

New Horizons

NOVEMBER 2020



STOP PRESS

No live services for the time being. Access our Sunday Worship here

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZ8TMU6-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZ8TMU6-Grmmql4p87_puQ)

[Grmmql4p87_puQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZ8TMU6-Grmmql4p87_puQ)

THE CORNERSTONE



The
United
Reformed
Church

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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

Lest We Forget

The ability to remember is a wonderful gift that God has given to mankind.

Some of our memories are happy and we can recall wonderful experiences. But some of our memories are sad and we may weep as we remember them. The problem, though, is that sometimes memory fails us. Sometimes we forget.

When it comes to remembering God's faithfulness, we can be especially forgetful. One striking example of this is found in the book of Exodus, chapters 14 and 16. In the span of just a couple of chapters, we see the Israelites delivered from slavery and brought through the Red Sea, and then they are grumbling about not having food to eat.

We want to say to them, "Don't you remember what God just did for you? The water stood up like two walls, and you walked through the Red Sea on dry ground! Don't you think that the God who can do that is also capable of giving you food to eat? Trust him!"

And then, of course, we remember that we do the same sort of thing. God brings us through a trial, answers a prayer, and within a few days it's almost forgotten. We're already looking to the next struggle on the horizon and finding reasons to gripe and complain.

We have to find ways of remembering God's faithfulness.

In Joshua 3, we read of an amazing miracle God performed for his people. He caused the Jordan River to stop flowing so they could cross on dry ground into the Promised Land. God then instructed them, through Joshua, to gather twelve stones from the Jordan to set up as a memorial. One man from each tribe was selected to take a stone from the riverbed. Joshua set them up as a sign, as a remembrance, of what God accomplished for his people on that day.

God is so gracious to us. He knows we have spiritual amnesia. He knows that we are forgetful. So, he gives us memorials. He commands us to do certain things that will serve as reminders.

So, as we remember those who fought for us, for our freedom, let us not take our eyes off our Rock and Refuge, our God who sent his Son Jesus Christ as a reminder of his love for us all; to rescue us from our foes, to grant us freedom from our sins.

And remember, our own effort will not ultimately transform our forgetfulness - it's the Helper; the Holy Spirit who is with us to remind us of God's love and faithfulness towards the whole humanity.

Grace and peace to you all
Sohail

Please wear a Poppy

"Please wear a poppy", the old lady said
And held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched, to see how she'd fare
Her face was old, and lined with care,
Yet beneath the scars, the years had made
There remained a smile that refused to fade.

A boy came whistling down the street
Bounding along on his carefree feet
His smile was full of joy and fun
"Lady" he said "can I have one?"
As she pinned it on, I heard him say
"Why do we wear the poppy today?"

The lady smiled in her wistful way
And answered "this is Remembrance Day.
The poppy is the symbol for the gallant men and
Women who died in the war
And because they did, we are free,
That's why we wear the poppy you see"



“I had a boy about your size,
With golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout,
Free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by, he learnt and grew
And became a man, as you will too.”

“He was fine and strong with a boyish smile,
But he seemed to be with us for such a short while.
When the war broke out, he went away
I can still remember his face that day.
When he smiled at me and said goodbye
“I will be back soon, so please don’t cry”



But the war went on and he had to stay
All I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of an awful fight
I can see it still in my dreams at night
With the tanks and guns and the cruel barbed wire
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and the fire,

Until at last, the war was won
And that is why we wear the poppy son.”
The small boy turned as if to go
Then stopped and said “Thank you lady, I’m glad I know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight
But your son, did he come home all right?”

A tear rolled down each faded cheek,
She shook her head but didn’t speak.
I slunk away head bowed in shame
And if you were me, you’d have done the same.
For our thanks in giving is often delayed
Though our freedom was bought by the legions who paid.

And so, when you see a poppy worn
Let us reflect on the burden borne
By those who gave their precious all
When asked to answer their countries’ call
That we at home, in peace may live
Then wear a poppy, remember, and give.



Author unknown to editors

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 troubling time, as once again we go into lockdown during this month of November and possibly beyond.



Sadly, we find ourselves in a position again where our fellowship cannot meet on the church premises for worship but as before, you can follow our services or other URC churches online.

We keep in our thoughts any of our fellowship who may be in hospital, undergoing surgery/treatment or having tests and pray that these are not be cancelled due to the lockdown. We pray for their return to good health. We especially think of Andy Anderson.

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

Father God, it does seem to us that whatever we try to do, something seems to go wrong. Sometimes it is our fault, despite our best efforts, but we cannot control the elements, diseases, famine or what other people do.

In these terrible times we have to put our trust in you to guide and sustain us, even when we sometimes imagine that you have forgotten our world.

We pray for all of those in authority who have to consider the different situations and come to decisions which sometime seem strange and difficult for us. Please give them wisdom as they seek ways forward, that whilst they seem harsh to us, will give an overall benefit to all people with the least damage to mind, body and Spirit.

We pray that you be with all those who are sick and especially with those who are bereaved and unable to mourn their loved ones as they would wish in normal times.

Lord, give us strength and enable us to show compassion to all.

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



Frank and I have been busy clearing the garden (and planting winter brassicas!) and processing the fruits of our labour. I was disappointed not to be able to share our produce with you this year, but we shall live quite comfortably over the winter on bottled, frozen and dehydrated fruit and vegetables with only the occasional foray to the shops for other essentials. I do believe we can have a tomato based meal at least once a week until the next harvest!

At church we have been meeting every Sunday, but do not know what may happen in the weeks to come, after this present lockdown. Other activities are still curtailed; our prime objective is to keep everyone safe, but there are other factors such as the need to thoroughly clean everywhere between activities taking place less

than 72 hours apart. That is not to say things can't happen and any meeting or organisation that is considering resuming regular in-person activities, after this present lockdown, must undertake a thorough risk assessment and present a Covid-safe plan to Elders for approval.

Our services during October were led by Peter Hunt and Roger Brett as well as our Minister, Sohail. We have only once reached 30 people attending in person, and I was able to see we can accommodate two or three more. Over time we have reintroduced the singing group introit and the family talk, although I have to admit it is a bit of a strain doing this latter without the usual interaction! At the end of September we had our first Holy Communion since February, and since it went smoothly we repeated the same format in October. I am always open to suggestions as to how things may be tweaked to run better so please do let me know if you have any ideas.

Just before publication we had the news that churches would be closed for at least a month to help with the fight to keep down Covid hospital admissions. Whilst sad, we can also feel privileged to be playing our part, for the good of the nation. Worship will still take place and I invite you all to power up the PC or smart TV at 10.30 on Sunday mornings and log in to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZ8TMU6-Grmmgl4p87_puQ

As is usual the autumn months have seen the round of annual services for our plant and equipment, and much as I hate to mention money, these services have depleted the church's resources, since our income, both weekly offerings and premises use, is reduced. I would mention, at this point, if you are saving up your weekly freewill offering envelopes and would like them collected, please speak to your Elder in the first instance.

I get the impression some folk are tiring of the modern technology, which congregations of all faiths have embraced to enable common worship and fellowship. When our Sunday services went back to 'live' we did consider using Zoom or Facebook Live for broadcasting, before opting for YouTube, and the take-up of our Tuesday Zoom sessions has fallen off since the good numbers at the beginning of

lockdown. Does Zoom make up for not being in the same physical space? No. But it is the next best thing while we still can't do what we would like to; we have some lovely chats and I have learned a lot about other people's lives through them, so I do urge you to give it a try.

Almost all of the URC's teaching and development has moved on-line and since no travelling is involved (better for the environment) I have been able to participate in a number of events. The most recent was "The Gathering" which was originally intended as a three-session residential at Westminster College. The Gathering is a meeting for those running or interested in Fresh Expressions of church, and in particular how to approach evangelism in the 21st century, indeed how to do so in the midst of a global pandemic. Evangelism is not just the responsibility of the clergy and other church leaders, it is for everyone and perhaps the thing we most shy away from. As with everything these days, there is an 'app' which sets out a simple way to speak of Jesus to your friends and neighbours. When the series concludes, probably sometime next year now, I will write more about it, but meanwhile you can find some helpful information here

<https://churchsupporthub.org/godsend/overview/overview-love/>

Zoom has also been useful in facilitating the business of the denomination. The March round of Synod meetings was cancelled in the light of the increasing infection rates, but the work of synod and its committees has continued by Zoom. You may know I am Secretary to the Mission Committee which is around 10 people, many of whom have hitherto had to get up at silly-o'clock to get to Whittlesford for 9.30 a.m. but can now meet from our own homes. And the October Synod had some 125 Zoom attendees, far more than would have travelled to attend in person. General Assembly and Mission Council have also been conducted on line.

I think what I am getting around to saying is that on-line conferencing, and to an extent social media, can be regarded as a gift in certain circumstances, and in the current times it does enable us to be church 'together apart'.

In other news:

- Roger Brett has taken up the post of South Essex Area Partnership Pastoral Advocate. However, in order to free up time for this, help will be needed for his premises' management role. Roger is happy to stay as main contact for our regular premises' users, but if and when we resume taking occasional bookings and parties we will need someone to manage that including the paperwork and open/close rota. If you think this might be you, do please have a word with Roger for more details.
- **Elders' election:** ballot papers ballot papers are being sent out week beginning Monday 9th November by email and post to those members without email

NB if you have email but no printer please request a hard copy

Members will vote and return a HARD COPY of the ballot paper to reach the Secretary BY POST (for confidentiality) by Friday 20th November.

The secretary will count the votes (to be verified by Alison Shannon) and the result will be promulgated by the Secretary by email/magazine

- **Christmas Cards:** you may submit your Christmas greetings for publication in December New Horizons as usual, but in addition to your name, space will be available for you to add a few words of greeting. **SADLY, WE WILL BE UNABLE TO FACILITATE PHYSICAL CARDS THIS YEAR AS WE DO NOT KNOW IF WE WILL BE BACK WORSHIPPING TOGETHER**
- **Advent calendars:** Advent calendars are going out as usual, and we are also getting a supply of the URC Children and Youth Department Advent family activity boxes.
- Plans are under way for the December Youth and Children Celebration Service with a difference.....

Christmas Eve Christingle

Clearly this service cannot go ahead in the traditional way but, providing the present restrictions have been lifted, we are planning a 'walk through' Christingle in the Church Hall, between the hours of 10.30 am and 2.30 pm with families or individuals booking a timed slot to attend. If this cannot go ahead, it will be "Christingle in a Bag" with an on-line message. Yes, it will take some organising but I do believe we must continue to shine the light of Jesus in our community, particularly during such a difficult time. Although much of it will be on a 'see and do' basis without a lot of human interaction, we do need some people on hand to ensure things go smoothly and assist anyone who needs help. I already have some volunteers but of course the more the merrier, and the shorter time each one will be needed. So do speak up if you would like to help.

Ruth Dixon

Oh no! Is it that time again? Oh yes it is!

Well it could be the pantomime but, this time it is us looking forward to the arrangements that we need to make in our church life to celebrate Christmas. As usual, the editors are reminding anyone who needs to get information into the December edition of New Horizons to start planning soon. So, let's start with some of the things that you might care to think about:

Can you help the homeless through HARP?

Harp likes to offer every service user a present at Christmas and this is only possible thanks to the support from organisations such as ourselves and the general public.

You can show local homeless people you care by donating a gift for them to pass on who may use your donation as part of a Christmas present, or use the items elsewhere in their services if we have more than we need for presents. Either way, you know your gift will get to someone who really needs it this Christmas.

Here is a list of the most popular and most needed items at Christmas time:

Sweets and confectionery selection boxes
Men's pants (mainly smaller sizes)
Deodorant - men's and women's
Toothbrushes

Women's knickers (mainly smaller sizes)
Bras
Toiletries
Earphones/earbuds

Hats, Scarves and Gloves
Socks - men's and women's

But, if you are short of time or feel that shopping outside is not safe for you at this time, then you can use the following link to ensure it is passed to them direct.

<https://www.harpsouthend.org.uk/easy-ways-to-support-harp>

Your greetings this Christmas might be a little different?



Please make sure that you read the Secretary's report to see what is happening this year and if you wish to have your greetings, with a short personal message in the magazine, then please speak or email Anne or Michael.

Or, you can do it the traditional way by card via Royal Mail.

Unfortunately, the post box will not be making its traditional appearance.

As always, our treasurer will be pleased if you feel able to make a donation to church funds as the result of any savings you might make in postage and cards.

Death of a village Policeman - Another case from the Archives

It was at around six in the morning on September 27th 1927 when Bill Ward was on his way home from Romford after the night shift he had just completed as a motor engineer. He was on his way to Stapleford Abbots and had just got to Howe Green when he saw what he thought was a man slumped at the side of the road. He stopped to see if he could help but soon realized that there was no help to be given as the man in fact was dead. He was shocked even more when he recognizes the body as that of PC George Gutteridge, his local on beat policeman.

Bill went to the nearest house, Rose Cottage, and asked the owner to come and keep guard over the body whilst he went for help and make a call to the Romford police station. Alongside the body was the notebook, and the policeman was gripping a pencil in his right hand. His truncheon and torch were still in place in his uniform.

Bill continued to return to the body and stayed until the Romford police arrived a couple of hours later. A DI on the scene established that PC Gutteridge had been shot in the face and a Dr Wooton from Romford thought the time of death was approximately four to five hours earlier. The body was then removed, initially to the local pub and the next day to the mortuary. Scenes of Crime officers found two spent bullets lodged in the roadway and at the post mortem another was removed from the body.

PC Gutteridge lived in Stapleford Abbots with his wife and two children and regularly did the night patrol in the area, meeting up most evenings with his nearest co-beat policeman at the Grove House in Howe Green, his mate was PC Sydney Taylor and they would chat for about half an hour through their break before going their separate ways for the rest of the shift.

As the investigation got under way they found tyre marks near the scene indicating a car had run up off the road and as the facts were being collected there was a report of a stolen car from Billericay, a Morris Cowley, and the owner, Dr Lovell said there were items of medical importance in the vehicle, including some drugs. The car was recovered in a narrow lane in Brixton, reported by a man on his

way to work. In the car the police found a spent cartridge, and some splashes of blood on the steering wheel.

Dr Lovell was in the habit of recording his daily mileage and the police tested the distances involved had this car been driven from Billericay, to Howe Green and then on to Brixton. Many police were involved in the case and despite this, and the story being run in the press and a reward offered for information it was many months before they got any further with their work. They even involved searches abroad but to no avail.

It was about this time in police work that there was the knowledge and skill being refined to match bullets used and the gun they may have come from was really advancing and it was proved that all the bullets found in the case were from a World War 1 Mark IV and from a Webley revolver of the issue given to soldiers of the time.

They decided to keep a watch on all known car thieves in the London area. As is so often the case they had their favourite suspects and top of their list was one Leo Browne who had served time in Parkhurst and Durham prisons, so not at all a nice man. He had lived in London, then Eastwood in Essex and back to London before his arrest. After his release he lived in Lavender Hill. He set up as a motor mechanic with Pat Kennedy, who he had met whilst in prison. Pat did the books and he did the repair work. Kennedy had been in the army but in civilian life was in and out of prison on a regular basis. Browne continued his life of crime, stealing and moving on motors, while he apparently had a legitimate business. He had a good home and kept up this facade for some time. However he was named in the investigation of a stolen Vauxhall involved in an accident in Sheffield. The police got their chance. They obtained the necessary evidence they needed to search Browne's home and garage. They found a Webley revolver, ammunition and significantly some medical items which Dr Lovell identified as his. They also found more medical supplies, a revolver and a fully loaded Smith and Weston with more ammunition.

Kennedy returned to the garage later, found it locked but through the window saw two men who in his experience were, in all likelihood investigating officers. He returned home immediately and he and his wife went to Liverpool. On the 25th he was arrested and the police

found he too had a gun, and when questioned he was charged with helping to steal the Vauxhall car that Browne was under investigation for stealing. Kennedy asked to see his wife after the police started linking the crime with the murder in Howe Greene linking him with Browne to that crime. He told his wife that he had not killed the policeman but he had been there and knew who did it. He gave the police all the details hoping to lessen any sentence that he would be given.

After stealing the car in Billericay they were on their way back when they slewed off the road and PC Gutteridge challenged their driving. Kennedy said Browne shot Gutteridge four times. They left the scene and drove to Brixton, taking the medical supplies away with them after dumping the car.

Browne denied ever being in Essex that night, being at home with his wife all the time. It was the ballistics evidence which was so convincing and damning and both men were charged with the murder. It was the first time that this type of evidence was used in a court case . They called Robert Churchill, the chief Crown expert in guns and he gave evidence at length, demonstrating how the bullets and cartridge were all from the Webley that was found in Browne's home. Both men were held responsible for the crime and sentenced to death.

PC Gutteridge is buried in Warley cemetery and there is a memorial at the place where he died.

Alison Shannon



Many thanks to Alison for her monthly contributions to our Magazine and also for her newsletters since March, when we first went into lockdown. We have read some very informative and amusing articles over these months. Understandably, she feels she is in need of a break from the newsletters but if anyone would like to take over, please contact her to understand what is entailed.

The Preacher's Donkey

A man bought a donkey from a preacher. The preacher told the man that this donkey had been trained in a very unique way, (being the donkey of a preacher). The only way to make the donkey go, was to say “**Hallelujah!**” The only way to make the donkey stop, was to say **Amen!**”



The man was pleased with his purchase and immediately got on the animal to try out the preacher's instructions. “Hallelujah!” shouted the man. The donkey began to trot.

“Amen!” shouted the man. The donkey stopped immediately.

“This is great!” said the man. With a “Hallelujah,” he rode off, very proud of his new purchase.

The man travelled for a long time through some mountains. Soon he was heading towards a cliff. He could not remember the word to make the donkey stop.

“Stop”, said the man. “Halt!” he cried.

The donkey just kept going.

“Oh no.....Bible!.....Church!.....Please stop!” shouted the man.

The donkey just began to trot faster. He was getting closer and closer to the cliff edge. Finally, in desperation, the man said aloud a prayer.

“Please, dear Lord. Please make this donkey stop before I go off the edge of this mountain, in Jesus name, **Amen.**”

The donkey came to an abrupt stop just one step from the edge of the cliff.

“Hallelujah!” shouted the man.

Old Church - New Church - Getting the message across.

It seems difficult these days to avoid television programmes which do not involve 'Celebrities'. As a case in point 'Strictly Come Dancing' returned to our screens the other Saturday evening with twelve 'Celebrities'

There is the person from 'Jonathan Creek' and, apparently other stuff, one who is supposedly a comedian although he has never made me laugh, and an ex-MP well known for ...! Well, I will stop there. And then there is everyone else. None of whom I have actually heard of. Although, to be fair, Wendy did know the one from a 'Television Soap'.

Maybe it is me, and I am out of touch although apparently 1/3rd of children do not know who John Lennon was, so maybe it is an 'age' thing, or even an 'interest' thing in that I am not interested in the things that these particular 'Celebrities' do. Appearing in 'Made in Chelsea' or on 'BBC Radio 1' for example.

What is intriguing, and the point of this piece, is the young man called Harvey Leigh Cantwell or, as he is better known HRVY. In his opening piece to screen he told us who he was and came out with some facts that I thought that I had misheard. But having delved deeper it seems that he probably understated the case.

He found 'fame' pasting music videos on Facebook, then released some on YouTube with 250 million views, cumulatively he has had over one billion streams to his name. That is right, 'one' followed by twelve noughts. And has 4 million followers in Instagram.

Now just think about our own Worship Broadcast on YouTube and, indeed every other broadcast of every other Christian Worship throughout the whole of the Covid-19 period. Do you think that we reach 4 million followers, or 250 million views or one billion streams when you add them all together?

And yet we have the world's greatest news. The great news that will be celebrated around the world in a few weeks' time.

My question is Why Not cumulatively 4 million followers and 1 billion streams? Why are we not hitting the right note? The most recent Social Media platform appears to be TikTok which allows 20 second videos followed by millions.

If that is what is required to get people's attention how do we go about it? Train Ministers? Train Elders? Get all of our Young People to put something up? Something every day, twice a day, not just on Sunday, comments on the news, what we are all about, who God is, what they believe and why. Maybe appoint MITs (Ministers for Information Technology). I don't know, not my area of expertise.

Although we could do worse (or better) than Christian youngsters on TikTok at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czUXuJd19yc> (Go to YouTube and search Christians on TikTok')

Or do we just do what we are doing and hope for the best.

If we are to increase the number of people who know about the God who loves them and who let His Son be murdered for them, changing the way we do things might be an option that we should consider.

We got told about Him by our parents. The young generation get news and views in a different way, 24 hours a day, wherever they are. Not wrong, just different.

Old Church, New Church, Same message. 2000 years old but even more relevant today than ever before. We need to get it out there.

But even by writing this article I am only hitting the same audience as before and not the wider world so perhaps I am part of the problem.

Roger Brett

*Footnote from Ed. Michael. What goes around comes around. HRVY is not a radical change, as I remember a new type of shorthand in the 1960s called T-Line where, if you had not got a convenient symbol/whatever for a word or name, you just left out the vowels.
My family often tell me that I am a mine of useless information!*

The Potter



At various moments the hand of the potter is gently but firmly drawn across our lives, pressing down on the particles so that the basic shape for his plan can emerge.

His hands begin their work of moulding our lives, which are bound up with the lives of those around us, each person, like a particle of clay, encountering and shaping the other. Most times we are unclear what is happening, the eyes of the potter holding the only objective view of the vessel.

Then the opening commences. Our horizons broaden like the waves of the sea creating space within us. Gradually and carefully the finger of the potter touches all the areas to ensure perfect contours.

Sometimes He finds that it is carrying excessive clay and so with his trained hand He knows exactly what to cut away.

The vessel has a peculiar shape with many curves. To attain this, the potter is required to press gently on certain parts, blending the particles more closely together.

The vessel itself might well think it is being broken but finally the image of the blueprint is about to emerge.

Would you believe it?

- I bought a first-aid kit today, thought I'd treat myself.
- It's just been announced that people returning from Iceland have to quarantine for 14 days. I only went for some frozen chips.
- I just got back from a Once in a Lifetime holiday, never again.
- If 2×2 makes 4 and 3×3 makes 9, what does 0×0 make?
Gravy!



Peter's Piece

Faith

Paul concludes his great treatise on LOVE, 1 Corinthians 13, by giving three enduring things in this passing age of decay; they are faith, hope and love. v.13 We looked at 'hope' last month and, not that I can improve on Paul's treatise we will, DV, consider 'love' next month.

That leaves 'faith' - Once again we have a Bible treatise on the subject this time through the anonymous writer of the letter addressed, initially, to the Hebrew Christians - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* [Hebrews 11:1]. The writer goes on in the next chapter to illustrate faith with a list of OT saints who, by their lives, exercised faith, trust in God. The chapter ends pointing out that they did not receive the full reward of faith, as that is reserved for the life after life after death when God will establish his eternal kingdom on a new earth, [Revelation 21] for both, the OT saints and us who have lived, in this passing age, by faith in God and in the salvation of Jesus the Christ through his death and resurrection.

Faith is a childlike resting on all that God is doing and promises by his Holy Spirit in Jesus the Christ. Mark 10:15 *Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*

Faith is the antithesis of works; Paul to the believers in Ephesus 2:8-9 - *it is by grace you have been saved, through faith --- it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.* We cannot earn or merit being made right with God. *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith.* Romans 3:25. 'Atonement' - paying the price of being made right with a just and holy God. That price is death, the death of the sinner, the one who has offended God, paid on our behalf by Jesus in his death on the cross.

When Jesus died on the cross, he did so in our place. He suffered death on behalf of us, each one because we have offended against a holy God.

When we hear this good news we can do one of two things, by faith accept it, believe it, trust it, or we can reject it, but it is not even as active as reject, it is ignore, *how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?* Hebrews 2:3. Never really deciding to take that step of faith and personally accepting, and thankfully living in the light of the truth that Jesus died for ME.

This is serious, *how shall we escape*, the anonymous writer rhetorically asks, what hope is there for us if we carelessly, in all our determined hard work at everything in our life miss consciously, taking that step of accepting, by faith, Jesus the Christ, and the salvation he has won for us by his death and resurrection?

Digging Deeper

Thanks to Coronavirus, we meet on Zoom on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7.00 pm. DV. ALL are welcome to join us; you don't even have to go out, you can join in comfort of your own home!

On 9 November we commence a new series - discovering Jesus in the life and work of Moses. With an introduction - Christ in all the scriptures. Luke 24:27 and a consideration of Moses parents; then on 23 November - Moses formative years

We warmly welcome all who would like to join us on Zoom to contact either Sohail or Peter so you can be sent the access code.

Peter Hunt

**Age is simply the
number of years
the world has been enjoying you**

Revised Common Lectionary

November 1, 2020

Joshua 3:7-17

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37

Matthew 23:1-12

November 8, 2020

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Psalms 78:1-7

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, 2020

Judges 4:1-7

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalms 123

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2020

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1:15-23

Psalms 100

Matthew 25:31-46

First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 2020

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Mark 13:24-37

Second Sunday of Advent - December 6, 2020

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

Mark 1:1-8

ELDERS' ELECTION 2020

Nominations now open



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 who is eligible for re-election and Robert Wiseman, who is eligible, but has intimated he is moving away from the area and therefore does not wish to be considered.

- In addition, to redress an imbalance arising from previous vacancies Ann Thorp will stand down after one year and is eligible for immediate re-election for a full three year term
- 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.

Breaking News

- A man was apprehended in Lidl this evening who was stealing German Christmas cake. The Police later charged him with handling Stollen goods.
- It has been reported that Britain has never been so miserable. The whole country is in tiers.
- A man creosoted his brother's porch against his wishes. The brother has told the man to never darken his door again.

SERVICES AT THE CORNERSTONE

Due to the new restrictions from November 5th. all services will have to be live streamed. Please see the Secretary's Notebook

November

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------|--|--------------|
| Sun | 8 th | 10.30am | Remembrance Sunday | Our Minister |
| Sun | 15 th | 10.30am | Morning Worship | Roger Brett |
| Sun | 22 nd | 10.30am | Morning Worship (HC) | Our Minister |
| Sun | 29 th | 10.30pm | Morning Worship (1 st Advent) | John Amos |

December

| | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Thu | 3 rd | 7.30pm | Elders' Meeting | |
| Sun | 6 th | 10.30am | Morning Worship | Rev Celia Whitman |

Six little stories with lots of meanings

- (1) Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. **That is faith.**
- (2) When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **That is trust.**
- (3) Every night we got to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up. **That is hope.**
- (4) We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **That is confidence.**
- (5) We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. **That is love.**
- (6) On an old man's t-shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." **That is attitude.**

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember: Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!

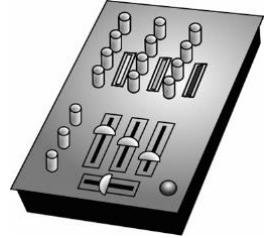
Don't give up on this year.
Keep fighting for the good.
Keep showing up.
Keep loving.
Keep giving back.
Keep being kind.
Keep being brave.
Keep caring.
Keep trying new things.
Keep showing grace.
Keep on.

This world needs you to believe in the good.

Recording of services

Due to the current restrictions, we can now only live-stream and record every Sunday service

If you cannot get access to the services in this way, but would like a recorded copy for yourself, or for someone else, please ask Vic Crowhurst.



We have to pray
with our eyes on God,
not on the difficulties.

The next edition will be published on Sunday 6th December and will cover December 2020 and January 2021.



Although our usual time for our contributors to send the Editors their items is **by 9.00 a.m. on Thursday 26th November**, we would be very pleased to have them before then if at all possible. Not only is it a busy time for our personal jobs, it also gives us time to get all of the items in and also allows us to make last-minute changes. With our thanks.

**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**

We are not all in the same boat
But we are all in the same storm
Support each other
Don't judge - Be kind

WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of a man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

A shout out to everyone - who is trying right now

Trying to do the right thing. Trying to stay open.
Trying to keep going. Trying to hold on.
Trying to let go. Trying to find their flow.
Trying to staying afloat. Trying to meet each new day.
Trying to find their balance. Trying to love themselves.
Trying new things and new ways.

I see you. I'm there too. We're in this together.

WHO'S WHO?

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Minister | Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk |
| Secretary | Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186 |
| Treasurer | Ann Blackwell 07753 348856 |
| Envelopes | Mike Mead 07802 749912 |
| Gift Aid | David Osborn (01702) 611337 |
| Preachers List | Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512 |
| Junior Church | Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186 |
| Joint Leaders | Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512 |
| Pilots | Derek Goodyear 07863 208914 |
| Prayer Fellowship | Peter & Zoy Hunt (01702) 864814 |
| Digging Deeper | Peter Hunt (01702) 864814 |
| C'Stone Toddlers | Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512 |
| Scout Group | Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309 |
| Christian Forum | Alison Shannon (01702) 464737 |
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**Please remember that your Elders are ordained
to serve our members and friends
who have pastoral concerns.**