

# H A R V E S T

**The Harnhill Centre Magazine**

**Autumn / Winter 2024**



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**Programme for September 2024 to December 2025**

# Volunteers

*1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)*

***4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.***

During the nearly 40-year life of the Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing, the ministry has continued to be built with the help of many brothers and sisters in Christ, who generously volunteer their time and skills. When I started at the Centre over 10 years ago, the landscape of volunteering had been changing within many organisations, as lives were becoming much busier and people had less time to give. Although there had been a change, it has been interesting to witness that since the pandemic, the Harnhill volunteer team is actually strengthening.

One of the areas we completely rely on volunteer help is for the care of the beautiful gardens at the Centre. With our resources being stretched in many ways, we are no longer able to employ a head gardener but our prayers were heard, help came our way and the garden has been wonderfully maintained by volunteers ever since. I was especially heartened to spot five of the gardening team after a recent Friday healing service, working away in the undergrowth of the various borders! It is a beautiful sign of life and blessing as the community continues to build at Harnhill.

The Centre is blessed by this support because the garden is such an important place of prayer and peace for our guests, but several of our gardening volunteers also describe the significant benefits to their own well-being. This response is supported by various studies into the benefits of volunteering and for the gardeners, it is restorative to be in the fresh air, getting hands into the soil, seeing growth and the beauty of God's creation. It is not just those working in the garden who feel the benefit of giving time, some of our hospitality volunteers (who helpfully release staff to concentrate on other tasks), appreciate forming new friendships and enjoying interactions with visitors to the Centre. Those who are called to prayer ministry also feel blessed to witness the Lord at work through the time they give, with many of the team travelling from different

areas of the country to help. Others, who support through intercessory prayer, (some of whom can't travel), also have a hugely important role helping to strengthen and protect the spiritual life of the Centre, and as they pray, they connect with what the Lord is doing within the daily life of the ministry. We are also supported by several musicians who lead worship at our services, who minister through their musical gifting and help bring our guests into the Lord's presence. In the background we have others faithfully working away, wielding a paintbrush or using DIY skills to keep the Centre shipshape! During this past year, we have even welcomed friends travelling from France and Texas to volunteer their time and skills. As I have often expressed, if anyone feels called to be part of our volunteer community, I can surely find them a job to do!

Each of the tasks completed by our volunteers are like stitches in a skillful embroidery, which continue to build the ministry and upon the call of God faithfully responded to by Canon Arthur Dodds back in 1985. After all, 'there are different kinds of service but the same Lord'. Reflecting on these verses from 1 Corinthians, it is a reminder that no task or act of service is more or less important, because each becomes part of the whole picture. The Harnhill Centre is in the Lord's skilled hands and it is his work. What a wonderful gift it is to be together, in service, for the Lord who desires to bring salvation, healing and reconciliation. We offer what we can, the Lord blesses it and does the rest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many wonderful volunteers for their ongoing help and support. If you are interested in exploring volunteering opportunities at the Centre, please email -

office@harnhillcentre.org.uk

Reverend Kate Picot, Director



## ***Volunteering is good for health!***

***"Studies have shown that volunteering helps people who donate their time feel more socially connected, thus warding off loneliness and depression.....a growing body of evidence suggests that people who give their time to others might also be rewarded with better physical health—including lower blood pressure and a longer lifespan."***

***<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/volunteering-may-be-good-for-body-and-mind-201306266428>***

## Some of the Harnhill volunteers ...

*From Bob Foulkes:*

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that it is an enormous privilege to be able to garden in such a beautiful place and be so aware of God's presence all around us. We are also very aware that the gardens are very much a part of Harnhill's ministry to all who come up the drive, and that encourages us to make the extra special effort on cold and wet days. The cups of tea are very welcome, as are the cups of water on very hot days! You do look after us very well. Thank you. May the team be equally blessed as we are! With our love, Bob (representing the gardening volunteers).



*From Masa Tomita:*



The most unique thing about serving at Harnhill, whether dishwashing, mopping, or leading worship, is the real grace shown by the leaders and staff members. As an autistic person, I am prone to be anxious in new environments and situations – it takes me a long time to settle into a routine and

I can often get overwhelmed easily, especially in the early days. But at Harnhill, I have been given a plenty of time, space, and encouragements (and superb food too!) to serve at the pace I can manage – this has really given me a safe and loving place to keep serving, and to put the gifts and interests the Lord has given me into different areas of service at the Centre. It is such a gift to have a place like this where I don't have to be "sorted" to be able to serve the Lord.

*From Simon Gretton:*

Since the summer of 2023, my family and I have reconnected with Harnhill Centre by regularly attending the Friday morning Healing Service and coming to the Dwelling Place Café on Mondays.

From September last year, in response to the need for volunteers, I've endeavoured to invest some of my spare time to help with the upkeep of the Centre. Initially, I helped with the weeding and tidying up of the courtyard garden, including the cultivation of spring-flowering plants in the sizeable planter to provide some colour and interest for guests to see from the chapel.

More recently, my focus has been on the prepping/ painting of the woodwork on the doors outside the Barn with the original "gooseberry fool" colour. It is so good to see the positive change that coats of paint can make to the original colour...

The volunteering work that I do is really part of the ministry in making the Harnhill Centre more presentable. Volunteering in this way is therapeutic, relaxing and satisfying to know that the residential team and guests do benefit from the improvements! I feel privileged to help support the ministry that reaches out to so many people on so many levels in the "harvest" of care that draws people to God.

*From Steve Hayler:*

You have hopefully seen advertised the 'Retiring Well' retreat being run at Harnhill in November with one of its objectives being to explore one's calling in retirement. My career in the RAF ended as my wife Lynn's incumbent parish ministry began, so I believed that my calling was to support her in that. Whilst that kept me quite busy, I still had time to spend a day each week with a food charity, be a Trustee for a civic organisation and to help with ministerial discernment for our diocese. Lynn moved on from parish ministry to ministry at Harnhill in 2023 and so I had an inkling that there might be some volunteering to do there. Indeed, that does seem to be the case and I now seem to have fallen into a few roles at Harnhill that I find rewarding...and don't seem to have much time for volunteering elsewhere!

I love a bit of cooking and as Mahlon (our proper chef) has every other weekend off I am allowed to play with the big kitchen toys and cook for our guests and Team members on duty. This is a real privilege – a bit nerve-wracking at first but I have enjoyed the challenge (and I haven't given anyone food poisoning yet). Mahlon even allows me to choose a menu, gives me chef's top tips and is always at the end of a phone for the occasional silly question like "where is the potato peeler?". Along with the stand-in sous-chef role comes the inevitable deputy pot-wash tasks; however, it must be said that I have never had so much fun washing up as I have had at Harnhill alongside other Team members and volunteers.

Not long after our arrival at Harnhill, our Facilities Manager left and so I have also picked up some of the tasks that would have done by that post.



## Volunteers cont.

So if something breaks, needs adjusting, checking for infestation, lifting, filling up, risk assessing, or if a tradesperson needs booking, supervising, checking up on etc etc, I'm often the first port of call. My regular fortnightly role as 'refuse collector, waste operative, recycling collector' (to use the UK Government term) and occasional 'drainage engineer' are my smelliest roles. Together with Kevin (Kate's husband) we 'living-in volunteers' take on many of the practical jobs that need doing in a retreat centre like Harnhill.

Being part of the community means I'm part of the body of Christ at Harnhill – the church. So to join in with and be part of staff prayers, staff communion, Friday services, Sunday worship makes it all worthwhile; to be working in different roles alongside others who God has also called to be at Harnhill is a real privilege. I'm not on the prayer minister list but the jobs I do allow prayer ministry to take place, and so I feel very much part of the Harnhill ministry. Whilst we have fun together in community, we also have to bear one another's burdens; step in and support when others are struggling as well as eating their cake when it's their birthday!

### From our Guests . . .

I experienced emotional healing - a sense of being freed from self-criticism and fear of not being enough. I have a new awareness of the completeness found in Jesus. CC

I appreciated the warmth of the welcome combined with the freedom to spend time with God in whatever way I felt led. TW

*The Lord's my Shepherd ...  
He makes me lie down in green pastures (Psalm 23)*

Come and Rest Awhile



## Land's End to John

Kevin Derham (Kate's husband) and his friend Mark set out on a Land's End to John O'Groats bike ride to raise funds for the Harnhill Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> May. They completed the journey on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

Kevin talked to Martine about his adventure:

*Kevin telling us  
all about his bike ride  
at the Service on  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

*M: Why did you  
want to undertake  
this incredible  
journey and did  
you always want to  
cycle the length of  
the country?*



K: I've talked to Katherine (known as Kate to most of you) and my friend Mark about wanting to do this journey about 10 years ago and even hoped to do it in my 60<sup>th</sup> year! A couple of illnesses in the first years of our marriage sadly stopped me undertaking the ride and it's only this year when I was really well that I thought about embarking on this ride.



*Kate &  
Simon ready  
to welcome  
the riders*

*Day 5 - stop off at  
Harnhill! A (wet) royal  
Welcome!*





# n O'Groats Kevin's fun(d)raising Bike Ride

M: *What did you and Mark chat about?*

K: We chatted about faith and, in fact, everything under the sun - world stuff, football, news, and relationships! There were many hours to fill as we pedalled.

M: *What was the most difficult part of the ride? How did you cope when the going got tough?*

K: Although it was a challenge, overall the ride was enjoyable and a real adventure. I guess the most difficult part of the ride was in the middle of the time away when we had to cycle several consecutive days of 80 miles a day against a strong headwind. The 13<sup>th</sup> day in Penrith in Scotland stands out the most difficult, as it was the day when I found out our beloved cat, Leo, had died, together with having 3 punctures(!) and needing a new wheel. This delayed us by 3 hours. When this happened it was late in the evening and we still had 40 miles to go! It helped having a quick call with Kate, acknowledging that it was difficult and shedding a little tear. We prayed and this literally transformed the rest of the day where I felt I had more energy and God's joy.

M: *Was there ever a time when you wanted to abandon the ride?*

K: Thankfully no, but on the day I mentioned above, I'd wondered beforehand if I would have to book into a B&B if one was available before the destination, which would have extended the mileage the following day as we had not put in a contingency plan!

M: *Did you carry a lot of provisions for the journey and where did you stay?*

K: We carried adequate clothing for cycling and evening wear. We had enough snacks and water to keep us energised and hydrated. Other equipment included cycling repair kits, etc, rain gear and extra layers for the evening and when it got cold. We stayed in 15 locations along the way which involved a combination of youth hostels, bed and breakfasts, yurts, cabins and cheap hotels where we were able to wash and dry clothing quickly.

M: *Did anything happen that made you both laugh?*

K: There were many incidents which made us laugh. When we stopped in Ironbridge, we initially didn't

realise that a couple had 'photobombed' us until we saw the evidence. We ended up having a great conversation with them!



M: *What was the most beautiful sight you saw or the most memorable?*

K: For me the most beautiful areas we cycled through were the Scottish highlands and lakes. The most memorable was leaving the sea at St. Michael's mount in Cornwall and then seeing the sea again 15 days later at Bettyhill in Scotland not far from John O' Groats.

M: *Did you meet some interesting people along the way?*

K: Yes. We got chatting more to people on the train than on the bike! On the journey, the people we met were mainly those at hostels or other cyclists who were also raising money for charity. My most memorable was meeting 2 lovely American Christian young men doing an internship at a pub/church at the Crask Inn near Dingwall in Scotland. I was touched by their heart for God.

M: *Would you undertake such an expedition again?*

K: Definitely yes! But I would take more time to enjoy the sights and maybe use an e-bike!

M: *Did you feel the Lord's presence with you and did he speak to you?*

Yes. Many times there was a real sense I was held in prayer by many and I thank everyone for their prayers. Also seeing the beauty of God's creation was a privilege. We live in stunning countryside!

M: *How much money did you raise?*

K: We raised an amazing figure of £8300 thanks to the huge generosity of the Harnhill friends and family. Thank you, everyone for your support and prayers.

Kev

M: What an amazing achievement Kev! - Thank You!

# Calendar of Events September

*"Be still and know that I*

## September 2024

3 <sup>rd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Healing
10 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
14 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Quiet Day: <i>Psalm 84 - A Song of Pilgrimage</i> Led by Ann Persson
13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	'The Bereavement Journey' Retreat
24 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Celebration

## October 2024

1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
8 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Leaders' Retreat
11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Healing
15 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
26 <sup>th</sup>	Training Day: <i>'Ministry of Healing within the Local Church'</i>
29 <sup>th</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Personal Retreat

## November 2024

1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Seeking Healing
5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	'Growing closer to the God who loves you' themed Retreat Led by Bishop Bob Evens
8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
12 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
15 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
16 <sup>th</sup>	Training Day: <i>'Tools for the Healing Ministry'</i>
19 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Personal Retreat
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	'Retiring Well' Retreat
26 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness

## December 2024

29 <sup>th</sup> Nov - 1 <sup>st</sup>	Personal Retreat
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Advent Quiet Day: <i>'The Grace'</i> Led by Revd Kate Picot
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Healing
10 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
17 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat

## January 2025

3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Healing
7 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Leaders' Retreat
14 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
28 <sup>th</sup> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	'The Bereavement Journey' Retreat

## February 2025

1 <sup>st</sup>	Training Day: <i>'Ministry of Healing within the Local Church'</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
11 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
18 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Personal Retreat
21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Seeking Healing
25 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup>	'Retiring Well' Retreat
28 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Personal Retreat

## March 2025

4 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
11 <sup>th</sup>	Lenten Quiet Day: <i>The Jesus model of authentic Christian experience</i> Led by Revd Mark Castleton
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Seeking Healing
25 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
29 <sup>th</sup>	Training Day: <i>'Tools for the Healing Ministry'</i>

## April 2025

1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
4 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup>	Led Retreat: <i>'The Waiting Room'</i> Led by Revd Kate Picot
8 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Journeying into Wholeness
22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Personal Retreat
25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>	Seeking Healing
29 <sup>th</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Leaders' Retreat



# er 2024 to December 2025

"I am God" Psalm 46:10

## May 2025

13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 20<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 30<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Jun Seeking Healing

## June 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 7<sup>th</sup> Friends' Afternoon  
 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Led Healing Retreat '*Discovering my Identity as a Child of God*'  
 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Personal Retreat  
 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness

## July 2025

1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Seeking Healing  
 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 'The Bereavement Journey' Retreat  
 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Rest & Refreshment Break  
 29<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Aug Personal Retreat

## August 2025

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Creative Art Weekend  
 Led by Janie Cameron and Jenny Fry  
 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 'Retiring Well' Retreat  
 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Rest & Refreshment Break  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Seeking Healing  
 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness

## September 2025

6<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Celebration  
 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Seeking Healing  
 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Autumn Quiet Day  
 Led by Revd Christine Holzapfel  
 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 30<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct Personal Retreat

## October 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Led Retreat: '*A Father's Heart*'  
 Led by Alison Goddard  
 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 11<sup>th</sup> Training Day: '*Ministry of Healing within the Local Church*'  
 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Led Healing Retreat '*Discovering my Identity as a Child of God*'  
 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Seeking Healing  
 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Journeying into Wholeness

## November 2025

4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Seeking Healing  
 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 'The Bereavement Journey' Retreat  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Training Day: '*Tools for the Healing Ministry*'  
 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 29<sup>th</sup> Training Day: '*Ministry of Healing within the Local Church*'

## December 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Quiet Day: '*Waiting is Worship*'  
 Led by Revd Meg Heywood  
 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat  
 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Seeking Healing  
 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Journeying into Wholeness  
 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Personal Retreat

For details about the different retreats and general booking information, please refer to the Harnhill Centre's Brochure and Programme 2025 ([www.harnhillcentre.org.uk](http://www.harnhillcentre.org.uk))

# Testimonies

This is my first time at Harnhill on a Personal Retreat. It has been a space to step back from a hectic pace of life and hear the voice of Jesus calling me to a deeper trust and walk with him. During the healing service on Wednesday evening, I asked the team to pray for my granddaughter Olivia. She is just 8 weeks old and has been experiencing digestive issues that have caused her long periods of distressed crying. This has been so hard for her Mum, Dad and older brother.

The next afternoon there was a post from Olivia's Mum sharing that Olivia had had her first pain-free day accompanied with a picture of her smiling and giggling. I shared with her Mum and Dad the prayers said in this place and we were all able to rejoice together in the goodness and graciousness of our healing God.

This time and this place has been so special in our journey to trust more deeply in the Lord. Thank you.

*Rachel*

At the beginning of May 2024, I came Harnhill for a 'Journeying into Wholeness' retreat. I have stayed a few times over the years. The Harnhill Centre is a peaceful and rural setting, and is covered in prayer (and you can almost feel it). The staff were excellent and so was the food! The course involved prayer ministry together with worship, teaching, Bible reading, more prayer, and plenty of time and space to think, write, and pray about things.

I wanted to get away, to take stock, think about what I'm doing, and address some issues I had on my mind. I started thinking about this last year, but didn't get around to it, and now I felt that the time was right.

Over the four days, I became more emotional, a bit weepy at times, but in a good and gentle kind of way, especially during times of worship. I felt that the Lord was softening me up emotionally, breaking up the hard ground in my life, and making me more open to him.

Part of the course involves writing a letter to people, and/or God, who might have hurt us, caused us pain, or problems, or even us to them. The idea is to express our deepest feelings about the matter in hand. It may be feelings, hurts, confessions, offering or asking for forgiveness, and more. On the final evening the letters are then burned and this symbolises the cutting off of whatever the issue/problem area was, together with any people involved, and committing it all into God's hands.

This time, I wrote a letter to my Mum and three other folk, one going back to when I was about 9 years old. On Thursday evening, I was happy to burn all the letters and commit everyone and

everything to God.

I came home on the Friday feeling so much better and, I would say, more ready and able to face the world, with its mixture of joys and challenges.

One thing I have noticed since returning, is that I seem to be having much better, more meaningful, conversations with people, (generally speaking). When I'm out and about, instead of a quick "hello" and moving on, I find some people are sharing things with me. I don't mean necessarily 'Christian' conversations, but mainly about life and its difficulties. I'm not really that confident a person, but have offered and been able to pray for a couple of folk in the street, and have told others that we will pray for them. For me, this is fairly unusual, and something has clearly changed in me.

PS: Update June 2024. I don't know about you, but I do sometimes question what I'm doing. I hope this doesn't sound too grand or anything like that, but, over the past few weeks, I feel that I am getting a better sense of purpose for my life. In other words, I feel a bit clearer about what I'm doing, which is great and I thank God for that. It is nothing I have done for myself, but something that has just grown in me, if that makes sense. I thank God for all he is doing, and pray that it will continue, and that I don't hinder him in his work. Although this has been about God's work in my life, I am sure he is also at work in all our lives, in different ways. To finish, I would say this to myself, but it applies to us all, we need to be open to him daily. Thank you.

*TW*

I wanted to let you know about the Lord's wonderful healing work in my life during my recent stay at Harnhill from 30 May - 2 June. I had felt strongly that the Lord wanted me to come back to Harnhill and ask for healing for my kidneys and also for a low level of sodium in my blood, and was able to book in for a healing retreat. My story is a little complicated, but I will try and keep it brief! These problems were directly connected to my having delayed seeking medical help for problems with my prostate, which had then caused back pressure and damage to my kidneys. My kidney function improved a lot after I had surgery 18 months ago, but had not returned to what it had been before. Part of my healing journey has been to completely forgive myself!

My recent blood test showed that I have a normal sodium level and my kidney function is the best it has been for over 2 years! I know this is the Lord's work and I am believing He will completely restore my kidney function to what it was before this all started. I am very grateful to the Lord and also to the whole team at Harnhill for your part in this.

*Peter*



## Remembering



Remembering his beloved wife, Hilary, Hugh Kent writes:

Hilary Burgess was born on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1938 in Surrey. Soon after the war started her father was called up. Hilary's mother was tired and worried about the bombs. She arranged with her best friend Ena (my mother) to visit Gloucester where we lived. Their stay lasted for nearly a year during which time we played together and attended the same infant school.

When Hilary was 16, her father was offered a senior position in the branch of his employer in New York. Hilary went to university and graduated in biology. We corresponded and I invited her to the Ball at my college in Oxford. Later she taught biology near my theological college and we married before I was ordained. Hilary was a great support in the parishes where I served and she often did part-time teaching. The children were much older when we moved to be Warden and wife of the Harnhill Centre using her counselling skills to help those who came to stay. After 10 years, we returned to parish life and she continued her ministry at the Manna House Counselling Service in Northampton where she was highly valued. After a long period of retirement, we came to live at the St Christopher's Care Home complex in Northampton living near to two of our sons. Sadly Hilary had a serious fall. She died on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 full of faith just after our local priest had anointed her.

Harnhill was dear to both of us through all the succeeding years. So many people have poured their lives into growing its ministry. May the Lord continue to bless all who serve there and those who seek help.

*Hugh Kent*

## Book Review

### Light Through the Cracks

by Joanna Watson

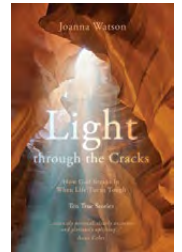
The author was inspired to write this book following her own near-death experience surviving a dramatic car crash down the side of a mountain whilst on holiday in the USA. She knew her life had been miraculously spared and was encouraged to write down her experience in case one day it might be published.

Later Joanna was to encounter other people's miraculous real life stories and, after meticulously retelling them from interviews she conducted, she realised that she had ten chapters for her book. All the stories in the book tell how God breaks through into difficult and often seemingly impossible situations bringing light into dark places.

There are stories that confound medical prognosis, such as the survival of a prematurely-born baby, the miraculous disappearance of a cancer and a girl seeing a long-term illness disappear in an instant as well as instances like a church avoiding closure following an unexplained delivery of cash. However, these are very real and gritty real-life tales which don't avoid the pain and the suffering that people so often go through on their journey. Not everything ends in triumph, but each story brings glory to God. Another thing that struck me reading the book was the power of prayer and the palpable difference that people felt having people stand alongside them praying for them and with them.

If you want a book to encourage you to see God at work and to challenge you to pray with more faith this book won't fail to inspire you, and I recommend it.

*Review by Andrew Mann*



### From our Guests . . .

I was very apprehensive when I arrived but the welcome I received made me feel relaxed and at home. DF

I really valued the support and grace of the team. From a tired, weary, and rather lost guest on arrival, their attentive love and support helped me to feel rested and refreshed, and to experience the love of the Lord Jesus. SEM

# God's faithful provision in the time of illness

**A**fter the birth of my third child in February 1997 I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder that caused progressive cirrhosis of the liver. It was a tough diagnosis, and my health slowly deteriorated over the following ten years. I became extremely jaundiced, and all my organs began to fail, making it a very scary time. At the beginning of October 2007, I was told that without a liver transplant, I would be dead within the next four weeks.

Up until that point in my life, I had often been quite dependent on others. But now I found myself in a situation where only God could get me through. I had to choose whether to panic and give up or to stand on all the promises in the Bible and trust that whatever the outcome, God would give me the grace and strength to get through what lay ahead.

During that time, I started to memorize Bible verses and learned the power and benefits of memorizing scripture. At night, when I was tempted to panic about the future and what would happen to my husband and young children, I would often recite a Bible verse from Psalms that someone had given me: Psalm 118:17 - "I will not die but live and declare what the Lord has done."

Reciting this verse allowed me to rest and go back to sleep peacefully. Filling my thoughts with scripture left a lot less room for fear and panic about the future.

Up until this point, I had often heard people talk about praying for those who are unwell and wondered how much difference it made. But having been on the receiving end, I now know that prayer support makes a massive difference. I am now much more inclined to pray for others who are unwell or suffering, with greater faith. When I had the prayer support of others, I would go through some very challenging medical tests and find that I had a wonderful sense of being cushioned, as if I was being kept in a bubble of peace, because others were praying.

Eventually, my liver started to fail seriously. I was yellow with jaundice, and my body was bloated with excess fluid. I spent many weeks in and out of the hospital, often too ill to eat or drink much at all. During that time, I learned that scripture could be like food to my body, bringing

renewal of strength. I loved it when friends came and sat by my hospital bed and read encouraging passages from the Bible. I could not eat and drank little, but after hearing the Bible verses, I felt as though I had been given a meal and there was renewed strength to live!

I remember that on the liver ward, many people with liver failure became quite unwell mentally and very confused from all the toxins. I am so thankful to God that my children did not have to see me like that and that the Lord protected my mind and reactions.

I worried about the timing of the transplant because I knew I would only have a couple of hours' notice to arrange childcare and get from Gloucester to the hospital in Birmingham for surgery. In the end, the Lord provided in the most amazing way. The night before I was due to be discharged from the hospital and put on the waiting list, a liver of the right size and blood group for me suddenly became available. The doctor commented, "I have never had a patient whose transplant organ is on the way to the hospital before we have had time to put them on the waiting list!" It was a sign to me, and there were many others, that the Lord was in the situation and would get me through.

I have been able to write regularly and thank the mother who donated her son's liver. I received the larger lobe and the life of a child was saved by receiving the smaller lobe. It brings the mother great comfort to know that from her son's death others have been given the gift of life.

This October, it will be 17 years since I had the liver transplant. I am very grateful for all those extra years of life, and for all the Lord has done to keep me alive physically and growing in my faith in Him. I have learned that each day we live is a blessing and a gift. Alongside the transplant journey is a whole journey of how the Lord challenged and changed me as a person and grew my faith and dependency on Him.

James 1:12 - "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

*Cathy Smith*



# Welcome ...

The Harnhill Centre is delighted to welcome two new staff members who are assisting with administration, finance, and facility bookings.

## Holly Barton

I started working here in early April 2024. I heard about the Harnhill Centre years ago from friends as a 'thin place' between heaven and earth, which I have experienced since working here - what joy!



Anyway, a little about me. I am 39 years old, am married to Ben and have two delicious little girls aged 5 and 2. They don't sleep very well so I am very tired a lot of the time but I try not to let that get to me! We moved down to Gloucestershire because God told me to base our family here, so we are trying to be obedient to that. I don't have a ton of hobbies but they include crocheting, walking the dog, spending time with my family, getting lost in programme series on the telly and listening to a lot of music.

I trained as a primary school teacher but after four years realised that it wasn't the direction I wanted to go in, having wanted to be one since I was a little girl. I did a lot of soul searching for that final year of teaching and settled on being Children's Pastor at St Aldates for a few years. That was a whole different set of challenges but also really stretching in a positive way. After that, we wanted to start our own little family and so moved closer to my parents in Leatherhead where I became the children's worker at my Dad's church. Our eldest was born there and despite all the tensions of becoming a mum it was also delightful! Working full time and having a child was tricky so I stopped working outside the home when I had our second - she is also fab. Being a full-time mum was rewarding and enough for a while, but when we moved down here I felt God move me to talk to Kate about serving at the Harnhill Centre, and it just so happened that there was a job for me!

Thank you God!

## Eleni Kirby

I am Greek by heritage and born in Zimbabwe. I moved to the UK 22 years ago with my dad and sister. After completing secondary school in Bradford upon Avon, I pursued a hairdressing apprenticeship, which eventually led me to work on cruise ships and I spent some time living in Greece just before my daughter was born. I then moved back to the Cotswolds, in fact to Cirencester, which is where we, my daughter and our miniature dachshund, live now. For many years I have visited Harnhill and my sister and I launched our coaching business in the Barn at Harnhill in 2018. I have a big heart for serving the Lord and meeting new people on their journey of life. I am passionate about being a part of this beautiful place, contributing to its mission and supporting others on their journey.



## The Harnhill Centre YouTube Channel

Did you know that even if you live many miles away you can be involved in some of the services at Harnhill on a regular basis?

Most of the talks at the Friday Morning Services are recorded, and a little later are posted on the Harnhill YouTube Channel.

Recordings from Thanksgiving Services and Friends' Days may also be found there. There is even a helpful video explaining how to find your way around the channel and how to search for a particular talk, or a talk by a specific person and so on.

So even if you're not a regular YouTube viewer, you shouldn't have any problems benefiting from some of the excellent teaching and reflections given at Harnhill.

How to access this channel: On your browser of choice - Google, Microsoft Edge, Safari etc – just type 'YouTube Harnhill Centre' and you'll be given a clickable link to the site. Happy and blessed listening!

*Mike Stranks, Harnhill Audio Producer*

# From the Bursar

Hello dear friends,

We have been having a busy season this summer. The Trustees have just signed off the statutory accounts for 2023 and these can be seen shortly on the Charity Commission website, once filed.

Having reported in the last Harvest about our project to upgrade the downstairs bedrooms and create a new small flat, I thought I would share some photos of the finished rooms, now the curtains have been delivered and all is in place.

The flat, which we are calling 'Oak View', has already had a number of extended period overseas volunteers staying here. The space includes ensuite bedroom and an open-plan kitchenette sitting area, which we hope will continue to be occupied by those wishing to live alongside and volunteer within the community for a season. The rooms would also be a great space for anyone looking for an extended stay or sabbatical at Harnhill. So do pass on the word!



times which is so encouraging for the Kate and the Team. The two newest retreats – 'The Bereavement Journey' and 'Retiring Well' are both proving to be a welcome addition to the programme. We thank God for the vision of these two new retreats and for all those with whom we bring our ministry to. We also give thanks for the many volunteers without whom we could function and deliver Harnhill's Ministry.

We are also very pleased to have finally launched our updated website. This is something we have been working on for some time. One of the new features is the ability to book and pay for day events online as well as purchase Harnhill Gift Vouchers. We will soon be adding Friday lunch bookings in a similar way. Do take a look – it has a new look and feel. [www.harnhillcentre.org.uk](http://www.harnhillcentre.org.uk)



We are still awaiting quotations for the extensive roof repair to the Manor House and this will require significant fundraising when the time comes. We will form a small working party for historic / listed building grant applications, so if you have any experience of this, please do let me know. We will keep you posted.

Every Blessing  
*Rachel Severn, Bursar*

The bookings and facilities hire teams are seeing an increase in both areas of activity. Residential Retreat occupancy taking place in this year has already reached 90% of the whole of last year's attendance numbers; and facilities hire bookings are at 83% of last year (as at 21<sup>st</sup> August). So, for the first time, we are seeing growth in both areas stronger than pre-covid



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

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