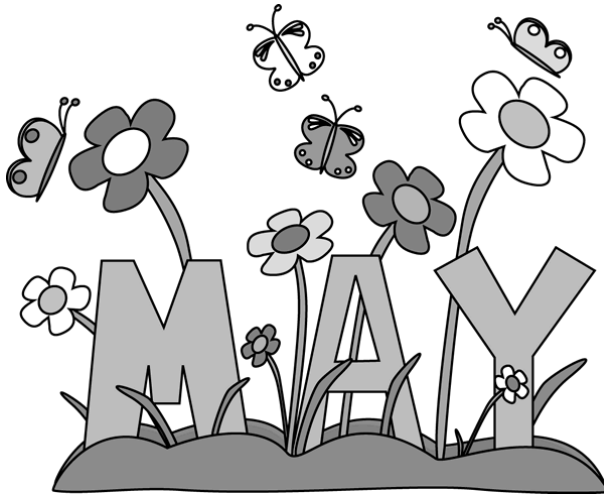


New Horizons

MAY 2017



THE CORNERSTONE



Bournemouth Park Road,
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5JL
(For car park on Central Ave, sat navs
use SS2 5HR no 59)

www.thecornerstonesouthend.org
Email: info@thecornerstonesouthend.org

Minister: Rev. SOHAIL EJAZ MA

WORSHIP AND ACTION

Sunday 10.30 am **Morning Worship** and Junior Church.
Holy Communion is celebrated during
Worship on the 4th Sunday

FAIRTRADE Coffee and tea is served after Morning Worship
Please stay to talk with each other in an informal atmosphere.

Sunday 6.30 pm **Evening Worship** will be held, and Holy
Communion celebrated, as set out in the
monthly magazine and as announced in Church.

Church Meetings are generally held in alternate months on the
third Thursday at 7.30 pm. The dates and times will be published in
this magazine and announced in Church.

Mon 5.30 pm Pilots. Ends at about 7.00 pm.

Tues 10.00 am 1 hour's Prayer for fellowship.
10.00 am Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
11.30 am "Cornerstone Crafters" with lunch
(1st and 3rd Tuesdays or as announced)
2.30 pm Christian Forum (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)
4.00 pm Messy Church First Tuesday in the month

Wed 10.00 am Parents and Toddlers during Term Time
5.45 pm Pilots. Ends at about 7.00 pm.

Thurs 6.00 pm Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts
7.45-9.15 Scouts
7.30 pm Elders' Meeting (1st Thursday)

Fri 7.45 pm Church Music Practice

House Groups are held each month at various venues - Contact
Mike Mead (House Group Co-ordinator), House Group Leaders or
the Church Secretary if you would like more information.

Little Turtles Pre-School meets on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am
during term time. Please see one of the Junior Church Leaders for
details.

Letter to the fellowship

Our Minister, Sohail, was away during the end of April on church business and was therefore unable to write his usual “Letter to the fellowship”. Therefore, your Editors hope that this article borrowed from another Church’s monthly magazine will fill that spiritual “gap”.

Never Far Away



We can only imagine how the two travellers to Emmaus felt knowing that Jesus had died. Gone were their hopes for a bright future. They thought God had let them down. They had suffered a cruel blow and were bewildered and upset.

In their grief, the risen Jesus came alongside them and spoke with them at length but somehow they didn’t recognise Him. Why was this, and why did Jesus intend to leave them at Emmaus without first revealing who He was?

The answers may be found by looking back at the encounters Jesus had with people. He never forced His true nature onto anyone. Every individual had to make up their own mind as to who He was, and to decide if the things He said were true.

Today, Jesus does not ‘gate-crash’ into our lives. In a number of ways He gently and persuasively reveals Himself. So, the story of the walk to Emmaus should encourage us each time we feel His absence; at those times when we thought He would step in and immediately solve our problems! On *our* journey of life, we can have times of sadness and it can seem as though God is far away. But while we are thinking that Jesus has left us alone, He is actually with us. He knows where we are and what we are feeling. He can quietly draw alongside us. Surprisingly, it can sometimes be in situations of sadness and solitude that Jesus ‘speaks’ to us more clearly.

He is present in the here and now. Jesus is the unseen companion on every journey and the unseen guest at every meal. In His way and in His time, our Lord reveals Himself to us in different situations. We may be aware of His presence in surprising circumstances and on unexpected occasions. How important it is that we stay alert.

There will be times when we will be like those two men on the Emmaus Road, search for answers. We will earnestly desire clear and direct answers to our questions and the knowledge, understanding or revelation may be slow to come. But, with Jesus, there are many lessons to be learnt along *our* Emmaus Road than would have been discovered any other way.

Further reading: Luke 24: 13-35

Prayers for our Fellowship and those we know

Prayers can be for joy and sorrow, health and sickness, good news and bad in addition to those for our own needs and guidance.



We keep in our prayers all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, give them your peace Lord and the knowledge that family and friends are there for them to lean on when life is difficult.

There are many who find it difficult to get to Worship week by week and we think especially of Hilda Burgess, Ann Cassells and Hilda Prior. We pray for those who are ill, in constant pain, recovering, and awaiting treatment:

Andy Anderson, Ann Crowhurst, Roy Davis, Pat Goodhew, Olive Goodyear, Peter Hunt, Margaret King and Teddy Taylor.

We also pray for those of our fellowship who are finding life difficult at the present time either with health, job or family worries. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God knows of all their difficulties and hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers **Amen**

Please feel free to use the Prayer Book placed on the Prayer Table, in the Foyer, to write down any names or events you want to be prayed for during the Service.



Do make use of our prayer cards, whether to give thanks or to request prayers in specific need. You may remain anonymous if you wish. There is a collection box on the prayer table in the foyer.

Requests will be prayed over at the Tuesday prayer group and other appropriate times.

For prayers during Sunday Service, please continue to use the prayer book on the table.

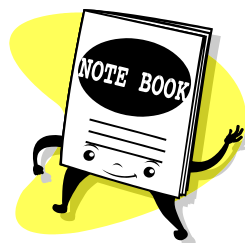
Prayers for people and matters outside of our fellowship

As we move towards a General Election, please pray that all politicians, candidates and party workers express thoughts in line with Christian ideals and treat each other with respect.

Also that all people listen to all that is said and done and come to a decision that is fair and just so that the United Kingdom might be a beacon to the rest of the world at these difficult times.

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Water Aid Lent Appeal; at the time of writing I do not have the final figure but I'm sure it will be published soon. Particular thanks to Ann and Mick for the hours counting small change, as I helped Mick carry it to the bank I know there was a lot of it and it was very heavy!



The chilly end to April has meant very little in the way of planting out in the garden and my greenhouse is currently home to tomatoes, courgettes and beans as well as sundry herbs. Hopefully May will be better and we can get on with moving stuff outside. If you would like a tomato plant or several, please speak up!



Holy Week

Messy Church in April explored the Palm Sunday narrative, and some of our makes and decorations were able to stay in place for Palm Sunday and the Easter Family Day the following week. This was closely

followed by three very different services led by our Minister on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Special music was contributed by the singing group on Good Friday and Easter Day, and by the orchestra for the Easter service. We also enjoyed hot cross buns with coffee before the service while waiting for our Minister to arrive from Southchurch Park. As part of our Easter giving, fresh and chocolate eggs were collected and have been delivered to the local Refuge.

Other services during April were led by John Amos who shared some information on the work of the Romania Crestin Trust, and Roger Brett as a thank you and follow up to the TRIO presentations.

Mary and I attended the Area Partnership Meeting at Wickford on 25th April, joining together with other churches across South Essex to worship, exchange news and pray for each other's work and witness. It was a most enjoyable evening. The next AP Meeting is in September when there will be a visit from Mr Alan Yates, one of the General Assembly Moderators. More news of this nearer the date.

The advertisement for the proposed Children and Family Worker has been published and we value your prayers for the process, that the right person for our church will come forward. All being well, we will be interviewing on Friday 19th May with a view to an appointment commencing in September.

Ruth Dixon

News from the Forum (2nd & 4th Tuesday each month)

As we come to the end of April we can report on another interesting month at the Christian Forum which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons each month in the Foyer @ 2.30pm. All are welcome to join us at any of our meetings which take a very varied format.

This month we have had two contrasting meetings. The first one, on the 11th of April was arranged for us by one of our own number, Shelagh Root. Whenever Shelagh sets us a Quiz you can guarantee that you will have to think quite hard to attempt the answers, whilst in the background Shelagh offers such encouragement as "It's really easy you know". That may be so and usually when she gives us the answers it all becomes magically clear and you wonder why you couldn't think about it at the time!!



OK, so test yourselves with a couple of examples from the last one:

- 90=D in a RA, easy?

So what about this one:

- 1,2=BMS or 5=gGR(TDOC) or
- 54-C in a D (with j's)

I wonder if those of us who did it can remember what they were?

I meet in a group regularly, where the leader also runs a quizzing group and she was very impressed with the thinking that Shelagh had put into the Quiz we had. Thank you Shelagh for an entertaining afternoon.

Then on the 25th of April we had a visit from John Amos, always a lovely man to meet with and a very good, clear speaker. The latter is very important to a group where hearing aids are very much part of life. John has been a Street Pastor in Southend now for just over a year and he gave us a good insight into the whys and wherefores of being in that role.

He told us that their start time on a Friday and Saturday night down in the heart of the club scene in Southend is 10.00 pm and an early return home is around 2.30 am. More often they are still out on the street until 4.00 am dealing with teenagers who have lived the high life a bit too vigorously and John said that the team give out any number of flip flops! Why? Because these young girls start out in extremely high heeled shoes but by the end of the night they are carrying them and walking in the streets in bare feet.

They also watch over the rough sleepers and we were to hear that often these men and women are there because they want to be, not because they are destitute. John told us that the pastors do not try to influence people's life styles but really act as befrienders just to let folk know that someone cares. He told us that in the early days of training one would-be pastor was asked why she was doing it and her reply was just that "to show I care and if Jesus was here today he would be doing it"

What more is there to say except Thank you John, and we look forward to a return visit.

Alison Shannon

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

Thank You.



May we say "Thank You" to all of the ladies who ensured that we had plenty of Hot Cross Buns with our tea and coffee during the Easter period. Not forgetting all who provide teas and coffees for the whole of the year.

Also, many thanks to all those who contributed, in any way, to our Easter Services and making our journey through Easter Week so meaningful.



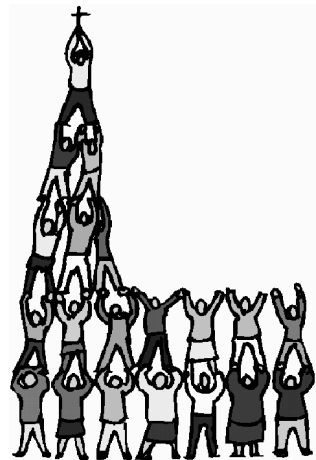
Peter's Piece - Praying Together.

This third 'thoughts on prayer' concerns praying together.

We do, of course, pray together as we are led in prayer during the course of a service. When, we no doubt, listening, confirm with our hearts and minds, the prayers being expressed, make them our own, so we truly mean our Amen said aloud, at the end. But we seldom have the opportunity to join in by praying aloud for the concerns on our minds; in a service of public worship it is difficult and not necessarily appropriate to accommodate this; we can however always pray in the quietness of our own hearts, during a silent pause or at the conclusion of the formal service, while the voluntary is being played and before all rise from their seats with all sorts of unrelated conversations beginning.

It seems the very early Christians met for the specific purpose of prayer, Acts 2:42. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Praying together is one of the four foundation activities of a Church fellowship - learning from God's Word together, having fellowship with one another together, celebrating Holy Communion together and praying together. We need, as a Church, all four!



Later in Acts we see that prayer was not only part of the other three activities but, especially as need arose, just meeting for prayer. For example when Peter was imprisoned, whilst Peter was kept in prison, the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Read the account in Acts 12:1-19 and see the answer God gave to their praying, it was beyond their belief!

Meeting together, primarily to pray, is a life line activity of the church fellowship when we can spend that time praying for the fellowship, our families, Southend and the world - we too might be astounded at the answers God would give!

The opportunity is there every Tuesday morning at 10.00 am. We commence by letting God's Word prepare our hearts and minds and then sharing together and praying together: the sharing together is part of praying together! Anyone is free, as they feel prompted, to lead by praying aloud but there is no expectation for anyone to pray aloud, just the opportunity; come and pray, even by just praying in the quietness of your own heart.

Perhaps if we followed the example of the early Church and as a Church not only meet for learning, fellowship and Communion but also for prayer we too might be surprised by God's answering?

Peter Hunt

Harvest Festival Service on 24th September 2017
Meal and Entertainment on 30th September.



All Change! All Change! Participants expecting to take part in our Harvest Event on the 23rd September 2017 please change here!

At the last Elders' Meeting we learned of a clash of dates with a Multi-Cultural event being held at Crowstone United Reformed Church on the 23rd September 2017. At least one member of our performing team has been asked to participate and once the event is fully announced others from our fellowship may wish to attend.

To allow this to happen the date of our Harvest Meal and Entertainment evening will now be the 30th September 2017

But we still need you to volunteer.

I have had conversations with a possible Joyce Grenfell and a possible Flanders and Swann although Hinge and Bracket have yet to show themselves. I know who you are. If you have anything that you want to do please let me know

Song ideas for community singing: These would be good. The earlier the better so that I can get all the words together and Nigel/Clive can find the music.

Culinary Skills. I had another conversation and this time it was with someone who is, according to his wife, a great potato masher so Sausage and Mash may become an option unless you have something that you would prefer to cook. In which case let me know.

A notice will go up on the board in the Foyer in case something comes to mind whilst you are on the premises otherwise if you are interested please contact Roger Brett for an informal discussion.

Just a reminder

Although the Harvest Meal has been changed to Saturday 30th September, the Harvest Festival Service will still be held on Sunday 24th September.

Need some help?



SMSFitness, which is run by Steve, is one of the many organisations that use our premises and, as the name suggests, runs fitness classes of various types in our hall.

Steve is now widening the choice of classes he offers by running a series of courses and workshops that concentrate on self-defence to deal with any physical conflict.

The information available is too detailed to put in this magazine so, if you are interested please contact Steve direct on 07743 315867.

Knitting and crocheting for Greenbelt

You may have heard that many of the Crafters that meet on a Tuesday have been busy knitting food. I thought it might be an idea to share with you what this is all about.



For its second year, The United Reformed Church is an associate partner of Greenbelt, the Christian Arts festival which takes place at Boughton House, Northamptonshire, over the August Bank Holiday. Last year we had a very successful festival around the title of 'Scrap the Church?' There was a large art installation, panel discussion, discussion sessions with younger festival goers and 'Pop Up Liturgies'. One of the more successful activities was the treasure hunt arranged for families who had to find a star, each decorated by our thirteen Synods.

As part of this year's theme of 'More Than Welcome' and using the story of the great banquet, we are preparing a knitted food themed treasure hunt. The hunt will take festival goers to hampers dotted around the site. They will answer questions on food/feast stories from the Bible and collect various knitted food items. They will then be asked to add the fruit to an empty banqueting area in the URC tent so that over the course of the weekend the area goes from being empty to abundant. New this year will be a knit/pompom make and natter area where conversations on how the church can be more welcoming can develop in a non-threatening way. There will also be street theatre and a range of speakers in the tent.

On the last day of the festival, volunteers will head out into the crowds to distribute the knitted food. An attached postcard will let

people know that it is a gift from the URC to remind them of Greenbelt, and will include a food for thought/challenge to take away with them as well as a list of where to find useful resources on the theme of 'More than Welcome'.

A real strength of last year's URC presence was the fact that the Synods had been involved by decorating the stars so, with that in mind, we thought it would be great to get as many URCs involved with knitting the food as possible. Already we have over 50 signed up. We have heard of small churches being involved in a national project for the first time and of a group setup for those living with dementia who have found great joy in knitting simple items. The 'More than Welcome' is already working amongst congregations.

I know many at Crafters are busy knitting, so a very big thank you from the Greenbelt planning group for your part in this. It will be a great weekend filled with worship, challenges and fun.

On a separate note: Commitment for Life is 25 years old this year and there are special events happening throughout the year. One of these is a visit, in May, to Christian Aid partners in Zimbabwe. Both I and the supporters group would appreciate prayers as we see how the money raised by Commitment for Life is used and hear many inspirational stories. I am sure I will share my experiences during our annual CforL service in October.

Linda Mead

THE CORNERSTONE PILOTS COMPANY



Over the past ten weeks the Pilots have been having great fun learning the story of Moses and the Israelites journey to the Promised Land. We have found out about the baby in the basket, Moses time in the desert and the burning bush, the ten plagues, the crossing of the Red Sea, the manna and quails, the ten commandments, the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle, the 12 spies in Canaan and the battle of Jericho.

We have discovered the story through games, crafts, videos, drama, storytelling and songs. We are now preparing for our special Pilots Sunday service on 11th June where we will be giving a

dramatic telling of the story of Moses up to the crossing of the Red Sea, with lots of songs and participation from the whole congregation. At the July family service we will be telling the rest of the story. So we do hope that you will come along and support both of these services and find out about what your Pilots Company has been doing.

Derek Goodyear, Pilots Captain

EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Following the success of the two family fun days last August, and at the request of many of the children who were asking us to do another, we decided to organise "The Totally Eggscellent Easter Eggsperience". This all-age family event took place on Wednesday, 12th April, and we told the story of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to the resurrection, through games, crafts, storytelling and songs.



We started the day with some fun craft and game activity bases that the children could do as many or as few of as they liked as they arrived and then into some team games. Then we were into the church for the first part of the Easter story and some songs. Craft activities followed, with cross painting, sheep puppets, bookmarks, Easter gardens, an Easter wreath, and an Egg Shell mural. Back into church for the next part of the story and then a break for lunch.

After lunch more games, followed by another chance for the children to do the craft activities so they could do those they hadn't had the chance to do in the morning. We had planned to finish the day with a final celebration in the church, but most of the families had been with us since 10 am and by 2.30, certainly the very youngest ones (and I think by that time most of the helpers) were getting very tired so we decided to finish a little earlier than planned. But we can learn for next time and will slightly shorten the day. I am pleased however to say that in spite of that, the day was another great success. We welcomed 110 during the course of the day. Not all were there the whole time, but at one point we did have 96 on the premises!

My thanks to everyone who came along and helped on the day, I'm sure like me by the end you were exhausted but had found it every rewarding. Watch this space for details of our summer fun days !

Derek Goodyear

Miscellaneous observations:

- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President and 50 for Miss America?
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Prayer in Peril

Three ministers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely best," claimed one minister.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor."

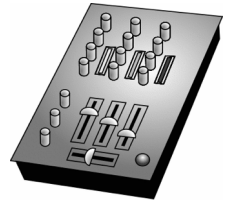
The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry," he blurted out, "but the best praying I ever did was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."

You Matter

You might think that you don't matter in this world,
but because of you
someone has a favourite mug to drink their
tea out of that you bought them.
Someone hears a song on the radio and it reminds them of you.
Someone has read a book you recommended
to them and gotten lost in its pages.
Someone's remembered a joke you told them
and smiled to themselves on the bus.
Never think you don't have an impact.
Your fingerprints can't be wiped away from the
little marks of kindness that you've left behind.

Recording of services

We are now sound recording every Sunday service, so please let Vic Crowhurst know if you would like a copy for yourself, someone who could not be with us that day or perhaps to give to someone to listen to how well we sing! For special and festival services we may make video recordings and if you would not wish to appear in these, then please speak to anyone at the sound and vision desk before the service starts. There should be a prior warning of the services involved.



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 4th June and we are grateful for items at any time **but** the latest time for submission is **9.00 a.m. on Thursday May 25th please.**

**A large print version of this magazine is available.
Please ask an editor if you would like one.**

**Alternatively you can view it on line.
See the website address on the front cover**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Also see weekly Notice Sheet)

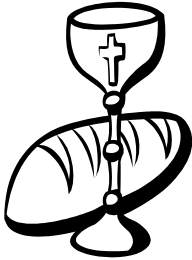
May

Sun	7 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev Clive Pegler
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
Thurs	11 th	7.30 p.m.	P.M.G. Meeting	
Sat	13 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	14 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Church Parade	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	18 th	7.00 p.m.	"Digging Deeper" - Bible Study	
Sun	21 st	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Keith Berry
Thurs	25 th	7.15 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
		7.30 p.m.	Church Meeting	
Sun	28 th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	

June

Thurs	1 st	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	3 rd	1.00 p.m.	Ann & Gary's wedding	
Sun	4 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Robert Wiseman
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
Sat	10 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
		9.30 a.m.	Synod Day at Suffolk Showground	
			Ipswich IP3 8UH	
			Adults £6 Children free	
			Packed lunch and refreshments on arrival are included.	
			Rayleigh URC are arranging a coach.	
			Please see Secretary for details.	
Sun	11 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Church Parade, led by Pilots and our Minister, on the subject of Moses	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	15 th	7.30 p.m.	"Digging Deeper" - Bible Study	

Communion Offerings



These collections are taken at the two Sunday Communion Services during the last hymn and are for charitable organisations outside of The Cornerstone.

Thank you for your generosity in April for donating £69.30 to Christian Aid.

May	The Leprosy Mission
June	RNLI

Flower Donations

May

7 th	Robert Wiseman in memory of Joan
14 th	Stella Yates
21 st	Alan Barnes (in memory of Jenny) on what would have been their Ruby Wedding Anniversary
28 th	Vic and Ann Crowhurst



June

4 th	Rena Hume
11 th	Winnie Holmes
18 th	Colin and Gwen McMillan
25 th	Ann & Mick Thorp

July

2 nd	Church Anniversary
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Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

May	7 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	14 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	21 st	Alison Shannon and Jacqui Wilson
	28 th	Maureen Stone and Sandra Milbourn
June	4 th	Linda and Mike Mead
	11 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

May	2 nd	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	9 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	16 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	23 rd	Alison Shannon and Sandra Milbourn
	30 th	Machrina Ejaz
June	6 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	13 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone



Life is all about Balance

You don't **always** need to be getting stuff done.
Sometimes it's **perfectly okay** and
absolutely necessary
to shut down, kick back
and **do** nothing

WHO'S WHO?

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA	(01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Ruth Dixon	(01702) 464186
Treasurer	Ann Thorp	(07753 348856)
Envelopes	Mick Thorp	(01702) 300768
Gift Aid	David Osborn	(01702) 611337
Preachers List	Mary Goodhew	(01702) 467512
Junior Church	Ruth Dixon	(01702) 464186
Joint Leaders	Mary Goodhew	(01702) 467512
Pilots	Derek Goodyear Jacqui Wilson	07863 208914 (01702) 302879
Parents & Toddlers	Jacqui Wilson	(01702) 302879
Scout Group	Lorna Skippon	(01702) 477309
Christian Forum	Allan Prior	(01702) 465617
House Groups	Mike Mead	(01702) 465443
Use of Premises	Roger Brett	(01702) 479874
Flower arranging	Joan Harvey Val Mead	(01702) 331023 (01702) 296189
Editorial Team	Anne Clarke af.clarke52@gmail.com Michael Wardle mjb23wardle@btinternet.com	(01702) 293102 (01702) 613840

Please remember that your Elders are ordained to serve our members and friends who have pastoral concerns.

We do offer Christian Marriage, Baptisms and Funerals so please talk to the Secretary or any Elder if you feel that we can help.