

# New Horizons

MARCH 2021



## LENT

### THE CORNERSTONE



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## WORSHIP AND ACTION

**Things are changing as we progress down the pathway to “lock-down”. Please check your inboxes for up to date information or the letters that you receive. Or ask your Elder.**

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.

Mon 19.00 pm Digging Deeper (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month)

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)

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 keep in touch as this may change soon.**



## Letter to the Fellowship

### *Not by Bread Alone*

After our Digging Deeper sessions on Moses and Jesus, it made me re-think about our Lenten season and the wilderness we often find ourselves in, not only during these forty days, but other times as well. Israelites were tempted by the lack of bread in the desert, so was Jesus. Jesus' answer was and is a way to deal with every temptation we face in the wilderness.

Most of us know from experience that true, deep, abundant life does not come from bread, or from any of God's other gifts. Life comes from the words of the living God, words better than gold, sweeter than honey, more nourishing than Canaan's best wheat.

The wilderness exposes what is inside these chests of ours like little else does. It is frighteningly easy to give lip service to God while our hearts are lost in his gifts – and to trick even ourselves in the process. We can sing, "Hallelujah! All I have is Christ!" with both hands lifted, while the tendrils of our heart slowly wrap themselves around a marriage, a friendship, or a career – scarcely recognizable, almost incurable.

In the wilderness, our idols can only sit on sand beneath a barren sky. Many of us, like Israel, find ourselves "painting pictures of Egypt," we idealize our former life and pine for its comforts, forgetting how godless it was.

Many of us grumble against the God who takes away. Our seasons of lack do not create the cancer that comes out of us; they expose what was already there but hidden by abundance.

In God's kindness, he puts our idols in plain view so that we might see them, hate them, and give them a desert grave.

If we learn to live by God's word in the wilderness, then we will find ourselves more ready to use his gifts for what they really are: servants of our joy in God, not substitutes for him. Those humiliated

by the wilderness will enjoy God's gifts, not abuse them; delight in them, not put their hope in them; bless God for them, not forget him in them.

And even if God never gives the gift, we want most, and the wilderness becomes a lifetime, we will not grumble our way to eternity. We will instead strive to become a monument in the wilderness, chiselled with the words that are better than abundance: *"The steadfast love of the Lord is better than life"* (Psalm 63:3).

If you find yourself in some dry and barren land, cut off from life's milk and honey, do not waste this season. Give grief, sorrow, and tears their place. But do not murmur beneath the hand of the Lord. "All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness." *All the paths* – even the ones that take us through the desert (Psalm 25:10). Steadfast love has brought you here, and he will never leave you nor forsake you.

If you are in Christ, God has not brought you into this desert to starve you. He has brought you here to teach you that man does not live by bread alone. Your life, your hope, and your joy are not hidden away in some elusive land of plenty, but in the Christ, who died and rose again to save you for himself – the one who is your life, your pleasure, your milk and honey, your all.

**God bless,  
Sohail**

All my hope on God is founded,  
all my trust he shall renew;  
He, my guide through changing order,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown,  
He alone,  
calls my heart to be His own.

after Joachim Neander  
Robert Bridges - MP 16  
(Used by permission, CCL Licence No. 7114)

## Prayers for our Fellowship and those we know

Prayers can be for joy and sorrow, health and sickness, good news and bad in addition to those for our own needs and guidance.

Please pray for all of our fellowship at this troubling time, as we are still 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.

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 many of the fellowship having had the vaccine. We remember in our prayers the family and friends of loved ones who have passed away and we especially give thanks for the life of Margaret King, who died last month and whose funeral is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Be with her family and friends 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 thanks in your prayers for all.

If you have been following the news, then you will have read and seen some of the tremendous work being done in dealing with COVID, whether in hospitals, testing stations, vaccination sites or food banks. Many people have worked extra unpaid hours and many volunteers have given up their free time to help others.

What is remarkable, although it should not be, is that many of the people are Christians and many of the sites have similar connections. This has given them not only the opportunity to serve, but also to act out the Lord's work and to demonstrate His love in action. Simple service, with no expectation of reward, that gives out the Christian Message in a non-threatening way. What a unique opportunity to meet literally millions of people.

**Give thanks.**

**March 27th/28th**

We might not be late for physical church but OK for the virtual one!



## A thought for Lent



Where there is shouting, let us practise listening;  
Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;  
Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;  
Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;  
Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;  
Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;  
Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;  
Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

**Amen**

## The Lent Course 2021      'Caring for Creation'

This will be using zoom, so please contact Peter Hunt for details, or watch for information in the Weekly Notices from Ruth, our Secretary.

### **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.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



As I write these notes, we have just had the news that, all being well, the current restrictions on our way of life will be gone by the summer, although I suspect that mask wearing, sanitising and keeping our distance might carry on for some time to come. Over the coming weeks we will be considering what the road map means for church life and how soon we can safely resume some, if not all, of our activities. It is also a good time to think of the value of what we have done in the past, and whether or not God is calling us to do things differently. It seems appropriate to remind groups and organisations who wish to resume before all restrictions are lifted, they should present a Covid-secure plan to the Elders for approval.

I am sure many of us will have reservations and changed attitudes towards doing things outside the home, as a result of enforced isolation; each of us will need to think and pray about how we respond as the church opens up again over time. On a personal note, I have used the time at home to join some of the URC and Synod training events, as well as some arranged for Messy Church. I have to say, I would not have travelled any distance to participate in these but was glad to do so from home, a plus for technology indeed. A full 3 day Mission Council is planned later this month, and, who knows? the July General Assembly may yet be a physical gathering.

Meanwhile we continue to bring church worship to you via YouTube on Sundays, and fellowship and bible study during the week on Zoom, thanks to the gift of technology and our team of people who can operate it. During February our on-line services were led by our Minister, Sohail, as well as Roger Brett and John Amos. We also had a Church Meeting on Zoom at the end of January, which included the Induction of Mary and Ann as Elders for the three year period from 1.1.21. As a Church, we agreed to support our twinned church at Highfield, Harare in their own outreach project to provide a water hole at their mission outpost. This should be able to irrigate land to provide crops for a remote community. Further details are published elsewhere in this magazine.



Our Annual General Meeting will be held, via Zoom, on 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm. I am in the process of writing a single Church Life report for 2020 as it does not seem sensible to ask each organisation to do so. However, if you do have anything to contribute please send it to me as soon as possible.

Frank and I have continued to visit the premises regularly to attend to the systems. Towards the end of 2020 it became apparent that there was another problem with the heating system, when the pre-school reported the hall was very cold. It transpired that the air source heat pump was not functioning properly and the back-up gas boiler was not kicking in when it should. In the time it took to diagnose the problem we incurred some very high electricity bills; we do not yet know what it will take to restore the air source pump. Meanwhile the system has been switched to wholly gas, which does of course have ramifications for our 'green' credentials as well as the bank balance.

We also had a flurry of activity mid-February when over 30 Messy Church Valentine bags, along with the URC Lent packs, were delivered to the homes of our Messy Church, Junior Church and Pilots' families. I have a few lent packs left over if anyone would like one.

Now a little about our plans for Easter. Even before the Prime Minister's announcement on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, we were resolved to have an in-person service on Easter Sunday. This will be, as before, restricted to around 30 people and places will need to be booked. Also, we have made plans to have a small communion service on Maundy Thursday, in the upstairs hall since it is not 72 hours before Sunday morning, thus we are unable to use the worship area. The upstairs space will allow around 20 people to participate and, again, you will have to book in advance. I would also mention that it will be necessary to use the stairs, because of the way the lift is operated and the confined space, it is not considered Covid-safe. Further details will be provided nearer the time. Both these services will be live-streamed for those not attending in person.

Finally, Frank and I thank everyone for their good wishes on the arrival of our granddaughter Dorothy on 17<sup>th</sup> February. Elizabeth is progressing as expected after surgery, and has been blessed to

have her friend Lana staying to help since they came home. Granddad has now taken over, so will not be home for a couple of weeks.

**Ruth Dixon**



Congratulations to Elizabeth on the birth of Dorothy and to Ruth and Frank, the proud grandparents, from all at The Cornerstone.

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

### Pithy sayings

- ❖ When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
- ❖ The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- ❖ I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
- ❖ I run like the winded.
- ❖ Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That will freak you right out.
- ❖ Age 60 might be the new 40 but 9.00 pm is the new midnight.

Some people could be given an entire field of roses and only see the thorns in it.

Others could be given a single weed and only see the wildflower in it.

Perception is a key component to gratitude. And gratitude a key component to joy.

**Amy Weatherly**

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

A mother is always a mother,  
she never stops worrying about her children  
even when they are all grown up  
and have children of their own.



### Hugging Mum (when it is eventually allowed!)

When an adult child hugs their mum,  
It's so much more to her.  
It opens up a memory box,  
To times of yesteryear.

It takes her back to your childhood,  
When you sat upon her lap,  
When she'd settle you after the scariest dream  
Or put you down for a nap.

If she holds you a little tighter,  
She's keeping those days alive.  
Remembering how she hugged you,  
When you were only four or five.

So, when you hug your mother,  
Don't be quick to break her embrace,  
Let her hold you a little longer,  
And live those days she'll never replace.

A Mother's love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do  
the impossible.

## Highfield Uniting Church, Harare, Zimbabwe

As you may know from the Minutes of the last Church Meeting and Ruth's article in February's New Horizons, we, as a Church, are hoping to support a project being undertaken by our 'twinned' Church in Zimbabwe.

They have established a preaching station some 70km into the countryside at a place called Murehwa. This is a particularly impoverished drought-stricken area and the project is to sink a borehole in order to provide clean water to the area. This will then supply a planned Church Ablution Block and Kitchen and a Market Garden, Poultry and Piggery Project. In this country of course, we take clean water for granted, but in an area like Murehwa, this will transform the lives of the whole community.

Sohail has spoken to Rev JJ, the Minister at Highfield, who tells us that they have a trained resident Evangelist working at the preaching station called Neumas Gandiwa, and he has had secular training in agriculture. He is a farmer. Elder Phiri, recently retired, worked for a company breeding chickens for meat and eggs. The Murehwa leadership coordinator, Elder P Samu, is experienced in business administration. It is good to see that there is a spread of experience in situ to take this project forward.

The local congregation have already cleared trees from some of the ground and planted maize. They hope to provide some manual labour to assist with future work, thereby keeping costs down.

Highfield did some fund raising for this project in the last four months of last year when Covid restrictions allowed, and have raised nearly \$2000, The quote from the Nakiso Borehole Drilling Company for the work required is \$5900 and a further \$1000 may be needed to drill down a further 20m at \$50 a metre. This means that up to \$5000 would be required to complete the water supply project, and this is where The Cornerstone can help. They would like to complete this phase by June 2021, so time is tight.

We felt that initially we should make a direct appeal to members and friends, for donations to kick start our fundraising. Traditional fundraising events are not possible at the present time but we may

be able to arrange some later in the year. For some of our number, this has been financially a very difficult year, and this appeal is not directed to them. Those of us lucky enough to have remained in employment, and those in receipt of pensions, may have found that we have saved quite a lot of money over the last year as we have not been able to eat out or go on trips or holidays. Perhaps this would be a worthwhile project to support with some of this surplus cash? The figures quoted above are \$US, and so the amount required converts to around £3500. Ann has already received a few generous donations, so we have made a good start!

Please give this project your prayerful consideration, and if you can help, donations can be made in the usual ways - cash or cheques to our Treasurer, Ann Thorp, or sent direct to the church bank account, with Envelope number if you have one, or name and 'Water' in the reference. If you Gift Aid your offerings to the Church, these donations can be included as part of that. The Church Bank Account details are:- Cornerstone URC, 23-05-80 34688941.

Thank you



### A Senior's version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street, I tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist!

## Saints and a Lady

As we go into March the list of special days gets quite busy and I am going to pick upon three of them this month.

At the very beginning of the month the leeks come out as the Welsh, particularly, celebrate the patron Saint of Wales, St David on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Hard on his heels on the 2<sup>nd</sup> it is the feast day of St Chad of Mercia. More about each of those shortly. The Lady of the title is The Virgin Mary and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March the feast day of Lady Day is celebrated in some traditions.

So what do we know about these saints who were born in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries and were very important to their communities at the time. Let's take them in order.

**St David** was a native of Wales and it is thought that his life began c. 500 until c589 and he was the Bishop of Mynyw (now St Davids) during the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He is believed to be the son of St Non, and the grandson of one of the kings of Wales. In his working life he became renowned as a teacher and preacher and founded monastic settlements in Wales and Brittany.



St David's cathedral stands today on the site of a monastery he founded in the Glyn Rhosyn Valley in Pembrokeshire. He was elected Primate of the region by his peers.

Saints have miracles associated with their life and ministry and David's best known is said to have taken place when he was preaching to a large crowd in the village of Llandewi Brefi as it is now known. A white dove settled on his shoulder and the ground where he was standing is said to have risen up into a small hill. The white dove became his symbol. One of the many stained glass windows showing the saint can be seen above.

His monastic rule for the monks prescribed that the monks should pull the plough themselves without animal help, they must drink only water, and eat only bread with salt and herbs. No personal possessions were allowed and they were not even to say "my book"

during their times of reading and prayer in the evenings. His other symbol the leek, now the symbol of Wales since the time of Henry V, comes from the gardening days growing their own food.

Glastonbury Abbey is one of his foundations and he built extensions to the existing church there to make it large enough to be designated an abbey. His death is attributed to between the years 589 and 601 on the first of March, now called St David's Day.

Our next saint is **Saint Chad of Mercia.**



St Chad is given this day in the calendar because he died on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 672, having been born c. 634 in Northumbria. He was a very prominent 7<sup>th</sup> century Saxon churchman, and he became the abbot of several monasteries. He was also the Bishop of Northumbria and the Bishop of the Mercians. He had a brother Cedd who was also made a saint . A lot of what is known about him is due to the writings of the Venerable Bede.

He was one of four brothers and they all had influence in the life of the Saxon church in their turn. Cedd was the oldest and Chad followed him into service in the church about ten years later. It is thought that they were a well off Northumbrian family yet their names were all of Celtic origin, the other two brothers being called Cynibil and Caelin. Chad's name means "Battle". His education was with the monks on Lindisfarne with Aiden as his main tutor, and who in his turn had been influenced by Columba who came to Northumbria at the invitation of King Oswald. Before Chad became a priest he went to Ireland as a monk and to further his study. This was a time of one of the plagues and two of his close friends died of the disease. Chad left Ireland as it hit to return to Northumbria. It is said that Chad followed the monastic life very strictly, in prayer and behaviour and in meditation.

He was the founder of the monastery at Lastingham and is buried in Lichfield cathedral. He is venerated world wide and the picture is of a stained glass window in the Holy Cross monastery , West Park New York.

And so to the Lady of the title.



The picture above is the Leonardo da Vinci painting of the Annunciation c. 1472

**Lady Day** is the alternative name given in some English speaking countries to the **Feast of the Annunciation**, which is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. The day commemorates the visit of the Archangel to Mary when he informed her that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

The date is first written to be held as important in the church year in the prayer book of Edward VI in 1549, and then established for all time in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

It is one of the four English Quarter days and is the traditional day on which year-long contracts between land owners and tenant would begin and end in England.

It was the time when farmers would take on new farms and fields and families would travel from one farm to a new one on Lady Day.

In England Lady Day was New Year's Day from 1155 until the time when there was a change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian version. It was adopted by Great Britain and its Empire and with it the establishment of the start of the year being January 1<sup>st</sup> in 1600. There was a lag of eleven days between the two calendars and the 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Old Style Calendar became the 5<sup>th</sup> April in the new. This became known over time as "Old Lady Day". This took on the designation of the contractual year beginning, and still is such for our tax year today. The original date of the 25<sup>th</sup> is still the one celebrated



in the liturgical church traditions which recognise such, and as a Quarter Day.

Reference is made to the day in books like Tess of the d'Urbervilles and Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy, which give such good descriptions of farming life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Some wintry sayings



I am sure we have all heard these expressions used in common parlance but as we leave the snow for this year behind, (I hope!) I thought it might be good to look at what they really mean and how cold sometimes seems to summon up unfriendly words.

**Left out in the cold** - Excluding someone from a discussion or group activity.

**Give the cold shoulder** - To be intentionally unfriendly towards someone.

**To skate on thin ice** - To be in a risky or dangerous situation.

**To freeze up** - Suddenly not be able to speak or act normally due to nerves.

**Snowed under** - Too much to do due to unusual circumstances (like the passport office at present with 400,000 back requests due to Covid)

**A cold snap** - Very cold weather for a short period of time (one May there was a drop in temperature to minus seven degrees C)

**Alison Shannon**

**P.S.** I well remember Eileen Jolly telling us that the term, "cold shoulder" dates from biblical times . When an unwelcome visitor called, they were offered cold lamb shoulder as it was not the best cut of the animal. Perhaps lamb was much cheaper then.

**Michael**

## Can you believe it?

- I hate it when people act all intellectual and talk about Mozart, while they've never even seen one of his paintings.
- Never in a thousand years did I ever believe I'd walk into a bank wearing a mask and ask for money.
- Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.
- I never wanted to believe that my Dad was stealing from his job as a road worker. But when I got home, all the signs were there.
- I'm cutting the grass at my golf course, ready for players to return. I've finished the green but still have a fairway to go!
- I have lost another audio book. I will never hear the end of it.
- Yesterday, I spoke all day through a colander. Now I've strained my voice.
- I was obsessed with population statistics ..... But I've come to my census.

### A reminder of these strange times

Look how much you've already managed to adapt to.  
Look how resilient you've already been.  
There's no "right" way to respond to this  
because it's never, ever happened before.

Give yourself some credit.  
There's no-one in the whole world who has this figured out yet.  
So, it's absolutely okay if you don't either!



## Peter's Piece

### FAITH

A few thoughts from Hebrews 11 and 12  
*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1 [NIV]

In Chapter 11 the anonymous writer lists numerous OT saints who had lived *by faith*. Notice how many times this phrase '*by faith*' comes in the chapter. Firstly, we have the great patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses, we then have a whole company's act of faith as the Israelites cross the Red Sea and conquer Jericho. There follows a list which includes, by human standards, many unlikely characters; a prostitute - Rahab; a frightened man - Gideon; a cowardly man - Barak; an easily led man - Samson; a rash man - Jephthah; an adulterous murderer - king David: but v. 34 says - *Their weakness was turned to strength.*

Then there are those whose failures are not recorded like Samuel and the prophets: although Elijah had his down moments! Daniel and his companions are referred to along with the widow of Zarephath and the Shunammite woman whose son died of sun stroke. Others are not named but perhaps among those referred to are Zechariah, stoned under King Joash's decline; Jeremiah jeered, flogged and put in the stocks; Uriah under King Jehoiakim run through with a sword. All these and countless others lived '*by faith*' not actually receiving in this life's experience what they knew *by their faith* to be reality. *These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.* v.39 Their faith in God kept them going despite all their experiences, failures and trials.

Why? Because *God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.* Or as the NLT puts it *For God had far better things in mind for us that would also benefit them, for they can't receive the prize at the end of the race until we finish the race.*

Those of you who have seen an athletics meeting will appreciate the beginning of Chapter 12, the significance of the supporting crowd, as

lining the side of the track they cheer and urge the competitors on to the finish; and not just the first one to break the tape but there is almost as big a cheer as the straggler eventually crosses the line. For he has completed the race and not given up, often with visible pain and effort. The race, it's not over until the last runner has crossed the line and those who have completed their leg, this is a relay race, are at the trackside urging on those behind. They are there, having run their race but have not yet received their prize, are a testimony of perseverance and endurance and encourage those behind.

The picture is of an athlete and is an example of three things we also need in our *living by faith*.

1. *Strip off*. [NLT] *throw off* [NIV]. The athlete wears the lightest of clothing, not all his winter woollies and a heavy overcoat, scarf, hat and gloves. He doesn't carry any luggage, has only that which is necessary for the competition. So, we should leave aside *everything that hinders* [NIV] or *every weight that slows us down* [NLT]. Put aside all those things whether morally good or bad that get in the way of living our Christian life to the full. This the writer says especially applies to sins which easily entangle, hindering our progress. Yes, *easily entangles, easily hinders*. It's surprising isn't it just how easily sin slips into our lives and upsets our balance and pace. Before we know we are over and down and no longer running.
2. *Run*. There is no place for armchair athletes in the Christian life, we are to be up and running as far as our Christian life is concerned. Not necessarily physically active all the time but certainly spiritually so. With *endurance* [NLT], with *perseverance* [NIV] or with devotion/dedication, an attitude many NT writers call for in Christians. As the athlete is totally dedicated and devoted to his sport everything else taking second place, so the Christian is to be. By the way, the race envisaged that the Christian runs is not the 100-metre dash, over in 9.85 seconds, but a gruelling marathon 42.2 km, lasting several hours 2.03 hrs for the professional athlete!
3. *Fix our eyes*. The athlete does not run looking at the ground, or around or behind but his eye is forwardly fixed on the finish. This is the *by faith* bit. In a marathon you can't see the finish until you reach it. So with us, *keeping our eyes on Jesus* is how the NLT puts it. For he is the *author and*

*finisher* [KJV] *perfecter* [NIV] *the one on whom our faith depends from start to finish.* [NLT] We began *by faith* in him, *by faith* our journey ends with him and *by faith* he is with us every step of the way. It's only by keeping our eyes fixed on him that we can run with perseverance and endurance, for it's on him that our faith depends. If it were not for Jesus there would be no race and certainly no reward at the end.

What is more he has been there before, he has run the race and stayed it to the end, although it meant for him the cross. The NT writer challenges, it hasn't cost us our life yet v.4, keep running!

### **Revised Common Lectionary readings for March**

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

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

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 14, 2021**

- Numbers 21:4-9 - Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- Ephesians 2:1-10 - John 3:14-21

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 21, 2021**

- Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Psalm 51:1-12
- Hebrews 5:5-10 - John 12:20-33

#### **Passion Sunday - March 28, 2021**

- Isaiah 50:4-9a - Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11 - Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

#### **Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021**

- Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 - Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 - John 20:1-18



The next edition of New Horizons will be published  
on  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April.**

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> March 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.

All men should make  
coffee for their women.  
It says it right there in the Bible



**“HEBREWS”**

One day, a young boy asked an old man:

“Sir, which is the best day to pray?”

The wise old man replied:

“My son, the best day to pray is the day before you die.”

The boy was astonished and replied:

“Sir, how can I know the day of my death?”

And the old man answered:

“No one knows the day of his death, that’s why we need to pray  
every day.”

Life is like a notebook.  
Two pages are already written by God.  
First page is Birth.  
Last page is Death.  
Centre pages are empty.  
So, fill them with Smiles and Love

## 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.

### March

Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Peter Hunt
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course (2)	
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Margaret King's funeral	
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship, Mothering Sunday	Our Minister
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course (3)	
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Synod Meeting	
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (Fairtrade Fortnight begins)	Roger Brett
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course (4)	
Thu	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church Annual General Meeting - Zoom	
Sat/Sun			<b>BST - Remember to turn back your clocks</b>	
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship (H.C)	Our Minister
Mon	29 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course (final)	

### April

Thu	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	Our Minister
Fri	2 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>Good Friday</b>	
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Easter Worship (HC)</b>	Our Minister
Thu	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' / M&M Meeting	
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	

The most  
Beautiful way  
To start and end a day  
Is with a  
Grateful Heart

## WHO'S WHO?

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