

New Horizons

SEPTEMBER 2020



HARVEST

THE CORNERSTONE



The
United
Reformed
Church

Bournemouth Park Road,
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5JL
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use SS2 5HR no 59)

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WORSHIP AND ACTION

Many of the following activities have been postponed for the time being. However, please see inside for what is currently happening.

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.



Letter to the Fellowship

Being Thankful...

Most of us probably have seen a meme or slogan on the Facebook saying *"I am not going to count 2020 in my record, since I didn't use it"*

That made me think how quickly and easily we forget the good things that happen in our lives and complain about a few that go wrong.

When life is hard, when there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel, where do we turn? How can we be thankful during difficult times?

There is always something to thank God for, even when all around us is going wrong, crumbling.

Many years ago, as the story is told, a devout king was disturbed by the ingratitude of his royal court. He prepared a large banquet for them. When the king and his royal guests were seated, by prearrangement, a beggar shuffled into the hall, sat down at the king's table, and gorged himself with food. Without saying a word, he then left the room. The guests were furious and asked permission to seize the tramp and tear him limb from limb for his ingratitude.

The king replied, *"That beggar has done only once to an earthly king what each of you does three times each day to God. You sit there at the table and eat until you are satisfied. Then you walk away without recognizing God, or expressing one word of thanks to Him."*

How often do we neglect to thank God for the goodness he so graciously bestows upon us? We have so much!

Billy Graham said, *"Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible"*. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that *"although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him"* (Romans 1:21).

An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God. The psalmist declared, *“Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving”* (Psalm 147:7).

Paul wrote, “Be thankful” (Colossians 3:15). A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian.

No one knows what tomorrow will bring. In life there is only One who is constant, who is firm, who is secure. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. His promises can be ours today! How can we be thankful during difficult times? Only when we recognize that God is our only source of strength and refuge - our only security in this life and the one to come.

Soon, we will be celebrating harvest, reminding ourselves of God’s goodness, grace and generosity towards us.

May we join the Psalmist saying,

“Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

(Psalm 103:2-5)

**God bless,
Sohail**

**A friend is one who
strengthens you with prayers,
blesses you with love
and encourages you with Hope**

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 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 pray for the safety of children, young people and their teachers as they return to school.

We keep in our thoughts any of our fellowship who may be undergoing surgery or having tests in hospital, delayed because of lockdown. We pray for their return to good health.

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

As children and young people return to fulltime education this week, please think of the tremendous changes they will face.

Not only the usual ones of new teachers, new friends, new schools and new subjects, but also the different patterns of behaviour that they need to adapt to in the light of Covid-19. Even as adults we struggle to know what is happening and how we need to protect ourselves, but yet we need to reassure and guide our young ones that all will be well.

Also think of the tremendous responsibility placed on those who have to take measures to make safe all the places of learning.

May all people behave sensibly to protect themselves and each other as we make progress in treating and finding a defence against this disease.

**Maybe when social
distancing is a thing of the past,
we'll hug a little harder,
hold on a little longer,
and remember that nothing
matters more than
the time we
spend with the people
we love.**

Lori Deschene



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

How is the “new normal” working out for you? I have to say that I have found this time of not having my diary filled with meetings and places to be quite enjoyable and haven't been a bit bored! At the start of lockdown I thought I might make some inroads into the pile of books (mostly spiritual or didactic) on my bedside table, but all I appear to have done is add to it, all the while working my way through pages and pages of government ‘guidance’ on various kinds of activity.

I think it must have been this time last year when I said I sometimes felt like the man who built bigger barns because I had to get another freezer for our garden produce. I was quite glad about this when lockdown came as we had plenty of food to sustain us and I seldom had to join supermarket queues or get frustrated about shortages. Did that make me a Scout or a wise virgin?

During August we had one service pre-recorded by our Minister Sohail, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Shameer, Vic and Paul for their work in delivering these when we needed them; then we were able to hold two live services, both of which Sohail also led. Special thanks are due to Derek, Vic and Sarah for working out how to livestream to those at home when it as discovered our AV desk would not do the job, and subsequently for the hours they spent adapting our system so the on-line version had the full benefit of our sound system. Now that the government has said that a small group (but not an entire congregation) can sing, it is hoped the singing group can resume its contribution to our worship. I am sure we are all eager for the time we can raise our voices together once more.

To those of you who have been present, it was good to see you again and I hope you felt the measures put in place made you feel safe. We do have space for more people to attend in future so it would be good if you can tell others of your experience to encourage them to attend. Our next live services are 13th, 20th and 27th September (the latter will be Harvest Festival and will include Holy Communion) and the Elders are satisfied that there have been no adverse effects (that we have been made aware of) and we are in a

position to progress to every week depending, of course, on the prevailing conditions in the town. It is worth repeating here the measures which Elders have agreed for everyone's safety as it is too easy to get complacent and forget:

- 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 is a good starting point), we have to know in advance if you are wishing to attend a service. **Please notify the Secretary by telephone 01702 464186, between Monday and Thursday of the week prior to the service.** If we are unable to accommodate you on your chosen date you will be given first option for the next service.
- It is now mandatory 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 any others who were present
 - b) if requested by NHS Test and TraceThe information will be retained for 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 where possible 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 yet permitted other than for a small 'set' group of people observing a minimum of three metres distance.
- 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. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Ruth Dixon

URC invites support for those affected by Beirut explosion



A massive explosion at the port of Beirut on 4 August caused the deaths of more than 150 people, wounded 5,000, and left an undefined number of people reported as missing.

Around 300,000 people were displaced from their homes

and, according to specialists, the explosion is among the five strongest blasts in human history.

In the region, the Covid-19 crisis is getting worse. Numbers reached record thresholds in recent weeks, deepening the health and economic crisis hitting the country since 2019.

To help those affected in the region, the United Reformed Church (URC), led by its Global and Intercultural Ministries, is supporting an appeal organised by the Compassion Protestant Society (CPS) - the diaconal arm of our local partner, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL).

The CPS aims to support 1,000 Lebanese families by fixing their homes and making them habitable, through a \$1000 USD grant provided to each family. These families will be chosen based on an assessment and registration process handled by a professional team recruited by CPS.

Karen Campbell, URC Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries, said: "The URC has sent letters of support to our sisters and brothers in Lebanon, particularly in Beirut. I know many of us, as congregations and individuals, are offering prayers for the region. These heartfelt gestures are important and appreciated, but those affected by the humanitarian emergency need more. As Georges Ziadeh, Executive Director of CPS, quotes - 'Let us not love with

words and speech, but with action and in truth.' (1 John 3:18) Let us do what we can, and believe that our actions *will* make a difference. ”

It is intended that proceeds from this appeal will be match funded from the URC's World Church and Mission Fund.

If you would like to support the campaign, please make a donation by **Friday 25th September 2020** via bank transfer using the following details:

Account Name: United Reformed Church Trust

Sort Code: 40-05-03

Account Number: 01191802

Please use the reference "**BEIRUT**" so that your donation can be easily identified and routed to the campaign.

Elders have arranged to send £200.00 from The Cornerstone. If you would like to make a further contribution, please act swiftly using the information above.

A great offer for someone!

Val Hayman has recently changed her printer and has some cartridges left over from the old one. If you can make use of them please contact her or Michael Wardle.

They are for an Epson Expression Home Series XP-235 up to and including XP-455, have a strawberry picture on the label, and comprise:-

1 Multipack 29 Claria and single cartridges of Magenta 29, -1 off, Cyan 29, - 2 off and Yellow 29 - 2 off.

The original cost was £74 approx. but a free-will donation to Church funds would be appreciated.

A thought inspired by Sohail's Letter.

He quotes:- '*A spirit of thanksgiving is always the mark of a joyous Christian*'.

The Nun's Prayer says '*A sour old face is one of the crowning works of the Devil*'.

HARVEST FESTIVAL - 27TH September



It has been our practice to bring gifts of tinned and packet goods for later distribution to those less fortunate and in recent years these have been sent to The Storehouse.

The level of need in our town appears to be on the increase, and those who follow the Storehouse Facebook page will know there are times when they run out of vital supplies. So, there is really no good reason not to collect this year. If you are attending worship on that day, there will be a table on your left as you enter where you can leave your gifts. However we are mindful that many of those who do not yet feel able to attend in person will want to support this cause, so there are additional methods for your donations:

- if you are out and about during the week beginning Monday 21st September, leave a carrier bag of goods on my doorstep at home
- alternatively at the church on Tuesday 22nd between 10 and 11.30 a.m.
- instead of goods, send a cheque to Ann making sure she knows it is for The Storehouse Harvest Appeal.
- a direct payment into our bank account with “The Storehouse” in the reference box

Thank you for your generosity
Ruth Dixon

ELDERS' ELECTION 2020

As you know, we elect Elders annually to serve for a three-year term, and in normal circumstances the ballot takes place at our Church Meeting in November. At the present time it is not known whether we will be able to have a church meeting in November and if so, what form it might take, However Elders feel it is important to continue with an election and that a valid election can be achieved by modifying our usual practice as follows:

Usual practice	Modification for 2020
Nominations during the month of October, in writing with proposer, seconder and nominee signing a single form	Nominations during the month of October. For each nominee the proposer, seconder and nominee may consult with each other and notify the secretary separately by email ruthandfrank@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 01702 464186
Nominations close 12 noon Sunday 1 st November 2020	No change
Ballot and declaration at November church meeting	<p>1. Week beginning Monday 9th November the secretary will send out ballot papers</p> <p>a) by email</p> <p>b) by post to those members without email</p> <p>NB if you have email but no printer please request a hard copy</p> <p>2. Members will vote and return a HARD COPY of the ballot paper to reach the Secretary BY POST (for confidentiality) by Friday 20th November.</p> <p>3. The secretary will count the votes accompanied by Alison Shannon</p> <p>4. In the event a church meeting is held on 26th November (whether physical, virtual or hybrid) the result of the ballot will be declared at that time. In the event there is no church meeting the result will be promulgated by the Secretary by email/magazine</p>

For your information,

- the Elders retiring after three years at the end of 2020 are Stella Duboux and Robert Wiseman, both of whom are eligible for re-election.

- In order to redress an imbalance arising from previous vacancies, Ann Thorp will be standing down at the end of this year, but is eligible for immediate re-election for 2021 for a full 3 year period.
- Mary Goodhew retired at the end of 2019 and is also now eligible for re-election.
- There are four vacancies to be filled at this election.

GDPR

Under the General Data Protection Regulations, we are tasked to verify the personal data we keep about everyone, on an annual basis. Had we been regularly seeing you face to face, you would have been shown your existing form and asked to countersign it if your information is unchanged, and change it where necessary.



Obviously, this is not practical under the current circumstances. The Elders have therefore decided on this occasion to take a pragmatic approach, and no changes will be made to the records unless you notify Mary Goodhew that a change is necessary.

If you have changed your address or any of your contact details, please give Mary a call, likewise if you are new to The Cornerstone and need a form, tell her and she will send you one.

LIVE SERVICES AT THE CORNERSTONE

September

Sun	13 th	10.30a.m.	Morning worship	Our Minister
Sun	20 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning worship	Our Minister
Sun	27 th	10.30 a.m.	Morning worship - HARVEST With Holy Communion	Our Minister

Remember to contact Ruth if you want to attend

NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

A thank you

During this difficult time the lists of services issued by the URC have been so helpful and of course the services Sohail produces have kept me in touch.

I can sit down in the quietness at home and think of the service at the Cornerstone and the people I sit with or near to me and imagine we are all there, still a part of the normal meeting on a Sunday morning. It has meant such a lot to me and I am sure many of my church friends feel the same.

All this feeling of still being there and a part of the Sundays spent together in worship has been through the kindness and dedication of the Minister and Elders for the regular deliveries of these items. The postman (normally Ruth and Frank) have done an excellent work in distributing Alison's great letters and the contributions of members to these and the Cornerstone 'New Horizons' Magazine has meant we have not lost touch.

This has been a mission in itself and I am sure the Lord must be so pleased you are carrying on His work in various new ways.

May He bless you all and the Church in this valuable work.

Sincerely
Pat Garrard

Congratulations

Well done our young people who have received their exam results under such strange circumstances. Our best wishes go out to those off to Work, University, College, 6th Form, Secondary/Junior/Primary Schools or just starting their education in Pre-school.



A bit of Essex History, Fact and Fiction



Hempstead is a small village in North Essex between Saffron Walden and Steeple Bumpstead. This little village has a history that many a town or village would be proud to own. It is here that the notorious highwayman, Dick Turpin was born.

He was born in 1705, the son of John Turpin and Mary Parminter, the fifth of six children. His baptism record - 21st September 1705 - can be seen in the parish records and that is fact, there was a Richard Turpin. John was a butcher and Richard followed his father in the trade, he was apprenticed to a butcher in the nearby village of Whitechapel, later to have his own butchers shop in Thaxted. There is a house named such in Thaxted but the truth cannot be verified with documentation. He carried on with the trade into his adult life and after his marriage to Elizabeth Millington moved his shop to Buckhurst Hill.

It was here that his life took its first move into the world of the criminal. There were groups around who poached the deer from Epping Forest, a group of four or five men and usually one woman who acted as their fence. It was her job to find a way of moving on the meat and getting paid for it. One such gang used Richard's butchers shop as a way of moving on the venison. He tried to stay in the background initially but gradually got drawn into the gangs activities.



These gangs also supplemented their income by robbing the aristocracy and the one that Richard got involved with were wide ranging in their places of robbery and burglary.

By this time Richard had taken over as landlord of the Rose and Crown Pub in Clay Hill which gave them a meeting place. Their activity is recorded in Essex across to Croydon, and eventually right



into London. Members of the gang were recognised in Marylebone, Edgware and Whitechapel. Richard is recorded as living in Whitechapel at one time. The Duke of Newcastle offered a reward of £50 for the capture of these men and in early 1731 two were arrested as they left an ale house in Bloomsbury. There is a report of this in the London Gazette

of the time and under questioning they had betrayed Richard. In the Gazette he is described as

“Richard Turpin, butcher by trade, a tall flesh coloured man, very much marked by the pox, about 26 years old and about 5'6" tall, who lived sometime in Whitechapel and did lately lodge somewhere around the Millbank in Westminster, wears a blue grey coat and has a natural way”

Richard was not captured and disappeared from Public view and is not heard about until 1735 when the “butcher Turpin” was linked with some burglaries in Southwark, Kingston Hill, Barnes Common and Horndon Heath. Again two of the gang were arrested, not for burglary, but because they got just too clever with counterfeiting coin. This led to a trial and they were transported to the colonies. Again Turpin managed to avoid arrest as their crime was not his and he carried on with his life. All this time his wife and in-laws were still living in Hempstead and it led to his downfall in an unusual way.



He was in Puckeridge and he wrote a letter home to his sister Dorothy's husband. The postman recognised the writing and there were still offers of reward for his apprehension out in the public domain. Knowing he was being chased Richard went to Cambridge and his bounty was now £200. He moved north and lived in Brough on Humberside (as an aside I used to go pea picking in the holidays there!) and supposedly worked as a horse trader, travelling by ferry across the Humber to and from the East Riding of Yorkshire to Lincolnshire. At this time he lived under the name of John Palmer.

He shot a gamecock in a dispute and then shot the owner who complained. He was bound over by the justices of the peace but refused to pay his surety. So he spent time in the house of correction in Beverley. This is all documented by Robert Appleton the Clerk of the Peace in the East Riding. Robert was suspicious of the lifestyle of the 'Horse Trader' being much too lavish for such an itinerant trader and decided to investigate further. Richard was moved to York castle and again he wrote to his brother in law from his cell. He didn't learn from his past mistake and again he was betrayed by the postman. He was not John Palmer of Lincolnshire and the East Riding but the infamous Richard Turpin of Robbery and Burglary fame. On the 22nd March 1739 he was found guilty of two charges of horse theft, and sentenced to death. He was executed on 7th April 1739.

The stories of Highway robbery were never part of his life, they grew as do so many after his death in literature over 100 years later.



‘Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”’

Mark 4:1-3

Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Greetings, from the Commitment for Life team in our working environments under lockdown. Like all of you, COVID-19 has affected our lives and work considerably. Working from home has had benefits but also drawbacks. *Commitment for Life*, however, continues to call on the church to pray without ceasing. Our global partners are sharing with us about how they are being affected by the pandemic and economic downturn. The fact that our economy requires the sacrifice of the poor and elderly in order to run speaks to the insanity of that system. COVID-19 may be a time to enter into the wilderness to find God amidst the mad rush of our ‘normal’ lives.

Think of Jesus. Jesus was on a ‘vision-quest’ in the desert. His people were suffering, so he had literally and spiritually to re-trace their to discover where everything had gone so wrong. When the devil came after forty days, the first critical temptation was bread. “If you are the child of God...” taunts the devil. Turn stones to bread... Jesus must decide if he is to be defined by the God of Exodus, who requires faith for daily bread.

The Tempter offers him an alternative, worldly economics: the mother-load! Yes, the system is exploitative, but at least Jesus would no longer be hungry. Yes, the bread is sourced not from God’s manna, but from the labour of the exploited underclasses. Yes, some would have to remain poor, and even die, for that bread, but surely that is a sacrifice worth paying? At least Jesus would be well fed.

Jesus resisted the lies of a system that tempts with its promises of prosperity, security and safety. He turns his back on the idolatrous economics of Egypt/Rome that relies on exploitation and accumulation. Jesus instead relies on God's manna economics, that collects only enough for this day and respects the earth. It operates by circulating and sharing, rather than hoarding and concentrating. Perhaps this lockdown period offers some of us the space and time to make the same commitment.

Kevin Snyman
Suzanne Pearson

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Breaking News

- A man's wanted for stealing wheels off police cars Cops are working tirelessly to catch him.
- Scotland Yard has discovered that all their toilets have been stolen. Police say that currently, they have nothing to go on.
- A dog ate his owner's dictionary. He told friends that he was lost for words.
- A local man was feeling disappointed today after failing his Driving Theory Test. Question 5 was "What sign may you see on a country lane?" Apparently "Pick your own strawberries" was not the right answer.
- The inventor of spectacles and bifocals has died. At the wake, everyone raised their glasses to him.



Peter's Piece

CHRIST

What are we missing?

The OT of our English Bible is a translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, [The Masoretic Text 9c. AD]. A Koine Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures was made in Alexandria, Egypt c. 200 BC by 70 scholars, and is known as the Septuagint [LXX] this was the Bible for Jesus, the Apostles, and the NT writers. The NT itself was written in Koine Greek, the lingua franca of the day, between 50-80 AD. These all form the base from which our EVV of today come.

There are a number of words in our English Bibles which do not fully convey to us, in this 21st century, the accuracy and depth of meaning and understanding that they would have done to the early Greek speaking Christians two thousand years ago. Something is 'lost in translation!'

In the OT we read of God's creating, and of man's sin which led to creation being alienated from God and '*subjected to decay*'; (Romans 8:20-21) but we also learn of God's wondrous plans and purposes, for the redemption of humankind and the restoration of the whole of His creation, (Isaiah 11-12) culminating in His perfect eternal Kingdom on a new earth; [Revelation 21.] This is all to be brought about through His Anointed One *māšîah*. (Messiah) It starts Genesis 3:15 (c.f. Isaiah 52:13-53:12), The NT records that historic restoration and, with the OT, forms one continuous narrative from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22.

Our English word Christ is a transliteration of the Greek **kristov** *Christos*, for the Hebrew *māšîah*, in English - Messiah. The early translators of our EVV chose not to translate *Christos*, correctly in English - Messiah, as they should have done, but instead used the Greek transliteration Christ. Because of this the OT connection, meaning and teaching is not so readily appreciated; it is not immediately clear what 'Christ' actually means and is often mistakenly taken to be Jesus' surname instead of his Majestic Title, 'Anointed', (Psalm 2; Isaiah 61:1-2a c.f. Like 4:16-21.) or in full - 'The

Anointed One' of God; anointed to carry out God's plan of redemption for mankind. [see Matthew 16:16 NIV11.]

Jesus the Christ (Messiah) spans the two Testaments; promised and foretold in the OT and in the NT through his birth, life, death and resurrection, and so by faith in him, restored for us access into God's most holy presence.

In the words of Paul's teaching in Thessalonica [Acts 17:2-4]. he - *reasoned with them from the Scriptures, (our OT!) explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. 'This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,'*

Jesus the Messiah is the Lord and Saviour we proclaim. Trust him now for yourself if you don't already!

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15

Revised Common Lectionary - Readings for September 2020

Sept 6, 2020

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

Sept 13, 2020

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Sept 14, 2020

Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 98:1-5
1 Corinthians 1:18-24; John 3:13-17

Sept 20, 2020

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Sept 27, 2020

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16;
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Oct 4, 2020

Exodus 20:1-4; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46, 7-9, 12-20

Digging Deeper is on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. At 7.00pm on Zoom at the moment, whilst COVID19 is around.

If you would like to join us, and we would be delighted for you to do so, please let Peter know so we can send you the invite code to join in. Sadly, at the moment you do need a computer or Tablet, with access to the Internet.

But you don't have to leave home!!!! Even sit and have your evening meal, if you want to and you don't mind us watching!!! Please do not be put off by the title, we do not indulge in deep theological debate. We just share with each other what we have discovered from the passage, subject that is before us.

Please join us we would be delighted to share with you and hear from you, if you so wish, there is no compulsion to contribute.

We recommence, DV, on 14th September with our consideration of the Gifts of the Spirit, Romans 12:4-8. Looking at - 'the Gift of Giving' followed by 28th September looking at 'the Gift of Leadership' then 12th October looking at 'the Gift of Mercy'.

The Series will conclude on 26th October with a review of all of the seven Gifts of the Spirit.

On 9th November we are to commence 'discovering Jesus in the life and work of Moses'.

**Sometimes the best
thing you can do is
not think, not wonder,
not imagine, not obsess.
Just breathe, and have
faith that everything will
work out for the best**



Finance

The United Reformed Church
86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT

To: The members and friends of all our 1,400 URC congregations

'THANK YOU' for your unique and vital contribution to the life of the United Reformed Church, and for the work of the kingdom which we are able to do together in God's name

We are living through an extraordinary and challenging time - a very anxious time for everyone; a difficult time for many; and a time of suffering and loss for some. Yet, the main purpose of this letter is to say **'thank you'** to each of you for all that you have done for the Church in the past; for all that you continue to do even in these difficult times; and for what you will do in the future.

As we are treasurers, you will not be surprised that the focus of this letter is on finance. But we recognise that finance is only a means to the end which is our doing of God's work together.

'Thank you' for your giving to your local church. Financially, this giving is the lifeblood of your own church and of the whole United Reformed Church across England, Scotland and Wales. It is this personal giving that enables your local church treasurer to pay your church's bills. Typically, the largest of those 'bills' is the contribution your local church pays to the URC Ministry and Mission Fund. This Fund meets the central costs of the United Reformed Church. The total budget is around £20 million and is approved each year by Mission Council. Over 80% of this money is spent on ministers and church related community workers - their training, stipends and pensions. But the other 20% also achieves an enormous amount on behalf of us all. General Assembly 2020 was severely constrained because of the Covid-19 lockdown, but the reports written for General Assembly are available on the URC website, and they paint

pictures of all the work that has been done in our name over the last two years and much of that work is ongoing.

'Thank you' for your giving and the giving of your local church last year. In 2019, over **£19.4 million was given by local churches and synods to the Ministry and Mission Fund.** The total contributions from local churches reduced very slightly but the average giving per member has, once again and remarkably, gone up by more than inflation.

'Thank you' for your continued giving this year. We fully understand that circumstances this year are difficult. Most local churches have been unable to meet for over five months. We have not had the usual opportunities to make our offerings for the work of the Church. But most of the costs of the local church and of the denomination have not reduced and some have increased as a consequence of the pandemic. We are also aware that some have lost income or work this year and are therefore in great financial difficulty. But there are others on fixed incomes who are actually better off than they might otherwise have been. **So, please continue to give what you can in whatever way you can - or save it up until you can hand it over.**

Any giving of ours is a response to the amazing generosity and love of God which we see in Jesus. Nevertheless, **it is important for us to say 'thank you' to each and all of you.**

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter then please speak to your church treasurer, who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,
Ian (Hardie) and John (Piper)

Further information on URC expenditure can be obtained from any Elder.

Out of the Mouths of Children



3 year old Reese:
“Our Father, who does art in
heaven, Harold is His name.”

A little boy was overheard praying:
“Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it.
I’m having a real good time like I am”

I had been teaching my four year old daughter the Lord’s Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. “Lead us not into temptation,” she prayed, “but deliver us from E-mail.”

A father was at the beach with his children when the 4 year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. “Daddy, what happened to him?” the son asked. “He died and went to Heaven,” the Dad replied. The boy thought for a moment and then said, “Did God thrown him back down?”

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.’ Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”



The next edition of New Horizons!

The next magazine will be published on 4th October

Would our contributors remember to send the Editors their items **by the usual time of 9.00 a.m.** on **Thursday 24th September please.**

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

A large print version of this magazine is available.

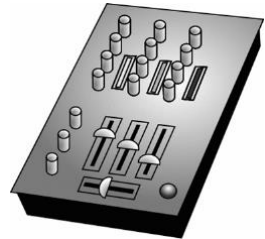
Please ask an editor if you would like one.

Alternatively, you can view it on line.

See the website address on the front cover

Recording of services

We are now live-streaming and recording every Sunday service so, if you are in church and do not wish to be seen, then please speak to anyone at the sound and vision desk before the service starts.



If you would like a copy for yourself, or for someone who could not be with us, please ask Vic Crowhurst.

Or perhaps to give to someone to listen to how well we sing!

**The biggest
Communication problem
Is we do not listen to
understand.**

We listen to reply.

WHO'S WHO?

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