

# New Horizons

JULY 2020



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

## THE CORNERSTONE



Bournemouth Park Road,  
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5JL  
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## Watch out for news about re-opening!

### WORSHIP AND ACTION

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

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

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

Tues 10.00 am **Time of prayer** together for, the Fellowship, those with special needs, our neighbours, and the world-wide Christian Family. All are welcome to join with us.

**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 Tea and Coffee in the Foyer  
11.30 am "Cornerstone Crafters"  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays or as announced)  
2.30 pm Christian Forum (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)  
4.00 pm Messy Church (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month)  
19.30-21.00pm Digging Deeper (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

Wed 9.30 am The Cornerstone Toddlers during Term Time  
5.45 pm Pilots. Ends at about 7.00 pm.  
6.00 pm Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts  
7.45-9.15 Scouts

Thurs 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday)

Fri 7.00-9.00 Youth Club

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

**It's looking better!!**

*Little Turtles Pre-School* meets on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am during term time. Please see (or rather speak to!) one of the Junior Church Leaders for details.

**Pre-School has reopened**



## Letter to the Fellowship

### *Only By His Grace and His Will*

Can you think back and remember a day you waited for a long time with great anticipation and excitement? Most of us can. As a child, Christmas and birthdays were such days. Later it may have been graduation day, your wedding day, or maybe starting your first job and receiving your first salary.

Depending on the nature of the day and what it might hold, such a time might also bring about a certain amount of anxiety because of the challenge you might face. For months, weeks, and days you waited, and then finally, the day arrived.

Recently one of my quiet time readings lead me to Joshua chapter 3 where Israelites were to cross the river Jordan after the death of Moses, who had led them all the way from Egypt where they were in slavery for long time.

Can you imagine the anticipation and excitement the children of Israel faced as they stood before the River Jordan the evening before they were to cross over into the land? - a land of milk and honey. Though they had wandered for 40 years, and faced many trials and dangers, Joshua affirms that they "have never been this way before".

Most of you, if not all, must have heard that our government have suggested we can open our Churches for worship from Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>. It may seem to us that from that day begins another year, and everything is basically going to be the same. We are going to be involved in the same things, same plans to keep life the same. But we know that it isn't going to be that way, well for a while, and there are many ways, though, that "new norms" will present a new path, new choices, a new beginning. Are you excited or anxious or both?

We are supposed to begin a new journey down a path, which we have never before walked. Like Israel, we are entering upon a new way. What's so new about it? There are new experiences to face; new problems to solve, new trials to endure, new temptations to

meet, new sorrows to bear, new opportunities to grasp, new tasks to perform, new blessings to enjoy.

Israelites were facing a path that presented to them some new tests. They faced a swollen river Jordan to cross. Jericho's intimidating walls were on the other side. There were giants in the land to fight, cities to conquer. It was only by faith that they were able to overcome their obstacles.



We must face our obstacles in faith as well. We may see looming in the distance things that we will have to face. We may not be able to see how they are to be accomplished. We must press on down this new path anyway with the will of God. Israelites were only successful when they continued in the will of God - which required trusting in his provision.

God's will for us is always connected with the provision to accomplish it. When God says 'Go', we must know that He will bless us and help us in going! When God says 'Do', there is always ample provision for those who have faith to obey. John 10:4 *"When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice."*

Life is full of earthly uncertainties. Life itself is an uncertainty. Wealth is uncertain. Friendships and relationships are uncertain.

We have certainties because of the path we walk. God is a certainty! Jesus Christ is a certainty. The church is a certainty (not the buildings) Heaven is a certainty.

The "New Norm" will test us; no doubt, but it will also point us to God's provision, offering us certainties, and it will furnish us with the opportunity to begin again.

We can expect new hopes, new resolves, new plans, new undertakings, and new opportunities to do better the tasks that are carried over from the old year.

Looking forward to seeing most of you if not all in the very near future by the will and grace of God.

**God bless,  
Sohail**

I'll go in the strength of the Lord,  
in paths He has marked for my feet;  
I'll follow the light of His word,  
nor shrink from the dangers I meet.  
His presence my steps shall attend,  
His fullness my wants shall supply;  
on Him, 'til my journey shall end,  
my unwavering faith will rely.

I'll go in the strength of the Lord,  
to work He appoints me to do;  
in joy which His smile doth afford  
my soul shall its vigour renew.  
His wisdom shall guard me from harm,  
His power my sufficiency prove;  
I'll trust His omnipotent arm,  
and prove His unchangeable love.

I'll go in the strength of the Lord,  
to conflicts which faith will require;  
His grace as my shield and reward,  
my courage and zeal shall inspire.  
Since He gives the word of command  
to meet and encounter the foe,  
with His sword of truth in my hand  
to suffer and triumph I'll go.

*I'll go, I'll go in the strength,  
I'll go in the strength of the Lord  
I'll go, I'll go in the strength  
I'll go in the strength of the Lord.*

Edward Turney - MP 862  
(Used by permission, CCL Licence No. 7114)

## 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.

Please pray for all of our fellowship at this troubled time as many of our congregation, who had been self-isolating, need confidence and courage to go out into society again. We pray for the safety of all as we go back to a “new normal” way of life whilst still living with the threat of the virus.



We give thanks for the continuing recovery of Andy Anderson from a broken wrist and Covid-19 and also wish his daughter, Linda Mead, a speedy return to health from the virus. Thanks also to the NHS workers and Health Care staff who are still fighting the battle in our hospitals and nursing homes. Some of our fellowship have family and friends in these professions who are in close proximity to those more seriously ill from this illness and we pray that you give them strength of body and mind.

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of loved ones who have passed away. Be with them Father God at this difficult time. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God knows of all their difficulties and hears all of their prayers.

We are getting closer to meeting up once again but at the moment don't know exactly when.

Father, hear our prayers  
**Amen**

## **Keep Saying One For Me**

There is a dedicated post box on the railings by the Bournemouth Park Road entrance inviting members of the neighbourhood to send us their prayer requests for our Church Prayer Group.

We pray that this scheme will help The Cornerstone be and be known as a church that cares.

### **Some thoughts for prayers for others outside of our fellowship**

All over the world, and close to home, there seems to be anger, frustration, impatience, violence, inconsiderate behaviour, rudeness and, perhaps the worst of all, “why should I not do what I want”?

What a golden opportunity for us now to proclaim the Love of Christ as loudly as the protesters and rioters! We have found plenty of different ways to do things during the past three months; why not use them to spread the Word?

Praise the Lord for all of those key-workers doing good things for all communities throughout the world.

Keep us optimistic wherever the dark clouds loom.

If you look at the world,  
You'll be distressed.  
If you look within,  
You'll be depressed.  
But if you look at Christ,  
You'll be at rest.

Look unto Jesus, always.

**Corrie ten Boom**

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



As I write these notes the government has announced that churches can open from 4th July, but the detailed guidance has yet to be published. Then the Synod Moderators will consider it and issue some denomination specific guidelines. Until that happens, there is little point in speculating when we might reopen our doors and what make take place within. Suffice it to say, there will be lots of dos and don'ts, and the experience is going to be nothing like you are used to. When the time comes, Elders will consider things carefully, obviously with the health and safety of everyone to the forefront of our deliberations. Risk assessments will be needed for every activity and precautions implemented in order to resume as safely as possible, and it will take time, we are unlikely to resume everything at once.

In many ways, we in the non-conformist tradition have fared better during these times than those denominations and traditions, who rely heavily on the priest to intercede and carry out 'offices', and indeed other faiths, who have lobbied the government quite heavily to open up their buildings. We know that we do not need a building and can worship and pray any time anywhere. That Jesus lives in our homes just as much as in The Cornerstone building. And, for fellowship gatherings we have Zoom sessions, not ideal I know, but just adequate for now, enabling a natter while protecting everyone from potential exposure to possibly lethal infection.

You probably noticed that my Sunday emails have offered a wide selection of on line worship as well as the URC podcast. I suspect we have all made different choices so I can't really recap on our worship as I usually do. However, I would mention our 'in house' service for The Cornerstone's 15th anniversary on 28th June, led by our Minister with participation from a number of members. Thank you to everyone that took part, and the techies who made it happen. An Anniversary we won't forget in a hurry.

Earlier in June Elders considered the possibility of opening the building for private prayer. Again, this is not something which happens often in our tradition, and logistically would have been



difficult, with the regulations precluding large numbers of people. As a response, there will be an outdoor event on 12th July (see flyer) which will include some prayer stations. Because we are using the outdoor space, we will only be able to accommodate half a dozen vehicles for disabled drivers or passengers, so do please park elsewhere or walk if you can. Also, we will not be having refreshments, nor making the toilets available, so as my mum would have said 'go before you go' I look forward to receiving your flower pictures at any time up to 7th July.

The children and young families are still receiving regular contact by email and social media, and Messy Church in a Bag is proving very popular. I am very grateful to the posse of mums that take bags and deliver to others in their street, it has saved me a lot of time. Nationally the URC is producing a virtual holiday club, details of which I expect very shortly and hopefully by late summer we will be in a position to have a park meet-up.

At home, the garden produce is in full swing, jams and preserves made and the freezer filling up. Our son, who works in hospitality, is still on furlough; and is staying with us and has been spending some time perfecting his bread making skills, delicious but not so good for the waistline! Our daughter remains in London for work, getting a tad lonely working from home.



We are in a fast-moving world at the moment, and by the time you read this everything may have changed again. We all long and pray for the time we can be together again as a family of God's children. It will happen when it is safe to do so. God Bless

**Ruth Dixon**



**The Flat Earth Society are reporting that the 2 metre social distancing measures are pushing some of their members over the edge.**

## Harvest (or Other) Festival Sometime 2020 or 2021 or 2022



The Cornerstone Annual Harvest Supper and Entertainment has been planned for 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Many of you will have noticed that things have changed since this date was first announced earlier in the year. So, this may, or may not (place your bets here please) take place at this time!

However, I am firmly of the belief that we will get through this difficult time and as well as a time of worship and praise we will need to get back to some community and communal activity and have something to look forward to. Thus, I am suggesting that we will have some evening, at some time even if not Harvest and on that date. I hope that you agree.

There are a number of separate components that make up the evening.

1. We need food
  2. We need people to stand up and entertain us
  3. We need songs to sing
  4. We need film clips on the big screen.
- If we are returning to some kind of normality, we should be able to sort out food as soon as we set a date
  - People to stand up and entertain may require them to practice or maybe not. Given notice this could still happen.
  - Sorting songs to sing fills in my day nicely whilst I am locked in, as does the process of deciding on some clips to show. Both of these are easy to sort out. Except that our musicians, Nigel/Clive, could do with some time to research the music and, indeed, practice but see item above. So, as soon as I have some idea, I will let them both know. Although I suppose that I ought first to ask them if they can do this.

Even if nothing happens, preparing a programme and sorting out a few tunes is not too onerous. Just be prepared to come out for an evening of food and entertainment, at some time in the future.

Contrary to the song, we do know where - we are just unclear as to when! We can all smile at each other and sing a song or two to the folks that we know. And the ships will sail again all over the world, and then we'll have time again for wedding rings and free hearts will sing.

Volunteers to perform and ideas for songs and/or film clips would still be welcome. Just keep your Saturday diaries free for the next year.

And for your diaries:-

Date - Sometime

Arrive from 5.30pm

Food served at 6.00pm

Concert to start at approx. 7.15pm and finish around 8.30pm (ish)

All will be made welcome to this fun-packed evening.

**Roger Brett**

Rivers do not drink their own water;  
trees do not eat their own fruit;  
the sun does not shine on itself  
and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.

Living for others is a rule of nature.  
We are all born to help each other.  
No matter how difficult it is ....  
life is good when you are happy;  
but much better when others are happy  
because of you.

**Pope Francis**

## A look at some local history

History has always fascinated me, largely I suspect because I didn't do any at school. We had a crazy system which guided us into the arts or science in our second year at grammar school and we had to choose between Geography or history and between Chemistry or English Literature. So, I never read a book under guidance nor did I do any history after the second year.

Local history took hold in our house when we moved from the London suburbs to Thorpe le Soken. Villages hold so much of the past relatively easily accessed and away we went.

So today I want to take a brief look at the **Thames Sailing Barges** from their heyday in the 1800's up to the early twentieth century, until the last wooden working barge being built in the Cabby yards in 1928. It was in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century that early barges ferried goods to and from the London wharves but these were very different from those we see now used mainly for pleasure.



They had rigging of Dutch origin traced back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and were known as the Dumb Barges. They travelled up and down the river on the ingoing and outgoing tides, powered by two long oars. They sailed the Medway and the Thames for 200 years, and being flat bottomed they could rest and dry out on the mud between tides without keeling over. A lighterman of the early 1920's is said to have shifted 917 sacks of oats from the ship 'Kepler' onto another **Barge 'Henry' seen in the picture on the left**, and a court case of the time reports the theft of 240 sacks of oats and a tarpaulin from another barge. Building materials, coal, sand, hay, animal feed and gunpowder were all carried up to London. On the return journey London rubbish was taken back the other way and dumped at sea!



This picture is of a barge at Hadleigh Castle loading up a threshing machine to move to another area.

In the early twentieth century there were 2000 barges registered in Britain and they were taking on the more familiar structure with the red sails we see on the remaining few now. This enabled faster and more regular travel and there were different sizes to do various jobs. There were river barges carrying up to 100 tons and larger coasters taking up to 300 tons. Their flat, shallow bottomed hulls meant they were ideal to travel right up the rivers and into the creeks of Essex and Kent.

The Thames sailing Barges played a pivotal role in World War 11 and many were converted for military use, alongside other merchant vessels. They were in high demand with all their advantages. Flat hulls, no engines so ideal for carrying ammunition and explosives as there was no risk of sparks flying to the dangerous cargo, and, being powered by wind they did not need precious fuel, a valuable commodity in the war. Also due to their unique rigging, they only needed a team of two people to sail them, often women and young boys took charge whilst the men were called up to



fight.

They were used in the Dunkirk evacuation and with their large deck space and holds they could load the men and machinery off the beaches taking them out to the ships in deeper water.

By 1954 there were only 160 barges trading as road and container shipping began to take over the transport of goods, and motorised shipping became more advantageous.

Sadly, as the barges declined so did the communities of the owners, builders, sailmakers and sailormen which had all grown up along the rivers to support the Barge trade. Some of the barges were de-rigged and turned into lighters, others became yachts and still more became house barges . Sadly, some were just put into lay by and rotted away over the years.

We are fortunate here in Southend as each year we are able to see the start of one of the Thames Barge races, as they collect at the end of the pier and sail out into the North Sea and back. The Barge races started in 1863,4 and 5 continuing unbroken until 1938, to raise the status of the barges and their men, and encourage improvement of the working capacity of the barges.

**Alison**

### **Breaking News**

- Swimming pools to re-open on 4<sup>th</sup> July but due to continued social distancing rules, there will be no water in lanes 1, 3 and 5.
- Archaeologists uncover cache of pencils belonging to William Shakespeare. A spokesperson for the dig said: “They’re so badly chewed at the ends, we can’t tell if they’re 2B or not 2B”.
- Has COVID-19 forced you to wear glasses and a mask at the same time? If so, you may be entitled to condensation.
- Store assistant fights off armed robber with a labelling gun. Police are now looking for a man with a price on his head.



## Peter's Piece

### More thoughts on the Olive Tree, Romans 11

Thank you, Alison, for your article 'Trees in the Bible' in which you referred to the Olive Tree. It was an interesting and informative read.

Coincidentally, if things can be coincidental with God, the Olive Tree in Romans chapter 11 has been a subject in my thoughts for some time, as I have been looking at the question - the value and use of the OT for the Christian believer.

Apparently, it is not known exactly how or when the church in Rome was first formed. In fact there may well have been more than one house church in Rome, possibly at least 3, see Romans 16:3-4 and 14-15, if not more, verses 10-11? As we can see, Paul's letter is addressed *To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people*: not directed to a church in Rome, as some of his other letters are, or addressed to a church in a particular town (Ephesians) or to churches in an area (Galatians).

The exact history of the church in Rome is unclear, but it is known that at the time of the early church when Paul wrote to the Christian believers in Rome there was in the Roman Empire generally great differences between Jews and Christians and this was also evident in the congregations of believers between Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians. While Paul with his Olive Tree picture is at pains to emphasize the unity of all Christian believers.

This illustration, by Paul, of a cultivated olive tree, Romans 11:11-24, is interesting in giving pictorially the origin, make up and relationship of all believers in Christ. As with the vine, another 'tree' Alison refers to, God is the gardener (John 15:1) who has cultivated the olive tree consisting of the faithful remnant of Israel from the OT (Hebrews 11 n.b. vs. 39-40.) and those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus since his birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension recorded in the NT. They are all one, and together *now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root*; are the Olive Tree. Part of that 'sap' is God's word both written, the Bible OT and NT and living, Jesus the

Messiah (Greek - Christ). So “*feed on him in your heart* by faith with thanksgiving.” (exhortation from Holy Communion)

Thanks again Alison for promoting the beginnings of a profitable Bible study on the company of all believers, the Olive Tree.

## **Revised Common Lectionary for July 2020.**

### **July 5, 2020**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67    Psalm 45:10-17  
Romans 7:15-25a    Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  
*or Song of Solomon 2:8-13*

### **July 12, 2020**

Genesis 25:19-34                      Psalm 119:105-112  
Romans 8:1-11    Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### **July 19, 2020**

Genesis 28:10-19a                      Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Romans 8:12-25    Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### **July 26, 2020**

Genesis 29:15-28                      Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
Romans 8:26-39    Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### **August 2, 2020**

Genesis 32:22-31                      Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Romans 9:1-5                      Matthew 14:13-21

Behind you, all your memories.  
Before you, all your dreams.  
Around you, all who love you.  
Within you, all you need.



## The Mountain



If the mountain seems too big today  
then climb a hill instead.  
If the morning brings you sadness  
it's ok to stay in bed.

If the day ahead weighs heavy  
and your plans feel like a curse,  
there's no shame in rearranging,  
don't make yourself feel worse.

If a shower stings like needles  
and a bath feels like you'll drown,  
if you haven't washed your hair for days,  
don't throw away your crown.

A day is not a lifetime,  
a rest is not defeat,  
don't think of it as failure,  
just a quiet, kind retreat.

It's ok to take a moment  
from an anxious, fractured mind,  
the world will not stop turning  
while you get realigned.

The mountain will still be there  
when you want to try again,  
you can climb it in your own time,  
just love yourself til then.

**Laura Ding-Edwards**

## Can you believe it?

- ❖ I bought a dog off a blacksmith today. As soon as I got it home it made a bolt for the door.
- ❖ I bought 2 litres of Tipp-Ex yesterday. Huge mistake.
- ❖ I had to go to A & E last night, unfortunately I got a peanut stuck in my ear. The nurse poured melted chocolate in and it came out a Treet.
- ❖ Our local shop was selling TV's for £1, the only problem was the volume was stuck at maximum. Nevertheless, I bought one, it was an offer I couldn't turn down.

## New Dog breeds

The following new cross breeds are now recognised by the Kennel Club - allegedly!

Collie + Lhasa Apso

Collapso, a dog that folds up for easy transport.

Pointer + Setter

Poinsetter, the traditional Christmas pet.

Terrier + Bulldog

Terribull, not a good dog

Collie + Malamute

Commute, a dog that travels to work.

Deerhound + Terrier

Derriere, a dog that's true to the end.

Irish Water Spaniel + English Springer Spaniel

Irish Springer - a dog fresh and clean as mountain air.



## The next edition of New Horizons!

**The next magazine will be published on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.**

Would our contributors remember to send the Editors their items **by the usual time of 9.00 a.m.** on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July please.**

We are sure that there will be many tales to be told next month about the rules being relaxed that were introduced because of the virus. Not quite the same as being released from captivity but no doubt some “*hair razing*” stories.

All contributions welcomed as usual. From reports, stories and thought-provoking articles.

**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**



## Very British Problems

**How to enjoy the rain:**

1. Stand at the window (inside)
2. Put non-tea drinking hand on hip.
3. Slowly sip tea from favourite mug.
4. Occasionally mutter one of these options: “Look at that rain,” “It’s really coming down now” or “the garden needs it”
5. Comment that it’s “a good job we got the cushions/washing in”
6. Consume as many biscuits as possible.

## WHO'S WHO?

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