

New Horizons

JULY 2017



to
**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.

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



Overcome Evil with Good

The recent attacks on innocent young people in Manchester, London bridge and Borough market made me ask, "How should we as Christians respond to not only these incidents but to all acts of terrorism?" Our first and natural reaction is retaliation and seeking revenge. Someone has to pay for these violent and unprovoked acts of terrorism.

One of the most amazing commands of Christ is to love our enemies. In our flesh, we naturally want to retaliate or fight back when we are treated unkindly or persecuted. Jesus preached forgiveness and mercy: ***"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"*** (Luke 6:36). His lifestyle demonstrated grace, that ours might also. He took His command one step further, adding another level of difficulty: ***"Pray for those who persecute you"*** (Matthew 5:44b).

Jesus had enemies . . . and they crucified Him. Yet, as we know, He had the ultimate victory in the end. But because God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to die, His Son did not leave the earth without praying for those who were responsible for His death. Jesus, who told us to love and pray for our enemies, demonstrated the ultimate gift of love while hanging on the cross: ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"*** (Luke 23:34a). Jesus prayed for His enemies . . . how can we do less?

We not only need to learn it ourselves but to train our children to love their enemies so that they might be determined to pray for them to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Jude also spoke about the importance of mercy: ***"Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them"*** (Jude 1:22). Because of God's mercy, we were saved. We must extend His mercy to those who are still enemies of God, so that they might also receive what we have been given.

How will the unsaved most likely come into God's kingdom - through our revenge, or by our loving acts and our prayer for them? This is an extremely important concept to teach children, as their first response is often to hit back, think up revenge, cease friendship, etc., rather than praying, continuing to be kind, etc.

Our Lord is the ***"God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were"*** (Romans 4:17b). Sometimes it is hard to imagine that our enemies could ever turn away from evil and come to Christ, but He has called us to pray for them. What seems impossible to us is possible with God (Mark 10:27). We never know when God might draw them into His kingdom.

God bless,
Sohail

Grenfell Tower: a prayer

We pray for all who have suffered because of the dreadful Grenfell Tower fire.

We pray that those who have died and been taken from us are remembered and treasured.

We pray for healing and support for those who have survived, and for everyone affected by this tragedy.

We pray for physical healing for all those injured, especially those in hospital, the elderly and infirm.

We pray for emotional healing, recognising the shock, trauma and grief to be lived through.

We pray for the revival of human spirit, with faith, hope and love surrounding each in peace.

We pray for justice to help us accept mistakes made and warnings ignored, for lessons to be learned.

We pray that all who suffer are granted the opportunity to cry out in their pain and be listened to.

When all is lost, no words can ease the pain. But we are carried through that pain by those who come around us, helping us back onto our feet, walking with us, listening to us, or just being there with us. We see the presence of God's love through them. And so we give thanks and pray for all those who have offered healing, support and comfort.

For the emergency, medical and social services, working sacrificially and with courage;

For those in authority, responsible for taking a lead in facing the challenges this fire has revealed.

For local residents, churches and charities, for the community itself, expressing such tangible love.

**Offered by the moderators of the
United Reformed Church General Assembly,
Kevin Watson and Alan Yates**

Prayers for our Fellowship and those we know

Prayers can be for joy and sorrow, health and sickness, good news and bad in addition to those for our own needs and guidance.

We keep in our prayers all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, give them your peace Lord and the knowledge that family and friends are there for them to lean on when life is difficult.



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

Andy Anderson, Ann & Vic Crowhurst, Roy Davis, Jan Fox, Olive Goodyear, Peter Hunt, Margaret King and Teddy Taylor.

We also pray for those of our fellowship who are finding life difficult at the present time either with health, job or family worries. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God knows of all their difficulties and hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers
Amen

Please feel free to use the Prayer Book placed on the Prayer Table, in the Foyer, to write down any names or events you want to be prayed for during the Service.



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

Requests will be prayed over at the Tuesday prayer group and other appropriate times.

For prayers during Sunday Service, please continue to use the prayer book on the table.

Prayers for people and matters outside of our fellowship

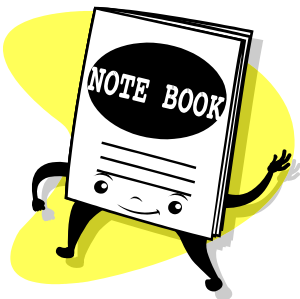
Sohail in his letter, Ruth in her Notebook and the prayer from the Moderators, all mention the terrible happenings over the past month so please do remember all in your prayers.



This is what heroes look like

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Phew! Here we are in the middle of summer, and (we are told) the longest June heatwave for over half a century. And yet our enjoyment of the sun's warmth is tainted by the shock and sadness at all the bad stuff going on in our country right now: political unrest, terrorism, tragedy. How do Christians talk about these things when asked? I suspect most of find it difficult and change the subject. But yet there are small signs of hope; a political leader having the courage to say his faith is more important than appearing to be politically correct; more religious leaders of all faiths publicly denouncing what is being done purported in the name of religion; people of all faiths coming together to minister to victims. The sense of community still shows sparks of life despite the 'me first' society in which we live, that is a sign of hope on which we as a nation need to build and the church needs to quickly ascertain its role in this process.



Now to my garden, which is beginning to provide fruit and vegetables for the household and more. We have never had so many tayberries, all harvested on the hottest days when the last thing I was going to be doing was stirring a hot jam pot! Instinctively I have put them in the freezer for a future jam making session. However, preparing with Pilots and Junior Church for the next Church Parade, including the story of the Israelites receiving daily manna from God, does make me question whether it was the right thing to do! But do not be surprised if a dish featuring tayberries arrives for the 'bring and share' lunch on 2nd July.



At worship, we began the month on Pentecost Sunday, with the morning service being led by Robert Wiseman and the evening Communion with Sohail. Although the Holy Spirit is a constant presence it is always good to set aside one Sunday to remember this and the sudden empowerment of those who wait upon the Lord. Messy Church also involved the Pentecost story, with crafts designed to remember the event and our

worship session included singing “Fill me up Holy Spirit” to the tune “She’ll be coming round the mountain”. The next Messy Church is 4th July at 4pm and you are welcome to come along and join in.

The June Parade Service was observed as Pilots’ Sunday, with the company giving a presentation of the Moses narrative which they have been following for the past term. It was a pleasure to see their enthusiasm for sharing this with the whole church and to welcome parents of the young people who took part. The July Parade Service, traditionally the young people’s anniversary celebration, will feature part two of the Moses story.

Our morning service on 18th June was conducted by Mrs Janette Stevens of Wickford. The new children’s craze of the fidget spinner has been embraced by youth leaders as a means of teaching about the Holy Trinity, Three In One. Janette had managed to find one which lights up when spun, an additional illustration of the Lord’s power.



On Sunday 25th June the morning Communion service was led by Sohail.

I am delighted to say that contact has been re-established with Highfield Uniting Church in Harare. It took some while for Danielle (Cornwall) to obtain contact details for the new Minister, Johnstone Ngcebetsa and he appears to be enthusiastic about the link, so hopefully we will soon begin a meaningful exchange of news, and prayer needs. By the time you read this, our Quiz Night in aid of the Lekkerwater school building project will have taken place, and we thank Ann Crowhurst for organising this. Synod is planning a visit to the twinned churches in December, of which more news later. Updates on the partnership can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Partnership-of-Zimbabwe-Presbytery-UPCSA-and-Eastern-Synod-URC.

I conclude with a word about the monthly prayer diary which I have prepared for you for several years. Although I do subscribe to several charity newsletters in order to include their prayer needs, it is as well to refresh the content from time to time. So if you have any suggestions as to new things that might be incorporated please do let me know

Ruth Dixon

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Ann and Gary who got married at The Cornerstone on Saturday 3rd June. Best wishes to you both for your future together.



Stella Yates would like to thank you all for your prayers and sympathy on the sudden death of her sister, Wendy. It was a terrible shock but she thanks God that she did not suffer.

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

We have only got one meeting to report on this month but it was extremely interesting and I think of great interest to the group.



There was almost full turn out to meet and greet Joanne Morris and her colleague from the charity Home Instead. They are a group offering a variety of help in the home to anyone in the community who need help with all aspects of life, practical and supportive. We were treated to a presentation about the sort of fraud that is particularly targeted at the older generation by mail, internet, cold calling and doorstep callers. They showed us a video first, handed out literature and answered a wide variety of questions. It was a very worthwhile visit. Thank you Joanne for coming.

This was our last full meeting before the summer break and we shall be back in the Autumn with our AGM on the second Tuesday in September.

See you all then
Alison Shannon



Peter's Piece

The Bible

In our reflection on the Sunday Morning Worship Service we've looked at hymn singing (February 2016), we've considered prayer (May 2017), we turn now to the central basis of our church services, The Bible, leaving 'the Sermon' and the pattern of our Worship Service to be considered at a later date!

In some URC church fellowships, while the congregation stands, the open Bible is carried forward and placed on the Table at the commencement of a Worship Service, indicating that the 'highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible, alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.' [from the URC Statement of Faith]. c.f. The Westminster Confessions – 'the Word of God, (is) the only rule of faith and obedience.'

As we are discovering in 'Digging Deeper', the Bible is the written record of God's self-revelation to us human beings. In reading and studying the Bible we can learn, with the Holy Spirit's guidance, what God himself wants us to know about Himself.

The Bible, as you know, is in two major sections – the Old and the New Testaments. This division indicates the means of God's revelation not the nature of the content, both reveal God to us.

In the Old Testament God revealed himself by, firstly, speaking through individuals, for example the prophet Jeremiah says *Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, Now, **I have put my words in your mouth.*** [Jeremiah 1:9 NIV.] and secondly, through the record of his dealings with the people of Israel. This is all summed up by the anonymous writer of Hebrews, 1:1 *In the past God spoke --- through the prophets at many times and in various ways.*

Then, in the New Testament the means, not the content, of God's speaking changes, *but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son*, v.2. who is himself not only the Living Word of God (John 1:1-5) but God Incarnate, God in human form; Philippians 2: 5-11.

The Bible therefore speaks to us in God's own words, by two different ways, who He is, what He requires of humans, what He has planned and purposed for the human race and all His creation, and what He Himself, in Jesus the Messiah (Christ) has done for us by His life, death, resurrection and ascension and will bring to fruition for all those who place their faith and trust in Him.

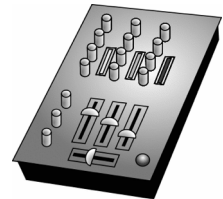
That is why the Bible is central to our Worship; we always read it, quote from it, and base our worship, praise, adoration and preaching on it.

May God's Holy Spirit give us all understanding in revealing himself to us as we read and study it, not only in church but daily in our individual lives.

--- the light of the gospel --- displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 Live as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

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 secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and to have the two as close together as possible!!"

Planting God's Garden

Plant three rows of Peas
Peas of mind
Peas of heart
Peas of Soul

Plant four rows of Squash
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of Lettuce
Let us be faithful
Let us be kind
Let us be obedient
Let us really love one another

You will have no garden without Turnips
Turn up for meetings
Turn up for services
Turn up to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love
Because you reap what you sow

To conclude our garden we must have Thyme
Time for God
Time for study
Time for prayer



The Helper

A Minister is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the Minister moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and, placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to the child's level, the Minister smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?" To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

Show me the way

Revd Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there You don't even know your way to the post office."

Desert Island Discussion

A man was stranded on the proverbial desert island for years. Finally one day a boat comes sailing into view, and the man frantically waves and draws the skipper's attention. The boat comes near the island and the sailor gets out and greets the stranded man. After a while the sailor asks, "What are those three huts you have here?"

"Well, that's my house there."

"What's that next hut?" asks the sailor.

"I built that hut to be my church."

"What's the third one?"

"That's the church I used to go but now I don't!"



A message from The Queen on Her Majesty's Official Birthday (Saturday 17th June 2017)

Today is traditionally a day of celebration. This year, however, it is difficult to escape the very sombre national mood. In recent months, the country has witnessed a succession of terrible tragedies.

As a nation, we continue to reflect and pray for all those who have been directly affected by these events. During recent visits in Manchester and London, I have been profoundly struck by the immediate inclination of people throughout the country to offer comfort and support to those in desperate need.

Put to the test, the United Kingdom has been resolute in the face of adversity. United in our sadness, we are equally determined, without fear or favour, to support all those rebuilding lives so horribly affected by injury and loss.

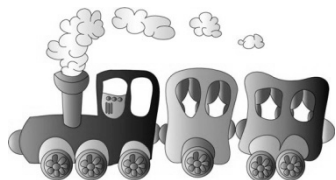
ELIZABETH R

The Train

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life.

However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. Others will step down over time and leave a permanent vacuum. Some, however, will go so unnoticed that we don't realise they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.



The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you all a joyful journey.

John McDonald

I guess the real fact of the matter is
we don't know what tomorrow is
going to bring and the only thing
we really have is right now.
So, don't stay mad for too long.
Learn to forgive. Love with all your heart.
Have fun.
Live your life the way you want to live it.
Don't worry about people that don't
like you. Enjoy the ones who do.

Anon

"I am old but I am forever young at heart.

We are always the same age inside.

Know that you are the perfect age.

Each year is special and precious, you can only live it once.

Do not regret growing old, it's a privilege denied to many!"

Richard Gere

Exercise for people over 60 - A perfect training plan



Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Anon



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 6th August and will be a joint issue for August and September. Please make a note of this in your diary and remember that the latest time for submission will be **9.00 a.m. on Thursday July 27th**.

**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)

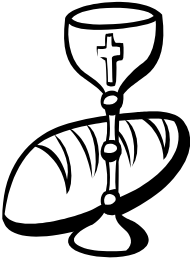
July

Sun	2 nd	10.30 a.m.	Church Anniversary	Our Minister
			Followed by Bring and Share Lunch	
			After the lunch we will	
			share Holy Communion together	
		6.30 p.m.	No service	
Tues	4 th	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	6 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	8 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Church Parade, Junior Church	
			Anniversary, led by Junior Church	
			and Pilots' staff (Moses, Part 2)	
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Sun	16 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Keith Berry
Thurs	20 th	7.30 p.m.	'Digging Deeper' - Bible Study	
Sun	23 rd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Thurs	27 th	7.30 p.m.	Church Meeting	
Sun	30 th	10.30 a.m.	Rev Celia Whitman	

August

Tues	1 st	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Fri	4 th		Belfast Boys & Girls Brigades arrive until	
			Friday 11 th August.	
Sun	6 th	10.30 a.m.	Belfast Boys & Girls Brigades service - led	
			by	Ruth Dixon
		6.30 p.m.	No Service	
Sat	12 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	13 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Our Minister
		6.30 p.m.	URC Youth meet	
Weds	16 th	10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Summer Family Fun Day	
Sun	20 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Rev Trevor Williams
Weds	23 rd	10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.	Summer Family Fun Day	

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 June for donating £94.10 to the RNLI

July HARP (Southend Centre for Homeless)
August Havens Hospices

Flower Donations

July

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

August

6th Andy Anderson
13th Florrie Bond
20th Michael and Brenda Wardle
27th Colin and Gwen McMillan



September

3rd Nigel and Val Mead
10th Brenda Kemp

Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

July	2 nd	Machrina Ejaz
	9 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	16 th	Sandra Milbourn and Leng Kingston
	23 rd	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	30 th	Alison Shannon and Jacqui Wilson
Aug	6 th	Maureen Stone and Sandra Milbourn
	13 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

July	4 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	11 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	18 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	25 th	Alison Shannon and Sandra Milbourn
Aug	1 st	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	8 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone

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	Alison Shannon	(01702) 464737
House Groups	Mike Mead	(01702) 465443
Use of Premises	Roger Brett	(01702) 479874
Flower arranging	Joan Harvey	(01702) 331023
	Val Mead	(01702) 296189
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	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.