

New Horizons

MARCH 2017



LENT

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 - Celebrating Lent



Can we truly recognize the glory of Easter Sunday without understanding what led to the misery of Good Friday?

In the early days of the Christian church, the 40 days of Lent were a time for pause, contemplation, rededication and reflecting on Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness and final journey to the cross. They used this period as a special time to contemplate Christ's life, examine their own lives and rededicate themselves to faithful service. They used it as a way to pause from the monotony of daily life and to refocus on God.

Easter Sunday historically brought joy - new believers took baptismal vows while others renewed their promises - but Lent involved deliberate searching, fasting, prayer and confession. The sacrifices of the season led into the unparalleled high of Easter morning - the glory of resurrection and liberating promise of salvation.

In these days of instant gratification, the temptation is to skip the tribulations and move directly into the triumph. But theologians like Augustine preached patience: *"After the days of this humiliation will be the time of our exaltation. ... Therefore, let us voice our lamentations more insistently in prayers; then we shall exult more exuberantly in praise."*

Easter truly is an astonishing thing - the pain of betrayal, the agony of crucifixion and the utter ecstasy of resurrection. But wait. While Easter events provide the core of our salvation, there is so much more to Jesus' ministry than those final three days. There is struggle and tension. There are parables and lessons. And there are miracles and wonders enough to eternally sate our thirst for the divine.

And there is waiting. For some in Jesus' day, the waiting was for vindication and victory. Others waited for a lifeline out of hopelessness and despair. Christ brought all of those things, but in a way that, despite his warnings, none of his followers expected.

In John 9:30, the formerly blind man acknowledged the “astonishing” or “marvellous” thing that had been done to heal his sight. During Lent, we, together, can reopen our own eyes to the astonishing things that Christ has brought to the world.

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.



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

Please give thanks in your prayers for the many benefits we receive through our National Health Service. Pray for the dedicated staff who, day by day, deal with so much illness and suffering.

Also pray for those who consider how to improve the Service for the good of all and seek the best solutions.

Also for the scientists and researchers who constantly seek for new treatments and medicines.

Recipe for friendship

Take a large supply of tolerance and sprinkle it with care,
Stir in dependability with willingness to share,
Make a roux of staunchness and marinate for years,
Then add reliability (discarding any tears).
Fold in a heap of readiness to lend a helping hand,
Blend it all together and forever let it stand.
Bake in the summer sunshine, preserve in winter snow,
A recipe for friendship to make your spirit glow.



**Next time you're admiring all the wonderful things God
has made,
Remember that you're one of them!**

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

Harvest Festival 23rd and 24th September 2017

For the last three years we have had an event on the Saturday before the Harvest Service. Church Meeting agreed enthusiastically (?) to hold something again this year following the same format of a meal followed by some sort of entertainment.



A few suggestions about the type of entertainment were discussed and the view taken was that we would have something along the lines of an Old Time Musical which means all of us singing well known songs probably along with some live entertainment.

We already have volunteers (?) to perform as Hinge and Bracket which will be good. But we need more ideas and, dare I say it, volunteers.

I know that using the word volunteer is risky and may mean that you turn over but bear with me.

What we need from **YOU**:

- **Song Ideas** - Let me know what songs we should be singing. I have some thoughts but this is your evening so let me know your ideas.
- **Performance Ideas** - If we have Hinge and Bracket then other acts would also be good. So if you have anything that you want to do please let me know.
- **Culinary Skills** - Finally if you have an unfulfilled ambition to be Jamie Oliver, Mary Berry or Heston Blumenthal and show off your culinary skills then also let me know.

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



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Just off the flight from Spain, where I spent a relaxing week with my niece and her husband...

During February we took a look at the "TRIO" pack, and considered what it means to belong to the Church of Jesus Christ, and the privileges and responsibilities that come with belonging to a local congregation of the United Reformed Church. Our Messy Church was on the theme of "Belonging" and the various craft activities all reflected some aspect of that; the Service on 12th February took up that theme and we were also invited to consider the financial side of running a church such as ours - yes we are doing OK, but do we want to mark time, or march ahead in the name of the Lord? We concluded the Belonging events with a time together and family meal on 15th February.

Other services in February included a first visit from Mrs Jeanette Stevens from Wickford, although I think there were some parents who would have preferred she had not given the children whistles! On 19th February Rev Clive Pegler led our worship to mark the anniversary of the Christian Forum and on 26th February our Minister took the morning service and Holy Communion, before departing to Manchester to spend a week working with Wycliffe Translators on a project to translate the New Testament into Punjabi. We take for granted our access to scripture in our own tongue and wish this worthwhile project well.

Lent began on 1st March, and once again we are supporting the Water Aid Jars of Change Appeal. You will find literature and jars on a table just outside the chapel. Please do take a jar and collect small change, or if you are giving something up for lent the money you would otherwise have spent. Jars can be returned at any time, but by the Sunday after Easter please.



Our Annual General Meeting takes place on 23rd March at 7.30 p.m. I would hope to have received reports from all organisation and group leaders, by the time this magazine is published. Everyone is welcome at Church Meetings and if you are not already a church

member the AGM is a good time to come and find out how the church operates.



As most of you will know, we are looking to employ a Children and Families' Worker from September and we are making progress with the advertising and associated paperwork, with much prayer, and also practical assistance from Nicola Grieves the Synod Children and Youth Development Officer. This is a huge step for the church to be taking, but we believe we step out in faith that this is what the Lord requires of us at this time. The continued support and prayers of the congregation is most appreciated.

Ruth Dixon

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

February and March will be two months when we are a meeting behind in our reports, due to the way we have to get the material in to our magazine editors.

We restarted on Valentines Day with a real brain tester as Roy set us an IQ test. It took us right back to the days of our schooling and the old style 11+ with overs and unders and betweenes in the way we had to find the answers, which were easy of course when you saw how they were worked out.



February 19th was Anniversary Sunday and we had the privilege of listening to Rev Clive Peglar who took us into the Lions' Den with Daniel, who kept the faith and did not denounce his God despite all the threats held up in front of him. Thank you Clive for a memorable service with a lovely choice of hymns for our fellowship. Also thanks are due to Val for the lovely flowers which went home with Margaret and Hilda afterwards.

We look forward to hearing tales from Michael Mead on the 28th, more of that next month.

On March 14th we are going to look at artifacts, photographs or pictures which remind us of past events under the heading “These all tell a story”, so look in the cupboards and drawers and see what you can find to bring along and tell the rest of us how they fit into your history.

Our second meeting in March on the 28th will see us being tested again, I suspect, as we learn some Origami with John Wootton. (Please note the mistaken date on your programme)

As always I finish with an invitation to anyone to come and join us at 2.30 on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon, even if it is just a one off because you like the look of the session’s title. You will be most welcome.

Alison Shannon



Peter's Piece - Prayer 2

A life of prayer

The week before going into hospital I had a brain storm and decided to tidy up a cupboard that holds over 100 of my books. Unfortunately two of the shelves had collapsed, the small plastic angle shelf supports having given way under the strain! As in tidying out any space it is easy to become side-tracked by discovering things forgotten, which give a renewal of the pleasures and information that had once been so delightful or compelling but had faded with the passing of time.

Such was the rediscovery of a small book, written in the mid 17th century, of conversations and letters of Brother Lawrence, a friar of the Carmelite Order, who was just a humble worker in the kitchen of the monastery. The book records his ‘Practice of the presence of God’ so that he was able to say “The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clutter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as greater tranquillity as if I were upon my knees at the Blessed Sacrament.”

In our thoughts about prayer I would like to recommend this small, yet powerful volume for your consideration as part of your Lenten reading, as we, customarily during this time, strive to reassess and with God's help improve our Christian living.

We can't of course improve our being a Christian, for by faith in Jesus we are made perfect not by our works but by God's Grace but we can, until that great Day of the Resurrection, *make every effort* to improve our Christian living. 2 Peter 1:10 NIV *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election.* - Live in accordance with your being a Christian: or as Paul puts it, Philippians 2:12 *continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, was the beginning of Lent, the 40 day period that takes us up to Holy Week and then to Easter.

Look out for Prayer 3 - Praying Together, coming after Easter D.V.

May God bless us this Lent as we review our lives as Christians.

Peter Hunt

Temptation



In the Bible we read about Jesus being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. The desert marks the beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross.

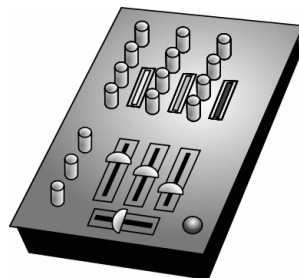
In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism, promises to reject sin and to follow Jesus.

Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

St George's RC newsletter

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 April and we are grateful for items at any time **but** the latest time for submission is 9.00 a.m. on **Thursday March 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**

BE AWARE

The clocks go forward one hour on Saturday night 25th March so, please remember to alter yours in order to be in church on time on the Sunday,



Those memorable school reports.....

What did your teachers say about your progress at school? The following were sent into the Daily Telegraph some years ago,,,,,

- On a French report - it simply said: 'Sheila attended the lessons.'
- A house master wrote: 'He has an overdeveloped unawareness.'
- A French teacher wrote: 'By the time he has mastered French, he will be too old to cross the Channel.'
- A teacher observed: 'The improvement in his handwriting has revealed his inability to spell'.
- One teacher was a realist and said: 'I am sorry to have to tell you that he is doing his best'.

A newly installed Cambridgeshire Vicar decided to inspect all the memorials in the churchyard. He was puzzled by a stone in the wall bearing the initials HWP. A search in the church records and registers failed to identify the unknown parishioner. One day, studying the stone again, he suddenly had a rush of inspiration and a much simpler and more mundane answer came to him:

'HOT WATER PIPE'

And finally:

- How do you approach an angry Welsh cheese? Caerphilly.
- I've started a business building yachts in my attic. Sails are going through the roof.
- I used to have a job at a calendar factory. I got the sack because I took a couple of days off.
- I was trying to explain puns to my kleptomaniac friend today, but she kept taking things literally.
- Did you know that owls can't breed in the rain? It's too wet to woo.
- I used to work in a shoe recycling shop. It was sole destroying.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(Also see weekly Notice Sheet)

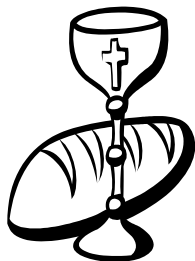
March

Sun	5 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
		6.30 p.m.	No evening service	
			(All AGM reports due in)	
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	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	16 th	7.30 p.m.	Digging Deeper Bible Study	
Sat	18 th	10.00 a.m.	Synod Meeting, Bishops Stortford	
Sun	19 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev Trevor Williams
Thurs	23 rd	7.30 p.m.	Church A.G.M.	
Sun	26 th	10.30 a.m.	Mothering Sunday - Holy Communion	
				To be arranged
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	

April

Sun	2 nd	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	John Amos
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
Tues	4 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	6 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	8 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday -	
			Family Parade	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Weds	12 th	10.00 - 3.00	Easter Holiday's Family Day	
			(Please bring your own packed lunch)	

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 donating £26.60 to the URC Retired Ministers' Housing Fund.

March	Rumania Crestin Trust (John Amos)
April	Christian Aid

Flower Donations

March

5 th	Rob and Sandra Milbourn
12 th	Teddy and Sheila Taylor
19 th	Hilda Cramond and Pam Wanstall
26 th	Alan and Carole Cornwall

April

2 nd	Jacqui Wilson
9 th	David and Beverley Osborn
16 th	EASTER
23 rd	Vacant
30 th	Vince and Monica Aloï
	Les and Janet Gooding



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

Mar	5 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	12 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	19 th	Alison Shannon and Jacqui Wilson
	26 th	Maureen Stone and Sandra Milbourn
Apr	2 nd	Linda and Mike Mead
	9 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

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
Apr	4 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	11 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone

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	07863 208914
	Jacqui Wilson	(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	(01702) 331023
	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.