

# New Horizons

FEBRUARY 2021



Let there be love shared among us

## THE CORNERSTONE



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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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

**FAIRTRADE Coffee and tea is served after Morning Worship**  
Please stay to talk with each other in an informal atmosphere.

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

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

Tues 10.00 am Tea and Coffee in the Foyer  
11.30 am "Cornerstone Crafters"  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays or as announced)  
2.30 pm Christian Forum (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays)  
4.00 pm Messy Church (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month)  
19.30-21.00pm Digging Deeper (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month)

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

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

Fri 7.00-9.00 Youth Club

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

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



## Letter to the Fellowship

The pandemic has left many Christians in the difficult dilemma of how they can faithfully live out the commitment to the call to *'go and make disciples of all nations'*. The pandemic has indeed posed a huge challenge when it comes to the church's model of evangelism. I think many of us are living too comfortably. God doesn't save us from our sin so that we can sit guilt-free in church on Sundays or watch a service online and continue leading stationary lives. He saves us so we can minister to and share love with others. If the goal of our lives as Christians is to become more Christ-like, then the mission of our lives should be the same as Jesus' mission. His mission is to save people (1 Timothy 1:15).

I wonder if non-believers would stop doubting organized religion if we lived the way we're called to live. Christians are good at telling people we'll pray for them. We're good at interacting with our church friends. But what are we doing to actually reach out? Are we seeking the lost or just hoping they'll show up on our doorstep begging for help someday? All around us, people are drowning as they look for answers. We believe we have the answer.

We often let the world tell us how to live, but what does the world really know about living? So many lives are filled with deception, distraction, selfishness, and chaos. Do we really want to fit into what the world dictates as "normal"? Shouldn't we be passionately sharing the love, grace, peace and forgiveness of Christ with a world that so desperately needs it?

Maybe we're scared. Maybe we doubt our individual abilities. Maybe we don't feel personally "called" to this mission. Maybe we're too busy chasing things that ultimately don't matter to notice what's going on around us. Maybe we forget that our lives are not supposed to be about us. Maybe we fail to realize that just because we're on the same side as everyone else, that doesn't mean we're on the right side. Maybe we trust God enough to let Him save us, but not enough to let Him use us for the work He prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10).

During this time when people are struggling with all the unanswered questions about life, we need to be serious about directing people to God, where they will find peace, not answers.

We should continue living out the gospel-witnessing lives more during these times. We must show that despite the situation we are in, there is a God who is sovereign and who is worthy of our worship. And Jesus is the way to whom we need to point ourselves and people to. We must maximize the opportunities we get, and in this time, the online platform needs our presence.

The most amazing and overwhelming truth in my life is that God doesn't have to save me, but he chooses to. He doesn't have to love me, but he chooses to. He doesn't have to forgive me, but he chooses to. He doesn't need me, but he reaches for me. We have choices too. We can choose to walk with God, or not. We can choose to love those around us, or not. We can choose to follow the world, or we can choose to follow him.

We can choose to fit in, or we can choose to stand out and save lives.

**God bless,  
Sohail**

### **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 we are once more in a lockdown situation to keep us safe from the virus.

As we are not meeting on the church premises for worship, you can follow our services or other URC churches online. Many of our friends at The Cornerstone have found this so comforting when they cannot come to our church building. One member mentioned that she imagines herself and fellow worshippers in their seats in the church and then prays for them individually.

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 cancelled. We pray for their return to good health

There is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine but we remember in our prayers the family and friends of loved ones who have passed away. We think especially of the family and friends of Pat Tyler. 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**

**And perhaps for ourselves?**

Sohail, in his letter earlier on in this magazine, talks about our **FAITH** in God and Jesus, and the choices that we are given which all lead to **HOPE**. So, this month, please pray for hope for all peoples.

It is hope that drives the scientists to develop vaccines, new treatments and safe working conditions. Hope also drives many people to work long hours to take care of us in many different ways, whether in paid employment or as volunteers.

When we are in dark places, hope is always there because of those who have shown their **LOVE** for us.

**These three things remain: Faith Hope and Love. But the greatest of these is Love**

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



As is always the case, it seems a little odd reporting on Advent and Christmas for the February magazine.

As we came out of the November lockdown, not knowing what was to be ahead, we had already planned for pre-recorded services on the first Sunday of the month with John Amos and the second Sunday for our youth and children festival service. Thanks go to Derek, Vic and Nigel who put these together, and to those of you who complimented us on the latter service.

We were able to meet for worship in person for limited numbers on 20th December (Roger, with communion) and on Christmas Day (Sohail), these services being live-streamed. Sohail and Shameer also put together the service on 27th December, when we could not meet in person due to it not being 72 hours after Christmas Day.

A Covid-safe 'walk through' Christingle had been arranged to take place in the Hall on Christmas Eve, but take up was not great, and with the news of the vigorous virus mutation it was decided not to proceed. Those who had booked received their Christingle in a Bag. The surplus oranges (I had pre-ordered from Kirby and Lewis) have been turned into marmalade; thank to those who have taken jars and donated to church funds.

I have to say we were very surprised churches were not required to close for the latest lockdown, given the infection and mortality rates have been so much higher than before; however, we received strong advice from the URC to do so having regard to the vulnerability of the majority of members. Elders agreed with this, so for the time being we have gone back to pre-recorded services. This actually enables more people from different households to take part by recording a reading or prayers at home, and sending them in to be edited into the version you see on YouTube. And, the feedback from yourselves suggests you prefer somebody singing the hymns so we have used YouTube clips, which has saved Vic trawling the archives for our own recordings. Nigel and Derek were able to meet at the church and record a number of organ pieces to round off our

services, which in January were led by John Amos, Roger Brett Peter Hunt and Sohail.

At this point I want to say a very big thank you to everyone who has been involved, thank you for being willing to learn new skills and use them in The Lord's service.



The roll out of the vaccination programme gives us hope, at a time when almost all of us know someone who has been infected with Covid-19 or sadly died. I am thrilled that some of you have already had the jab, and more will be having it in the next few weeks. It does of course remain to be seen what level of immunity there is and how long it lasts, and it may be the case we will all need an annual booster. But praise God that the world's best brains have got on with the job at pace, and the NHS with its army of volunteers is getting stuck in.

And who would have thought our Prime Minister would be on national television preaching the Bible? HANDS, FACE, SPACE

Exodus 30:18-21  
New International Version

<sup>18</sup> "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. <sup>19</sup> Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. <sup>20</sup> Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting a food offering to the LORD, <sup>21</sup> ***they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die.*** This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come."

Leviticus 13:45  
New International Version

<sup>45</sup> "Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt,<sup>[a]</sup> ***cover the lower part of their face*** and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'

Leviticus 13:4-5  
New International Version

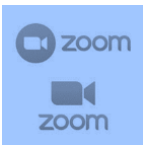
<sup>4</sup> If the shiny spot on the skin is white but does not appear to be more than skin deep and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest is to *isolate* the affected person for seven days. <sup>5</sup> On the seventh day the priest is to examine them, and if he sees that the sore is unchanged and has not spread in the skin, he is to isolate them for another seven days.

Leviticus 13:46  
New International Version

<sup>46</sup> As long as they have the disease, they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

The latter references are obviously about a contagious skin disease but the principle is the same, do not put others at risk. Much of our conduct towards one another is firmly rooted in scripture; a testament to its continued relevance to human life.

I know many of you will want to know when public worship will resume. Do be assured that Elders are keeping everything under review and listening for when the authorities, and the URC, are prepared to say it is safe. Meanwhile we are secure in the knowledge that our God is bigger than four walls, and He will be among us wherever, whenever and by what means we turn to worship Him.



As for when it will be safe to resume other activities, that may still be a long way off, and we would love for more of you to join the twice weekly Zoom sessions and share some of your lockdown experiences.

One of the things we were unable to do last year was have our annual Commitment for Life Appeal. Elders were agreed the appeal should not suffer and a sum of money has been paid over on behalf of the church. If it has been your habit to participate in the appeal and you would like to contribute, please do make a donation either



direct into the bank or In the post to the Treasurer, clearly marked 'Commitment for Life'. Thank you.

Likewise, we have not been having our regular food collections for the town's homeless and vulnerable via HARP. There are several ways you can still offer support

- Taking your contributions direct to Harp on York Road, or The Storehouse in Coleman Street, or Southend Foodbank at the rear of Friendship House by Belle Vue Baptist Church
- Supporting the efforts of other voluntary organisations such as One Love

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/356965091346539/?ref=share>

- Or the others that work out of St Vincent's Community Hub in Short Street past the post office see <https://www.svpwestcliff.org>

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Vincents-Southend-Short-Street-110151657305638/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/St-Vincents-Southend-Short-Street-110151657305638/about/?ref=page_internal)

Many of these support groups are able to accept monetary donations via their websites.

- Giving to the local Little Free Pantry. There is one in The Grove near the Norwich Avenue junction and another in Stanfield Road (second road past Matalan on the Greyhound Estate)

I'm sure this is not an exhaustive list, and if you have additional information or ideas as to what further support might be given please do speak to an elder.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January some of our number attended the funeral service for Pat Tyler, both in person and on line. Pat was a past Secretary of Bournemouth Park URC and served the church for as long as her physical condition allowed. More recently, she was delighted to be kept in touch with the church through our newsletters and weekly services. The service was led by Sohail, with Nigel playing the Organ. The tribute, written by Melanie and Trisha, appears elsewhere in this magazine.

A few of us attended the **Stepwise** Taster Evening, led by the Synod Training and Development Officer Lindsey Brown. Stepwise, the successor to TLS, was launched nationally a couple of years ago and piloted in a few Synods; Eastern was due to take it up a year

ago until Covid upset plans. Fortunately, the programme is adaptable to on line groups and that is how it will run for the time being. The modules are:

Faith Filled Life - compulsory basics

Faith Fuelled Leadership

Faith Filled Confidence

Faith Filled Communities

Faith Filled Worship.

You can read more about it here [Stepwise \(urc.org.uk\)](http://Stepwise(urc.org.uk)) and watch a video [Transforming the World through Reflections: Setting the Tone for Healing - YouTube](#)

The programme is the primary training for potential lay preachers but also an encouragement to all of us to develop our discipleship. As well as group sessions, there is individual work via the Stepwise Hub, supported by one to one mentoring. You may be approached to mentor one or more of The Cornerstone participants, more information here. [Stepwise\\_Mentor\\_Guide\\_-\\_December\\_2019.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#)

At this point it is appropriate to ask for your prayers for the Eastern Synod staff and the various committees as they continue the work of the Synod during this period without a Moderator. A number of people have had to take on additional responsibilities and a big shout out for Lindsey (Training and Development) and Nicola (Children and Youth) who are currently 'the public faces' of the Synod organising regular online meetings for and with churches and ensuring the weekly briefing gets out. We wish Paul Whittle well for his time in Scotland, and pray for God's blessing on the forthcoming selection process for his replacement.

It was a joy to hold a 'virtual' church meeting in January, after so long without one, and good that enough people are now comfortable with the technology. We spent some time catching up with fellowship news - how lives have been changed by the restrictions! As we look forward to resuming some of our activities later this year, it is important we also look to the church's mission both locally and worldwide.

As you will know, we are twinned with a church at Highfield, Harare and both Sohail and the Synod get regular news of how things are in

the Presbytery. Although early on Covid was not a huge problem in Africa, it has now taken hold and indeed Lydia (who preached at The Cornerstone) and her husband Paul have both become infected but are recovering.

Highfield has a 'preaching station' about 70 km away in the bush (in English parlance a church plant in the countryside) This is a particularly impoverished drought-stricken area, but the land surrounding the very basic church building could be made productive if water were available. The Church meeting was able to see some photographs and the potential for this land to be a real benefit to the local community. So, it is intended to focus our efforts during 2021 on raising funds to assist Highfield with installing a possibly solar powered borehole - the total cost is likely to be \$6000 and it would be fantastic if The Cornerstone could provide a substantial part of that. A small task group will co-ordinate the various events and activities and if you are up for being part of that please speak to me, Sohail or Sarah (Wilson). It goes without saying that ideas will be very welcome. I am hoping this project will be of immense benefit to our fellowship too, as we gradually start being together again.



The season of Lent is almost upon us, a time when we try to give up something that is hindering us and focus on the redeeming work of our Lord. Popular opinion indicates we have given up so much over the last year to relinquish more would be too onerous for many, although please do if you can; others use lent for practical acts of kindness and

similar things which may not be practical in these stay-at-home times.

I will be circulating next weekend (or with the magazine for those who have hard copies) some materials, including instructions for "Lent in a Bag" and couple of pages with pointers as to how you can better care for yourself and enhance the restricted way of life, and to stop us being too introspective, a number of ways to direct our prayers and actions for family and those outside our household. I hope you find them useful and this Lent will prove to be a spiritually fruitful and rewarding time.

**Ruth Dixon**

Say a special prayer for those parents who are home teaching due to the closure of schools during lockdown. A mother wrote:



I remember asking my teachers when I would ever need the maths they were teaching me. Not one, not a single one of them, said I would need it to teach to my children during a plague.

### **Shout out to the children**

Everyone is applauding everyone but our children. These little heroes have stayed indoors more than they've ever known in their lives. Their whole worlds have literally been turned upside down. A life they couldn't have imagined. All the things they love like sports, being with friends, going to school, or just being kids have all been taken away from them. Adults talking about others becoming unwell. News reporting death after death. Our poor children's minds must be racing. Every day they get up and carry on despite all that's going on. So here's to our little heroes:

### **Today, Tomorrow, Forever**





## A Message from your Treasurer

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all those who have continued to support our church throughout last year whether through Standing Orders, payments into the church bank account or by sending a cheque to me. These payments are very much appreciated and are vital to the ongoing upkeep of our church. Biggest thanks to all of you!

You will shortly receive the accounts for last year and I can add to the details given that we are £3,000 down on offering payments when compared with 2019. I know some of you will not have had the opportunity to donate in your normal way via loose cash or envelope in the offertory plate, so wanted to appeal to anyone who may feel able to contribute to send their gift in one of the following ways:

- (i) via cheque to me at 56 Inverness Avenue, Westcliff on Sea, SS0 9DX - cheques should be made out to **'The Cornerstone United Reformed Church'** (in full)
- (ii) by direct one-off payment into the church bank account - Sort code 23-05-80, Account No 34688941 - please use your name or envelope number as the reference.
- (iii) by Standing Order into the church bank account - Sort code 23-05-80, Account No 34688941 - please use your name or envelope number as the reference.

In writing this I appreciate that many members and friends already make the highest contribution they feel able and this is not intended to make anyone feel guilty. It is between you and Our Lord, with prayerful consideration, what you give. However, my role as Treasurer is to make people aware of our current finances.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this appeal.

**Ann Thorp (Blackwell)**

## RIP - PATRICIA VIOLET TYLER 18/11/1933 - 21/12/2020

Patricia Violet Tyler (nee Wright) was born to Violet and John on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1933 at her grandmother's house in Oban Road, Southend and grew up in Westbury Road where her sister Maureen, was born five years later.

However, she could not spend very much time with her little sister at first, as she contracted Polio (which precluded her from being evacuated at the start of the War) and spent a great many lonely months in London Hospital. Of that time, she remembered that when her father *could* visit, she was often asleep so he would leave a clean, folded handkerchief on her pillow so that she would know that he had been there. She also remembered the nurses singing the song "One Day When We Were Young" from the new MGM film, "The Great Waltz" which we will hear an excerpt from at the end of this service.

As a child being brought up during the War, Pat had vivid memories of having to be carried to the air-raid shelter at the bottom of the garden by her father and then left there on her own while he went back to get Maureen and Violet. She would lie watching the searchlights sweeping the sky trying to locate the German bombers. Rationing meant using powdered egg and carefully cutting up the supply of liquorice allsorts to make them last longer.

Pat gained a scholarship to Southend High School for Girls, where despite the health and ability issues that resulted from Polio (and affected her the rest of her life), she still made herself play sports and even walked to school to save her parents the bus fare.

After school, Pat worked in the office at ECKO plastics and then joined the Gas Board, where she met Len. He was at that time, in charge of arranging for staff to join the Concert Party which performed regularly for local charities. She phoned to offer her services as a singer and he replied "Oh no, we only want professionals!" and the rest was history. She joined the concert party and they married on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1961 and moved to Ennismore Gardens where they lived together for 54 years.

Although *not* a professional singer, Pat had been a member of the acclaimed Madame Parry's choir where she first met Pat Garrard, who was to become a lifelong friend. They also worked at the Gas Board together and were subsequently re-united at Bournemouth Park United Reformed Church when Pat transferred from the Salvation Army as Melanie and Tricia had joined the Girls Brigade there. She then sang in the choir and also served as an Elder and Church Secretary.

Another lifelong friend was Ann Daniels who Pat had met when her Dad was billeted with Ann's family during the war, when he was seconded to help build American airbases in Cambridgeshire and to subsequently join the team that loaded the bombs onto the aircraft. Along with Maureen, Ann was one of her bridesmaids as well as her cousin Margaret who she also kept in life-long contact with.

She worked until health issues forced her to retire when British Gas relocated. She very much missed her friends and the camaraderie of office life. Pat remained busy, however - especially knitting for various charities and the increasing numbers of great-great-nephews and nieces as well as for friends. Maureen remembers her big sister patiently teaching her to knit and it remained a link between the two. She also read a great deal and enjoyed crosswords, which she was still doing in hospital during her final illness. She appreciated new technology and enjoyed the recent Zoom meetings with her nephews. She also kept an eye on Len until his death in 2015.

She enjoyed travelling and was most fortunate to accompany Len on many adventures including Concorde, the QE2, The Orient Express and even a helicopter ride over NY. Despite her increasing frailty she also loved taking trips out and had a lovely day at Hyde Hall at the end of the first lock-down.

Pat was very proud of both of her daughters and supported them in everything they did. When Melanie got her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Pat accompanied her to St James' Palace where the Duke showed a remarkable sense of style by complimenting her on her lovely hat! Perhaps he also recognised her regal bearing as at the street party to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Monarch, a small boy asked her if she was the Queen!

Pat was very generous, loved giving presents and not surprisingly was a huge fan of Christmas celebrations. She was very fond of her neighbours and their children, and also more recently their cats! She was very concerned if a day went past without seeing Charlie or Snowball (aka Blanche) and was thrilled when Tricia bought Snowball in to see her on the day she came home from hospital.

To the End, she refused to accept the limitations of her health issues and retained a sharp mind, even writing notes in hospital about such things as how busy and efficient the cleaners were!

Her last entry says the following "It's 2.15, God, I am still waiting..." Well, she is waiting no longer. She has gone to a far, far better place. And to be reunited with Len.

**Melanie and Tricia**



Sending best wishes to Rev Celia Whitman who will be celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 12<sup>th</sup> February. We hope you have a lovely day, albeit in lockdown.

## **Dates and Times – Alison Shannon**

Welcome to the first article of 2021 and a very Happy New year to all our readers.

Yes, it is a happy greeting despite all the restrictions we are still experiencing as we begin to see light at the end of this Covid Tunnel. As you read this, I am hoping that at least some of us will have had the vaccine 'jabbed' into our arm to use the parlance of some of the health officials!

As we go through this year, I am hoping to bring you some of the notable events in the church year with a bit of explanation for their place in the calendar alongside some more general articles, that is until the editors decide enough is enough from this person.

A month ago we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, well the church as a body did, even if our tradition does not make very much of these days. The word Epiphany is best explained as 'revelation'



and is traditionally the time when the visit of the Magi is remembered.



In his words to Southchurch Park on the 10<sup>th</sup> January, Roger exalted everyone to draw up two lists, on one to put all the things they had learned or been taught about Christmas, and on the second to go to the gospels and put down the facts displayed there. An interesting exercise. Was there a donkey? Shepherds are in one story, the Magi in another, the timing isn't specified, and there is no indication that there were three of them. We have assimilated all sorts of notions about the birth of this baby we know as Our Lord and no doubt been responsible for the way in which new generations have had their knowledge imparted too.

Back to the Epiphany, and its celebration. It is on the 6<sup>th</sup> January and I suspect a lot of people take down their decorations on that day, the twelfth day of Christmas. My crib stays there on the shelf in the hall and the shepherds are removed and the kings and camel arrive. I do not keep it up for much longer but the symbolism is there. In royal circles I understand that the Queen does not take her decorations down until the next Feast day I want to mention.

Candlemas, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, is when the church in its wideness remembers the time that Mary went to the temple for her purification after the birth of her baby and Jesus was presented, as set out in Jewish Law. 'Every first born shall be deemed to belong to the Lord' and an offering of two turtle doves or two young pigeons was made. This is when we meet Simeon, the old man who was promised he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. It is his words that are now used as our Benedicite 'Lord now let thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation'. Above is a picture of a tapestry in Strasbourg of the purification of Mary.



This feast has been celebrated since the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD from at least AD 354 when it was fixed by Pope Liberius that Christmas was to be celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup>, and Candlemas was 40 days after Christmas, thirty-three days after the circumcision of a baby boy. It was traditional for all the candles in the house to be lit and then the manger scenes in the home would be dismantled and put away.

As with so many of our feast days there is an element of the pagan, and in some cultures, pancakes are made with their round and golden colour reminiscent of the solar disc, referring to the return of Spring after the dark and cold of Winter. Even today there is a tradition whereby the pancake is tossed in the air with the right hand, whilst at the same time holding a gold coin (or some other coin) in the left hand in order to have prosperity throughout the year.

One of the Christmas cards I look forward to receiving every year is from a lifetime friend now living in Kent but formerly with our church in Kenton near Harrow, Ted not only draws his own card each year but writes a message to go with it. I would like to share one of his pieces with you here. As you will see at the end this is a very long lived tradition and they are very special to our family.

*He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman . He grew up in another village and he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. For three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book, never held office, never owned a home. He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did any of the things usually accompany greatness.*

*Although he went around doing nothing but good the top religious leaders turned against him, his friends ran away and he was given over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial, he was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying the executioners gambled for the only property he had on earth - his robe. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.*

*Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of a column of progress. All the armies which have ever marched and all the navies which were*

*ever built and all the parliaments which have ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that one solitary life.*

Ted Keeping Christmas 1970

### Specifically for Seniors

1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
2. In Style are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop making you mad.
4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it.
6. On time is when you get there.
7. "One for the road" means going to the bathroom before you leave the house.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the tumble dryer for 10 minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
9. Growing old should have taken longer.
10. Aging has slowed you down but it hasn't shut you up

Lockdown has turned us all into dogs.  
We roam the house all day searching for food.  
We are told "No" if we get too close to strangers  
And we get very excited about car rides.





## Peter's Piece

### In the beginning GOD:-

In several excellent series, Sir David Attenborough has beautifully presented the wonders and marvels of the universe and this planet earth. His films justly present the wonders, amazements, and phenomena, of the vast universe, of our solar system, a small part of the universe, and of planet earth, on which we live. All causes us to marvel, and to be filled with awe and wonder at the nature and working of it all.

But sadly, in his presentations, Sir David completely fails to acknowledge that this incredible system is the creating and sustaining work of the One and Only God, whom we worship. [*For by him (Jesus) all things were created, --- He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17; but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, --- through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. Hebrews 1:2-3.*].

Instead, along with many agnostics, who also seem unable to avoid personalizing the power involved in the formation of the universe, and frequently refer to this wonder as 'mother nature' but stopping short of acknowledging it to be God and his deliberate creating but rather a remarkable fortuitous initial chance happening of arranging and coming together, by accident, to form life on the earth as we know it today.

From the very opening words of the Bible, it clearly declares that the beginning of the earth was an act of God, *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* (Genesis 1:1) Then further on in the Bible we learn of the ending of our universe as we know it, not by itself running out of energy but again by an act of God, in judgement, destroying it, by fire, and creating a new heaven and earth. *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be burned up.* (2 Peter 3:10). and the creation of a new heavens and earth, promised as far back as Isaiah's day

*(See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22)*

Revelation 21:1 is a vision given to John of the *'new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.* In this, one of my favorite chapters in the Bible, John spells out new life on the new earth where *God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (v.3)*

### **Revised Common Lectionary for February**

#### **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - February 7, 2021**

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

#### **Transfiguration Sunday - February 14, 2021**

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

#### **First Sunday in Lent - February 21, 2021**

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:9-15

#### **Second Sunday in Lent - February 28, 2021**

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

## **Third Sunday in Lent - March 7, 2021**

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-22

### **Digging Deeper.**

We will meet D.V. on Zoom (please let us know if you are joining us so that you can be sent the code)

- 8 February, 7.00 pm. The Tabernacle.
- 22 February 7.00 pm. After Moses - we conclude our studies of the life of Moses.

If we have not looked at things in the Bible that interest you or Questions that puzzle you, please let us know if you any suggestions and we will consider them and, if possible, cover them in the future.

## **ALL ARE WELCOME**

### **York Lent Course 2021 'Caring for Creation'**

Lent commences on Ash Wednesday 17 February and ends at Holy Week, the week immediately before Easter, which is Palm Sunday 28 March to Holy Saturday 03 April. Strictly speaking Sundays are not included in the 40 days of Lent as they are Feast Days. We propose, as we have in previous years, to use the York Lent Course in our preparation for the celebration of Easter. This has 5 sessions, and this year focuses, topically, on the Christians' Care of Creation. Everyone is warmly welcome to join with us, on Zoom this year, on the 5 Mondays of March at 7.30 pm. you don't even have to leave the house! Just let us know you would like to join in and you will be sent the Course booklet and the access code for Zoom.

#### **SESSION 1: The Environment Monday 01 March 2021 [Sohail]**

Focusing on God's wonderful creation, planet earth, the place of humankind in it, and why it is under threat.

**SESSION 2: Global Warming and Climate Change  
Monday 08 March 2021[Sarah]**

Some facts and figures about climate change, and why faith in a Creator God should give us hope.

**SESSION 3: The Age of Humans - The Anthropocene Era  
Monday 15 March 2021 [Peter]**

How we human beings with our god-like powers can still undo some of the terrible damage we have done and are doing to our planet.

**SESSION 4: Coming out of Denial and Facing Crisis  
Monday 22 March 2021 [Robert]**

Many of us find it hard to face up to the reality of climate change and make the necessary changes to our lifestyle. We need to understand why this is so, and how our faith can help us.

**SESSION 5: Faith, Hope and Love  
Monday 29 March 2021[Victor]**

We urgently need to be clear about our Christian response to the present crisis: it challenges what we believe; it is also about how we can live in hope, and meet the demands of Christian love.

**Especially for all our lovely readers who may be missing them**

Big Hugs,  
Little Hugs  
Snuggle Hugs  
Loving Hugs  
Healing Hugs  
Comfort Hugs

Whatever kind of Hugs you need,  
this should have it covered.



## **Breaking News**

- A woman was arrested for stockpiling ice-cream, tinned fruit and raspberry sauce. Her husband told us: “She must be planning to self-isolate for a month of sundaes.”
- Scientists have grown human vocal cords in a petri dish. The results speak for themselves.
- It has been reported that the man who invented the knock knock joke has won the nobell prize.
- A lorry has shed its load of soft cheese in mid Glamorgan. Police are asking motorists to drive Caerphilly.

### **A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask**

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love.

In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

**Rev Richard Bott, Moderator  
Presbyterian Church of Canada**



## SERVICES AT THE CORNERSTONE

Due to the current restrictions, all services are being pre-recorded  
and are available on Youtube.

Please watch your inboxes or contact your Elder.

### February

Thu	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (H.C)	Our Minister

### March

Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Course	
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.00pm	Messy Church	
Thu	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Peter Hunt
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Course	
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship, Mothering Sunday	Our Minister
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Course	
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Synod Meeting	
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Course	
Thu	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church Annual General Meeting	
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship (H.C)	Our Minister
Mon	29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Lent Course	

Peace is not when everyone agrees.  
it is when we can respect our disagreements  
and still play in the  
sandbox together



The next edition of New Horizons will be published  
on  
**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March.**

Would our contributors remember to send the  
Editors their items **by the usual time of 9.00 a.m.** on  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February please.**

We always welcome contributions from any of our readers, wherever they are. Reports, stories, thought provoking articles and even funny stories are all very welcome.

### Would you Believe it?

- I've just had a decorator in to do some work. Got chatting and it turns out he is a British Airways pilot who's been furloughed and is earning a bit of extra cash. He made a lovely job of the landing.
- I told my suitcases that there will be no vacation this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.
- Just started my new job making chess pieces. I'm on knights next week.
- I've upset a group of drummers. Now I'm afraid of repercussions.
- At our local chippy, they still use old newspaper to wrap up their fish and chips. Yesterday I got a plaice in the sun.
- I didn't think wearing orthopaedic shoes would help, but I stand corrected.
- If being apathetic is wrong, then I don't care.



Use your voice for  
kindness, your ears for  
compassion, your hands  
for charity, your mind  
for truth and your  
Heart for Love.

### **Ice Fishing**

Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some ice fishing. As they were boring a hole in the ice they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice".

Ole and Sven moved about 25 feet over and started to make another hole. The voice said a little stronger, "There are no fish under the ice." They both looked around and then looked up.

Ole said in a humble voice, "Are you God?"  
The voice spoke back, "No you idiots! I'm the ice rink attendant."

### **And, a final thought**

Our world has always been in a process of change, never more so than during the past twelve months. There has been much advice given about change, but you might find the following plea to be of great help.

**LORD, DO PLEASE**

**Give me the strength to change the things that I can change,  
The Grace to accept those I cannot change and  
The knowledge to know the difference.**

## WHO'S WHO?

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