

New Horizons

MARCH 2018



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.uk
Email:
cornerstonequestions@outlook.com

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.

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 (1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays or as announced)
	2.30 pm	Christian Forum (2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays)
	4.00 pm	Messy Church First Tuesday in the month
Wed	9.30 am	The Cornerstone 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 (1 st Thursday)
Fri	7.45 pm	Church Music Practice

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



"It is Written"

We all walk through the various trials that we may face every day. Regardless of our culture or age, we all experience so many forms of tests that come to us during our lifetime. Even Jesus, went through the same trials and tests in the wilderness. He did not get any special treatment from His Father, in fact it was the Spirit of His Father led him to the place of testing. It was not in a place located beside still waters. It was in the wilderness, a place to see if Jesus would rely on the Word to keep him. His only resource of help was the Holy Spirit that dwelled within him. He was successful in all his trials, and was able to say, ***"it is written"***.

The scripture reminds us that the Bible prepares us and sustains us for living and for handling the stress and the wilderness we encounter. It's through reading scripture that we can get a better understanding of who God is and how He wants to work in our lives. When we read the Bible, we have an opportunity to draw close to God and to sense His presence. And it's when we are in God's presence that we can have peace and receive strength that will sustain us through tough times.

The more frequently we read scripture, the more likely we can recall the truth that we read when we need to be reminded of who we are in God and His Son, Jesus. Frequent reading of the Bible will cause the 'chambers in your mind' to more likely be filled with His truths rather than the lies of the enemy. It's what you constantly think about that really impacts on whether you are at peace or whether you are fearful and anxious. And, over the long haul, these two mind-sets will have radically different impacts on your emotional and physical health status.

Jesus, even though he was hungry after 40 days, he did not give in to the temptation the enemy brought to him. He said, ***"It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."***

Let's not eat the things that will hinder our growth in the things of God. Living in the wilderness will cause us to hear the voice of God. Then as we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit we will be able to speak in harmony with the Word of God. We will be able to resist the enemy of our soul and the cravings of the fleshly desires that weigh us down and hinder us from doing the will of God. The wilderness will prepare us to stand and say boldly ***"it is written"***

God bless,
Sohail

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, especially at this time be close to the family and friends of Florrie Bond, give them your peace Lord.



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

Ann Blackwell, Ann Crowhurst, Roy Davis, Jan Fox and Olive Goodyear.

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 see the snow falling we pray for those who are homeless, without food, cold and do not have hope wherever they are in the world.

We give thanks for the aid agencies as they provide food, heating, shelter and encouragement for those affected by natural disaster or by the inhumanity of others.

A Mother's Day Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for mothers - for all they mean or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given.

We thank you for the qualities of mothers - their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding.

We thank you for the part they play in our lives and we thank you for this day of saying 'thank you', this opportunity to say what we so often mean to say but so rarely do.

For mothers and motherhood, for children and families, we bring you this day our grateful praise.

Amen



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

I have just returned from a week with my niece, doing very little (yes, really) and chasing some winter sun. It's wonderful what a bit of blue sky will do for you in the depths of winter, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to spend a few days recharging.

February's Messy Church marked four years since we began, with a bit of a birthday theme and exploring being part of God's family, using the scripture where Jesus teaches that his waiting mother and brothers are not the extent of his family, but everyone who listens and learns from him is too.

In the morning of February 4th John Amos came to speak to us again, and on 18th Mr Keith Berry led worship to celebrate the Christian Forum anniversary, with hymns chosen by members of the forum.

Our Minister's continued ill health mean he was unable to conduct worship for the Parade Service on 11th February; instead we had a Songs of Praise morning with contributions from various members of the congregation and hymn choices from the children too. Thank you to everyone who took part, particularly the musicians and Vic on the AV desk, whose workload was doubled! Sohail is now on the mend and was able to conduct the final Sunday Service of the month including Communion.



It is not too late to participate in the Water Aid Jars of Change appeal, please do read the literature about it and take a jar/label as needed. The filled jars may be returned at any time until Easter.

The Eastern Synod meeting takes place at Ipswich on 17th March and is open to all. Mary Goodhew is the church voting representative but I would invite others to come along. There is also a Children and Youth event on the same day. Hot on the heels of Synod is the bi-annual Mission Council from 19-21st March; this is the body which has responsibility for decision making between

General Assemblies, and I would urge you to keep us in your prayers during that time.

Thank You,

Ruth Dixon

Do you want to Fast this Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words;
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude;
Fast from anger and be filled with patience;
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope;
Fast from worries and have trust in God;
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity;
Fast from pressure and be prayerful;
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy;
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others;
Fast from grudges and be reconciled;
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

A Thought for Lent

Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
Where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

Sunday Bulletin - St Georges RC

Atheist Day?

An atheist complained to a Christian friend, "You Christians have your special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. The Jews celebrate their national holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur but we atheists have no recognised national holidays. It's unfair discrimination." His friend replied, "Why don't you celebrate April first?"
(A sharing from www.parishwindow.co.uk)



FLORRIE BOND RIP

Florrie went to be with her Lord on Saturday 17th February age 97½.

Although she recovered from pneumonia Florrie never regained the energy she always had and just faded away peacefully.

Florrie moved from London to Southend in the sixties and bought a house in Bournemouth Park Road from friends of ours who attended Coleman Street Chapel. Florrie was looking for a place of Worship and they introduced her to their Church. Florrie was a member there until she accompanied us to Cornerstone in 2013.

She entered into all the activities of the Fellowship and was always willing to lend a helping hand where she could.

Her son, Dave, will be arranging her funeral but due to delays getting the necessary certificate and registration, details will not be known until after 27th February 2018.

Val Hayman

DON'T FORGET!

Please remember to put your clocks forward on the night of Saturday 24th March to mark the start of British Summer Time.

If you do forget, then you might miss the first half of the service but you will still be able join us for the remainder of the service and for coffee.



So we have Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. What happened on Holy Saturday, the day in between. The missing day of Easter? Intrigued, Wondering, Fascinated?

Then come along at 11.00 a.m. on 31st March for one hour of quiet contemplation and discussion on this mysterious day. We will close with a light lunch. No booking required. All welcome.

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

Children & Families

We've called the Wednesday 'Worship Workout' session 'Whisper' in the hope that through the music people will encounter the Holy Spirit and hear God's quiet voice; each week someone new has joined the few regulars and I'm confident that it will continue to grow.



For the first session we used instrumental prayers with a view gradually introducing a more direct message, however we used a more upbeat (full on) worship cd the second week, had a great time and are continuing in this vein! Lauren will adapt the stretches etc to suit whoever participates making it accessible to all ages and abilities so please be encouraged to come along and celebrate Jesus with us on Wednesdays 2-3 pm.

The quiet room I set up at the ever increasing toddler group is gaining in popularity and has given me the opportunity for some wonderful God-centered conversations.

I have details of a Christian holiday in the Lake District at the Blen Cathra centre in July, which is organised by some friends from Thundersley Congregational Church, please come and speak to me if you have an interest as there are still a few spaces available.

During half term some of us went Geo Caching in a rather muddy Hockley Woods and the next one for the Easter holidays is on Thursday April 5th; although the treasure hunt is aimed at the children everyone is welcome to join us - more specific details will be

given nearer the time and there is a 'Whats App' group you can be added to for updates on other walks.

Lisa McCrae
Children and Family Worker

News from the Forum

This is one of those months when a complete report for the month is not possible because of the timing of the magazine production requirements. However, the meeting we did have this month was extremely informative and interesting.

We were expecting a visit from Tony Castle but unfortunately he has been unwell for a while and was not able to come. However, he did arrange for his friend and colleague, Shawn Clarke, to come and tell us about a Catholic's Lent. We heard about the start of Lent with the Ashing ceremony on Ash Wednesday when last year's Palm Crosses are burned to produce a very sticky black ash. This is then put on the foreheads of the congregation on Ash Wednesday as a sign of penitence. This is "the Imposition of the Ashes" and the old words used are those from the funeral service "Remember man you are dust, and to dust you will return" taking the idea that God created man from the earth and that is where the physical body will return for all of us.



Shawn also took us through other parts of his Lenten time and we were able to see where our services and customs were basically similar. After all, we all have the same story to re-live of Holy week, following the temptations and Jesus' ministry in the weeks leading up to his betrayal, trial and death.

Thank you Shawn and please take our best wishes for a speedy recovery back to Tony for us.

Beyond that it is an unknown quantity! The group will have me to blame if they don't like our next meeting when I think they will have a first, for the group anyway, for the activity I have planned.

Next month we will have a return visit from Glynis Chatterly, sharing some of her 'Fifty things to do at Fifty', we had tears rolling down our cheeks when she came before, so it bodes well for her return. If you missed it last time, make a special effort to come along this time. At the end of the month we have Heather Glynn coming, yes I know I got it wrong last report, but it's true this time !

Do come along if you have never been before, it is a good afternoon's fellowship and we will make you very welcome. Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the Foyer, from 2 o'clock onwards with a cuppa and chat followed by the meeting's content.

See you there.
Alison Shannon



No, not any!

The manager of the garden centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most trusted assistants, saying to a lady customer: 'No madam, we certainly haven't had any for some time, and who knows when we will get any.'

When the customer had gone, the manager tackled him: 'I heard that, Jenkins,' he remonstrated, 'and I must say that I am surprised at you. Never, never admit to a customer that we can't get them something. That's what we're here for. If it's out of stock, tell her you'll get it for her soon. Now, what was it the lady wanted?'

'Rain,' said Jenkins simply.

A Parish Magazine printed this Change of Address

"We are pleased to note that there has been a change of mind by the Housing Department regarding a name for the new housing complex for the elderly. 'St Peter's Close' did seem inappropriate"

**THE CORNERSTONE URC
CENTRAL AVENUE**

SPRING FAYRE



**SATURDAY 24TH MARCH
12 - 3 P.M.**

**Easter Crafts Tombola Raffle
Refreshments and Sweets Books
Nearly-New Clothes Toys & much
more!**

Our Spring Fayre will be held on Saturday 24th March between 12 noon and 3 p.m. Friends will be running different stalls including Easter crafts, cakes, refreshments, light lunches, toys, tombola and much more. We need people to help provide and run stalls, as well as supporting this fund raising event. Could all stall holders arrive by 11.00 a.m. at the latest.

Please see Mary Goodhew or Jacqui Wilson if you can help.

We look forward to seeing all of you there to enjoy friendship and fellowship.

Peter's Piece

Holy Week



Holy Week and Holy Saturday bring Lent to an end. If, as intended, Lent has been a time of reflection on our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ (OT Messiah) encouraging us to a closer relationship with him, it can now be fully focused, as we remember the final week of Jesus' life, his arrest, travesty of a trial, his torture, his death by crucifixion and burial in a borrowed tomb!

For his disciples, family and friends it was a tragic and cruel end for the one who had done nothing but good, brought life, kindness, comfort and healing. To them all, a hopeless and meaningless end as Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled *He was assigned a grave with the wicked, crucified as a criminal and with criminals, and with the rich in his death, buried in the rich man's, Joseph of Arimathea's, tomb, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.* Isaiah 53:9.

Resurrection is not prominent in the OT and although Jesus had given clues on many occasions that he would rise from the dead, grief and an intense sense of loss in the tragic end to their friendship, blinded their thinking; it was utter despair - *we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.* Luke 24:21. Back to Isaiah 53 - read the whole passage Isaiah 52:13-53:12 - *'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.'* Acts 8:32-33. Yet his death was not in vain for *he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.* Isaiah 53:5.

To help us draw closer to Jesus through Holy Week there is attached a suggested meditation guide for the last week of Jesus' life. As we move through the rest of Lent, Holy Week and Holy

Saturday,¹ may the Holy Spirit prepare us fully to powerfully experience afresh, on Easter Day, the utter joy in the truth of his glorious resurrection, and strengthen within us the hope, which is ours who believe, of our own resurrection on Jesus' triumphant return.

Revised Common Lectionary Lessons for the Sundays of March and Easter Day

Third Sunday in Lent - March 4, 2018

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 11, 2018

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 18, 2018

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sixth Sunday in Lent - March 25, 2018

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-47,

Easter Day

Resurrection of the Lord - April 1, 2018

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43;
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

¹ See elsewhere for details of the planned time of meditation and prayer on Holy Saturday – 'Easter's Missing Day.'



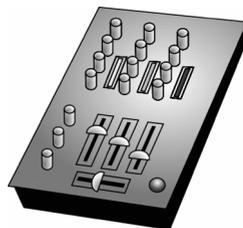
Watch and pray Mark 14:38

Some suggested readings, which follow the final week of our Lord's earthly life, for personal study and meditation during Holy Week.

Day	Event	Reading
Friday [23/03/2018]	Arrival at Bethany <i>'Why this waste?'</i>	John 12:1-11 Psalm 23:5-6
Saturday Jewish Sabbath	Day of rest [None mentioned in the NT]	Isaiah 56:1-8
Sunday Palm Sunday	The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. <i>'Behold your King -.'</i>	John 12:12-19 Psalm 118:15-26
Monday	Clearing the Temple <i>'House of prayer or den of robbers?'</i>	Mark 11:12-19 Isaiah 56:7 Psalm 69:6-12
Tuesday	Day of controversy and parables <i>'She - put in everything,'</i>	Mark 11:20-13:37
Wednesday	Day of rest. [None mentioned in the NT] - <i>'a grain of wheat.'</i>	John 12:20-36 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-44
Thursday <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Passover - Lord's Supper <i>'The night he was betrayed -.'</i> <i>'drink it new in the Kingdom of God.'</i>	Mark 14:12-26 [John 13:1-30] Revelation 19:9 Matthew 8:11
Friday <i>Good Friday</i>	Crucifixion Ecce homo - <i>'Behold the man.'</i>	Mark 15:1-47 John 19:5
Saturday <i>Holy Saturday</i>	In the tomb <i>'today you will be with me in paradise.'</i>	Luke 23:39-43 1 Peter 3:18-22
Easter Day	Resurrection. <i>'The Lord is risen! Alleluia!'</i>	1 Corinthians 15:4 Psalm 16:8-11

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.

Flower Donations

March

- 4th Rob Milbourn
- 11th Joan Harvey
- 18th Hilda Cramond and Pam Wanstall
- 25th Alan and Carol Cornwall



April

1st EASTER



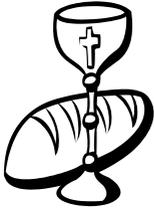
The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 1st April 2018.

Please let us have your contributions by our usual time of 9.00 a.m. on Thursday March 22nd.

**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**

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 February for collecting £98.50 for HARP

March Havens Hospices
April Peaceful Place

Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

Mar 4th Brenda Kemp and Leng Kingston
11th Anne Clarke and Val Mead
18th Carole and Alan Cornwall
25th Gwen and Colin McMillan

Apr 1st Suzanne and Paul Dyer
8th Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

Mar 6th Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
13th Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
20th Carole and Alan Cornwall
27th Alison Shannon

Apr 3rd Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
10th Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Also see weekly Notice Sheet)

March

Sun	4 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Robert Wiseman
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion Service	Our Minister
Mon	5 th	7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.	Lent Course	
Tues	6 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church - 4 th Birthday	
Sat	10 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	11 th	10.30 a.m.	Parade Service & Mothering Sunday	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Mon	12 th	7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.	Lent Course	
Thurs	15 th	7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.	Digging Deeper	
Sat	17 th	10.00 a.m.	Synod Meeting at St John's Ipswich	
Sun	18 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	John Amos
Mon	19 th	7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.	Lent Course	
Thurs	22 nd	7.30 p.m.	Church AGM	
		7.30 p.m.	Area Partnership meeting at Basildon URC	
Sat	24 th	12.00 - 3.00 p.m.	Spring Fayre	
Sun	25 th	10.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday	Our Minister
			Holy Communion	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Weds	28 th		Toddlers - Easter Hat Parade, Easter story/songs and party. We would be pleased to welcome friends at this event at 10.15 a.m.	
Thurs	29 th	7.00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal	
			Arranged by Mike & Linda Mead	
Fri	30 th	10.30 a.m.	Good Friday Service	Our Minister
Sat	31 st	11.00 a.m.	Easter Vigil and lunch - see article	

April

Sun	1 st	10.30 a.m.	Hot Cross Buns and refreshments	
Approx		10.50 a.m.	Easter Service - Holy Communion	
			No refreshments after service	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	NO SERVICE	
Tues	3 rd	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	5 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	

WHO'S WHO?

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
Treasurer	Ann Blackwell (07753 348856)
Envelopes	Mick Thorp (01702) 300768
Gift Aid	David Osborn (01702) 611337
Preachers List	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Youth and Children	Lisa McCrae
Junior Church	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
Joint Leaders	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Pilots	Derek Goodyear 07863 208914 Jacqui Wilson (01702)302879
C'Stone Toddlers	Jacqui Wilson (01702) 302879
Joint Leaders	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Scout Group	Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309
Christian Forum	Alison Shannon (01702) 464737
Use of Premises	Roger Brett (01702) 479874
Flower arranging	Joan Harvey Val Mead (01702) 296189
Editorial Team	Anne Clarke (01702) 293102 af.clarke52@gmail.com Michael Wardle (01702) 613840 mjb23wardle@btinternet.com

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.