

New Horizons

FEBRUARY 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 -



NEW START

The beginning of another chapter in our lives, another year, another week, or even another day brings us much excitement because at this point, we can actually feel that we have the chance to start afresh. This privilege of starting afresh fills us with immense joy because it makes us realize that we have an abundant supply of renewed hope... that we have endless opportunities to begin again. Thus, we find the courage to accept our past defeats, to look ahead... and move on.

Once again, we pray and acknowledge God's presence and feel thankful because we are given the opportunity to do better and outshine our achievements. We make up our minds to improve ourselves, to correct our faults, and to live more meaningful, God-centered lives. We feel so energized. We give our best yet again and our hearts overflow with optimism and gratitude. Then, we say to ourselves, "Yes! Another chance... another chance! I'm going to accomplish something better this time. I can do this! With God's help, I can make this work!"

As Paul reminds us:

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3: 13 - 14)"

The white, empty pages make every notebook so useful... and the thousands of hours that are yet to come make the beginning of every year significantly full of promise. Indeed, we can always begin again. We have endless opportunities to start afresh! Let us feel enthusiastically motivated to begin on a clean sheet of paper and leave a lasting mark... to pour out our most vibrant colours on an empty canvass and create a masterpiece!

May God bless us and help us to be ready for all those opportunities he is going to provide us in this new year to share the love, peace and grace of God with all we meet not only inside the four walls of our Church but also with those who are still on the fringes.

God bless,

Sohail Ejaz

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. We especially keep in our prayers the family of Paul Wonnacott who passed away just before Christmas.



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:

Ann Crowhurst, Roy Davis, Pat Goodhew, Olive Goodyear, Peter Hunt, Margaret King, and Hilda Prior.

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

There are many matters that are being discussed between nations and governments around the world. Many concern trade and commerce and, whilst they are important to financial stability, they do have an impact on justice, freedom, equality and the well-being of all peoples.

May those involved in discussions and negotiations be ever mindful of the effects on all peoples.

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

Digging Deeper

It was surprising but very gratifying to see 23 (some say 32) attend the new Bible Study on Thursday 19th January. The subject discussed was God the Father, what is He like. This starts a trio of subjects progressing through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the Trinity.



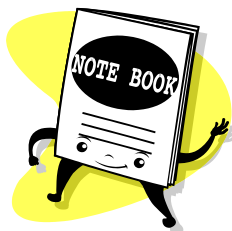
We hope those who attended gained something positive from their time spent and will return for some more "Digging".

Thank you

Linda Mead has written on behalf of Commitment for Life to thank the Cornerstone for their contribution of £795.20 for 2016. She says this is helping to make a real difference in the lives of some of the world's poorest people, and our continuing support is very much appreciated. Such generous and reliable sources of income are invaluable to Christian Aid and Global Justice Now as they plan for the future.

The Church's generosity will bring hope and resilience to people in our four partner regions. Many of our regions face particular problems at present; Bangladesh, flooding and increased violence against minorities, Zimbabwe, living through drought and political uncertainty, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories with the problems of occupation and division and Central America being challenged with climate change and femicide. More can be found about Christian Aid and Climate Coalition campaigns on www.christianaid.org and www.climatecoalition.org.

We are asked to continue to pray for peace and justice for those in poverty across the world.



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

As I write these notes, we are experiencing one of the coldest winters for a long time. The RHS tells me heavy frosts are good as they kill off all sorts of soil-borne pests and diseases, but as I get older I realise just how hazardous it can be to step outside the front door! At the same time, the Spanish Costa Blanca (where I am headed in a few weeks' time) has had its first heavy snow for around 100 years, followed by driving rain and flooding. You may remember last summer they had some terrible fires in tinder-dry conditions resulting in thousands of people, including my niece, having to leave their homes. Nature has a way of restoring itself, and the rains will serve to replenish the water table that was so lacking last year. I will, however, be more than a little peeved if I don't see some sun while I am there!

The Advent and Christmas season was celebrated in the customary way, with special services and parties. We began December with a visit from our friend John Amos to lead our worship, with Holy Communion in the evening conducted by the Minister; Messy Church explored the role of Angels in the Christmas narratives.

On 11th December the toy service and young people's presentation "O Come All Ye Faithful" was arranged by the Pilots Officers and our Minister, with participation from all the youth and children's groups; new nativity costumes made by the Crafters made their debut that day too.



Our own Roger Brett led the morning service, and Communion, on 18th December and in the evening we had a traditional service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve was a busy day with a noon nativity for toddlers very simply told by Jacqui, with a wonderful knitted nativity set provided by Alison Shannon; we gathered again at 4.30 p.m. for the telling of the nativity story by means of children visiting a toy shop. Our thanks to Mary for arranging this service.

On Christmas morning, our Minister led our service of thanksgiving for Christmas. During the month we consumed some 300 mince pies, 150 sausage rolls, 250 chocolate coins, and countless cups of tea, coffee and mulled fruit juice. All children associated with the Church plus visitors, received The Real Advent Calendar and we gave age-appropriate booklets too. Anyone dieting now?



Our first service of the New Year was led by Roger, on making new beginnings. I remember as a child the annual chore of New Year Resolutions, and the disappointment after a few days when we found they were impossible to keep. The new beginning we make with Jesus Christ can be challenging, but never disappointing.

January's Messy Church explored Epiphany and the motivation of those wise men to make the long journey to find the Christ-child. You will have seen the display of stars and camels. My Christmas present from Frank was a paper cutting machine that can produce all manner of things, without the laborious cutting out with scissors. He is enjoying using it as much as me!

There was no parade service in January when our Minister, Sohail, led morning worship, our member Robert Wiseman conducted the service on 15th January, using mathematics to illustrate the children's talk - a quick google search reveals there are many people who have taken the trouble to 'prove' biblical truths with maths some of which are quite clever, some a little far-fetched. Nonetheless, worthwhile spending a chilly afternoon having a look!

On 22nd January we observed one of the important ceremonies of the year with the Ordination and Induction of Elders to a new term of office in the church. These were Alison Shannon, Peter Hunt and Mary Goodhew and we pray God's blessing as they serve Him at The Cornerstone. This was also our Communion Service conducted by our Minister. The final Sunday of the month saw John Amos visit us again and the theme of his message was "Faith" which needs to be unlocked and turned into action.

Looking forward, we have a number of events coming up. All churches in the Synod have been encouraged to look at the TRIO material - The Responsibility is Ours. Although primarily a means of examining how the church is funded, this campaign can also be harnessed to examine our human and other resources, and I hope to be able to publish the results of our consideration next month. On



12th February the morning service will focus on what it means to belong to Jesus and his church, with a presentation of where we are resource-wise. Then on Wednesday 15th February we are inviting everyone along from 4-6 p.m. to find out more about

belonging to The Cornerstone, what activities there are and how everything fits together. It is hoped that all church groups will have someone present to share their story; there will also be some communal and children's activities, as well as a hot meal.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday 23rd March at 7.30 p.m. Would leaders of all organisations please prepare a report of their activities for January-December 2016 to be submitted (preferably electronically) to me by Sunday 5th March. It has been our custom at that meeting to formally re-appoint officers, delegates and leaders and if you fall into that category but no longer wish to continue, please do let me know.

Ruth Dixon

PARENTS & TODDLERS

As well as our usual enjoyable time together, we celebrated Christmas a bit differently this year. The children decorated cardboard Christmas trees with stickers one week and the following week some of the older ones made nativity pictures by placing stickers in the spaces provided depicting Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus with shepherd and wise men and one or two animals, with the angel Gabriel completing the picture. For our last week before Christmas we all met at the Kursaal Soft Play centre where the children were able to have all sorts of fun and some who were more adventuresome climbing up to the top with some of the Mums in tow.

Christmas Eve we arranged a nativity service for little people. Although there were not as many as we had hoped, those that came were able to help to arrange the nativity scene on a table in the centre of the semi-circle. We used a familiar game of pass the parcel except a star was passed round while singing "Twinkle Twinkle little star". The unwrapping of the parcel revealed the figures to be placed on the table. Jacqui very ably kept the children's attention by telling each part of the nativity as they were placed. Some nativity words were also sung to the tune of the Grand Old Duke of York. We concluded with Away in a Manger and a prayer.

We were particularly encouraged to have members of the Fellowship join us and take this opportunity to thank them for taking the time to be with us on this occasion. Thanks also to Alison for the beautiful knitted people and animals for our nativity.

Val Hayman

Note from Ed:

My 2 year old granddaughter, Sophia, had been going along with her Mum Kathy to the Mothers & Toddlers just before Christmas. She was given an Advent Calendar with its explanatory booklet and I have to say that she was thrilled with it and by the time Christmas came along we were being shown the Angels, Shepherds, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. To hear her first mention Jesus, as a special baby, did bring a lump to my throat.

As a family we also went along to the Mothers & Toddlers Nativity on Christmas Eve and the story was beautifully told by Jacqui, along with well-known tunes played by Alison on the piano. All the children were included in a “pass the parcel” opening up of the knitted figures and how wonderful it was to hear that well known story afresh through the eyes of a child. Sophia enjoyed it very much, as did I.

Thank you Jacqui and Alison.

Anne Clarke

Stop Press.

As we go to print, Peter Hunt has had his operation and is OK.

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

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on February 14th at 2.30pm in the Foyer when after a cup of tea and chat we will have a programme arranged for us by Andy.

Our second meeting of February will be on the 28th when Mike Mead will be telling us about his life as a Driving instructor.

Everyone is welcome to join us and if you have not been before I can assure you there will be a warm welcome, and you will be among friends right from the start.

See you all on the 14th

Alison Shannon



Peter's Piece

Prayer.

Bidden or not bidden God is present.

I saw this statement on a plaque in a gift shop while on holiday in Ireland some years ago: it has been on our kitchen notice board and in my study, ever since. It is a truth we would all, no doubt, readily acknowledge but, if you are like me, frequently overlook. This is similar to the text we had over the mantel-piece in our dining room when I was a child - 'Christ is the head of this house, the silent listener to every conversation, the unseen guest at every meal.' One day the chimney-sweep was caused to think again before he uttered some words when his brush became wedged in the flue! If only we could live more consciously in the truth of those two statements our prayer life would be no problem.

Most of us have no difficulty communicating with our loved ones, our friends and our neighbours, and yet when we come to prayer we find ourselves lost for words. We feel that there is something mystical or unreal about prayer; we may feel unworthy to approach and we are not at all sure how to go about it. Yet, for us who are by God's grace trusting in Jesus the Christ as our Saviour and know all our sins forgiven, past, present and future, it should be the most natural activity we can engage in. We do not have to be in a special place, or assume a particular posture, for whether on our own or in the presence of others we can commune, talk with the One who is with us all the time¹.

Having said that, the nature of the One who is with us all the time, like for the chimney-sweep of my childhood, should control our behaviour!² But when we do fail, and have come to our senses, we can with confession have our relationship restored and freely enjoy His presence once again.³

¹ Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5

² 1 Peter 1:16 [Leviticus 11:44]

³ 1 John 1:9

Prayers can be from, brief words of praise and thanks or calls for help and guidance to longer times of listening and speaking. When praying with others it can be more helpful to prayer in several short itemised prayers than one long rambling, cover all, prayer.⁴

Finally two helpful points:

- (i) place and posture, although not essential, can often assist focus our approach and concentration - place, on one's own⁵, or together, both in church⁶ or elsewhere. - posture eyes shut, lifting up hands⁷, open hands, hands together, kneeling⁸, prostrate⁹ etc.

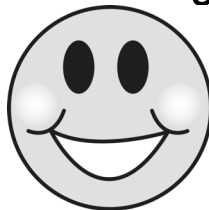
and

- (ii) A suggested order in praying - ACTS - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Philippians 4:6.

May God bless us in this fellowship in our prayer life, both together and alone.

SEEN ON A POSTER

Let your smile change the world



Don't let the world change your smile.

⁴ Mathew 6:7

⁵ Mark 1:35; 6:32

⁶ Psalm 122:1

⁷ Psalm 34:2

⁸ Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 3:14

⁹ Matthew 26:39

Ordering of Church supplies

I have recently taken over from Michael Wardle the ordering of supplies for the Church. This includes stationery, cleaning and catering supplies. I will be sending off orders, when required, around the beginning of each month, so if you become aware of something that is needed, please let me know with this timing in mind.

I'm sure there will be times when urgent orders will have to be placed, but it would be good if we can stick to a regular monthly order as far as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael for all his work in looking after this ordering over many years since we came together as 'The Cornerstone.'

Your help in alerting me to supplies that are needed will be much appreciated.

Many thanks
Mike Mead
01702 465443



A REMINDER

Southend Council do not recycle the plastic cups that we use for tea and coffee so could you please remember to put them in the black bag bins for general waste please. Thank you.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017

On Friday 3rd of March over 5000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme 'Am I being unfair to you?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan - named locally as 'Yolanda' - struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focuses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta. Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes.

The local service will be held at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, at 10.30am on Friday 3rd of March. The Day of Prayer is not just for women, everyone is welcome to attend.

Invitation to a Party!

Well Not Quite.

In 2016 The Cornerstone hosted 67 parties in our Sports Hall. This is a source of income to us and a support to our local community.

I am responsible for bookings and Mick Thorp has until now carried out most of the openings with Mike, Mary, Clive, Jacqui, Ann and Vic (sorry if I missed anyone) standing in on various occasions.

Mick has retired from this role but we want to continue to carry out this valuable activity. To do so we need to find just one or two more people to help.

Parties are usually booked from 2.30pm on a Saturday and from 12.30pm on a Sunday for four hours. On occasions they will start later or run for more than four hours but this is rare.



Can you offer some of your free time?

We need someone to be on site when the hirers arrive, see them in, show them around and take the remainder of the fee. We also need someone to attend when they are due to leave in order to check the Hall and to lock up but this need not be the same someone as the one who opens.

We already have a small group of people who are offering to help but the more people we have to assist then the less onerous it is on any single person.

No experience is necessary. We have a helpful information sheet and will provide on-site training i.e. Roger will walk around with you.

As a bonus you will also get a church key and be given the code to the gate and the alarm system.

If you are interested please contact Roger Brett for an informal discussion.

Make & Bake

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead in the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

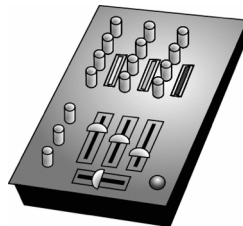
The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed,

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix 'em all together and bake 'em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits."

He paused, "Lord help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits." Amen.

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 5th March and we are grateful for items at any time **but** the latest time for submission is **9.00 a.m. on Thursday February 23rd 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**

AND FINALLY!

I heard a story the other day about a Church in Maine, USA which had a brass plaque listing all the names of the members who had died in the Military.

One day the Pastor walked into his Church and there was a little boy staring up at the plaque. He asked the Pastor "What are all these names? The Pastor said they were the members of the Congregation who had died in Service. The boy hesitated and then said: "Which one, the 8.30 or the 10.30?"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Also see weekly Notice Sheet)

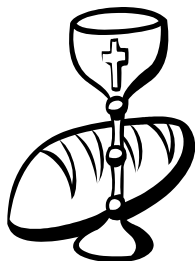
February

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	Belonging
Sat	11 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	12 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship.	Our Minister and Roger Brett on the theme "Belonging" as part of the TRIO initiative.
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Wed	15 th	4.00 p.m.	A "Belonging" themed Church Family Event including a meal - until 6.00 p.m.	
Thurs	16 th	7.30 p.m.	Digging Deeper Bible Study	
Sun	19 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev Clive Pegler
Thurs	23 rd	7.30 p.m.	PMG meeting	
Sun	26 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	
			including Holy Communion	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth Meet	

March

Thurs	2 nd	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	5 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
		6.30 p.m.	No evening service	
Tues	7 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
		8.00 p.m.	South Essex Area Pastoral Meeting	
Sat	11 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	12 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship and Family Parade	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	16 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 December for donating £73.50 to Tools with a Mission and £93.00 to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance in January

February

URC Retired Ministers' Housing Fund

Flower Donations

February

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



March

- 5th Rob & Sandra Milbourne
- 12th Teddy & Sheila Taylor
- 19th Hilda Cramond & Pam Wanstall
- 26th Alan & Carole Cornwall

There are a few vacant dates on the flower list:

April 23rd
August 27th
October 8th
December 17th

If you would like to supply flowers on any of these dates, please contact Jan Harvey or Val Mead, as soon as possible.

Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

Feb	5 th	Val Hayman and Stella Yates
	12 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	19 th	Stella Duboux and Jan Fox
	26 th	Sandra Milbourn and Leng Kingston
Mar	5 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	12 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead

Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

Feb	7 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	14 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	21 st	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	28 th	Alison Shannon and Sandra Milbourn
Mar	7 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	14 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	21 st	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	28 th	Alison Shannon and Sandra Milbourn



Save the Date



This will be on the Suffolk Showground from 9.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. and if there is sufficient interest we may be able to organise a coach, perhaps shared with another church.

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.