



Penhurst News

Summer 2023



Greetings from a very sunny Penhurst! As you can see from the photos there is a lush growth all around. This reminds us of God's generous heart towards each one of us. In this letter you will read about the Lord's generous provision and presence and the impact this makes to our guests; new and regular retreats that are on offer and changes that we trust will enable Penhurst to continue to bless people for the years ahead. As you receive this letter, maybe someone you know might benefit from a stay at Penhurst - we would love to meet new friends and welcome them to this very special place! We're reminded by the word that was given to Penhurst - "In this place I will give peace."

Joanna + Doreen



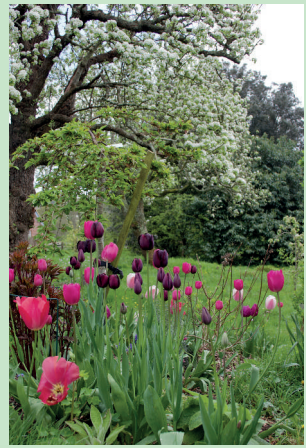
charity no. 1060817

Open Gardens Our first Open Garden afternoon in May was a great success. We welcomed 45 people to come and walk around the gardens and enjoy a cup of tea and slice of cake. Visitors included neighbours, local friends and people who had not been before. We will be planning another one later in the summer, so keep a look out on our website and Facebook page - we need the perfect combination of a quiet week and sunny weather!



Wildflower Meadow and Pond

We are delighted to have received a grant and ongoing advice from the Sussex Lund Fund to help establish and enhance the wildflower meadow in the paddock in front of the house. This will include planting a native border hedge and ongoing work to make this area even more beautiful for our human visitors and beneficial for our wilder visitors, including white-legged damselflies. The pond will also receive attention, including re-establishing the banks that have eroded over time.



"I was so blessed by the place, it is perfect in every way and the grounds are beautiful."

Spreading the Word

We always ask new guests how they found out about Penhurst and often it is through word of mouth - a friend told them about a recent stay or someone at church mentioned it. Please do let others know about us and consider recommending us for group meetings such as leadership away days, home group meetings, prayer triplets or even book groups! Perhaps you have a group of friends who like to spend time together - why not come and stay a couple of nights here and plan your own mini retreat? If you want copies of our programme or information leaflets to display at your church, please get in touch. We have active Facebook and Twitter accounts so if you use either of those platforms, please follow us and consider sharing our posts - it all helps spread the word about this beautiful place.

Find us at www.facebook.com/penhurst or on twitter at @PenhurstRetreat

Giving and Finance

If you follow us on social media you will have seen links to Movement for Good draws run by Benefact Group - insurers specialising in heritage, faith and education sectors. These prize draws offer the nominated charities a boost of £1,000 and happen throughout the year. Please keep nominating us if you see the links as this increases the possibility of an award - two local Christian charities won last year, so it's worth doing!

We continue to be extremely grateful to all those who regularly donate to our work, particularly in these challenging times. Our bursary schemes are increasingly being called upon and we have other financial needs that come with running a retreat centre in such an historic building. The art room doors and dilapidated pantry facade will be replaced in the coming months and we are planning for some major work to the exterior stonework and interior damp problems in the basement.

Ways to give...

- Bank transfer, reference 'donation'.
Sort Code: 09-01-55
Account number: 89225189
Account name: Penhurst Retreat
Centre Charitable Trust.
Please also email us so that we can trace your donation.
- Via our website using a credit/debit card or PayPal account.
- By phone using a credit/debit card.
Donations are processed via PayPal and fees deducted from the donation.
- Via Stewardship or Charities Aid Foundation (CAF).

Are you a UK tax-payer? Please remember to request and complete a Gift Aid declaration to increase your donation by 25%. **THANK YOU!**

Retreat Programme

We are busy working on next year's programme and have an exciting list of retreats planned. Some of our retreats for this year have also been re-arranged or cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and we have also got a few new additions. It is always best to go to our website at www.penhurst.org.uk for up to date information but here are a few of the changes.

Look for the Gold Within

With Sarah Chabowska and Libby Dobson

An opportunity to pause, and to dive a little deeper into the truth of your unique inner beauty and rest in the gold of God's presence within you.

Fri 11 - Sun 13 August

£325 residential, £215 non-residential

Running the Race - Preparing for 'Retirement'

With Evan Winter and Anne de Reybekill

For those who have been involved in full-time Christian ministry (UK and overseas) planning for retirement within the next 5 years, or in the first year or two after leaving their main ministry, to refocus their lives on discovering how God has plans for them in this next season of life.

Tue 29 August - Fri 1 September

£395 residential, £245 non-residential.

Mission Debrief - Singles and Couples Mon 4 - Thurs 7 September

With Wania Honman and Sandie Reeves

£425 residential, £275 non-residential

An opportunity for mission partners to process their transitions to the UK. Come and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the retreat centre as part of your home assignment or re-entry to the UK and take the opportunity to receive a personal debrief.

Discounts and Bursaries

For mission workers, a 10% discount applies if your organisation is a member of GLOBAL CONNECTIONS.

We also have bursary funds available for those who would struggle to pay the full costs of a retreat. Please contact us before booking to discuss this.

Prayerful Crochet: Making a Prayer Shawl

Wed 11 October

10am - 4pm with Vicki Cottingham

£40 per person

Come and crochet a prayer shawl, spending time praying for the person who will be receiving it. Whilst we crochet the shawl as a gift for someone else, the act of crocheting itself is a gift to ourselves as it is beneficial for our own mental and emotional well being.

Open Day for Clergy

Mon 30 October, 10am - 4pm, with Ven Martin Lloyd Williams

A 'Taste and See' day for clergy in and around south-east England. Experience Penhurst for yourself and raise awareness of this special resource to your church congregations. Advance booking essential.

How to Live a Well-Lived Life

With Andy Parnham

The weekend will explore what happiness and a well-lived life look like, the importance of relationships and how to find purpose and meaning.

Fri 17 - Sun 19 November

£285 residential, £175 non-residential

Advent Quiet Days

Mon 11 - Fri 15 December, £40 per day

A series of Advent quiet days, each with a different flavour and led by a member of our staff and volunteer team. Book in for one or more days, or why not come and stay overnight? Get in touch or go to the website for more details and overnight stay prices.

Recent guest feedback

The beauty of the house and surroundings is enhanced by the beautiful spiritual atmosphere.

What blessed me about this retreat was the Penhurst hospitality and welcome alongside insightful spiritual direction in community with others.

The one to one listening prayer time was so helpful, such a balm to my soul and so very much needed.



Trustee Changes

As a charity we are managed by a board of trustees, some of whom have been involved with the retreat centre since its earliest days. This year we have seen some changes to the board:

Martin Lee, trustee for over 20 years and Chair of Trustees for a considerable time, has resigned due to other commitments. Over the years, he put a huge amount of time and effort into making Penhurst Retreat Centre the place it is. We are grateful to God for him and pray that he would continue to know God's guidance, peace and joy in all he does.



We have also welcomed new trustees! **Doug Wakeling** has been coming to Penhurst as a guest with his wife Jackie for many years. Doug and Jackie have been involved in mission and lived overseas for a number of years. Since returning to the UK they have been involved in member care, including debriefing some of our guests! Doug and Jackie work best as a team, so Jackie will be acting as an advisor participating in board meetings, but without a vote on decisions.

John Richards also joins us as a trustee, bringing with him over 30 years experience in international banking and experience of living overseas, and since 'retiring', experience with both large and small organisations within the humanitarian and mission communities.



News of our Patrons

The role of our patrons is to support us in prayer and spread the word about Penhurst through their networks and contacts. We currently have five patrons:

Rt. Rev Ken Barham: formerly Priest-in-Charge of Ashburnham and Penhurst and Bishop of the Diocese of Cyanguu, Rwanda.

Sister Sharon Peters, P.C.J.: Pioneered the Olde House Retreat at Southam, Warks.

Richard Bickersteth: Trustee of the missionary-supporting Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust, and The Friends of Ashburnham & Penhurst Churches.

Tony Horsfall: An experienced retreat leader and popular author.

Amy Boucher Pye: An award-winning author, writer, speaker and retreat leader.



We are delighted that Richard Bickersteth has been appointed High Sheriff of East Sussex this year. This historic role involves serving as the King's representative for law and order in the county and taking an active part in supporting and promoting local voluntary organisations. He says, "*I am also keen to support and encourage young people, rural communities and all those voluntary organisations who work with them, especially those who are overlooked or vulnerable.*"

Let us keep Richard and his wife Rachel in our prayers this year as they travel the county meeting individuals and groups and offering support and encouragement.

Do pray for our trustees and patrons.

Give thanks to God for their faithful support and pray that He would guide and strengthen them in all they do. Particularly pray for our trustees as they work hard behind the scenes looking after all aspects of running the retreat centre as well as strategic planning.

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