

New Horizons

SEPTEMBER 2018



**For the fruits of His creation
Thanks be to God**

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.uk

Email:

cornerstonequestions@outlook.com

WORSHIP AND ACTION

Sunday 10.30 am **Morning Worship** and Junior Church.
Holy Communion is celebrated during
Worship on the 4th Sunday

**FAIRTRADE Coffee and tea is served after Morning
Worship**

Please stay to talk with each other in an informal atmosphere.

Sunday 6.30 pm **Evening Worship** will be held, and Holy
Communion celebrated, as set out in the
monthly magazine and as announced in Church.

Church Meetings are generally held in alternate months on the
third Thursday at 7.30 pm. The dates and times will be published in
this magazine and announced in Church.

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| Tues | 10.00 am | 1 hour's Prayer for fellowship. |
| | 10.00 am | Tea and Coffee in the Foyer |
| | 11.30 am | "Cornerstone Crafters" with lunch
(1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays or as announced) |
| | 2.30 pm | Christian Forum (2 nd and 4 th Tuesdays) |
| | 4.00 pm | Messy Church First Tuesday in the month |
| Wed | 9.30 am | The Cornerstone Toddlers during Term Time |
| | 1.30 pm | "Whisper" Worship Workout |
| | 5.45 pm | Pilots. Ends at about 7.00 pm. |
| Thurs | 11.30 am | Midweek Worship (2 nd Thursday) |
| | 6.00 pm | Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts |
| | 7.45-9.15 | Scouts |
| | 7.30 pm | Elders' Meeting (1 st Thursday) |
| Fri | 6.00 pm | Junior Badminton |
| | 7.00-9.00 | Youth Club |
| | 7.45 pm | Church Music Practice |

Little Turtles Pre-School meets on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am
during term time. Please see one of the Junior Church Leaders for
details.

Prayers for our Fellowship and those we know

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

We keep in our prayers all those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, especially our Minister, Sohail, whose father has recently passed away. Give them your peace Lord.



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

Monica Aloï, Ann Blackwell, Ann Crowhurst, Roy Davis, Pat Garrard, Olive Goodyear, Ron Root and Mick Thorp.

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

This month we pray for all children and young people as they start the new academic year. Some will be starting school for the first time and others will be moving class or to a new school. Be with them as they meet new friends and new teachers.

Especially pray for those who are going on to universities or colleges as they get accustomed to living away from home and caring for themselves.

Our Minister, Sohail Ejaz and his family were on holiday at the time of producing this magazine, so therefore there is no Letter to the Fellowship this month.



HOLY HABITS

Remember the context: Acts 2: 42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The habit of Biblical Teaching was introduced at the July Church Meeting, and a number of discussion or self-development materials have been available in the foyer since then. If you have not yet had the opportunity to see these please do. In his book "Holy Habits" Andrew Roberts makes some suggestions for further reflection and action:

“Take some time to review your personal practice of engaging with the Bible. Is it in need of refreshing? Would a season engaging with the Bible in a different way be helpful?

One tool you might like to explore is ORID. Originally developed by the Canadian Institute for Cultural Affairs it can be adapted to engage with Biblical Teaching. So:

- Observe. What do you notice in the text you are reading?
- Reflect (emotionally) How do you feel as you read this passage?
- Interpret. What do you understand this passage to be saying? At this stage commentaries can be helpful
- Decision. What are you going to do in the light of your engagement with this passage? “

Try this with the verses 2 Timothy 3: 16-17

(Andrew Roberts “Holy Habits” md Publishing ISBN 978-1-910786-15-4)

SECRETARY’S NOTEBOOK

As I write these notes, the hot dry summer seems to have hit a pause and the plants in the garden are picking up, and we have even had to mow what is left of the lawn. I had hoped to bring some tomato plants to the July Fayre, but at that point we were struggling to just keep them alive! Now in pots in the garden and waiting for the Indian Summer in order to produce lots of fruit.



At the end of June our Minister, Sohail, was prompted to visit his family in Pakistan, where sadly his father passed away shortly after his arrival. Our thoughts and prayers continue for the family.

The Cornerstone folk are extremely resourceful and our services in July were hastily adjusted; my thanks to everyone who volunteered.

We had a Songs of Praise for our Anniversary service on 1st, with an appropriate address from Rev Derek Kingston, followed by cake beautifully made by Ann Blackwell. I was not present for the parade service on 8th led by Roger Brett, but I understand it involved a parrot. The message was well received and, I have been told, was related by a scout parent to another church member later in the week. Our midweek service on 12th July was led by friends from Southend Vineyard.

Mrs Machrina Ejaz took the service on 15th July, unpacking Psalm 1 and contrasting the ungodly ways described there with the virtues of the 10 Commandments. The other two Sundays saw Robert Wiseman leading our worship, with Clive Goodhew presiding at Communion on 22nd. The Junior Church was delighted with the chocolate provided to underline Robert's message that God's love is not the same as us loving chocolate!

At the beginning of July I was privileged to attend General Assembly on behalf of Eastern Synod. We were situated in Nottingham's Albert Hall, with hotels close by. The business of Assembly was conducted over four days, interspersed with addresses from invited guests and overseas visitors; alongside Assembly there was a Children and Youth Event "The Big Speak Out" which eight of our young people attended, and presented some of their thoughts to Assembly. I shared the daily 'round up' on The Cornerstone's Facebook page during the event, but if you did not have the opportunity to read them then, the articles can be found at

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news.html>



The summer fayre was an enjoyable occasion and, despite the weather and competition from other events, raised over £400 for church funds. Our thanks go to Mary and Lisa and the team of parents and children who organised and ran the event.

In August we hosted the Boys' and Girls' Brigades from Belfast for their annual camp, and a number of them participated in the service on 5th August on "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". Alongside fun activities the boys and girls had a number of teaching and worship sessions, and I was delighted to join them for epilogue on the Thursday. I understand that during the week four young people made a decision for Jesus, and I invite you to pray for their continuing growth in the faith.

Our Minister, Sohail, led our service on 12th August after which he and the family left for their holiday in Scotland. On 19th August Roger Brett once again led the service, with assistance from Lisa, for a glove puppet children's talk about Holy Communion, a theme which continued through the service concluding with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Our church was once again lodgings for a camp on the Bank Holiday weekend when the Girls' Brigade from Ipswich visited. The Sunday Service was a celebration of the Bible, to coincide with our two month period of considering the Holy Habit of Biblical Teaching.

Looking ahead this month, on Sunday 9th September the loose cash in the offertory will be assigned to support the youth and children's work of the church, for the purchase of materials etc. This was overlooked when we had the combined service in June; we are aware some members and friends welcome the opportunity to make a special donation for this important aspect of the church's work, and thank you for your generosity.

On 12th September at around 7.15 pm Roger will be delivering a short training talk/information session on the General Data Protection Regulations, for all group leaders and anyone involved in keeping and using personal records on behalf of the church. If you are unable to attend please speak to Roger or myself.

Our Harvest Festival service takes place on 23rd September, which will be a church parade. This year your Harvest Gifts will go to The Storehouse, and in addition to the usual tinned and packet goods, I understand baby food, nappies and other baby products are much in demand. If you have any decent sized cardboard boxes for transportation please bring them along on 16th or 23rd. Thank You.

On Saturday 29th September there will be a premises working party to carry out some routine maintenance to the church and grounds. If you can spare an hour or so you will be most welcome, please speak to Mike Mead.



Even further ahead:

Visitors from Zimbabwe

The Synod exchange visit takes place 5-16th October. Sadly there will be no representative from our twinned Church but we welcome those who are coming, and a programme of events is being created for them.

Ways in which you can assist

- Accommodation during the period (not necessarily all of it) - bed and breakfast and occasional evening meal
- Transport to and from planned events

Please let the Secretary know if you can help.



Operation Christmas Child

We are participating in the Shoebox Appeal again this year, and further information will be available early October.

Elders' Election

The Elders' Election takes place at the 22nd November Church meeting and nominations are open throughout October, so now is the time for members to consider:



- whether or not you feel called to serve the Church in this way. (a three year term) You need to be 18+ years of age and a member of this church for at least one year. Please take a look at the leaflet “Called to be an Elder” which can be found in the foyer leaflet racks, and do talk to existing Elders about what it entails
- who you might wish to nominate (whether an existing Elder or not - see below) - again you might wish to consult the leaflet
- reserve the date of this important Church Meeting in your diary.

Unusually this time there are 6 vacancies, including those carried over from previous years. It would be really good to have a full complement of Elders for the coming years. Retiring Elders are Ann Blackwell, Clive Goodhew, Michael Mead and Jacqui Wilson of whom Clive Goodhew is eligible for re-election. Those who retired last year and are now eligible for re-election are Roger Brett, Ruth Dixon and Allan Prior. There are also a number of ordained elders who have not served recently but may wish to be considered again.

I conclude with a plea to everyone attending services or meetings on the premises to ensure that taps are turned off and windows closed before you leave, and please don't assume someone else has done/will do it. In the case of taps this is particularly important as if they are running overnight the water supply will be shut off. Your co-operation is appreciated, thank you.

Ruth Dixon



Find inspiration in your inbox!

Daily Devotions from the United Reformed Church started on the first Sunday of Advent 2017 (27 November) and continue throughout the year. Each day, a reading, reflection and short prayer, written by one of 85 writers from different places and perspectives in the URC, will arrive in your inbox.

Andy Braunston, who is coordinating the project, said: 'These devotions can make a great start to the day. Many people read them on their phone whilst commuting or use them during a time of quiet in the midst of the day. The reflections might challenge us or get us to think about an issue from a different point of view. They could even spark an idea for a Sunday or mid-week service.

Sign up here:

<https://urc.org.uk/news/2215-find-inspiration-in-your-inbox>

Ruth Dixon

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

thank
you!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all in the Fellowship who have supported me with your love and prayers while I have been unwell and in hospital. Thankfully I am now on the mend but still feel rather shaky and weak. Hope that passes when I have stopped taking the antibiotics. God bless.

Peter Hunt

I would like to thank the church family for their prayers, messages, cards, flowers and visits, all of which were very much appreciated and helped to lift my spirits. God Bless you all.

Pat Garrard

It seems a long time since we celebrated our Diamond Wedding at the beginning of July but we would like to say a big thank you for the many good wishes we received on that occasion. We would also thank everyone for the plant presented to us at the Sunday morning service. It is sitting very happily in our porch!



Val & Geoff Hayman

Wishing Nigel and Val Mead every happiness as they celebrate their Ruby Wedding on 2nd September and also to David and Beverley Osborn, who celebrate theirs on the 16th September. Best wishes to both couples from all at The Cornerstone.



We said a fond farewell to Freya Fletcher on the last Sunday in August as she and her family are off to live on a Scottish Island. She and her brother Hadrian have been stalwarts of our Junior Church since they were very young. Hadrian left us to go to University and now we have said our goodbyes to Freya. We wish the family every happiness in their new life in Scotland.



To Abigail Dyer and Shameer Ejaz on getting the GCSE results they needed. Well done to them and any other teenager who received their GCSE and A level results in August. If you didn't get the results you hoped for don't despair, seek advice for your next steps.

Return to school week

Parents, don't become preoccupied with your child's academic ability but instead:

Teach them to sit with those sitting alone.
Teach them to be kind.
Teach them to offer 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 will change the world.

Table top Plate Warmer Something everyone needs

Free to a good home or even a not so good home if the money is right.

We have been given a Hostess Model PW12C plate warmer for use at the church. But, whilst a generous offer, it would be more useful at your house.

This catering-quality electric plate warmer will heat a dozen dinner plates at once, and doubles as a food warmer once the main course is served.

Stylishly designed with a chrome finish, it closes to a neat 12" x 9¾" x 3½" when not in use. Holds plates up to 12" dia.

If you would like it then please contact Roger and put extra in the collection on Sunday.

Roger Brett

News from the Forum

Welcome everyone and it's time to start a new year with the Christian Forum at the Cornerstone.

Our first meeting is on the 11th of September with our usual AGM to catch us up with the events of the past year and to look forward for what the future holds for us.

A variety of murmurs have reached me over the summer and it will be good to hear those, and any other suggestions, spoken out loud with all of us there.

Please let me know if you cannot be there on the 11th but are hoping to continue as members of the group.

After the hopefully short AGM, there will be an interesting brain teaser for us all and then on the 25th of September there will be a visit from some Alien Creatures. No more details now, you will have to come along to see who or what they are.

What the rest of the year holds for us will depend on the discussion at the meeting but rest assured if it is the general wish for the group to continue, we will endeavour to put a programme together which will be enjoyable for all. I for one look forward to our afternoon get-togethers and I have a feeling this is true for others also.

We have no real documentation as to when the Forum started but by word of mouth, from those who have been in it from the beginning, we reckon this will be our fortieth year..... and unless anyone can tell us differently, we shall go ahead with this belief.

If you have never been to the Forum, second and fourth Tuesday afternoons, in the Foyer, starting at 2.30pm you are most welcome to come along in September and meet us all. WE don't bite, are very friendly and generally have a good time. Come and see.

See you all on the 11th.

Alison Shannon



Children and families

We had a lovely morning in the company of our Belfast friends during their stay here. What a wonderful gathering of like-minded souls. Some of our boys (including Derek) showed great potential and fabulous team spirit playing rounders together in the park. Unfortunately, there wasn't an opportunity for Sohail's boys to teach me how to play cricket but I'm sure we'll squeeze it in sometime before the nights begin to draw in!

I was encouraged chatting with Stephanie about her youth club's early days - a significant number of members are now older teenagers and becoming young leaders themselves.

We will start our weekly youth club on Friday 7th September, with much the same format and the addition of a 15+ lounge to enable our older young people (I love an oxymoron!) some space to chat and hang out together, with every opportunity to join us throughout the evenings activities if they so wish, the expectation being that they will join us for our closing chat and prayer. I have invited two young people who have recently moved to Ferndale Baptist Church and are the only youth there at the moment! There is a possibility that we may be able to do some form of camp with our young people next summer.

It does feel strange talking about next summer already, but the preparations really do start now. As I write this, I have a list for 'soul survivor' to hand which I keep adding to, we leave on Friday 24th for five days, a wonderful way to end the summer and for some of our young people their only spiritual top-up for the year.

When I wrote back in June, I had just returned from a retreat at Rydal Hall and was lucky enough to return again in July, during the Blencathra fortnight. This time the children used Wordsworth's Grotto as a changing room and swam in the waterfall pool he had built for his wife! We also discovered we could park in the grounds for the whole day for £5 with £2 discount in the tea shop.

I got to revisit the quiet garden and my favourite prayer spot; the 500-year-old sweet chestnut tree. The Blencathra holiday was started over 40 years ago and generations of the founder families have become firm friends during my past three visits. I joined the committee after my second holiday and this year told them how I'd gone home after my first holiday declaring that I had met some real Christians. They made me feel so welcome. I'd feared judgement as a single mum but all I found was love, support and genuine fellowship. Blencathra is a field studies centre hired out to church groups during the summer break. It was originally a TB hospital in the early 1900's and boards around the sprawling corridors depict its history beautifully.

The building itself is mostly self-sufficient with its own water turbine and other things(!) they have reduced their carbon emissions by over 80%. We are fully catered for by a fabulous team of permanent staff, assisted by different students each year, all of whom are

friendly and helpful. Not to cook for two weeks is a treat in itself, but not to cook and to be fed delicious homemade food is a delight - especially the cakes put out every afternoon in the pantry.

I love that I can leave the children sleeping and attend prayer meetings each morning. There are several open worship meetings throughout the fortnight, including two family services, all of which are optional; I asked one of our non-Christian guests how they found holidaying with a bunch of believers to which he replied, "it's a great holiday and you're not in our faces!" I took this as a compliment that we had shown walking with Jesus in our everyday, our friend is coming back next year.

It is wonderful to spend two weeks not having to compromise my conversation. If I want to talk God stuff, there are several very wise Christians to commune with. They are happy to walk in breathtaking surroundings, discussing the teaching from the Keswick Convention or what you think the Lord is saying in scripture, with no fear of being asked to "talk about something else now", a constant plea from some of my non-Christian neighbours, family and friends. To climb mountains arguing whose Bible hero is the most worthy of the title, is fun!

The beauty of creation around the centre emanates a peace and stillness, even in the rain and fierce winds. On the first Friday, Ezra and I decided to have our own adventure - just the two of us. We climbed to the top of Blencathra itself. In three years of holidaying there, the weather conditions have never been stable enough before, it was far too hot to climb but clear so no chance of getting lost in the clouds (last year I got us lost for 4 hours looking for Rydal caves). Armed with plenty of water, food, sunblock and wearing our best sunhats we set off.

It was really tough! Ezra (9) had to go on the outside as we neared the top and the paths became narrow, but encouraging each other we made it. It was such a sense of achievement for us to share and Ezra has enjoyed telling everyone what a scaredy cat I was when we got near the top. It was an exciting and challenging time both physically and spiritually but also restful. There was time for everything everyday. Something that rarely happens at home.

We have started planning for next year and there are now some en-suite cottages available in the grounds, as well as the dormitories in the main house. Please don't be put off by the distance, as we can organise transport if needed. You don't have to be able to walk far to enjoy the holiday.

One of my companions is a delightful 89 year old Scotsman who joins us for the valley walks and trips to gardens or into town. Quite often the two older generations will picnic on the bank whilst the youngsters canoe and swim; come next year and be part of this amazing family.



I still haven't heard anything about funding for whisper but am preparing a new worship playlist in expectation. During the holidays I had two or three new enquiries about the class, which is encouraging.

God bless
With love from Lisa



Digging Deeper

We recommence on the third Thursday 20th September 2017 with the overall subject, taking us up to November, of 'Church Membership'. This is a subject that concerns all of us who regularly attend the

Cornerstone, with particular importance to those who come to Sunday Morning Worship, Sunday Evening Worship, Messy Church, and Midweek Worship; these being the main meetings of the Fellowship; in other words ALL are welcome - see you there!

What does being a Member of the Cornerstone mean? Who can be a Member? Who are Members? Can I attend and participate without formal membership? Why should I become a formal Member? Are there any special responsibilities and requirements? These are some of the questions we shall be looking at and seeking to answer from the Bible.

20th September

Members of the Kingdom, Church universal and Members of the Cornerstone, a [local] Church.

1 Corinthians 1:2; John 3:1-21,

1 Corinthians 15:24.

1 Thessalonians 2:12. et al.

18th October

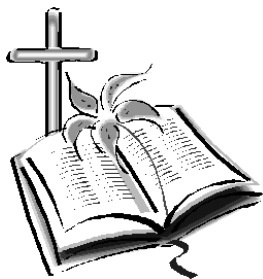
The 'local' Church - Living, Loving, Worshiping

[1 Corinthians chapters 12,13, (11:17-34) and 14.]

15th November

What is MY part to play?

1 Corinthians 12:27-30 with Ephesians 4:7,11-16.



Peter's Piece

Who?

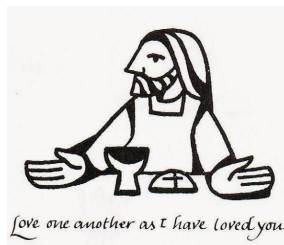
This month we ask 'Who can take part at Communion?

1 Corinthians 11 verses 23-34, often read during the communion service, is part of Paul's letter to the 'church' at Corinth, which he describes in the opening verses of this letter (1:2) as a 'congregation' of those *who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints*, or as the Good News Bible puts it - *to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people*. Or as John puts it in John 1:12 - *to all who believed him (Jesus) and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God*.

If we each personally believe Jesus died for me and I have accepted him as my Saviour and Lord then we are one of those - sanctified, one of his holy people, a child of God. One to whom Paul addresses his words about coming to the Lord's Table in chapter 11. Especially as he extends his teaching to the 'church' at Corinth to, *all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ---their Lord and ours*: so that includes all of us who believe in Jesus.

This is the first qualification needed to take part in the Communion meal, that we are those who have by faith accepted Jesus into our hearts and lives.

Secondly, to all who qualify Paul goes on to give the solemn warning that when we do take-part there should be nothing between us and our Lord, for that we would be eating and drinking unworthily vv. 27-30. So, Paul says, - *Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.* We are not to judge each other on their worthiness, nor they on ours, but are to ensure we ourselves are worthy. Paul implies we should first confess to God any unworthy thoughts or deeds and then be free to eat and drink. It's between us personally and God as to whether we should participate, is my trust in Jesus and am I worthy or is there unconfessed sin?



Next month - 'A Sacrament.'

Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays of September 2018

September 2nd, 2018

Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9th, 2018

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 16th, 2018

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19
James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 23rd, 2018

Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 30th, 2018

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124

James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

October 7th, 2018

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26;

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Book Review and suggested reading

How God became King - Tom Wright.

Tom Wright is pleasantly and easy to read but some of his lines of reasoning take careful thought to grasp the point(s) being made; but this is always well worth the effort. His spiritual insight beautifully and beneficially opens new and fresh understandings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ and, of course, of God who became King.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough, I have not only enjoyed reading but have been spiritually helped in my understanding and appreciation of the Gospel in the Gospels. He makes the OT relevant and purposeful in *that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is in fact the climax of the story of Israel.* Quote page 77.

I have a good number of his books and can safely and thoroughly recommend them. If you are not academically minded, then choose one that the Rt. Rev. N T Wright former Bishop of Durham and now a Professor at the University of St Andrews, has written as Tom Wright. Although not of the same denomination as us, his theology never-the-less can be fully trusted.

Three other titles you might find very helpful -

'Can a smart person believe in God?' And by the same author - **'Amazing Truths'**. How science and the Bible agree.

Both by, Michael Guillen. Both only Kindle books in this country I believe.

'What is the Bible?' by Rob Bell (Harper Collins)

Harvest Festival Evening 22nd September
Harvest Festival Service 23rd September
with Holy Communion



For a number of years now we have had a Harvest Evening Event, usually 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 entertainment. Not, of course, that the meal won't be entertaining.

My suggestion of an evening of '**Songs From The Shows**' was adopted unopposed. I don't know why!! Once again this will have a number of items on the Big Screen. There will be songs for the assembled throng to sing, using music from our Musical Directors and, possibly, one or two home grown pieces of entertainment. I have already had a volunteer who has pressed another person in to assist and I may find that the 'Vicar' will make a return visit. Well, you have to get full use out of the costume.



As with last year, anyone who wishes to volunteer to do something would be most welcome. Let me know soonest, so that I can amend the programme. If you have any idea of songs, then also let me know. I am interpreting the title fairly loosely, as it could include shows that are non-musical but have songs.

The Church Meeting also agreed to a Fish and Chip supper to start the evening off, so no need to prepare your 'pinnies', just your wallets and voices.

And for your diaries -

Date - 22nd September 2018
Arrive from 5.30pm
Food from Chippy served at 6.00pm
Concert to start at approx 7.15pm and finish around 8.30pm



The following is the Address to the Throne that was read out by Mr Alan Yates, Immediate-past Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly on Monday 9th July 2018. It may be of interest to the whole church as it has a broader view of what the church and Christians should be about.

To the Queen's most excellent majesty,

The General Assembly of the United Reformed Church now meeting in Nottingham sends loyal greetings to your majesty.

Since the General Assembly last met, the Duke of Edinburgh has retired from public life. We express our thanks for his remarkable lifetime of service and wish him good health and fulfilment in his retirement.

Many members of our Church shared in the joy of the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex this May. The sermon preached by the Most Reverend Michael Curry was a forceful reminder that our God is a God of love, and that this has important implications for how we relate to one another.

As he said: 'Jesus of Nazareth taught us that the way of love is the way to a real relationship with the God who created all of us, and the way to true relationship with each other as children of that one God, as brothers and sisters in God's human family.' As a Church, we are troubled by some developments in society and government that are acting to diminish this relationship.

In the year when we are celebrating 70 years since the Empire Windrush arrived in Tilbury Docks, we have been appalled by recent revelations about the treatment of some members of the 'Windrush Generation' and other migrants as a result of the government's 'hostile environment' policies.

General Assembly passed a resolution expressing its deep concern that these policies are leading to destitution, discrimination and distrust in society.

Over the last year, we have been engaged in a process of reflecting on the legacies of the transatlantic slave trade with members of our sister Churches in the Council for World Mission. We are mindful that historic injustices form a backdrop to Britain's international responsibilities and immigration policies, and create a particular imperative to ensure that every individual, whatever their status, is treated with humanity, dignity, respect and fairness.

A major issue of continuing concern to the Church is poverty and inequality in Britain, and especially the impact of welfare changes being pursued by your majesty's government. Many of our church members are involved in running and supporting foodbanks, which have seen major increases in demand, especially in areas where universal credit has been rolled out. We believe that a benefit system which drives families into debt and leaves them hungry is a failing benefit system.

However, we are glad to live in a country which takes seriously its role and responsibilities in tackling global poverty, and commend Your majesty's government for its continued commitment to the international aid budget. Many in our churches play their own part in helping people around the world to escape poverty through giving, practical action and campaigning, notably through the United Reformed Church's own Commitment for Life programme, which has made a significant impact over the 26 years since it started. At General Assembly we were encouraged to hear from the new Chief Executive of Christian Aid.

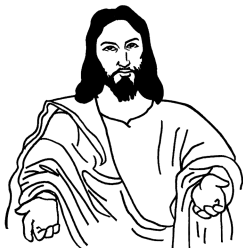
We are a diverse denomination and include members of many races, life experiences and economic backgrounds. As a Church, we are enriched and strengthened by our involvement of people from the commonwealth, from continental Europe, and from other parts of the world in our congregations and ministry. We are together members of the body of Christ, and, as St Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians: 'If one member suffers, we all suffer together.' We therefore suffer and stand alongside all those who are facing prejudice, uncertainty and unfair treatment in our society today, and continue to pray that our political leaders will exercise wisdom, compassion and good judgement in these challenging times for our country and our world.

We also pray that our generous God of love will strengthen, sustain and guide your majesty in the years ahead.

Faith in Focus

There's a famous latin phrase, attributed to Tacitus the Elder, that says "Omne Ignotum pro magnifico". When roughly translated it means "Things we don't understand seem wonderful".

We are easily impressed by things that are a bit exotic and out-of-the-ordinary. We find them somehow more glamorous than what's on our doorstep or what's easy to understand. For example most people would be prepared to spend a fortune on a holiday to Burma on the assumption that it's bound to be better than Bognor!



When Jesus returned to his home town and to the people that knew him, despite his reputation and regardless of the fact that he's just performed a series of miracles, his neighbours reject him. Why? Because they know who he is; he's Mary and Joseph's son. Nothing special. Nothing to start crowing about.

It's easy for us to sit in judgement on the people of Nazareth and accuse them of blindness and stupidity but we can be as guilty as they are. We can fail to see what's good on our doorstep. We can fail to see the wood for the trees.

God uses people and situations of ordinary daily life to speak to us. Most of us will never be visited by an angel with a special message but we will meet all sorts of people and situations week in and week out that are shouting the message of the gospel to us. There are no people or places that we can write off.

So, how open are we to all the sights and sounds around us? God's voice is bound to be in one or other of them. Why not let yourself be surprised?

(A sharing)

Science says that we need at least 4 basic elements to survive

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

And look what the Bible tells us about Jesus

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World

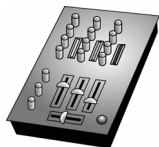
Science was right, we need Jesus to live

The Most Beautiful things in life
aren't just things.
They are People and Places,
Memories and Moments,
Smiles and Laughter.



A Priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his priest's collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed to the priest's neck. When the priest finally realised what the boy was pointing at, he asked him, "Do you know why I am wearing that?" The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."

Recording of services



We are now sound recording every Sunday service, so please let Vic Crowhurst know if you would like a copy for yourself, someone who could not be with us that day or perhaps to give to someone to listen to how well we sing! For special and festival services we may make video recordings and if you would not wish to appear in these, then please speak to anyone at the sound and vision desk before the service starts. There should be a prior warning of the services involved.

Flower Donations

September

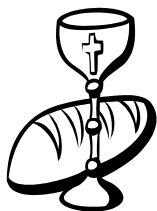
2nd Joan Harvey
9th Brenda Kemp
16th David & Maureen Stone
23rd **HARVEST**
30th Eve Wright



October

7th Alison Shannon
14th Eric & Pat Garrard
21st Robert Wiseman (In memory of Joan)
28th Allan & Hilda Prior

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 July for collecting £50 for the RNLI and in August the amount of £50 was collected for HARP.

September
October

Havens Hospices
Peaceful Place

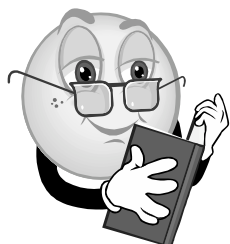
Coffee/Tea Rotas

Sunday mornings after Worship

Sept	2 nd	Gwen and Colin McMillan
	9 th	Anne Clarke and Brenda Kemp
	16 th	Suzanne and Paul Dyer
	23 rd	Maureen Stone and Val Hayman
	30 th	Linda and Mike Mead
Oct	7 th	Val Hayman and Stella Yates
	14 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead

Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

Sept	4 th	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	11 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone
	18 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	25 th	Carol Smith
Oct	2 nd	Stella Duboux and Barbara Dillon
	9 th	Joan Harvey and Maureen Stone



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 7th October 2018. Please let us have your contributions by our usual time of 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 27th September.

**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)

Sept

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	
Weds	5 th	9.30 a.m.	The Cornerstone Toddlers resumes	
		5.45 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.	Pilots resumes	
Thurs	6 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders' Meeting	
Fri	7 th	6.00 p.m.	Junior Badminton resumes	
		7.00 p.m.	Youth Club	
Sat	8 th	9.00 a.m.	Big Breakfast	
Sun	9 th	10.30 a.m.	Promotion Sunday	Our Minister
Weds	12 th	7.15 p.m.	Meeting for organisation leaders/records keepers	
Sun	16 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Tues	18 th	7.30 p.m.	South Essex Area Partnership Pastoral Committee meeting	
Thurs	20 th	7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.	Digging Deeper (1st meeting) - Considering Church Membership	
Sat	22 nd	5.30 for 6.00 p.m.	Fish & Chip supper	
		7.15 p.m.	"Songs from the Shows"	
			Finish about 8.30 p.m.	
Sun	23 rd	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Thanksgiving/ Family Church Parade	Our Minister
			Harvest contributions for The Storehouse	
Thurs	27 th	7.30 p.m.	Church Meeting	
Sat	29 th	9.00 a.m.	PMG Working Party	
Sun	30 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	
			Commitment for Life	Linda Mead

Oct

Tues	2 nd	4.00 p.m.	Messy Church	
Thurs	4 th	7.30 p.m.	Elders' and Ministry & Mission meeting	
Sun	7 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship	Peter Hunt
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	Our Minister

WHO'S WHO?

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk	
Secretary	Ruth Dixon	(01702) 464186
Treasurer	Ann Blackwell	07753 348856
Envelopes	Mike Mead	07802 749912
Gift Aid	David Osborn	(01702) 611337
Preachers List	Mary Goodhew	(01702) 467512
Youth and Children	Lisa McCrae	
Junior Church	Ruth Dixon	(01702) 464186
Joint Leaders	Mary Goodhew	(01702) 467512
Pilots	Derek Goodyear	07863 208914
	Jacqui Wilson	(01702) 302879
C'Stone Toddlers	Jacqui Wilson	(01702) 302879
Joint Leaders	Mary Goodhew	(01702) 467512
Scout Group	Lorna Skippon	(01702) 477309
Christian Forum	Alison Shannon	(01702) 464737
Use of Premises	Roger Brett	(01702) 479874
Flower arranging	Joan Harvey	
	Val Mead	(01702) 296189
Editorial Team	Anne Clarke	(01702) 293102
	af.clarke52@gmail.com	
	Michael Wardle	(01702) 613840
	mjb23wardle@btinternet.com	

Please remember that your Elders are ordained to serve our members and friends who have pastoral concerns.

We do offer Christian Marriage, Baptisms and Funerals so please talk to the Secretary or any Elder if you feel that we can help.