

Penhurst News

Summer 2017

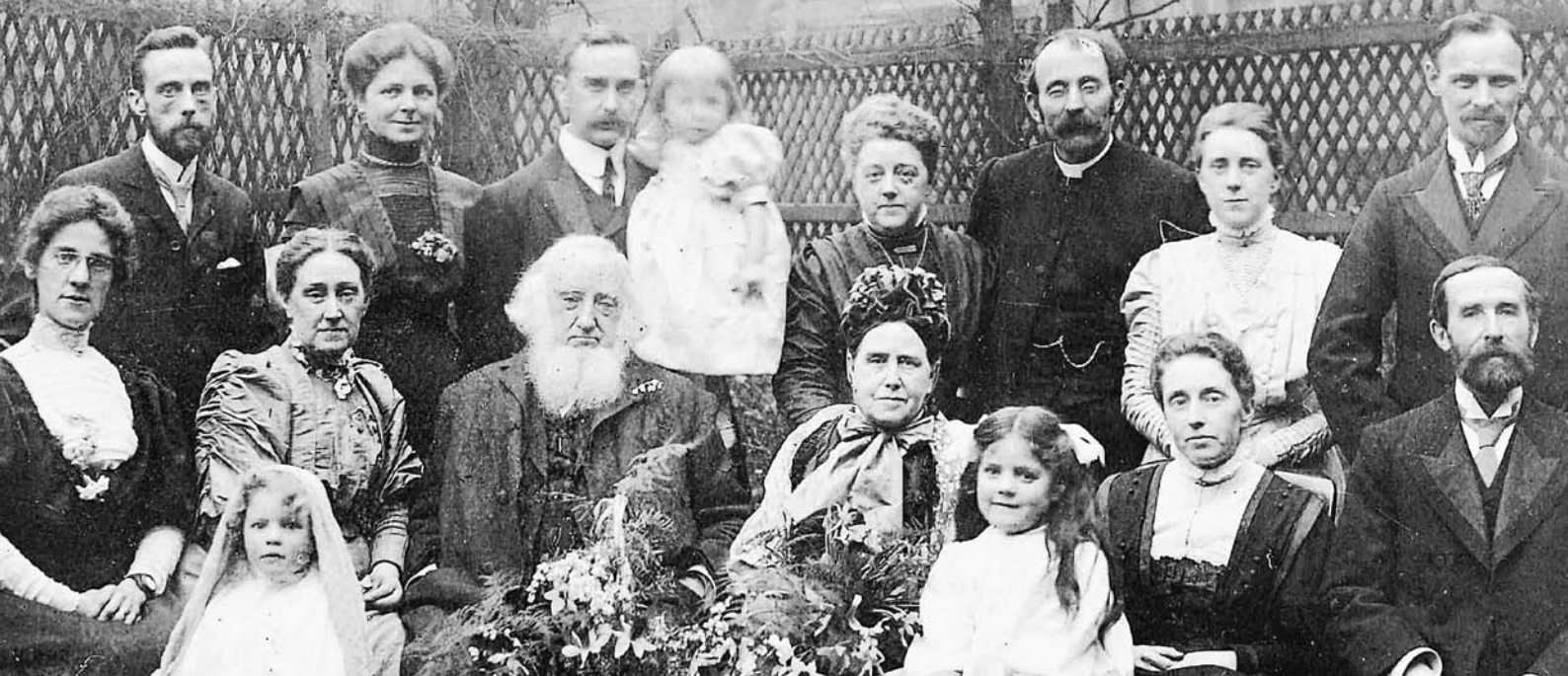
Welcome

Welcome to our latest e-newsletter. A lot has been happening here at Penhurst – the garden is now dressed in its early Summer finery (so many greens) and many guests have graced the Centre and found some much needed spiritual refreshment since our last mailing back in October. A number of you liked the cheery picture of Leo surrounded by apples – well, we are happy to report that they have all been juiced and the bottles are selling well. Of course, we kept some back for Janet's famous apple crumbles too! So, as ever, if you can find five minutes to read our little offering here, then we are sure that you will be able to sense the warmth of Penhurst as we write this looking out over the South lawn.

Richard and Storm



Penhurst
Retreat Centre
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A Special Visit

Earlier this year we had a visit from Ruth and Audrey, direct descendants of a rather amazing missionary family who, as many of you know, became linked to the Hudson Taylor family when Benjamin Broomhall married Amelia, the sister of James Hudson Taylor. As we sat in the sitting room which still contains some of the

family furniture, we looked together at old photos of Benjamin and Amelia and their family. How wonderful it was to have a couple currently based in China, wander into the room and join in the conversation too – the legacy continues. What a heritage of mission this Centre has and what a huge blessing and honour it is to continue that through the ministry here!



All Change

In response to two very busy years here we had a whole staff review in January to see how we could rejig our roles and responsibilities in order to continue to provide the loving service and support that has been the Godly hallmark of this place to date. The outcome was that we have appointed a new Assistant Housekeeper, Janice Turner. She has been a wonderful addition to the team – we're

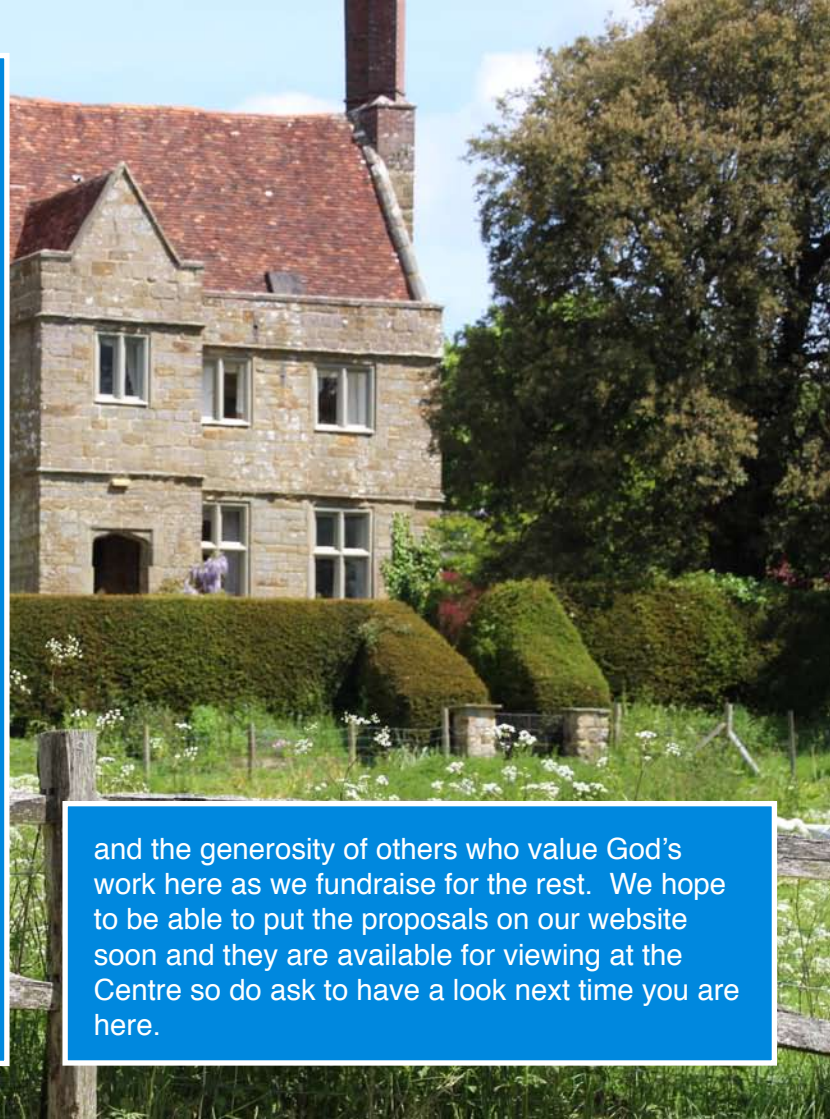
delighted to have her here and we're sure you will like her too. Denise will be spending more time on the administration of bookings and led retreats whilst continuing to host. Viv will be overseeing the housekeeping and the kitchen, and Janet will of course continue producing her scrumptious meals. Jay our trusty deputy has taken over some of the publicity areas and the co-ordinating of the Penhurst Family and Chris will continue to host, debrief and meet 1-1 with guests.

Looking to the Future

For some time Trustees and Staff have been praying about how best to approach a number of key decisions that need to be made regarding this wonderful old building. There is a need to upgrade some of the electrical cabling here as well as improve the quality of the water supply and the water pressure all around the house. Whilst this essential work is being carried out it seemed prudent to consider re-ordering the rooms in the main house to provide en-suite or a designated bathroom for all guests. The thought of en-suite provision was discussed at our first Penhurst Family Day last July and, since then, we have explored the possibility of making this a reality. After much prayer, consideration and consultation we are now in a place to launch the project, sensing that God's hand is on it.

We estimate that the work will cost around £150,000 with architects fees and loss of business for the time we will be closed adding a further £30,000 to the total. The confirmation that the timing was right came recently when we were pledged a substantial sum to get us started. However, we will now need to rely on God's grace

and the generosity of others who value God's work here as we fundraise for the rest. We hope to be able to put the proposals on our website soon and they are available for viewing at the Centre so do ask to have a look next time you are here.



Our Family Day 2017

This year the gathering of the Penhurst Family will be on Saturday, 24th June. The theme will be 'Setting forth, stepping out together' and all Family members are invited. If you wanted to make a weekend of it and stay overnight we will only be charging half price for Family members. If you haven't yet joined the Family then please consider it if you love this place. It is good to have friends praying for the Centre. If you e-mail Jay Ashworth on info@penhurst.org.uk she can give you more information or you can read more and subscribe to the Family mailing list in the 'About Us' section of the website.

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