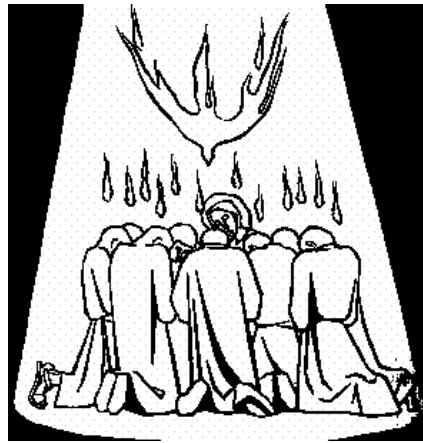


New Horizons

JUNE 2017



Spirit of the Living God

THE **CORNERSTONE**



The
United
Reformed
Church

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

Responding to God



You must have heard these questions again and again; "Is God still speaking? If God is still speaking, how does he do that? How do/should we human beings respond to it?

There are a number of examples, evidences in the Bible where God directly or indirectly spoke to people. Through angels, animals, dreams, visions, symbolic actions, a gentle whisper, miraculous signs and of course directly himself.

Hebrews 1: 1 - 2 says, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe".

While on the road to Damascus, Jesus appeared to Saul, blinded him and directed him to go to Damascus. There, God spoke to Ananias of Saul and told to lay hands on this troubled man. Ananias did as he commanded and Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit, healed of his blindness and immediately baptized.

In another instance, while Cornelius was praying, God sent an angel to tell him "Go and find Peter and he shall tell you what you need to do." Acts 10. Cornelius, along with his household and friends, did what he commanded, and God used Peter to bring them all into the Kingdom!

God could have easily brought both Saul and Cornelius into the Kingdom without the intervention of any believer - but that was not his plan. He used Ananias, Peter and countless others to finish what He had already started!

In the same way, God wants to include us in his plans! He has been speaking to people in our families, neighbourhoods, offices and everywhere else we go! He has been drawing them gently and He wants us to be a part of their salvation!

Ask God for a fresh filling every day, and he will prepare our hearts to hear God's voice. His Spirit, that still, small voice inside us, is the One who will remind us of what God said, and help us recognize God's opportunities in our lives. Let's start listening to his voice - let's be open to hearing His direction; for ourselves and others around us!

God bless,
Sohail

You came to interpret and teach us effectively
all that the Saviour has spoken and done;
to glorify Jesus is all Your activity,
promise and gift of the Father and Son:

*Spirit of Holiness,
wisdom and faithfulness,
wind of the Lord,
blowing strongly and free;
strength of our serving
and joy of our worshipping,
Spirit of God,
bring Your fullness to me!*

You came with Your gifts to supply all our poverty,
pouring Your love on the church in her need;
You came with Your fruit for our growth to maturity,
richly refreshing the souls that You feed:

*Spirit of Holiness,
wisdom and faithfulness,
wind of the Lord,
blowing strongly and free;
strength of our serving
and joy of our worshipping,
Spirit of God,
bring Your fullness to me!*

**Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns MP611
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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, Kathy Shinn 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

The world is in turmoil following the bombing in Manchester and we pray for all of the families and friends who are suffering bereavement after such an evil attack. We also pray for those injured and those who watch and wait. Bless all the doctors, nurses and medical staff as they treat the injured and for their rapid response on the night of the attack.

Show us how to respond Lord

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

As I write, the sun is shining, the breeze is warm and it is very pleasant to be out. And I'm indoors at the keyboard! Not for very long I hope.

May has been a challenging month, not the least because we did not get a response to our advertisement for a Children and Families' worker, so a debrief meeting involved some soul-searching and prayer. We will be advertising again in September, to a wider field, but if you hear in the meantime of anyone who might be suitable please do speak to Val Mead.



home some very noisy trumpets!
their special service on 11th June.

Our Messy Church on 2nd May took the theme "Make a Joyful Noise" and considered why it is that human beings praise God. The crafts involved making various musical instruments which was popular with the children, if not the parents. Incidentally a week or so later the Pilots' group was studying the Fall of Jericho, and took Pilots is now busy preparing for

On 7th May, Rev Clive Pegler led our morning service and our Minister, Sohail took the evening communion, which unfortunately I had to miss due to a developing chest infection. I understand the parade service the following Sunday was well received. On 21st May we had a fist visit from Mr Keith Berry of Rayleigh; Keith took us back to our school days with talk of Archimedes and Pythagoras! The last Sunday was our monthly morning communion led by our Minister.

During the month I had the privilege of attending the URC Mission Council, to represent Eastern Synod. This is the body that carries on the business of the church between General Assemblies, and instructs various committees to carry out pieces of work, receives reports and passes resolutions (or not). If you are curious, you can look at some of the papers here: <http://urc.org.uk/about-mission-council/936-papers.html>

By far the biggest item for discussion was the future of the Windermere Centre; Windermere has been a delightful place to attend for conferences and workshops, but is not suitable for large gatherings, and rather out of the way for much of the country. Sadly it was decided now is the time to close the centre and devolve its activities. It is intended that the property be disposed of and the money raised will be a designated investment fund for lay training at local level. This, alongside development in digital media, should mean more people will have access to what Windermere had to offer, without having to travel a long way. End of an era? Yes. Exciting opportunity? Yes again.

The first weekend in July looks to be ‘action packed’. On the Saturday evening we are having a Supper and Quiz Night in aid of Lekkerwater School in Zimbabwe. The following day we celebrate our Church Anniversary, and after the service join together for a Bring and Share lunch, concluding with Holy Communion.

As you are already aware our Harvest Supper will now be on 30th September to enable those who wish to, to participate in ‘Down by the River’ at Crowstone St George’s, on 23rd.

At the Church Meeting last month it was agreed that our September meeting (28th) will give way to an Area Partnership event in

Rayleigh, when Mr Alan Yates, Lay Moderator of General Assembly, will visit. It is good to join national and area events that take place local to us, so please do take these opportunities.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated the wedding of our treasurer, Ann, to Gary and I am sure you will want to join me to wish them every happiness in the years ahead.

Ruth Dixon

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

We are approaching the end of another Forum Year as we go into June. The Forum which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm in the Foyer has a break each year between June and September.



Our meetings in June are planned and on the 13th we have a visit from Joanne Morris, from the Home Instead group. She will be coming with one of her colleagues, and they will be talking to us about the sort of fraud which is targeted particularly at the senior groups in our society. Some of you have

met her before when she came to collect the muffs, gloves, hats and lap cushions we made at Crafters. Then we finish with our Afternoon Tea on the 27th.

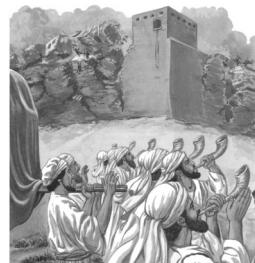
This month we heard about the two ends of our age spectrum at the Cornerstone. For our first meeting Andy Anderson told us his life story, from his early years at the schools, now long vanished in Southend (well as schools anyway), and his early years in church life as a Methodist. He went onto tell us about his working life on the railways and of course his memorable trip in the cab for his birthday.

Then we leapt to the other end and Jacqui Wilson gave us an insight into the life at the Pilots group. This is a Bible based youth group which aims to introduce children between five and eighteen to the Bible stories and their relevance for today. There are games and activities all with the biblical base, the children make things which they take home and hopefully these will become a talking point for the family. It was sobering to hear Jacqui tell us that although at

present they have thirty children on their books aged between five and eleven, none of them have any Bible knowledge when they start. School R.E. as we knew it has become very multicultural and the assemblies and lessons which gave previous generations a glimpse into that world don't take that format any more.

We look forward to the June and July Pilots services when we are promised the River Nile flowing down the church and who knows even the walls of Jericho falling, as the group re-enacts their activities about Moses and the promised land.

Do come along if you can to one of our meetings, we restart in September with our AGM a very gentle reminder of the past year and looking to the future.



Please contact me for any more information.

Alison Shannon

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP



We wish Ann & Gary much happiness as they unite in Marriage at The Cornerstone on Saturday 3rd June @ 1 p.m.

God's blessing on you both for your future together.

We also send our best wishes to Anne and Shawn Clarke who both retired last month after 22 years and 21 years, respectively, in their most recent jobs.

Both of them are looking forward to spending some time relaxing and enjoying their garden before the arrival of their second grandchild at the end of August.



THE CORNERSTONE FAMILY QUIZ

In aid of the building project,
Lekkerwater Secondary School,
Zimbabwe

Saturday 1st July @ 5.30 p.m.

£8.00 a head, (£5 for children or those not requiring food)

Bring friends & family along to another light-hearted quiz. We start at 5.30 with a fish or chicken & chip supper. Tables of 8 - can be made up on the night.

Tea & coffee are served but bring your own non-alcoholic drinks and glasses.

There will be a raffle & prizes would be gratefully received nearer the time. Please book your places by signing the list at the back of the Church with your food preference. Money to Ann Crowhurst please.

If you haven't been before please join us, it's a good way to get to know others, you don't have to be a member of Mensa, you will be most welcome.

Ann Crowhurst

Peter's Piece



Exile

We are familiar with the condition of exile. Not an experience for most of us who, thanks to God's graciousness, live peacefully in the country of our birth. But the question of immigration and the constant news of hundreds of thousands of people having, for a variety of reasons, to flee their own country, many at great personal risk, brings the subject constantly to our attention.

Exile does not always have refuge as the cause as it can be because of a way of life, of choice or calling or employment. Whether refuge or choice, exile is living in an alien country that, despite the welcome and acceptance that may well be given by the host country, it is not ‘home’. Ask Sohail or Machrina!

This exile theme runs through the Bible, in both old and new testaments, from Genesis to Revelation; exile for the whole human race: for in Genesis 3, after the sin of Adam and Eve we read that - *the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken*¹. The whole human race is living in exile, ‘this world is not my home’.² God had originally designed us, ‘in his image’ to be ‘at home’, living with him.

Through the Bible history of Israel with her exiles, in Egypt and in Babylon³, her kingdom is still not restored from that exile, God is telling us that it is not just Israel needing to be released from exile, but the whole human race needs release from the exile of the Garden banishment. Graciously God has made provision for that in Jesus the Messiah and his death on the cross for our sin, for by faith in him we can be made heirs together with the faithful of Israel, of God’s promises⁴ of a new and better ‘home’ country.

Hebrews chapters 11 and 12 use the example of the faithful men and women throughout the OT, to encourage us to see that this world is not our home, but trusting in what Jesus has done for us, live out our lives here as exiles, looking forward to the Day of Resurrection when changed, we shall rise to meet the Lord and be with him forever in that new and better country, where *God’s dwelling-place will be among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God*⁵. Our exile over! Hallelujah; thanks be to God.

Peter Hunt

¹ Genesis 3:22-23

² Hebrews 13:14 and the African-American traditional song of that title.

³ Psalm 137 presents a poignant picture of their feelings during the exile. [Made well known in the song ‘Rivers of Babylon’ by the group Boney M]

⁴ Ephesians 2:6

⁵ Revelation 21:3

Tricks of the Trade

In past times, when working with marble was less exact, mistakes were frequent. A lesser craftsman could cover up the defect with wax, smoothing it off to a polished finish. In time, with exposure to heat the wax would peel away revealing the underlying flaw. To protect their good name, an artist would often advertise their wares as Sine Cere (without wax), from which we get the word ‘sincere’. It’s a word we use and like many familiar phrases, we have trivialised ‘sincere’. From its use in letters and speeches, ‘sincerely’ has got a bad press. Sometimes its use can draw more attention to a defect underneath, leading us into its sister ‘hypocrisy’.

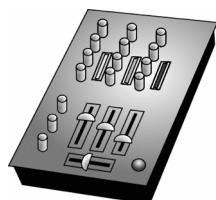
Jesus had little stomach for hypocrisy. Few of us do. ‘Hypocrite’, one of the harshest words in our language, is reserved for people we find particularly two-faced. The funny thing about hypocrites; they are usually the last to recognise that they are.

The challenge: To speak and live the truth with integrity, in charity and love. Be real. Be truthful. Be a doer rather than an armchair critic. Avoid getting caught up in other people’s trivial foibles when you might have some substantial problems of your own. Try to understand the other person’s point of view.

Finally, remember, when you are pointing the finger at anyone - you’ll find at least two more on your hand pointing back at you.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Also see weekly Notice Sheet)

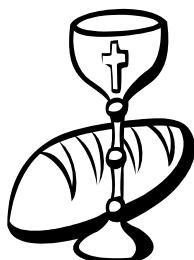
June

Sun	4 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Robert Wiseman
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
Tues	6 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	8 th	7.00 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Polling Station for General Election	
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 (part 1)	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	15 th	7.30 p.m.	“Digging Deeper” - Bible Study	
Sun	18 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Janette Stevens
Sun	25 th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	

July

Sat	1 st	5.30 p.m.	Quiz night in aid of Zimbabwe School Project	
Sun	2 nd	10.30 a.m.	Church Anniversary	Our Minister
			Followed by Bring and Share Lunch After the lunch we will share Holy Communion together.	
Tues	4 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	6 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders’ Meeting	
Sat	8 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Church Parade, led by Pilots and Junior Church (Moses, Part 2)	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	

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 May for donating £78.20 to the Leprosy Mission

June RNLI

July HARP (Southend Centre for Homeless)

Flower Donations

June

- 4th Rena Hume
11th Winn Holmes
Additional flowers given by
Rev Celia and Geoff Whitman - in
memory of their daughter Juliet
18th Colin and Gwen McMillan
25th Ann & Mick Thorp



July

- 2nd Church Anniversary
9th Mary, Clive & Pat Goodhew
16th Hey family - in memory of
Joyce, Mac & Bernice
23rd Rev Derek & Leng Kingston
30th Roy & Trixie Davis

Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

June	4 th	Linda and Mike Mead
	11 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	18 th	Val Hayman and Stella Yates
	25 th	Stella Duboux and Jan Fox
July	2 nd	Machrina Ejaz
	9 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

June	6 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	13 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	20 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	27 th	Alison Shannon and Sandra Milbourn
July	4 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	11 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 2nd July and we are grateful for items at any time but the latest time for submission is 9.00 a.m. on Thursday June 22nd please.

A forward reminder that the Summer Issue will be a combined one for the months of August and September.

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

WHO'S WHO?

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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	Alison Shannon	(01702) 464737
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Use of Premises	Roger Brett	(01702) 479874
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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.