jesus there.

So, being part of the gardening team really is such a privilege and just one aspect of service.

Richard Burston

As volunteer gardeners we often remarked how much Trudy (who retired some time ago as the paid Head Gardener) did in keeping the beautiful Harnhill gardens up together. As Christine has explained under her comments, she and I never expected to be involved in the community in this way. Now, however, we find it a really fulfilling way of contributing to the ministry at Harnhill. We are aware of how many guests use and comment on the help the gardens are to their seeking God's presence.

Most of the volunteer gardeners have a particular area of the garden they concentrate on, but I primarily deal with weeds, pruning and deadheading in various places, especially where such needy work makes the most impact.

It is a blessing to work in such surroundings and is very beneficial physically, mentally, socially (with the others we meet) and spiritually. For me it is a further indication of the Lord's healing, since I was unable to do this for many years.

Liz Ponting

In my paid working life I was a pharmacist. I worked in a variety of healthcare settings including, London Teaching Hospitals, the Pharmaceutical Industry, Community Pharmacy, GP surgeries and the NHS Commissioners. I have loved my job, which has offered me so much variety and been so rewarding. My teachers at school dashed my career hopes and advised me it was unlikely I would be able to study Pharmacy since it was quite competitive and I was not likely to get good enough 'A' level grades. So, I worked very hard and managed to get a place at the School of Pharmacy in Cardiff. Initially, however, I struggled with the course, since I had not taken 'O' level Biology - one of the course's entry requirements. My course tutor told me he had no idea how I had managed to be offered a place and that I should not be there! At that point in my life I was not a Christian, and considered myself 'lucky' to have slipped through the net! I worked hard to catch up - teaching myself 'A' level Biology.

Once I became a Christian (in my early 20's), I looked back and realised God had enabled me to become a pharmacist - I did not 'slip through the net'. It was all part of His plan for my working life, and it has been a fantastic experience. Not everyone enjoys their work, so I consider myself blessed to have been able to work in a field that really interested me.

About a year before I planned to stop paid employment, I went on a 'Retiring Well' course run by a friend of mine. One of the topics covered was to consider what we were passionate about in order to include this in our retirement plan. I love my garden and spending time outside, but I also knew I wanted to continue with some sort of involvement in 'healthcare' or 'wellbeing' and wondered about volunteering in one of the counties' Hospices as a gardener.

Following a timely conversation with Audrey Martin-Doyle (a past Trustee of Harnhill), I heard that Harnhill was looking for volunteer gardeners. The role excited me, since I would be doing a hobby I love, in a wonderful setting, which aims to provide a safe haven offering rest, refreshment, and the healing love of God to all who need support and encouragement. Helping others 'spiritual health' in this caring community ticked every possible box for me as I contemplated how to spend some of my time in retirement. I joined the volunteer gardening team in the Spring of 2021 and I love being part of it. I benefit from exercise, fellowship and the special sense of God's presence and peace in the Harnhill garden. I hope my efforts bless those to work at and visit the Centre.



Hilary Morris

I have visited Harnhill a number of times over the years, as I live locally and, every time I have driven over the cattle grid to drive into the Centre it feels like such a peaceful place.

I especially love it when the sheep are in the fields too. I have always thought the garden and outlook was really beautiful and appreciated being able to spend time in such a lovely place.

The last 4 years have seen some life-changing things happen to me and my circumstances have meant that I have wanted to reassess my work and volunteering. I was thinking about what to do moving forward and decided to try volunteering in the garden, as I love gardening and being outdoors. I am enjoying being part of the gardening team. Everyone at the Centre has been so welcoming and kind. It is a lovely atmosphere and I appreciate the flexibility of it too, as life is a bit complicated at times! I thought I was going to help in the gardens to bless others, but I have found it to be a blessing to me too.



New for 2023! Church Leaders' Retreats

**Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th January
Tuesday 18th - Friday 21st April**

Price: £350

We are delighted to offer Retreats on the above dates specifically for Church Leaders. Come and rest, connect with others and receive God's healing.

**These Retreats are for 3 nights
(with an option to stay for 1 or 2 extra nights at £85 per night.)
You will receive 2 ministry appointments during your stay.
Join in our times of worship and reflection.**

The Gift of Spiritual Accompaniment

Yesterday someone asked me why Spiritual Accompaniment was so dear to me. Here's my answer. However challenging life gets (change of work direction, moving house), dull (housework, laundry, same old things), or busy (commitments, family needs, church rotas) I know there is a date in my diary. That appointment is a booked space with my current spiritual director where I am going to stop, sit still and process life. It will not replace times of prayer or Bible study, nor time to play or rest if I have failed to make space for those, but at least there will be a place to acknowledge this lack and wonder why.

A few years ago, Spiritual Accompaniment was introduced at the Harnhill Centre. It is an ancient spiritual practice that seems to have experienced a resurgence in popularity. It has been a very important part of my life for over twenty years, both receiving it and later, after training, offering it too. It has become a constant in a world that seems ever changing.

What is it? Often called Spiritual Direction, it is an agreement between individuals where one (director) accompanies the other (directee) for a season. They agree a time and place to meet and decide how often this might be. It is a gift of space, time and attention, a safe space away from routines and the expectations of others.

I am so always grateful that someone is sitting with me, fully present as I lather on about life, how I feel, what's happening, cry, laugh, or keep silent to think. We sit in God's presence, aware that He is there as the third person in the room. Careful questions play a key part in this relationship. My director will help me to pay attention - to myself, words, feelings, to life, to what God might be saying. It helps me not to miss God at work in the everyday. How often we dismiss the mundane, but God can, and does, speak clearly in those moments.

How does this fit into a personal retreat at Harnhill? What can you expect if you book a session with one of the team?

This is not an ongoing journey but a one-off meeting, so the focus will mostly be on what is happening now, particularly during your stay. You will have a safe space to sit, reflect and think aloud in the midst of your retreat. All sorts of things bubble up within us when we take time away, so

it can be re-assuring to have some gentle input, or some appropriate questions asked.

When this was first offered to guests at Harnhill, some of my Spiritual Director colleagues were rather surprised. We usually offer ongoing journeys but this is almost a hit and run. For me it has been a helpful sharpening of practice, that has fed into the lifelong learning of this work. When I meet with an individual for a single appointment, I have no back story, no ongoing relationship, no knowledge of their personality. This forces me to stick with simpler things, where less is more. It's been an exciting opportunity.

Is it for everyone? Probably not, but hopefully this tiny window into Spiritual Accompaniment will help you decide if it might be something for you – either as a longer commitment where you live or as an appointment when you next visit Harnhill. *He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Ps 23:2-3*

Muriel Loydell

The Prayer Cover Team

If you have ever stayed at Harnhill you will probably remember being told that you were being prayed for, by name, every day of your stay.

Members of the Prayer Cover Team pray for Harnhill - its ministry, those who live there or come in to work there, those who stay, those who visit and for protection for the whole site - every day throughout the year.

This praying is important; it maintains our attitude of dependence on Father God and, by His grace, it unlocks the blessings of His ministry.

The members of the Prayer Cover Team undertake to pray regularly each day of one week. To assist their praying they receive a list of the first names of guests, an outline of the staff responsibilities and a programme for the week.

For each Prayer Team member the week that they pray comes about four times a year, although some prefer it to be less. Ideally there are two people praying each week but there are times when it is only one. Now the time has come to find more people for the Prayer Cover Team. Do you think that you could be part of this team? Do you have any questions about what is involved? If so, please get in touch with the office.

Sue Barnes

The Royal Maundy Service

In February we received a letter from Buckingham Palace out of the blue. It was an invitation to the Royal Maundy Service – after a two-year Covid gap – to be held on 14th April in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. We were very excited. Then we had a friendly follow up phone call from the Bishop of Basingstoke, who gave us further details and explained that our nomination was for serving in church life. Currently we run a bereavement group and course, are part of a homelessness support project, and are members of the prayer ministry team.

On a lovely sunny morning we entered the Windsor Castle gates and were accompanied to our Chapel seats. Ninety-six men and 96 ladies (the late Queen's age) assembled from all over the UK, each with a companion.

The formal service included pageantry, hymns, processions and two poignant Bible readings: one where Jesus washes the disciples' feet and "when I was hungry". The then Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall represented Her Majesty. The Prince distributed the Maundy gifts up and down the rows with the words to each person, "Receive these gifts from Her Majesty." The gifts were carried on large gold-coloured alms dishes by a colourful team of eight Yeomen of the Guard. Derrick received the gifts, but we very much regard the honour as being for both of us.



Derrick and Heather at Windsor Castle

The Maundy gift consisted of two small purses. The red purse contained a £5 and 50p silver coin portraying the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the white purse had 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p silver coins totalling 96p, all specially minted in 2022 and historically symbolic.

The distribution of alms and the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday is from ancient times. The Royal Maundy can be traced back in England with certainty to the 13th century, and there are continuous records from the reign of King Edward I. The first recorded royal distribution was by King John in 1210. The service derives its name from the Latin word "mandatum", meaning a commandment, and its opening words are, 'Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment..."' Recipients are now pensioners selected because of Christian service rendered to the church and the community.

Following the service, we were guided to the splendid State Rooms, opposite the archway, with a view of Great Windsor Park. In the Great Hall and Waterloo Chamber we gathered for a light lunch of savoury and sweet canapés and drinks served on trays by a team of friendly staff. During the day we chatted with people from Southwark, Manchester and Armagh. I also spoke with Hugo Vickers, writer and broadcaster, who related fascinating stories about the State Rooms and the 1992 castle fire.

The whole day was very special and very uplifting, and Heather's hat was greatly admired!

Derrick Norton

From our Guests . . .

God has really enabled me to experience His loving heart, broken the lie I have 'entertained' for far too long. SW

It was so helpful to be able to talk about my life as it is now and *be really listened to* - with prayer interspersed at appropriate moments during the telling of my story. EMW

Going home with inner peace and much encouragement. WH

Hands by Gill Sinfield

Is it by accident or design
That so many of the trees
And bushes
Are shaped like hands?

Sturdy trunks, with five strong fingers
Bearing 'fingerlets', which in turn
Are displaying blossom, leaves and fruit.
Fruitful hands.

Short stubby trunks,
Longer, leaner trunks,
All with fingers upraised.
Praise hands.

These hands are homes
For insects and birds.
Giving shade and shelter.
Caring hands.

I sat in a hand
Feeling safe and secure.
Knowing love and protection.
Strong hands.

There came a day when a hand was cut down
By a hand, and fashioned into a cross
Onto which were nailed the hands
Of Jesus, my Saviour, your Saviour.
Saving hands.

As he hung there and died
In abandonment and pain
He cried, 'Father forgive'
Redeeming hands.

And now his hands, still scarred,
Are reaching out to you and to me.
Will you accept the invitation
And put your hands in his?
Safe, guiding hands.



The Dwelling Place Café

Monday 19th July

Here is a little update on the Monday Café group which meets on alternate weeks in the Henly Room from 10.30-12.30pm. People are the heart of the Dwelling Place, and a fabulous group has formed of both locals and people from further afield, meeting in a safe and inclusive environment, where people of all faiths and none are welcome to dwell, ponder and relax in the peaceful atmosphere.

People engage in a wide variety of creative activities including, among others, crochet, painting by numbers, tapestry, mending and, thanks to Elizabeth Boyd, painting on china. Liz provides this option each week, and only requires a £1 contribution towards her costs.

Good friendships and connections are being formed and people encourage each other to try new crafts. Some just chat and create, while others choose to have a breakout group to share thoughts on a verse of Scripture, perhaps in the garden.

To my surprise and encouragement, guests arrived today, despite the 40-degree heat.

Monday 29th August

A group of our guests have gathered around the table today, enjoying the all-important coffee and cake or fruit. Today we have an option of delicious figs. A few have kindly shared what the Café means to them:

'Tea, coffee, cakes, buns, Welsh cakes, chat, fruit – who could want more?'

'I find the Café a very friendly, sharing group, with different talents, enjoying a variety of arts and crafts.'

'I enjoy meeting a variety of new people. I enjoy seeing the variety of crafts which people focus on. We seem to share thoughts as we create. We laugh and chat together – it is fun.'

'I enjoy a peaceful and friendly atmosphere at the Dwelling Place, while sharing crafting tips and perhaps trying a new craft yourself. A nurturing place for your faith.'

'A lovely way to begin the week, with creative people. Time to listen, talk, laugh and share or just rest.'

'Dwelling Place Café is a place where we can find new friends and explore our creativity, even if we don't think we are artistic. We find acceptance, encouragement and space to just chat and eat cake!'

Jenny Fry

Knitting

Back in December 2019, members from the former CAKE group, which used to meet at Harnhill, decided to knit knee blankets for the residents of the *Hyperion Care Home* in Fairford. The aim was to cheer up the residents and staff after a traumatic period during the Covid epidemic. Approximately one year later, we were able to present 25 blankets (one for each resident) to the Manager, Natalya James. The residents and staff were delighted by our thoughtfulness and our hard work. This was a lot of knitting – 49 squares sewn or crocheted together per blanket - you can do the maths*! Knitters from Meysey Hampton, Down Ampney, Fairford, Kempsford and Brinkworth all contributed.

We thought this was the end of the project, but, as we had enjoyed knitting and found it so relaxing, I asked *The Paternoster Care Home*, Cirencester, if they would like knee blankets. 'Yes please' was the reply. Members of the original team joined in and we knitted throughout the winter, producing many more squares to make colourful blankets. Recently, I was able to present 23 knee blankets to Sharon Dewsbury, Manager of the *Paternoster Care Home*. She was thrilled.



I have been coming along to The Craft Café at Harnhill since it was started by Jenny Fry and have been knitting throughout. There have been many compliments from other crafters particularly for the rainbow blankets we made. I'm very grateful for all the support. Is this the end of the project? We'll see!

Janet Singleton

*PS the answer is 2,352 squares for all 48 blankets!



Calling all willing volunteers! The Harnhill Voluntary Hospitality Team needs you!

The Hospitality Team serves refreshments and lunch on Fridays and for the occasional Saturday function. Might you be available on a flexible and *ad hoc* basis to help? We are a jolly group who care for each other and the guests we serve and would love for more male or female volunteers to join us. Of course, lunch is always included! Please contact Jenny Fry on jennyf@harnhillcentre.org.uk if you can help.

(And you get to taste the puddings before they are cooked. Above: Cheryl exercising quality control!)

Programme January to June 2023

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

We are pleased to be able to offer you a range of residential and non-residential retreats to enable you to enter into the presence of God.

January

4 th - 8 th	Personal Retreat
10 th - 13 th	Church Leaders' Retreat
13 th - 15 th	Personal Retreat
17 th - 20 th	Walking into your Healing Retreat
20 th - 22 nd	Personal Retreat
24 th - 29 th	Personal Retreat
31 st - 5 th Feb	Personal Retreat

February

7 th - 10 th	Walking into your Healing Retreat
10 th - 12 th	Personal Retreat
14 th - 19 th	Personal Retreat
21 st - 26 th	Personal Retreat
28 th	Lenten Quiet Day
28 th - 3 rd Mar	Walking into your Healing Retreat

March

3 rd - 5 th	Personal Retreat
7 th - 10 th	Personal Retreat
14 th - 19 th	Personal Retreat
21 st - 24 th	Walking into your Healing Retreat
24 th - 26 th	Personal Retreat
28 th - 2 nd Apr	Personal Retreat

April

1 st	Training Day
4 th - 7 th	Personal Retreat
11 th - 14 th	Walking into your Healing Retreat
14 th - 16 th	Personal Retreat
18 th - 21 st	Church Leaders' Retreat
21 st - 23 rd	Personal Retreat
25 th - 30 th	Personal Retreat

May

2 nd - 7 th	Personal Retreat
9 th - 12 th	Walking into your Healing Retreat
12 th - 14 th	Personal Retreat
13 th	Open Morning
16 th - 19 th	Personal Retreat
24 th - 28 th	Personal Retreat
30 th - 2 nd Jun	Walking into your Healing Retreat

June

2 nd - 4 th	Personal Retreat
6 th - 11 th	Personal Retreat
10 th	Training Day
13 th - 18 th	Personal Retreat
20 th - 23 rd	Walking into your Healing Retreat
23 rd - 25 th	Personal Retreat
24 th	Friends' Afternoon
27 th - 2 nd Jul	Personal Retreat
30 th	Open Afternoon
1 st July	Quiet Day

Residential Retreats

Please refer to the calendar overleaf for the retreat dates

Walking Into Your Healing Retreat (Tuesday to Friday)

These retreats are aimed at those who are beginning their healing journey, feel that they need a fresh start, or have a specific issue that needs addressing. The teaching focuses on how we journey with Christ as we seek His healing. These retreats are for 3 nights, during which you will receive two Prayer Ministry appointments, teaching plus times of reflection and worship during your stay.

Price: £350

All stays are from 3pm on the Tuesday until 2pm on the Friday and includes full board.

Special Offer! *If you would like to extend your stay following a Walking into your Healing Retreat, there is an opportunity to book for 1 or 2 nights at £85 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.)*

Personal Retreats (2 to 5 nights from Tuesday to Sunday)

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 who want to take time away from everyday life, or those who have attended a Walking into your Healing 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.

Personal Retreats offer flexibility depending on your needs.

Choose 2 to 5 nights (**Tuesday to Sunday**) to suit your time, availability and budget.

Prices: 2 nights - £195, 3 nights - £292.50, 4 nights - £377.50, 5 nights - £462.50

All stays are from 3pm on the day of arrival until 2pm on the day of departure and includes full board.

Quiet Days

Lenten Quiet Day

'Journeying in Hope'

led by Rev'd Lynn Hayler

Tuesday 28th February

10am - 4pm

£35 to include lunch and refreshments

£25 bring your own lunch, refreshments provided.

(Registration from 9.30 am)

(Please indicate which option at time of booking)

Quiet Day

'Treasure in Jars of Clay'

led by Carol Lawrence

Saturday 1st July 10am - 4pm

God created the wonderful world we see around us and he created us. We will be considering how we can see something of God in His world and in our lives.

£35 to include lunch and refreshments

£25 bring your own lunch, refreshments provided.

(Registration from 9.30 am)

(Please indicate which option at time of booking)

Open Morning & Afternoon at Harnhill

Interested in understanding a little more about the Harnhill Centre and the ministry we offer, either for yourself or your organisation? Book into one of our open morning/afternoon sessions.

There will be a short talk about the Centre and a guided tour of the house and facilities.

Refreshments will be served.

Saturday 13th May 11am to 12.30pm

Friday 30th June 3pm to 4.30pm

Prayer Ministry Training Days

'The Ministry of Healing within the Local Church'

Saturday 1st April
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.

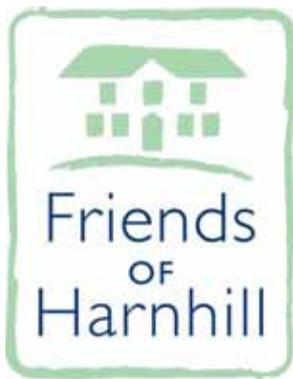
The cost is £35 per delegate.
Tea and coffee provided.
Please bring a packed lunch.

'Tools for the Healing Ministry'

Saturday 10th June
10am - 4pm

Led by members of the Harnhill Team, this 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 £35 per delegate.
Tea and coffee provided.
Please bring a packed lunch.



Friends' Afternoon

Saturday 24th June (timings to be confirmed)

This day is open to everyone who has signed up as a Friend of Harnhill. It is an opportunity to meet with fellow Friends, to reflect on the contribution of the Friends to the life and work of the Centre, to worship and to pray together.

We do hope you can come and join us. If you would like to become a Friend of Harnhill, please email friends@harnhillcentre.org.uk or sign up via the website: www.harnhillcentre.org.uk

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 ministry 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 projects, if you would like to. For further details and dates, please contact the Bookings Office. (Please note, we are unable to offer personal prayer ministry 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 ministry during this time.)

Book Review

To Be Made Well

An invitation to wholeness, healing and hope

by Amy Julia Becker

(Paperback: Herald Press, 2022)

It is clear from the gospels that Jesus came to bring healing and wholeness to this broken world, but what does that look like today? And how can we continue to receive and share the healing that He offers, to individuals and to our communities? We who follow Jesus can see how current and important this topic is, but often struggle to express what we believe about it.

This book offers something for everyone, packed with wisdom and insight, hope and encouragement, honesty and vulnerability. The author takes the reader on a journey of discovery. I literally flew through this book (unusual for me) and have since recommended it to everyone I know. This is, simply put, a really good book. It is extremely well-written, scripturally smart and brutally honest. It is a book for our world, at this time. It is filled with Becker's hard-fought wisdom, the fruit of her wrestling with what healing has looked like, in her life and in her community.

Becker's biblical inspiration and the framework for this book is the "Markan sandwich" recorded in Mark 5:21-43 the interwoven healing stories of Jairus's daughter and the bleeding woman. Becker looks at these stories from every angle, showing us the many different ways in which Jesus heals. Jesus is our saviour, but He is also our healer (both share the same root word, as Becker reminds us.) Just as Jesus healed many people in the gospels, He continues to offer healing today, but not always in the way we expect or imagine.

Becker draws us back to the fact many times that true healing involves more than simply a cure for whatever physically ails us. *"As much as modern medicine can play a crucial role in our lives, it is nevertheless not enough to restore us – individually or collectively – to health. We need a broader and deeper understanding of healing in order to be made well."*

There is almost no area of healing that Becker does not cover in this book, and that she has not wrestled with in her own life. For me, one of the most thought provoking sections was her take on healing as it relates to disability. She tells a story of two men in her church who wanted to pray for Becker's daughter, Penny:

"We huddled in the corner of a bustling coffee hour, and my stomach constricted as I heard one of them say, 'God, we pray you would heal this child of Down's syndrome.' I

swallowed hard, muttered amen, and said thank you. Then I looked at our daughter, with the distinctive features of Down's syndrome written into her body. Her eyes – intriguing and different with their resemblance to cut glass, holding an additional fold of skin. Her hands – small and soft and bearing an unusual line that spanned one side to the other of her palm. The flat bridge of her nose. The tiny ears. I looked at her and saw all the characteristics of a child with Down's syndrome. I also saw someone who, as the psalmist wrote, had been fearfully and wonderfully made. Someone who had been created in love and for love. Someone who had been made well."

This moving story is the beginning of Becker's candid reflection on disability and healing— one that is filled with wisdom and guided by love. After exploring the nature of healing in general terms, Becker then looks at barriers to our healing, such as distraction, shame, anxiety, and status, each guided by scripture and her life experiences. Every chapter has fresh wisdom from the stories of Jairus and the bleeding woman, showing how they are interrelated and what that means for us. This section concludes by helping us to see how individual barriers to healing *"...are compounded by the communal barriers to healing – the social hierarchies that lead to exclusion, isolation, and injustice."* This insight leads into the final section of her book, where Becker considers the nature of our participation in healing: bodily, spiritual, communal, and social healing.

I found the chapter on social healing enlightening. For a number of years I have observed the 'social roots' of our broken world and often ponder on what social healing might look like in our world today. Becker describes "bumbling her way" into working toward justice in our world through passages like this one, *"I don't pretend to have cracked the code on overcoming systemic injustice or creating equity in schools or the legal system or hiring practices. I do know that God invites me to bumble my way into participation in social healing in the same way that God invites me to bumble my way into practices of personal healing. Jesus sends both the healed woman and Jairus into their respective communities with instructions for participation in a wider work of healing. He invites us to do the same."* For Becker (and, she argues, for Jesus), our personal healing is always connected to our participation in social healing. Just as there is no peace without justice, there is no personal healing without our participation in healing the brokenness in our world.

At a particularly difficult and stressful time in her life Becker received an unexpected and sudden healing from her lower back pain, that experience is

partly what inspired her to write this book. She shares with humility and candour:

"That moment opened up a pathway toward a deeper healing that led first to a new awareness of my own woundedness, my own shame and hurt and anger and grief. And then that moment opened up a pathway to my own belovedness. And then to the healing love available to each of us and to all of us and the invitation for me to participate in it."

We all have our own journey toward healing and wholeness, but Becker's unique journey led her to share her story in a way that connected with me deeply.

I recall sitting in the garden at Harnhill reading about 'The Barrier of Shame'. When I had finished the chapter I felt so moved, so choked up with emotion and, right at that moment, a guest wandered over to say hello. That encounter probably saved me from bursting into tears! What did happen however was a real God moment - a beautiful conversation, one which helped the guest and myself to open our hearts a little bit wider to Jesus's gift of healing.

I highly recommend this book and look forward to sharing insights from it in times of reflection with guests and team at Harnhill.

Becker offers sound guidance along the way as we journey together toward the healing and wholeness that Jesus offers. The author concludes:
"Healing is a gift of grace. A gift of love for each of us and for all of us. And there is so much love."

Review by Simon Cameron

The Harnhill Oak Tree



Kevin measured the circumference of the oak tree to estimate its age. It measured 8.8 metres which means it is around 850 years old and was planted around 1170 AD (which is in the Norman period and as old as Harnhill Church!)

Alpha at Harnhill



Alpha has returned to Harnhill! With nine guests - three of whom were Ukrainian - over a period of 11 weeks, we gathered in the Henly room on Tuesdays at 7 pm to enjoy an excellent meal and to watch that evening's session of the most recently produced Alpha Film Series, before splitting into two groups to discuss its contents - We aimed to finish by 9.30pm.

We had a great group and, over the weeks, everyone joined in as we came to know one another and were prepared to share some of our own experiences - the good and the bad - telling how we felt God met us at our point of need.

It became a very encouraging experience, with one attendee stating it had been a joy and a privilege to be a part of the group. We were all impressed by the content and production of the film series, and those attending commented particularly on the real-life testimonies of the guests featured in the Alpha videos. Sadly, it's now over and we miss meeting together so very much!

Katy, Kevin, Richard and Team

From our Guests . . .

I am so grateful for the love and care that is evidently put into preparing the rooms for guests. RJB

All the staff were amazing, down to earth, kind, funny and spiritually sound. PL

I felt a deep supernatural peace when I woke up on the first morning - noise and chaos had gone. SS

God's Healing Touch

As I write this, I am ill with Covid-19. Despite working in a hospital, I managed to avoid it for over 2 years! I was beginning to think I was immune. After feeling quite down yesterday, I started to see positives and thought it might be time to write some words about the start of my healing journey.

About a year after I did the Alpha course I asked for prayer. I was tired of pretending and not dealing with stuff from nearly 30 years ago. God started to deal with some things, but only when I felt safe to do so.

Fast forward a year, and the Covid-19 pandemic struck. I could not see the point in starting to deal with things if we were not allowed to see people. I was so pleased to be working at the hospital, because this represented some kind of normality. Then my contract ended, and I broke my elbow. The break was very bad but I stayed relatively positive and I actually had time to read!

I struggled with lockdown and living on my own. Although some people raved about Zoom to keep in touch, I found it was just not me. I never realised just how much I struggled, but throughout this time I kept writing, and prayer became my lifeline.

Last year just seemed to be a never-ending roller-coaster ride, both job- and health-wise. By the end of last year, I was on medication for anxiety/depression. I covered it up well, or so I thought. I admitted to anxiety, but not to depression. Throughout this time, I prayed "Help me". That was it, but I meant it.

I was thinking about past experiences, and I knew I needed help in dealing with these. I had never done anything for myself, it was always for someone else. I had an idea to go on a retreat, but I wanted to ensure that it would have the word 'healing' in the title. The one place that stood out was Harnhill. I mentioned to a friend that I was thinking of going on a retreat. She suggested going to Harnhill and that confirmed it! I knew this was where God wanted me to go. When I contacted the Centre, the word 'safe' was used in the conversation and I felt a shiver running all the way down my back. Yes, I was going but I knew it wasn't going to be easy. I contracted a very bad head cold. I was so ill in fact, that I did Covid tests every day. Although I was ill, nothing was going to stop me from attending!

Next morning, the Covid test was clear and I was going somewhere to get a complete rest.

Hurray! But then I panicked big time and went to a shop to buy some vodka. It was only supposed to be a drop - but anyone with a previous alcohol problem knows that it does not work like that. So nearly 750ml later, I phoned my friend and confessed that I had done something very stupid. She said she wasn't surprised that the devil tried to stop me from going and told me to make myself a strong black coffee. So I came on retreat.

Lots of things happened whilst I was away and I have written these in a journal. In the morning, when I opened my curtains there saw a huge cross in the garden and there was a cross over the bed in my room. 'What am I doing here? I cannot escape. I am miles from anywhere.' During the first day's reflections, my hands were clenched and my body closed off - maybe it was the alcohol.

Throughout the five days, I was aware that I was becoming more open to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. For me the turning point was half way through my time away. After my prayer ministry appointment, things were changing! Although I did not feel that different at the time, I knew something life changing was happening.

I spent much of my time walking around the garden. I felt the need to walk, as I was getting more and more angry inside. I just knew things were being brought out in the open. I shared how I felt with my prayer minister. I mentioned that I hated the way I looked, especially the Rosacea. I revealed that I was wearing a mask so no-one could see the real me. I was prayed for but did not feel different at the time. During my time at Harnhill God was working massively on my anxiety. I did not realise the full extent of this until I went to see my daughter in London. Calmness seemed to envelope me and I had no anxiety at all and just a deep-rooted peace. I have never experienced anything like it.

My retreat took place close to Christmas and, by the Saturday, there were few people around; even most of the staff had gone. I felt more relaxed and safe. During one of the times of reflection, one of the team members played a song that the singer had written after being attacked near their home in London. As I was listening to the song, I could not stop shaking and crying and knew God was doing something really deep within me. That night I sensed that people were praying for me.

Since my retreat, I have felt more open to God and, for me, another breakthrough came when I felt I could wear my cross again. I had stopped wearing this after my daughter's dad died some years ago. I thank all the staff at Harnhill for my stay there.

Blessings, Jayne

London to Paris Charity Cycle Ride

Kevin Derham undertook a Charity Cycle Ride from London to Paris 30th June to 3rd July 2022.

Monies Raised: £3,000 plus Gift Aid of approximately £450!



Kevin in front of the Manor House

I work part time as one of the camp leaders for another charity called *Man and Boy* who work with fathers and sons where there may be various issues between them. In February 2022 Trevor Guy, the Director of *Man and Boy*, suggested an idea of raising money by doing a charity cycle from London to Paris. It was agreed I could raise money for the Harnhill Centre. Each of us were paying for our own expenses.

Trevor was kind enough to give us all a training schedule running from March to the end of June, which I avidly followed! It involved building up from training two days a week, where I cycled 10 miles per day, to cycling four days per week doing 40 miles per day. I will admit that following the schedule was a contributing factor to why I found the actual three-day charity cycle ride much easier than I would have expected, if I hadn't done the training! It also helped training on the hills of the lower Cotswolds near Harnhill. I trained on my older, heavier, 10-year-old bike. A friend kindly loaned me a newer, lighter bike, equipped with disc brakes for the trip. This made a big difference!

It was beautiful weather over the 3 days of the actual ride. There was great camaraderie. The oldest of our group was 72 and the youngest 32. Not all of the group were Christians. I had a couple of great conversations about Jesus on the ferry from Newhaven to Dieppe. Aside from a few leg cramps, we all arrived on Sunday in Paris unscathed.

Thank you so much to all of you who prayed for safety and sponsored the ride for such a wonderful cause.



Kevin in Paris - and still smiling!



Kevin Derham

The Harnhill Centre has always relied on the generosity of our supporters in many different ways - if you have any fundraising ideas, or would like to undertake your own sponsored activity or sporting challenge, please let us know.

'V' for Victory



The picture above shows a 'V' in the sky over the building where I had my prayer ministry and where I experienced healing and freedom from something negative that had been plaguing my life for a long time. It's interesting because, a few moments prior to taking this photo, I had been walking in the driveway, pondering on the healing I'd received the previous day, when I felt doubts creeping in about whether the healing would last and whether it was something I should share with people or not. I realised (thanks to the guidance about 'holding onto your healing' that we'd received the previous night) that both of those thoughts were from the enemy, wanting to rob me of my peace and make me doubt. So I instantly responded by doing as we had been advised and putting on the metaphorical armour of God and then I proclaimed in faith that the healing did happen and would last, and that it's not something to hide, as the enemy wants us to be ashamed and keep these things quiet.

I reminded myself we are overcomers in Christ and that we share in His victory and I began to feel real joy and peace. I then raised my eyes heavenward to share this moment with the Lord - and that's when I saw these two aeroplane vapour trails - making the sign of a V in the sky. I instantly thought 'V - the sign for victory!' and felt this was the Lord affirming what I'd been thinking; not to get sucked in by the enemy's lies but rather the truth that we DO have the victory - and that my healing

was real! I quickly ran to get my phone to capture the image, worrying it would have faded by the time I'd gone back to my room and returned - so I snapped it as soon as I came out of the building - only to realise, when I looked at the image, that the 'V' now sat squarely above the building where I'd had my prayer ministry. What's more, if you trace back to the origin of the V it's pretty much about exactly where I was sat when my healing happened!

Praise God, He is so good!

Leila Cox

Harnhill Friends remembered

Diane Salkeld

18th August 1930 - 4th July 2022

Diane will be remembered for her love for the Lord and steadfast devotion to intercessory prayer, always interested in the lives of everyone she met, taking care to record family members, anniversaries and significant events on which to focus her prayers. Diane recognised that she had a slightly obsessive nature and this was never more evident than in her prayer life. What started as a Bible stuffed with prayer notes, photos and cards soon became a large folder literally crammed with notes on family, recent friends, those from long ago and people she had met. She worked dutifully, bringing each to the Lord in prayer.

In the very recent past her evangelical zeal became even more refined and she developed a resilience to casual rejection when her sharing of the Gospel was rebuffed - she had done her bit and the Lord would surely do the rest.

Diane longed to be with Jesus and had an assurance in salvation. In the past she had memorably used the following letters after her name in the way of a qualification status: RHRF (Ransomed Healed Restored Forgiven from Psalm 130) - Amen indeed!

It is a source of comfort that, during the past few months of her complex dementia and rapidly failing health, she had bonded so well with the nursing staff. They deserve great credit for their recognition, acceptance and encouragement of Diane's faith, welcoming worship music, singing, scripture readings and prayers.

One of the particularly lovely nurses, herself professing a strong faith, shared that when she placed a Bible in Diane's hand she heard her say 'Hallelujah'. This



was the last audible word she was to speak.

In 1991 Diane joined the Harnhill community in obedience to a calling a few years after her husband died. This was a great stride out of her comfort zone! Quoting a kind recollection from Hugh and Hilary Kent: "Diane brought many skills with her in the office, with

people, in the kitchen and with the rest of the staff". Simon recalls "Mum loved the teaching days, when many wonderful speakers would visit and copies of the tapes would duly arrive for us, as she spread the word to the widest possible audience."

Simon Salkeld

Pauline Gwenyth Robinson (LRAM, GBSM, ARCM) 28th July 1944 - 29th September 2022

The Lord Jesus called Pauline to our Heavenly Home on 29th September.

Pauline, who had advanced cancer, was ready to go when Jesus called her home, where there is no more pain and suffering.

This is Pauline's story but as we exercised a joint ministry, it is very much our story. Pauline and I, Clive, joined the Harnhill ministry Team in 1996. We had been invited to a *Wholeness Through Christ* prayer weekend and Pauline led the worship. During prayer ministry we were separately given the same words from the Lord: "Take off all your hats and lay them on the Altar, and only pick up those I tell you to." Pauline was organist and choir leader at two churches, I was church treasurer and children's leader; we were overseas reps, a link with Uganda. The list went on. As we laid these things down, we became drawn more and more into Harnhill. It wasn't long before, as volunteers, we joined the residential team - a position we held for about seven years. After leaving the residential team, we continued to offer Prayer Ministry to non-residential guests until the Covid lockdown brought everything to an end.

Pauline's involvement in the healing ministry has its roots back in personal experience. At the age



of 27, suffering with cardiomyopathy, and pericarditis, Pauline was told that, without a heart and lung transplant, she would not see 30. But the Lord knew otherwise and, although she was not healed, the Lord sustained her until we arrived in Minety, where Pauline found herself at a ladies' Lent group, something that was definitely not Pauline. The vicar, Rev'd Nicholas Monk, was talking about the Holy Spirit and the Healing Ministry. Pauline was angry: 'why have I been a Christian all my life and nobody has told me about this?' Pauline received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and then kneeling in prayer prayed "Father for whatever days I have left please use me in your healing ministry." As she prayed that prayer the pain and suffering of the years lifted and she received that heart and lung transplant miraculously from the Lord and not through surgery!

Under the direction of Nicholas Monk, Pauline began to pray around the villages and in local care homes. Later on she joined ministry teams at New Wine, Spring Harvest and Le Pas Opton, France.

We made three visits to Uganda - one at the invitation of Bishop William "You must come to Uganda to teach my clergy about the Lord's healing ministry." On one occasion, Pauline went with a Ugandan priest to give the last rites to a man dying of AIDS. When they arrived at the compound, they found the man's mother seriously ill with malaria. Both were prayed for and before they left, the man's mother was up and serving them tea! Twelve months later, her son was very much alive, working and looking after his family. As they were leaving the compound, the man's father took Pauline's hand and said "I have never trusted white people but you have brought the love of Jesus to my home."

On a remote Ugandan island, we sat with people so disfigured and maimed by leprosy, that they had not been returned to their families and communities. We sat, held and hugged them and prayed the peace and beauty of Jesus. There was beauty in ashes.

Our arrival at Harnhill was the fulfilment of a prophecy given three years earlier by Nicholas Monk "There is work for you at Harnhill." As we drove down the drive at the start of the Covid lockdown, Pauline, declared "We will not be coming back" and that proved true. In addition to Prayer Ministry, Pauline was an exceptional musician, organist, Cub Scout leader and Samaritan Day Leader. In so many different ways a true daughter of God.

Clive Robinson

From the Finance Office

By the time you receive this edition of Harvest, we will be approaching our financial year end again (31st December) and preparing for 2023. Indeed the budget for 2023 was drafted some months ago, but will need reworking in light of the economic landscape which continues to reveal itself. We are already noticing a dip in donations and a change to the pattern of bookings. How does one plan for these uncertain times? Prudently comes to mind yet, with the confidence that comes from our faith, believing in God's provision and hearing His continued assurances for Harnhill and its work. From that place of faith, we can draw confidence to think of our future. But, for a faith-based charity, holding that balance, the tension between faith, prayer and the secular focus of regulatory compliance and demonstration of a business-oriented approach to our affairs, is not easy. In fact it is often quite challenging. So perhaps spare a moment to pray into this, as the Trustees, Kate and I try to hold this safely for all in the coming year.

Energy Efficiency: I mentioned in the previous Harvest that we were engaging with energy efficiency consultants. We were blessed to benefit from two surveys, one funded by the Diocese of Gloucester and one provided by *Target 2030*. Both reports have now been received, which the Estate's Committee is taking forward. It seems that cost reduction and carbon footprint reduction do not go hand in hand. If we were to become net zero within 10 years, a capital investment of well over £350k would be required. Savings would be about £8k a year, with a 44-year payback. But there are some lower cost improvements which we can look to raise funds for: improving insulation, double glazing and lighting being key. Changing light fixtures to sensor lighting in corridors and converting remaining areas to LED will cost about £4k.

The Estate: This has been a challenging time for David. The bathroom fan system in the House packed up, along with the kitchen extraction motor, a kitchen fridge, the Barn roof leaked, fuse boxes needed replacing, rotten windows were repaired, the kitchen gas supply was upgraded, car parks were re-gravelled, to name but a few things. In all the cost was approximately £30k. As I write, this an email popped into the mailbox from David to say there is a significant new leak in the Barn roof, which is now under investigation. Because of these expenses, we have deferred some planned expenditure – refurbishment of the lower corridor bedrooms; repairs to the stone walls of the fields; replacement shed; and insulation.

Economic Challenges and How we are Responding:

We all face a tough winter ahead. I thought I would share some of the things we are doing at the Centre. We aim to replace the condemned wood burner in the library to provide an alternative heat source. We will also be turning the library into another house dining room for the winter months, enabling us to operate within the House for the most part and significantly reducing the daily heating cost of the Barn.

We are very keen to ensure that no one is prevented from receiving ministry in the very challenging and uncertain period ahead and will be considering very carefully our pricing model for 2023, along with creating a designated bursary fund. We are exploring how to partner with church communities to partially fund residential stays for members of their congregation or community who are in need – perhaps this is something your church might be able to support or engage with? Please explore the possibilities and talk to us about how we can collaborate.

Staffing: You may know that Alison Godden moved on from her role as Assistant Chef earlier this year and her role is being covered in-house for now. The Team is doing a marvellous job in supporting Mahlon and he has been sharing his top tips with them – never before, have vegetables been so expertly chopped by the novice hand!

Fundraising: Just two things. I was very disappointed that Nectar Donate rejected Harnhill as a cause to support. If you tried to donate your points to us, you would not have been able to find us listed – this is why. We will try again. I am, however, pleased to report that we are now part of the Parish Giving Scheme. For those of you who donate regularly, or would like to, you can now do this through the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) rather than by standing order directly to Harnhill. The advantage to us is that PGS will administer the receipts on our behalf and, more importantly, handle the gift aid claim with HMRC, reducing the administration of donations for us. If this is something you could consider, please have a look here: <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/harnhill-centre-cirencester/> or use the QR Code to find the page. The PGS code is 16B616291

Rachel L Severn
Bursar



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

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