

New Horizons

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017



Oh, Holy Night

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.
7.30 pm Elders' Meeting (3rd Monday)

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

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 - *Advent, a time to switch gears*



It's that time of year again -- Advent. It's always tempting to skip over Advent and jump right into the euphoria of Christmas Day -- after all, the rest of the UK and probably the world began gorging itself on Christmas delicacies in October.

But, I believe something is lost when we rush through the beautiful, reflective season of Advent.

One of my favourite elements of Advent is its dual purpose -- it's not just a liturgical season carved out for pondering over the days before Christ, but a time set aside to anticipate Christ's second, glorious coming. Like the ancient Israelites we wait in anticipation of an event we can only dimly imagine -- an event where all that is right, good, and truthful will come to fruition in His perfect timing.

It is impossible to have this high level of watching and waiting every day of our lives. For this reason, the church brings us the season of Advent. It is, in effect, a time when the church sits on the front porch eagerly longing for the coming of the Lord.

There are many people who take the Christmas story for granted, even among Christians. Our ears have become numb as we've heard the story countless times and in varied settings -- the angel's appearance to Mary, Joseph's dream, the road to Bethlehem, the lack of room in the inn, the birth in a lowly stable, the appearance of nearby shepherds.

The Nativity has acquired a certain peculiarity in Western culture -- something to smile at while we bustle about decorated shops trying to check every name off our lists. Yet, when we take time to prepare for this moment in salvation history, to reflect on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ, a sense of awe returns.

Advent is a time to switch gears, we must stay alert and watch, for Jesus is coming. We don't want to be caught napping.

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Christmas
and a prosperous New Year
Sohail & family

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 and Ann Cassells. We pray for those who are ill, in constant pain, recovering, and awaiting treatment:

Monica Aloj, Ann Crowhurst, Roy Davis, Mary Goodhew, Pat Goodhew, Olive Goodyear, Peter Hunt, Margaret King, Hilda Prior and Paul Wonnacott.

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.



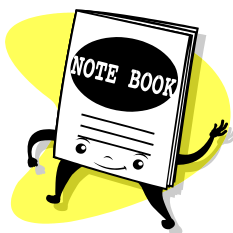
Do make use of our prayer cards, whether to give thanks or to request prayers in specific need. You may remain anonymous if you wish. There is a collection box on the prayer table in the foyer.

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

At the start of Advent please pray for peoples of all continents that they may experience the Love of God, the compassion of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Please also pray for all Christians throughout the World that they be strengthened in their Faith as they lead others to Jesus The Christ. Also pray that by their deeds, they may make our planet a better and safer place to live.



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

As most of you know, I spent the first part of November in Singapore visiting my brother and so had to miss the Autumn Fayre - about which I hope there will be a report elsewhere in this magazine - and the first two Sundays of the month. It has taken some time to re-align my body with GMT, but I am now back into routine.

Before departing, we had a very enjoyable Messy Church on the "Armour of God" the results of which have been on view for the rest of the month. From December, our themes will be displayed on and around the brand new display board next to the foyer screen. There is a further display board by the servery for details of church events and organisations. Thanks to Roger Brett for sourcing these boards.

Some of us have been attending the local authority run class "Staying Steady" on a Thursday afternoon. If you are of pension age and prone to falls, these gentle exercises will give you confidence and help you stay on your feet. Well worth a try, unless you are already super-fit.

On Sunday 20th November we welcomed back John Amos to lead our worship in his distinctive style and on 27th Sohail led the monthly morning communion service. Looking ahead we have a packed schedule of Advent and Christmas activities and services, and by the time you read this I will have distributed Advent Calendars to all the children who attend church both Sunday and throughout the week. As is our custom we will be offering seasonal bites along with tea and coffee at several of our festive occasions, and donations of mince pies or sausage rolls are welcome.



At the Church Meeting on 24th November we elected Mary Goodhew, Alison Shannon and Peter Hunt to serve as Elders for three years from 1st January 2017. We wish these folk every blessing as they serve the Lord at The Cornerstone. The ceremony of ordination and induction will take place at the January Communion Service. We also thank the three retiring Elders, Stella Duboux, Jacqui Wilson and Michael Wardle, for their work on behalf of our fellowship over their term of office.

The duties of Elders are diverse and much more than you see on a Sunday morning. An important part of the function of Elders is to ensure the pastoral care of everyone in the congregation, including where necessary keeping in contact with those who have become frail and unable to attend church regularly. Some of us readily admit this is something we are not always comfortable with; at the same time there may be people within the congregation who have no wish to be Elders but are very good at listening and caring. If this is you and you feel able to contribute to the life of our church in this way, please do have a word with the Minister or myself. And a plea to those who have their ears to the ground: if you hear of someone in the fellowship who is unwell, in need of prayer or a home visit, please do tell the Minister or responsible Elder (list is on the notice board).

Everyone involved with the youth and children's work at The Cornerstone should have received a copy of the Church Safeguarding Policy, and if you have not already done so please

sign a copy of page 13 and return it to me as soon as possible. If you have not received or mislaid your copy do let me know.



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Shoebox Appeal. We gathered 32 boxes in all and once again I am grateful to Roger for organising the despatch of these during my absence.

If you are sending Christmas cards to those within the fellowship please do remember the addressees should normally be expected to attend Sunday services in order to collect their cards. Inevitably there will be some cards to be delivered to homes, so please do look out for any addressed to people who live near you. The last 'box-emptying' will be following MORNING service on 18th December. As always the treasurer will be grateful for any donations in lieu of postage.

Frank and I wish everyone a peaceful and blessed Christmas,
and a happy and healthy New Year.

Ruth Dixon

Synod

The Minutes are now available to be read here:

http://www.urch-eastern.org.uk/images/pdfs/synod_meetings_minutes/16-Minutes-october-2016-eastern-synod-Meeting.pdf

I will make one hard copy to put in the foyer.

Save the Date



A Busy Day for 12th Southend Scout Group

12th Southend scouts were asked to help Southend Round Table to distribute leaflets in the High Street for the firework display at

Shoebury East Beach on 5th November. Each helper was given a free ticket to see the display.



We also spent the afternoon running games at the Autumn Fayre & Craft Sale at The Cornerstone Church and all money raised was donated to the church.



Many thanks to all cubs & scouts who helped out.

Lorna Skippon
Acting Group Scout Leader

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



Music

This last month we had our meetings led and arranged by two of our own members. Firstly we had a very interesting afternoon with Val Hayman. She took us on a musical journey through her life and showed us how important music of all genres had been, and still is, a very key part of her journey from schooldays, through early and later years of marriage, and in her church life.

Thank you Val for putting such a lot of thought into the afternoon.

Then this last Tuesday Roy set us the challenge of one of his quizzes, and we usually find them very testing so we approached the afternoon with a certain degree of trepidation. The content certainly lived up to Roy's usual exacting standard and we thoroughly enjoyed the stimulating time it gave us all.

Our next two meetings follow one straight after the other as we join together with others from the wider fellowship for our "end of term" meal on Monday 12th of December, and then on our usual Tuesday the next day we are starting the Christmas season, mixing in some Advent thoughts and having our readings and carols for the festive season, albeit a bit early.

We then have a break until February and into another New Year, 1917 will be with us. Andy will do us proud I am sure on the 14th, and keeping it in the family Michael Mead will talk to us on the 28th, about his life and work. We look forward to both, and anyone is of course welcome to join us.

Alison Shannon

The most wonderful places to
be in the world are:
In someone's thoughts.
Someone's prayers.
And in someone's heart.

Author unknown

Below is a real life “Good Samaritan” story from a former member, Julia Ware, who now lives in Canada. She says:

I haven't written anything for the Church Magazine for quite some time but I heard of something this week which really tugged at my heart strings and I think it will with you too.

Since moving out here to Canada, we have met an English family whose daughter works as a waitress at a traditional English tea room in a tiny village near to our house. Recently the tearoom took on a girl in her 20's to become the dishwasher



Knowing that the girl had to take two bus journeys home every day, Olivia, the waitress, offered to drive her home one night. She dropped the girl at her tiny apartment and was invited in. Olivia was met with the surprise of her life when she saw how the polite, quiet girl was living. There was hardly any food in the cupboards - they literally were bare and when she went into the bedroom, there were no blankets or covers on her bed. When Olivia asked where the covers were, she said she slept in her clothes and used her coat as a cover.

Olivia went home but couldn't turn her back on what she had witnessed. Apparently the girl was one of seven and has learning difficulties and her parents live in Vancouver about one hour away. They were unable to care for the children and the girl remembered living in a tent with them when she was younger.

The following day, Olivia took the girl to the supermarket and bought her some essentials and realised that the girl didn't really know how to cook properly, as she had never been shown. She had been eating what she could. Then she had to move from her rental apartment and until she could move to the next one, she had nowhere to go so Olivia and her family took her in for two weeks.

They were amazed at the state of her clothes and underwear so they went and bought her some more essentials from Walmart as well as a new work outfit.

When her next apartment became available, Olivia and her Mum helped her scrub it clean then helped her to move in. They helped her out with getting some more essentials and Olivia went round and showed the girl how to cook certain things.

Recently, she turned up at work and was walking badly. Olivia asked if she was ok and she said someone had given her some shoes which were three sizes too small but it's all she had. After work, Olivia went to Walmart and bought her some basic robust work shoes - in the right size

The tea room staff hold a 'Secret Santa' every year and Olivia suggested that this year, they all put their \$20 together and buy a coat for the girl. The other staff weren't too keen at the idea but Olivia said that surely they could all get by without extra toiletries etc.

Olivia's Mum said that by this girl coming into their lives, it has changed Olivia as a person, seeing first-hand how others live.

We all know this kind of poverty goes on everywhere but hearing this really upset me. Who knows what the future will hold for the girl and Olivia will find it hard to walk away from getting so involved in the situation, but both their lives have become richer because of it.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and joyful Christmas.

Love from

Julia, Chris, Phillip & Helen Ware

Don't become preoccupied with your child's ability

But instead

Teach them to sit with those sitting alone.

Teach them to be kind, Teach them to offer their help.

Teach them to be a friend to the lonely.

Teach them to encourage others.

Teach them to think about other people.

Teach them to share.

Teach them to look for the good.

This is how they'll change the world

Author unknown

11th & 24th December Services

This year Derek, Jacqui & Sohail will lead the Junior Church, Pilots and Scouts for their Family Parade and Toy Service on, 11th December, with an adapted traditional nativity musical entitled 'O Come All Ye Faithful' by Stuart Ross. Everyone is welcome to join this celebration.



On 24th December, at **4.30pm**, Ruth and I will lead everyone in the Nativity Service for Christmas Eve 'All Was Quiet'. Please invite your family, friends and neighbours as we worship together on this very special evening.

Following the service, refreshments will be served and carols will be sung for all those who are able to stay up!

Mary Goodhew

Junior Church Greetings

The Children, Young People and Staff of our Junior Church wish everyone a Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Mary & Ruth

Autumn Fayre

Many thanks to all those who ran stalls, served refreshments or just came along to spend their money at our Autumn Fayre, held at the beginning of November. It was great to see so many people, of all ages, enjoying themselves.



A lot of hard work went into the organisation of this event - our first in The Cornerstone - and with our hall and foyer area we were able to accommodate many stalls to keep our visitors interested and let the neighbourhood know that we are a lively, friendly fellowship.

Anne - Ed



Christmas Greetings within the Fellowship

As in previous years there will be several ways in which you will be able to pass on your greetings.

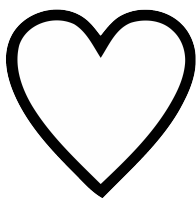
At the beginning of December the post box will be out for you to leave your cards for later collection in the

Church.

Thank you to all who have asked to be on the Group Christmas Card once again. It follows on the next two pages but if you missed this you can still ask Michael to have your name put on the much larger version which will be on display on the noticeboard.

Whichever option you choose, it might be appropriate to make a contribution to Church Funds reflecting any savings on postage and cards. If you do then please hand to the Church Treasurer and Gift Aid it if you pay Income tax.

Of course, you are still able to personally send cards through the post or hand them over directly. As they say "The choice is yours".



**Tell someone you love
them today.
Because tomorrow is not promised**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2016



WE WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS AT
THE CORNERSTONE

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S BLESSING ON
THEM IN THE NEW YEAR

Monica and Vincent Aloï

Pat Britnall

Roger and Wendy Brett

Hilda Burgess

Anne and Shawn Clarke

Alan and Carole Cornwall and Family

Roy and Trixie Davis

Terry and Barbara Dillon

Eric and Pat Garrard

Mary and Clive Goodhew

Pat Goodhew

Janet Gooding

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 2016

Derek Goodyear
Joan Harvey
Geoff and Val Hayman
Win Holmes
Rena Hume
Brenda Kemp
Colin & Karen Kemp
Valerie Liggett
Nigel and Val Mead
Jacomine Mole
David and Beverley Osborn
Ron and Shelagh Root
Alison Shannon
Teddy and Sheila Taylor
Mick Thorp
Martin, Julie and James Turner
Pat Tyler
Brenda and Michael Wardle
Chris, Julia, Phillip and Helen Ware
Stella Yates

BELONGING

Back in 2012 I became the latest member to join a club that I hoped not to join for some time. I became a member of the 'Newly Retired Club'. This club is otherwise known as the 'Oh! Now you are retired you have lots of time to help out with (insert organisation of choice) Club'.

When I was in the Air Force I always tried to join the library if there was one, the Scout Group if there was one and attend the church if there was one. I needed to feel that I belonged even if RAF churches did not seem to have a formal 'Membership' requirement.

But all the time I was in the Air Force I belonged to God's church in Westcliff having started in Sunday School, becoming an irregular attender at services and finally accepted to full membership in 1963.

But more importantly for all of my time I have belonged to God. I was His from the day I was born whether I was at Sunday School or not, at Youth Club or not, a Full Church Member or not, whether I only came for worship on a Sunday, whether I only came for worship on the first Tuesday of the month or even if I rarely walked through the door of His church. I belong to Him.

Many of us will have made a Declaration of Faith and know we have formally joined The Cornerstone United Reformed Church and also the wider United Reformed Church. As Members we are part of the 56,086 United Reformed Church Members with Membership responsibilities.

But all of us at The Cornerstone Full Members, those who have not taken this formal step, those who belong to the large number of worshippers on a Sunday or another day of the week or are attendees at other Church supported activities all belong to God and have chosen to come along to His Church, The Cornerstone, and feel that we 'Belong' here.

All of us are part of, and "belong" to, many things - families, clubs and societies, and belonging means responsibility. As people who come to the Cornerstone, who feel we belong here, depending upon our roles, we accept a smaller or greater responsibility for what

happens here. Wherever we are on that 'Belonging' path we all know that a great amount of work goes into providing what we have here at The Cornerstone.

Next February we will be looking at 'Belonging', how people who 'Belong' give to God and His Church - not just financially, but also of their time and talents - what we often refer to as Stewardship; and importantly how Stewardship asks us to consider our giving.

Stewardship acknowledges that we 'Belong' to God and that everything we have first comes from God and then poses the question 'How do we respond and use the gifts that He has given us?'

How we can give of our gifts locally in support of our church family, the wider community and in support of the work of the national and international church.

And through other activities we will look at our responsibility to grow in Christ and that growth may change our lives, our priorities and our church life making us think about 'Belonging' more.

Belonging to God is not membership, it's not going to church on Sunday, it is walking with Christ every day.

To help us think about where we 'Belong' we will be running three different events.

7th February: A Belonging themed Messy Church

12th February: A Belonging themed morning service.

15th February: A Belonging themed Church Family Event: 4-6 pm
Open evening for all related groups and Sunday congregation, for everyone to share a little of what they do each week; adapted presentation, with a meal, open to families from Pilots, Scouts, Parent & Toddler, Preschool and Messy Church.

Please try to attend and see how you belong: To your organisation, to The Cornerstone and to God.

Roger Brett



Peter's Piece Incarnation

Sorry about the technical word but it is frequently used at this time of the year and I felt it could be helpful for us to take a look at it and see what we can discover. Here I have an impossible task because it is a vast subject and

I have the limitations of only a paragraph or two.

Literally the word, derived from the Latin, means 'made flesh'. When addressed at Christmas time to Jesus it means we acknowledge that He the promised Messiah (Christ), God the Son was born of the Virgin Mary¹ as a human being, God himself became flesh, a Man, the Son of Man. Fully God and at the same time fully Man². Colossians 2:9 *For in Christ [the Messiah] all the fullness of the Deity [God] lives in bodily form.*

I am sorry for the homework, looking up the references, and perhaps my seeming to labour the point but the Incarnation is amazingly and wondrously true and it is vital that we grasp something of the implications of this glorious truth.

I have just finished reading N T Wright's excellent book 'The Challenge of Jesus. NE' £13 Amazon, which I can thoroughly recommend. In it Tom Wright poses the question - in what way did Jesus 'know' he was God incarnate? In the answer, he suggests that Jesus didn't know he was God in the kind of certain knowledge that mathematical truths are known; nor as observational truths, like facts of our bodies, tall, short, thin, fat, hungry, thirsty. It was rather the kind of knowledge which assures us of the affection of our loved ones, or of a vocational knowledge: Like someone 'called' to be a doctor, a missionary, or a Minister! He was responding to an inner conviction that He was God, so He had to live out by faith that belief: strengthened in prayer³, challenged by temptation⁴, anguished over

¹ Luke 1:26-35

² John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-11, Colossians 1:19

³ Mark 1:35

⁴ Mark 1:13

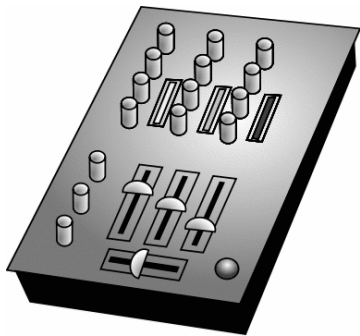
in further prayer and doubt⁵ and then put into action⁶. Jesus in his earthly life, like we should, lived by faith; it wasn't instinctive. Choices had to be made.

Jesus truly had to face life as we do; he didn't have the divine powers and knowledge in an automatic way. He couldn't do right simply because he was God; he had to live out his belief that as God the Man Jesus would have to be all that the scriptures proclaimed is YAHWEH. *No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, --- has made him known.* John 1:18.

As Christians, by faith we 'know'⁷ that through God's grace our sins are forgiven and that we are *children of God*. With then this example⁸ of Jesus before us, may we too find the Holy Spirit's strengthening power⁹ this Christmas and New Year in our wrestle¹⁰ of living the life as children of God.

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.

⁵ Mark 14:33-36

⁶ John 19:30

⁷ 2 Timothy 1:12

⁸ Hebrews 12:2

⁹ Ephesians 1:19

¹⁰ Ephesians 6:12 NIV struggle KJV wrestle

SING A SONG OF ADVENT - Mary Lu Walker



Light the Advent candle one.
Now the waiting has begun,
we have started on our way:
time to think of Christmas day.

Light the Advent candle two.
Think of humble shepherds who
filled with wonder at the sight
of the child on Christmas night.



Light the Advent candle three.
Think of heav'nly harmony:
Angels singing 'Peace on earth'
at the blessed Saviour's birth.

Light the Advent candle four.
Think of joy for evermore.
Christ-child in a stable born
gift of love that Christmas morn.



Light the Christmas candles now!
Sing of donkey, sheep and cow.
Birthday candles for the King -
let the 'Alleluias' ring!

Happy
Birthday
Jesus

Advent Journey - By David Coaker who works for the URC

In the coming weeks, we travel the road to Bethlehem anew. We shall share in Christingle, parade, nativity and carol services. Sing the familiar carols. Watch the flickering candles, twinkling lights, decorations, presents, Christmas trees, smiles on children's faces, and await the child in the manger. We explore the stories of Jesus' birth, and the message they offer for our world today.

We reflect with Matthew the dilemma of a man who discovers his fiancée is pregnant and prepares to quietly break from her, until an angel intervenes. After the child is born we hear of travellers from the east following a star, their misstep in visiting the local despot, their gifts of money, incense and perfume, and their change of travel plans. We fear for the family as they flee as refugees to the land of an ancient enemy, narrowly avoiding the genocide of the children of their town.

We ponder with Luke who tells us of a family drama of a young girl speaking to an angel, an elderly couple becoming parents, cousins communicating whilst in their mothers' wombs, an empire used to draw God's chosen to Bethlehem for a census, and a birth in a stable that was welcomed by a choir of angels and drew shepherds to share the fire.

We have our spirits drawn to God with John, who poetically combines the creation of the universe with Jesus' birth and the message he shared.

We are reminded that all of these are inspired by the ministry of Jesus and the Resurrection experience of his followers, as Mark ignores his birth and begins his story with Jesus' baptism and the heavenly declaration: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

We travel the road to Bethlehem anew. The road has many turns and junctions, but all get us to the reality of a birth. The beginning of a life that changed the world and changes lives, a life that invites us to live it too. A life that we are called to declare, live and embrace. A life that draws everyone into the journey of living God's dream

Updated Christmas Songs Now must be Health & Safety approved!

Little Donkey



Little Donkey, Little Donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load

The RSPCA have issued strict guidelines with regard to how heavy a load that a donkey of small stature is permitted to carry, also included in the guidelines is guidance regarding how often to feed the donkey and how many rest breaks are required over a four hour plodding period.

Please note that due to the increased risk of pollution from the dusty road, Mary and Joseph are required to wear face masks to prevent inhalation of any airborne particles.

The donkey has expressed his discomfort at being labelled “little” and would prefer just to be simply referred to as Mr Donkey. To comment upon his height or lack thereof may be considered an infringement of his equine rights.

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh
O’er the fields we go
Laughing all the way



A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly if passengers are of larger proportions. Please note, permission must be gained from landowners before entering their fields. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Digging Deeper

With the New Year, will come a new venture.

Starting on Thursday 19 January 2017 at 7.30 pm. we are beginning a new adventure together, 'Digging Deeper', the aim of which is to discover Jesus in all the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. In discovering Jesus, we will of course be discovering God, YAHWEH, The LORD Himself, for Jesus the Son of God, makes God known. (John 1:18)

You are warmly invited to come and join us on this exciting new adventure of discovery as we meet @ 7.30 pm. on the third Thursday of each month; they won't be academic exercises but together we will be taking a Bible based journey to learn more of our great God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and His relationship with us, our Church and the world today.



Dr Vic Crowhurst is leading our first evening as we consider 'The Holy Trinity'. This will not be lecture or just a talk but will include discussion in which we can all ask questions



or make contributions, as together we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance into this important aspect of the Godhead.

Future considerations could be on such subjects or series as - God, the Christian life and the modern world: God and what comes next? God in creation: The Kingdom of God: God, Israel and the Church. or you could suggest a subject for consideration.

No set format - we could have a specialist speaker plus discussion time; debate a subject; one person presents a paper on a subject and this is discussed; an appropriate Bible passage being studied and discussed; an appropriate DVD and discussion. It does not have to be a 'traditional' Bible study only; learning can be fun and enjoyable!

So, come and join us.
Peter Hunt

Thanks from the Editors

Michael and Anne would like to thank you all for your contributions throughout 2016. We think that we achieve a good balance between the serious, the practical, the social and the downright hilarious and that is all down to you feeding us the right balance.

So as we approach Christmas, we wish all of our readers a Blessed Christmas and a New Year in which you grow in The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be the first in the New Year and will be published on 5th February.

We are grateful for items at any time as they are so easily stored on computer these days **but** the latest time for submission is **9.00 a.m. on Thursday January 26th**.

We are afraid that this must be a big “but” as we have recently been struggling to complete our work in time and get it ready to print. This is because we have been trying to fit items in well after the due date. As editors, we take pride in producing your monthly magazine and do not wish to compromise the set-out of it by trying to ‘squash’ in items at a late stage of production.

Going forward into 2017, if we do occasionally have good prior warning about what is coming and its size, then we can allocate the space required but please, do keep a note of the submission date in your diaries to save anything vital being left out.

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)

December

Sun	4 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	John Amos
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
Tues	6 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Sat	10 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	11 th	10.30 a.m.	'O Come all Ye Faithful', Junior Church, Scouts & Pilots Nativity & Family Church Parade with Toy Service led by Our Minister, Derek & Jacqui	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Sun	18 th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Roger Brett
		6.30 p.m.	Lessons & Carols	
Sat	24 th	12.00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Nativity for Mums & Tots	
		4.30 p.m.	"All was Quiet" Christmas Eve Nativity led by Mary & Ruth. Followed by refreshments and carol singing	
Sun	25 th	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Service	Our Minister

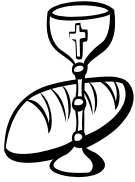
January

Sun	1 st	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
		6.30 p.m.	No evening service	
Tues	3 rd	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	5 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	8 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	12 th	7.30 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting	
Sat	14 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	15 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Robert Wiseman
Thurs	19 th	7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.	Bible Study "Digging Deeper"	
Sun	22 nd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
			Including induction of Elders	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Sun	29 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	John Amos

February

Thurs	2 nd	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	5 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Mrs Janette Stevens
		6.30 p.m.	No evening service	
Tues	7 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	

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 November for donating £ to Havens Hospices

December	Tools with a Mission - TWAM
January	Essex & Herts Air Ambulance
February	URC Retired Ministers' Housing Fund

Flower Donations

December

4 th	Peter & Zoy Hunt
11 th	Pat Britnell
18 th	John & Stella Duboux and Family
25 th	Frank & Ruth Dixon

January

1 st	Roger & Wendy Brett
8 th	Restorick Family
15 th	Colin & Karen Kemp
22 nd	Anne Cassells
29 th	Joan Harvey



February

5 th	Jan Fox
12 th	Terry & Barbara Dillon
19 th	Christian Forum
26 th	Mike & Linda Mead

We would like to thank our two Flower Secretaries, Joan Harvey and Valerie Mead for the beautiful displays that they arrange week by week and at special occasions. It is much appreciated.

Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

Dec	4 th	Val Hayman and Stella Yates
	11 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	18 th	Stella Duboux and Jan Fox
	25 th	Christmas Day Off

2017

Jan	1 st	Sandra Milbourn and Leng Kingston
	8 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	15 th	Alison Shannon and Jacqui Wilson
	22 nd	Maureen Stone and Sandra Milbourn
	29 th	Linda and Mike Mead

Feb	5 th	Val Hayman and Stella Yates
	12 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

Dec	6 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	13 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	20 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	27 th	Bank Holiday Day Off!

2017

Jan	3 rd	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	10 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	17 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	24 th	Alison Shannon and Sandra Milbourn
	31 st	Michael Wardle

Feb	7 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	14 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone

A Big "Thank you" to all our coffee and tea servers who so willingly cater to our needs week by week and who also provide the milk and biscuits.

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.