

New Horizons

AUGUST 2020



STOP PRESS!

We are intending to have our first live service on
Sunday 16th August
at the usual time of 10.30 a.m.
Please see page 3 for details

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

[See page 3 for news on re-opening](#)

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.

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"
(1st and 3rd Tuesdays or as announced)
2.30 pm Christian Forum (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)
4.00 pm Messy Church (1st Tuesday in the month)
19.30-21.00pm Digging Deeper (3rd 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 (1st 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.**

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 is closed for the summer holiday



COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

The time has come for us to gradually and safely reintroduce our activities, with corporate worship being the most important to us as a body of Christians. Those who feel it is safe for them will be able to attend in person, and we are intending to live-stream the service for those who wish to stay at home; if you do not have the internet, it will also be recorded and sent to you to watch later in the week. Now that more people are able to visit each other, if you are with a family member or friend who can facilitate a live watch do let us know if you don't require a recording. The planned dates are:

16th and 23rd August, and 13th and 27th September.

The 23rd August will not include communion until we have a better idea of numbers and how to deliver it safely. Elders will review the arrangements in September to plan for October onward.

You will appreciate there has to be restrictions on numbers, movement and proximity, so

- Consider your personal risk assessment and make your decision based on the acceptability or otherwise of the risk
- because we have to limit numbers (30 in the first instance), we have to know in advance if you are wishing to attend a service. Please notify the Secretary by telephone 01702 464186, between Monday 10th August and Thursday 13th August. If we are unable to accommodate you on your chosen date you will be given first option for the next service.
- On the advice of the Moderators, you are requested to wear a face covering whilst inside the building. This should only be removed by persons taking part, while they are speaking into a microphone. This is precautionary as there may be places where you come closer than 2 metres.

- Entry to the building is via the car park entrance. If there is a queue at the door when you arrive, please remain in your vehicle until there is sufficient space.
- At the church door you will be required to sanitise your hands, and give your name and contact details. These details will be used
 - a) in the event any attendee develops Covid-19 symptoms, in order to warn others present
 - b) if requested by NHS Test and Trace
The information will be retained a maximum of 21 days from the date of each service.
- Proceed immediately to be seated; follow the floor arrows and any directions given by a steward; as doors will be open for the duration of the service you should take your coat/jacket with you. Clothes rails will not be available for the time being.
- First attendees should use the seats on the Bournemouth Park Road side, every other row only. Family groups may sit together, and you will be given notices to place on a minimum of two seats between you/your group and the next person.
- Children should remain with their parents. We are not permitted to supply toys or games; please bring your own and take them away at the end of the service.
- Elders will not normally gather in the vestry prior to the service, although one designated person will pray with the Minister before the service starts.
- During the service
 - c) participants will all use separate microphones. These will be dealt with appropriately at the end of the service
 - d) Church hymnbooks and bibles will not be available. You may bring and take away your own if you wish, however all words will be displayed on the screen

e) Music will be played as normal; you should follow the words of hymns in your head, but singing aloud is not permitted

- Your freewill offering should be placed on the plates by the foyer doors as you leave.
- At the end of the service the Minister will not, for the time being, stand at the exit to greet you.
- You should leave promptly via the foyer and Bournemouth Park Road door, please do not linger inside.
- If possible avoid using the toilets as they have to be cleaned between each use.
- If you stop to chat in the car park please maintain a 2 metre distance from those outside your family group and be alert to vehicles leaving.

I do appreciate all this might seem unduly prescriptive, but please bear in mind the Elders consider your health of paramount importance, and these measures are all in accordance with government guidelines.

Finally, please do not feel under pressure to return to church if you do not feel it is the right thing for you at this time. God will be with you as you worship at home, Jesus sits beside you wherever you are, and the Holy Spirit enables us to be One Body even as we stay physically apart.

**Ruth Dixon,
Church Secretary**



Letter to the Fellowship

A well-known Christian wrote, *"The last days are upon us. Weigh carefully the times. Look for Him who is above all time, eternal and invisible."* That was not written by a modern prophecy expert. It was written by a man named

Ignatius about 110 A.D. just a couple of decades after the apostle John wrote Revelation.

There have been a number of predictions for the end times between then and until recently. Today you can walk into a Christian bookstore and see dozens of books making bold predictions about the return of Jesus but all false so far.

When the Pandemic was announced in March 2020, again we heard the echoes and predictions about the end times. Jesus said it very clearly in Matthew 24:36, *"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."*

We are asked to be ready all the time since we don't know when the Lord will return, and if he finds us not ready, we will be left behind.

Just like the 5 virgins in the parable of 10 virgins, who were waiting for the bridegroom enthusiastically and anxiously; they were all members of the bridal party. Quite often an announcement would come out, here comes the bridegroom and everybody would get ready and start to go out, but it would be a false alarm. Before the groom arrived at the bride's house there were often delays. There would be negotiations over what the groom would have to bring as presents and gifts to the bride's family. Both sides would delay the negotiations to give the appearance of how valuable the bride was. So, it was very common for the bridegroom to come much later than he was scheduled to arrive.

Notice that though all of the virgins here were expecting the bridegroom's return, only five were prepared. This parable was written about those of us that have knowledge of Jesus and His return, but have not made ourselves ready. The foolish virgins had not stored any oil for His return.

Some of us buy pre-paid funeral plans, because we prepare ourselves for that unavoidable day. We save money for rainy days, for the future of our children, but tend to forget to prepare ourselves spiritually for the eternity.

Interestingly, oil is symbolic of the Spirit of God. This parable teaches us the importance of spiritual preparation. There is really no substitute for it. When we prepare spiritually, by daily reading the Word and practicing worship and prayer, we will become equipped with the oil of His Spirit.

Not only will we be preparing for His return but as an extra added bonus, it will empower us to face today's trials. And when those unexpected challenges come, we'll have the power of the Spirit already working within us, helping us through! What a great deal!

**God bless,
Sohail**

Give me oil in my lamp,
keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
give me oil in my lamp
keep me burning,
keep me burning till the break of day.

A Sevison - MP 167
(Used by permission, CCL Licence No. 7114)

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

Late entry as we publish.

Andy Anderson is in hospital after a fall at the weekend. Please include him and the family in your prayers.

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.



As we open our church doors once again, albeit with many conditions to adhere to, we give thanks dear Lord for keeping us safe during lockdown. We now look forward to seeing each other in person, although at a social distance. We pray for those of our fellowship who cannot join us at present and look forward to the day when they too can take part in our worship on our premises.

We give thanks 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 virus and we pray that you give them strength of body and mind.

We pray for all those who have returned to work, in what is now a very strange environment. Keep them safe Lord in their shops, offices, restaurants etc and on public transport.

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.

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 all outside of our fellowship

Well Lord, we continue to pray harder than ever, but is it enough or are our prayers missing the target? Do we ask for things and situations whilst forgetting to thank you for the blessings that you have provided? Are we just not listening to you for guidance, direction, strength, reassurance and comfort?

What we do know, is that you are listening to our prayers, watching over what we do and continue to be there for us when we turn to you.

So Lord, we bear these things in mind as we pray for the whole world, its environment, its peoples and governments as they seek ways forward that all may be safe, free from hunger, healthy and have justice. Amen.

A very special day



Gwen and Colin McMillan will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding on Thursday 20th August. We send them our congratulations and wish them well and trust they will have a wonderful day.

Lest you forget!!

Remember to read page 3 again and put in your diaries the dates of Sunday July 16th and 23rd together with September 13th and 27th please. These are the days when you can come into church for worship if you so choose. The choice is yours!

Tollesbury and its links with Smuggling

Keeping the maritime theme of last month

Tollesbury is classified as a village and lies at the mouth of the river Blackwater, nine miles to the east of Maldon and 12 miles south of Colchester. It is featured in the Domesday Book and early inhabitants had an abundance of fish and shellfish, lots of springs feeding fresh water into the near sea location, and it was a very fertile crop-growing area. Along the fertile mudflats grazing was possible.



The design of its modern village sign shows a picture of a plough and a sailing boat, and the village is known as “The village of Plough and Sail”. In an older version the land takes prominence with the water below, but in the newer version the barge and the boat built for the Americas Cup in 1937

representing Great Britain are the important features.

In the 17th century there was a development of the oyster industry and that continues to this day. By the 19th century the village had grown and in the 1851 census there is a fully self-sufficient village with all the necessary industry, blacksmith, bricklayers, thatchers, shoemakers, watchmakers, bakers and butchers and a greengrocers. In the early 1900's the railway opened a line from Kelvedon, through Tiptree, Tolleshunt Knights to Tollesbury. It had its own pier but that was destroyed in WWII as a measure to try to prevent any chance of invasion via the river.

Today's Tollesbury concentrates on the leisure industry with a large marina and a nature reserve of some 600 acres of marsh and grazing land, opening up walking and birdwatching to all.

The topography lent itself over the years to the practice of smuggling, with its many creeks and inlets. The nearest coastguard until 1879 was at Maldon nine miles away and



Tollesbury became notorious for smuggling. The smugglers had some cunning methods for concealing their contraband including hiding it in the nearby Salcott church. The congregation would swell quite considerably on occasion as interested parties

kept a watching eye on their spoils! The pond, adjacent to Peldon Rose Pub, with its deep well (which was concealed by the pond) became the ideal spot to lower goods into the well which were to be retrieved later.

At Old Hall, a pub overlooked the wharf and the “drinkers” could watch for incoming vessels - Old Hall is now a private home catering for holiday cottages used by Bird Watchers.



It was very hard for the excise men to be able to do more than spot checks and the smugglers took full advantage of this, becoming very cavalier about their activities. It was only a matter of time before the dishonestly obtained goods came

into otherwise honest hands as non-smugglers came across the hidden goods. If there was the chance of capture on the way in through the creeks, goods were often thrown overboard to be collected later when “the coast was clear”, an expression from those times now in common parlance.



We go to the night of the 27th November 1819 and a Tollesbury man, Daniel London, working with his son, was dredging with his yawl when he pulled up a quantity of spirits. Being the honest man he was, he sent his son straight off to inform the authorities in Maldon and to stake a claim for a reward, set to encourage just such honesty. He continued to pull more and more spirits from the water and loaded 152 tubs of liquor onto his boat. He set off to Maldon to hand it over.

Having done so he returned to Tollesbury, where word had gone ahead of him as to what he had done. He was met by some very unhappy smugglers who claimed that it was theirs. They generously offered to share any reward money in return for letting Daniel and his son live!! London refused and the next day received a visit from the authorities who were accusing him of being a sort of double agent. He was, they said, working with the smugglers as he did have a previous conviction for smuggling from much earlier times. They impounded his boat and he was put in Chelmsford gaol.

He maintained his innocence in this instance, but he was so badly treated by the other prisoners and had to be kept on his own.

What eventually came out was that the smugglers told the authorities that they had brought 163 tubs ashore, so 11 were unaccounted for, they didn't have them, only 152 were handed in by London, so he must have the missing 11. So he must be a smuggler by default.

As a result of this scandalous behaviour Tollesbury eventually got its own coastguard station in 1879. The cottages for the

coastguards were built with views over the estuary. They became redundant in 1923, and now have been modernised for homes.

More from Essex History next time
Alison

Breaking News

- A woman has bought a face mask for her pet duck to protect it from Coronavirus. She told friends “It’s nothing flashy, but it fits the bill.”
- 9 out of 10 husbands agreed that their wives are always right. The 10th one has not been found since the study was conducted.
- There was a huge fight at a local seafood restaurant. Battered fish everywhere.
- Apparently, Buckingham Palace are looking for a full time Gas Engineer. Must be Corgi registered and be willing to walk the dogs.
- A gang has been caught making counterfeit Kipling Bakewell tarts. Police say they’re exceedingly good fakes.
- A man claims to have learned how to do Origami backwards. More on this story as it unfolds.

True Friends
are the ones that lift
you up when no one
else has noticed
you’ve fallen

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings



“The next Church meeting will be on Thursday starting at 7.30pm. All are Welcome”. How many times have we heard this announcement before realising that Thursday is the day that we had set aside to collect the fluff from under the bed and sort it by size and shape.

The Christian Community is facing a difficult time deciding how to move forward. Leaving aside Worship in all its forms, Mission in all its forms and Social events in all their forms, the biggest problem facing us is how to make decisions in, and on, the future. Decisions, in fact, about Worship, Mission and Social events

We are not a denomination that believes the Moderator of General Assembly will send out an edict and we will all comply, nor do we accept the same thing for the Moderator of Synod or indeed any other individual holder of a Church Post.

We believe that the Church Meeting is the body that defines the direction of ‘Our Church’ in terms of God’s Mission, Ecumenical Relationships, Compassionate Ministry, the Wider Work etc.

Church Meetings are where this happens. Time spent in prayer and discussion to *‘understand the will of God in this specific matter for this community at this time and in this place’* We listen, discuss, debate and take decisions.

Historically this has been by meeting physically but in so doing we have often become ‘Two Churches’. Those who attend and those who don’t. or maybe even three churches if you divide those who attend into the group who speak and discuss and another group who remain silent only to speak at the next ‘Social Event’

Elders meetings and many meetings of the wider ‘Church’ have moved to using modern electronic systems. But if we do this for Church Meetings, we run the risk of setting up yet another divide with those who want to attend but are unable to do so electronically for whatever reason.

I have been a member of a number of churches and secular organisations and it often seems that people believe that the views of 'Person X' or 'Person Y' should over-ride all others because of their training, education, age etc. but this is not true in a Christian meeting. The views of all God's people are important in divining His will. Even a cursory glance through the Bible shows that God gave important tasks and messages to all kinds of people Young and Old, Rich and Poor, Male and Female. A much wider diversity that we have unless any among you are Shepherds, or run whole countries that I do not know about.

Everyone brings their own experiences with them and these give everyone a unique perspective. A perspective not shared by anyone else.

When people are involved with God one of two things happens. Either God gives a person the task and then gets them to the right place at the right time (Jonah), or the person is already in the right place at the right time by God's hand and then gets God's task (Mary and Joseph).

We are God's people in 'Our Church' now. We are God's people who should be looking for God's task and His message for us now.

But how to meet, to consider 'What Now' and what is God's message and His task for 'Our Church' now. That is the conundrum. How do we consider, together, where God is asking us to go now?

As I said, meeting electronically or physically both create problems. But you can help us see a way forward. Tell us how you think that we should hold our meetings, our discussions, our work to define God's tasks for us now.

We have the technology and we have the building. We need you. Your prayerful thoughts, your views, your unique perspective. All of you and not just some of you. God's People in this place at this time. Placed here by God.

We are a family of God and families all talk to each other, at least the good ones do.

At Electronic Coffee Time have a discussion or otherwise speak to an Elder or Sohail by whatever means suits you best. Let us know how we should now be delivering God's work.

As Paul wrote to the Ephesians - As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

Roger Brett

CHOIR PRACTICE 10 COMMANDMENTS



1. Thou shalt remember the weekly practice time.
2. Thou shalt bring thy music and thy water.
3. Remember the vocal warm-up to keep thy voice.
4. Thou shalt look up sometimes from the music.
5. Thou shalt at least glance at the musical director.
6. Thou shalt not audibly curse the anthem choice.
7. Thou shalt not chat while the Bases rehearse.
8. Thou shalt keep trace of the current page number.
9. Thou shalt not blame the Altos.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's pencil.



Peter's Piece

DV.

Many Christians use the abbreviation - DV. Deo volente, God willing, v. 15 with any pronouncements of future events.
James 4:13-17

Some thoughts on COVID19.

These thoughts, which, came to me as I was writing to a close friend the other day, about the unexpected suddenness of COVID19, I feel are worth sharing in Peter's Piece.

I still can't get my head round how suddenly and totally unexpectedly the resultant separation and isolation was upon us, with its life changing implications, sadly, for a number, never to go back to how things had formerly been.

There was not even a hint of anything like this the morning Sarah and I had the privilege and responsibility of leading Worship on Sunday 15 March. We all met as usual, great worship time, good message, lovely customary fellowship afterwards, and then we cheerfully parted: life was all so normal. Then the next day Coronavirus was upon us, very contagious and with a high death rate, especially for the vulnerable. That is a fair number of our congregation!

I don't think in all my life has the exhortation of Proverbs 27:1 NIV been so true. ***Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring;***

What is more it made me think 'I wonder if I will ever be able to do this or that again?' Especially, bearing in mind my age, it dawned that if I went down with COVID19 I would most likely have it badly, with only a 50% 'chance' of survival!

Chance is in inverted commas because I know it's not chance, as the world sees it, because all is in God's hands. But from a human point of view there is much I wish I would have done, there are

things I would still yet like to do and not to be cut off suddenly, without the chance to say goodbye!

Enjoying life, as so many of us are privileged to do, we so easily and unthinkingly slip into a laid-back acceptance of life and not see that each single day is a gift from God, designed to be used in his service which he can call to an end according to his divine purposes.

Revised Common Lectionary - July-August 2020

August 2, 2020

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

August 9, 2020

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2020

Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 23, 2020

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2020

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

September 6, 2020

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

Digging Deeper is taking a break during August and will recommence on 14 September 2020 DV.



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 6th September.

Would our contributors remember to send the Editors their items **by the usual time of 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 27th August please.**

Hopefully, we shall be getting nearer to re-opening some of our activities during September so, please remember to make sure that we have the details to meet the dead line on 27th August.

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**

Would you believe it?

- ❖ I used to have a job collecting leaves. I was raking it in!
- ❖ I said to the doctor, “Can you give me something for my liver?” He gave me a pound of onions.
- ❖ My wife is leaving me because she says I think of football more than I think of her. I can’t believe that’s true. I mean we’ve been together nearly ten seasons.
- ❖ This will be the first year we’re not going to Hawaii because of Covid-19. Normally we don’t go because we can’t afford it.
- ❖ Whoever said “out of sight out of mind” never had a spider disappear in the bedroom.

WHO'S WHO?

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