

New Horizons

April 2021



THE CORNERSTONE



Bournemouth Park Road,
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5JL
(For car park on Central Ave, sat navs
use SS2 5HR no 59)

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WORSHIP AND ACTION

Things are changing as we progress down the pathway to easing “lock-down”. Please see inside for up to date information and any other information that you receive. Or ask your Elder.

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.

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

Tues 10.00 am Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
11.30 am “Cornerstone Crafters”
(1st and 3rd Tuesdays or as announced)
4.00 pm Messy Church (1st 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 (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 and please contact the Church Secretary for details.



Letter to the Fellowship

Wait, Watch and Pray

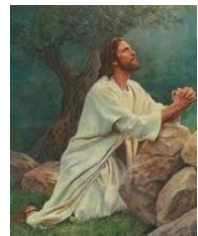
As I write this letter to you today, I have so many things on my mind that I am beginning to feel a little overwhelmed by all that needs doing during Holy Week and Easter coming up.

At the same time, I am getting excited to see the fruit trees bloom and hearing the delightful sounds of birds singing and children playing outside in the garden once again, not as freely as they were playing last year before the Pandemic though.

You may also be experiencing both the anxiousness and the excitement of the coming of spring but for a few more days there's still a cold chill in the air and you may be lying awake at night wondering if you'll be able to pay for that final heating bill!

I think it is only natural to notice an increase in our stress level as the Easter season draws closer, along with springtime activities approaching because we look forward to this time of the year so much, especially this year with the hope of coming out of the Pandemic to enjoy some freedom.

So, if you're getting feelings of being overwhelmed in spite of the warmer weather, sunshine and flowers to come . . . then for a moment just imagine Jesus and his disciples at the garden of Gethsemane. There, in that garden, Jesus expressed the need for his trusted friends to: "Sit down, keep watch, and pray." I can't think of any better advice for people who are feeling stressed or insufficient in the face of life's demands and requirements that may be rolling out toward you with alarming speed and frightening power.



In this pre-Easter story, it is Jesus who is overwhelmed with "the hour" that has come. It is the time for his arrest, trial, suffering and death. When we take a few quiet moments to consider this time in Jesus' life, it kind of helps us to get our seasonal life struggles in

perspective. Even if we fall asleep in our waiting, watching and praying or if we flee in fear and abandon him as the disciples did . . . when we come back to our senses, he appears to us and offers forgiveness.

What is even more incredible is that he then empowers us with the Holy Spirit so that we may become strong in faith and go out to serve others who are fearful or weak in faith. This is the hope of our Christian faith: That Christ has risen from the tomb and appeared to those same sleepy and anxious disciples, and so, he also appears to us as we faithfully gather in his name. So let us all keep the faith as we wait, watch and pray together, for as we do, we will also experience the risen Lord saying, "Peace be with you, my peace I give to you."

May, you experience all of God's goodness and love as you walk in faithfulness with our resurrected Lord and may the blessing of God be yours in this Easter Season.

**Happy Easter
Sohail & Family**

Peace is

*Gazing at the stars with the knowledge that you know
their creator*

Closing your eyes in sleep without fear of tomorrow

*The stillness in your heart when trouble
swirls around you*

A quiet mind in a raging world

Author unknown

In this time of Covid, we pray:

When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm;
when information comes from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breath,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors
and the aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists, the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick, and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected, all around the world....
we pray
for safety,
for health,
for wholeness.

May we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal the sick
in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear.

Help us, O God, that we might help each other.

In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all, we pray.

May it be so.

A prayer during times of COVID-19 by the Right Rev. Richard Bott, originally posted on Facebook. Moderator Bott encourages the sharing of prayers he posts throughout his term.

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 partial lockdown but there is light at the end of the tunnel.



As we are not yet meeting regularly 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 and we especially keep in our thoughts Andy Anderson, who is unwell at this time.

We remember in our prayers the family and friends of loved ones who have passed away, be with their 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 prayers for those outside of The Cornerstone.

If you have read the Secretary's Notebook, you will know that at the Church AGM we had a talk by Lisa Walton from Southend HARP (Homeless and Rehoming Project), who gave us an insight into the tremendous work being done by this charity. Alison Shannon also refers to HARP in her piece following Ruth's Notebook.

Please pray for all the good work they are doing to take people off the streets; to house and care for them, with the aim of enabling them to live an independent and safe life.

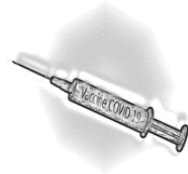
Please also pray for those who need that help, that they may feel confident in coming forward to seek the assistance that will enable them to improve their health and wellbeing. **Amen**

One of the most important rules during a discussion, debate or argument.

Please remember there are three views; my view, your view, and most importantly, the facts.

So, what really is inside the vaccine?

Forgotten kisses and hugs.
School trips.
Grandparents at your dining table.
Films with warm popcorn and coca-cola.
Sold out theatre shows.
Concerts.
Evening meal in a fancy restaurant with your friends.
Last minute, spontaneous weekend away.
Home parties and football afternoons with your mates.
Roar of the fans when their team score the goal.
Simple handshakes.
Open borders.
Teachers walking between the tables.
Flights every 5 minutes and busy train stations.
And the best thing is: you can still stay at home if you really want.



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



As I write these notes, we are beginning to see signs of spring at last, plants coming back into growth and I have sown some seeds for this year's crop, looking forward to some happy times out in the garden.

The church has continued to worship 'on line' with services arranged by our Minister Sohail, as well as Roger Brett and Peter Hunt. We learn together (Lent Course) and fellowship together on Zoom, and bible-based activities are sent to children and families on a regular basis. All the time looking forward to the day when we can resume face to face activities. The URC suggests (prevailing conditions permitting) that Pentecost would be an appropriate time to resume in person worship, although we do not yet know how that will look and whether there will still be restrictions on numbers.

Meanwhile, I have been very busy online this last month:

- Safeguarding Training - It is requested that all Elders and people working with children and vulnerable adults are retrained every three years and ours was due last September so we have some catching up to do. Nicola Grieves, the Synod Safeguarding Officer is running a number of online sessions as there will be a huge demand for in person training when it can resume and you may have to travel elsewhere. So do please take advantage of these sessions if you are able.
- Stepwise - this is the URC personal development programme to replace TLS and is proving to be very useful. The current sessions are being run by the Synod Training Officer, and it has been quite interesting to share experiences from different perspectives.
- Mission Council as Synod Representative (MC took place over three days)
- Eastern Synod Meeting on 20th March. This was 'attended' by around 150 people from all over the Synod, so many that the staff had to hastily upgrade their Zoom licence to admit more people. What a great problem to have! A formal goodbye was said to Rev. Paul Whittle who has moved on to become Moderator of the Synod of Scotland (interviews for

his successor begin after Easter) and we heard from Rev. Dan Pratt about his work to combat modern day slavery and people trafficking www.togetherfree.org.uk

- The Gathering - this was originally intended as a series of residential meetings for people engaging in Fresh Expressions of Church but like many other things has had to go on line, with a number of two hour sessions. If you are interested in what a fresh expression might be, take a look here www.churchsupporthub.org/godsend

We held our Annual General Meeting on 25th March, the highlight of which was a visit from Lisa Walton at Harp to tell us of the work they have been doing over the past year, not only at the Bradbury Centre, but through outreach and support teams. I was not aware that, in addition to accommodation at the Bradbury Centre, HARP has other properties across the borough, 221 beds/units in total; these provide accommodation while people are sorting their lives out and enables them to move on with a firm foundation. All this is not possible without the generous support of churches and other groups in the town. By far the biggest ongoing need is men's clothing (small and medium sizes) and shoes sizes 7-10 as well as new underwear and socks. In readiness for summer. a stock of sun cream and hats is being built up. Arts and crafts items are always welcome. If you have any of these please drop them to my front porch and I will make sure they get delivered. The shops will be reopening soon and you can book large items, e.g., furniture for collection, via the website. In addition, some of the furniture can be used in the process of rehoming people when they are able to move out of temporary accommodation and live independently

Also, at the AGM we heard that the Christian Forum will not resume after lockdown is eased. We do thank Alison Shannon and her predecessors for managing this meeting over the years, which has been a blessing to many people. Maybe the time will come when there is another band of people who want such a gathering.

Looking ahead to the time when we hope to be fully operational, we do need someone to manage the premises bookings, a position Roger Brett is relinquishing due to being appointed Area Partnership Pastoral Advocate. This does not mean being on the premises all the time, but for ad hoc bookings like parties arranging a keyholder

to attend either end of the booking. If you think you might be able to do this job, please have a word with Roger for more detail.

Ann Thorp gave notice that she will relinquish the role of treasurer, after 19 years' service, at the end of 2021 in order to embrace a new role of Grandma. We do thank Ann for her time of service to the church and offer prayers and good wishes for the new role! The search is now on for a successor, to shadow Ann for the rest of the term and take up the role in 2022. If you think this could be you, do have a word with Ann, Sohail or myself. Please everyone pray that the right person will come forward for this vital role in the life and witness of our church.

Frank and I wish everyone a happy and blessed Eastertide.

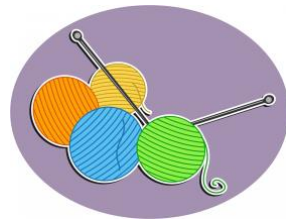
Ruth Dixon

HARP and Christmas

It may seem a long way off but, if we are to help HARP this year with their work looking after the homeless at their shelters over Christmas, it is something we need to think about now.

It is going to be even more difficult this year as we are not going to have a natural collection point for some time, maybe not until well into the Autumn for many of us. So, I would like to make a suggestion...

As you shop, will you add one thing to your bag each time i.e. toiletries, underwear, socks etc. If you are a knitter, will you start making hats and gloves or mitts. If we all do this from now until the end of November, it could be a very useful collection.



Then, please keep them at home until December and we will endeavour to find a way of having a single collection point. I will get Lisa from the centre to come, as she did last year, to take them in. They were so grateful for all your contributions last year and I am sure the same will be true this year too.

Hopefully, some of you were able to hear Lisa tell us about the work they have been doing throughout this difficult year at the Church AGM.

Can you help, please do.

Alison

News of the Forum

It is now eighteen months since our last AGM, when we could make decisions face to face and lay any thoughts and plans in front of the group. At that time our numbers were erratic and it seemed unfair to ask speakers to come with perhaps only eight of us there. Even within the group, someone had to put in a lot of preparation for an afternoon's entertainment, which was sadly missed by many. I know there are many reasons for this, nevertheless we had to think hard about the future of a group which had been going uninterrupted for over forty years. I said I would remain leader for one more year and that ended last September amidst the pandemic, but it is church AGM time now and it gave us the chance to reassess the situation as best we could by letter, mail and telephone.

There were some very positive replies to the questions set.

- **Was there someone ready to be the new leader?** No, not at present.
- **Should the group fold for the time being, bearing in mind it will be some time yet before such a get together will be possible?** General feeling was yes, and to see if and when or maybe something else would emerge with new members.
- **What should we do with the funds held in the bank?** Again, the consensus was to pay it into the Church account and possibly hold it as a possible source of start-up funds for a similar group in the future

So, that has been done. Ann received the money and has earmarked it as from the Christian Forum; the group officially does not exist as of now and we await to see what will happen in the future.

Thank you all for the help and support over the last few years, from Joan as treasurer, from tea makers and from those who helped the programme take shape. One last thank-you and that is for the new shrubs which will be growing in my garden, it was a lovely surprise when Joan gave me your thank you gift.

Alison

The Journey is Short



An elderly woman got on a bus and sat down. At the next stop, a strong, grumpy young woman climbed up and sat down beside the old woman, hitting her with her numerous bags.

When she saw that the elderly woman remained silent, the young woman asked her why she had not complained when she hit her with her bags?

The elderly woman replied with a smile. “There is no need to be rude or discuss something so insignificant, as my trip next to you is so short, because I am going to get off at the next stop.”

This answer deserves to be written in gold letters. “There is no need to discuss something so insignificant, because our journey together is too short.”

Each of us must understand that our time in this world is so short, that darkening it with useless arguments, jealousy, not forgiving

others, discontentment and bad attitudes are a ridiculous waste of time and energy.

Did someone break your heart? Stay calm.
The trip is too short.

Did someone betray you, intimidate, cheat or humiliate you?
Relax - Don't be stressed.
The trip is too short.

Did someone insult you without reason? Stay calm. Ignore it.
The trip is too short.

Did a neighbour make a comment that you didn't like? Stay calm.
Ignore him. Forgive that.
The trip is too short.

Whatever the problem someone has brought us, remember that our journey together is too short.

No-one knows the length of our trip.
Nobody knows when it will arrive at its stop.
Our trip together is too short.

Let us appreciate friends and family.
Let us be respectful, kind and forgiving.

Because we will be filled with gratitude and joy, after all
Our trip together is very short.

Share your smile with everyone
Our trip is
Very Short!



Author unknown



The Apostles talking to us about their Easter experience

‘For three years we followed him, and it was a rollercoaster of feelings and experiences. We followed his every move; we took in his every word. We knew neither doubt nor hesitation.

Sometimes we were inspired, other times we were confused and didn’t quite understand him. We know he loved us, and we loved him - although, sometimes, we had a funny way of showing it.

We were like sunflowers which, during the day, keep turning their heads so that they are always facing the sun. But when the sun goes down, they close their petals and hang their heads. That’s how it was with us. When the sun went down on the Master’s life we wilted. Without him our days lacked meaning and purpose. Our lives became a desert.

But how can we explain to you the absolute joy that flooded our hearts and our souls when we discovered that the Lord had risen? We cannot do so; it cannot be put into words.

Only he, by his touch, can do for you what he did for us, the day he broke through the walls behind which we were hiding, lamenting our shattered dreams and unhappiness.’

Risen Lord,

Help us to believe that you are always with us, help us to reach out to you with the same love with which you reach out to us, and help us understand that nothing in life or death can separate us from you.

Amen

(A sharing from another Magazine)

Historical Figures Beocca and George.

The last year has given us time, time to read, to perhaps take up a new hobby or develop a longforgotten skill. I love to read and get my teeth into a long book, often the time has been at night before bed and it has been good to sit with a book in the daytime and not feel that there are other jobs that ought to be the focus of my time.

At school, many moons ago, we had a crazy system of sorting us into Arts or Science students at the tender age of twelve, in our second year. We had to choose between History and Geography, English literature or Chemistry (I told you it was crazy!) but depending on your stream we still had to do Latin as well as French. No other languages seemed to exist.

Well, I was set even then on becoming a teacher of Biology, so the choices were easy to make, but it meant I never read and critiqued a book in school, nor did I do any History. So, in adulthood, the two became yearned-for subjects and both have been a very full part of life in free time.

Why the preamble? Well one of my favourite authors is Bernard Cornwell, particularly his historical books which are so well researched and give a very clear picture of life in earlier times. His books are often made into television series and it was good to see some of his Utdred books become the 'Last Kingdom' about Alfred and his desire to be king of all England.

One of the characters in the Last Kingdome is **Beocca**, a monk who is Alfred's support and mentor, and also a very close friend of Utdred, who is anything but a Christian. I didn't think much more about Beocca until I was looking to see whose saint's days were in April. There are nearly a hundred in some lists but Beocca is in the lot. That's a name I know I thought, so I set to find out more about this saint who died in 910, and was designated as the Court Chaplain of Wessex between 871 and 899 serving under King Alfred the Great. He was the teacher and friend of Utdred of Bebbanburg in Northumbria and got him out of several scrapes in his lifetime.

Beocca was born in Bebbanburg, became a catholic priest and was the chaplain to Utdred's household. He accompanied his lord into

battle against the Danes at the seige of York and he survived the battle but Utred was captured by the Vikings. In 867 he went to the Vikings to ransom Utred and then told Utred that he was not to return to his homeland as he was likely to be killed as his Uncle Alfreic wanted to become King of Northumbria.

Chief of the Vikings, Ragnor, bought Utred to save him from Alfreic. Beocca moved south and became the Court Chaplain to King Aethelred of Wessex and Alfred the Great. Beocca married Thyra and they lived quietly in Winchester for many years. In 899 when Alfred died Beocca had his title of Court Chaplain removed by the new Queen Eathswith.

After Thyra's death, Beocca retired to the nunnery of St Hild, beginning to write a biography of St Cuthbert in 910. His last years were spent as a writer and priest in the North, with close contact with Utred and he died peacefully in 910

That is one story, another says he was made Abbot of Chertsey in Surrey and he and ninety monks were killed by a Danish raiding party, and in years to come the monks were held in veneration as martyrs and Beocca was made a saint.



Another monk at Cherysey was Erkenwald, seen in the picture teaching younger monks. There was a church dedicated to Erkenwald in Southend, now demolished.

Yet another says he was in battle with Utred and sacrificed himself by putting his body between Utred and a bolt, which killed Beocca but Utred was saved.

As with so many old stories, it's take your pick time but whichever you choose his saint's day is April 10th.

We can't look at the saints in April without mention of **St George, who died on April 23rd 303.**

Tradition says he was a soldier in the Roman Army, his parents were Christians. His father was a Cappodocian Gerontius, serving in the Roman army and his Mother was Polychronia, a Christian originally from Lod in Palestine.

George was a member of the Praetorian Guard for the emperor Diocletian, and was sentenced to death for refusing to give up his Christian faith. He became one of the most venerated saints, especially so as a military saint since the Crusades.

His bones are buried in his tomb in the Church of Saint George in Lod Israel.

Most of what is written about George, as a record of his life, is deemed to be legend, and the various groups that revere him as a saint have their own version of events. For instance in the Greek tradition his father died as a martyr when George was fourteen and his mother took him back to her native Palestine, where he grew through his teenage years. After she died he is said to have travelled to Nicomedia, the then eastern capital, where he joined the Roman army.

The legend of George and the Dragon is first recorded in the 11th century and it reached Europe in the 12th century. The story goes that a fierce dragon was causing panic in the city of Silene in Lybia. To appease the dragon the people were giving it two sheep a day, but that was not enough and human sacrifices were given instead. The human was chosen by the people and it came to be the turn of the King's daughter, unless someone else would take her place. No one came forward and it is written that George rescued her by slaying the dragon with a lance (seen above in the picture from a Georgian fresco). The reward that the King gave George, he gave to the poor.





There are other legends for you to look up from the Muslim traditions, the Latin and the Russian. They all want George for their own but it is England that claims him as their patron Saint, without any of the background being based here!

Many churches are dedicated to St George all over the world and the killing of the dragon is a feature of numerous stained glass windows.

Alison

Fake News?

We hear the term 'fake news' a lot these days, a term which had been popularly coined by a certain ex-President of the USA. If that term had been in general use at the time of Jesus' death, Thomas may well have used it himself, and who would have blamed him.



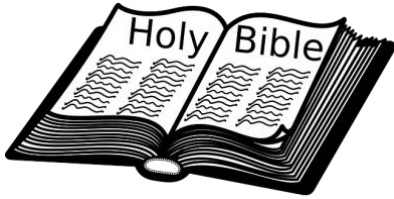
All had seen the gruesome reality of Jesus' death. They had buried him with their own hands and now the only visible evidence they had was an empty tomb. So, when a couple of friends announce that they had seen the Lord and that he was alive, we can understand their scepticism. Despite the verbal assurances of his companions, Thomas was not convinced that Jesus; 'fake news' fever had caught him - 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made - I refuse to believe'. Many today would still doubt whether the whole story was true; certainly those of no faith and even those of faith.

In the Acts of the Apostles, people experience the power of the risen Lord through the witness and works of Peter and his companions; they believe that Jesus was alive and active in and through them.

Let us pray that people will believe in Jesus' presence through our witness and works!

(A sharing from another church magazine)

Digging Deeper April - July 2021



In this series of our fortnightly meetings, we will be considering ten people who had a close association with Jesus. We are going to look at their interactions with him, and see

how he responded to them.

A leader will introduce each of the sessions and may send you some notes and Bible passages before-hand to enable you to participate with some knowledge and hopefully some searching questions. The sessions are scheduled as below, 7.30 pm either online by Zoom but more hopefully, back in the church in person.

April 12th Simon (Peter)

April 26th Centurion (servant healed)

May 10th Matthew (the tax collector)

May 24th A Canaanite woman

June 14th Rich young man

June 28th Jairus (had a dying daughter) & a chronically ill woman

July 12th Bartimaeus's sight restored

July 26th A man possessed by Legion evil spirits

Sept 13th Zacchaeus

Sept 27th A Samaritan woman

Don't wait
to pray until
you need something.
Pray and be thankful
everyday for your
Blessings.





Peter's Piece

“By faith alone.”

The forerunners of our protestant faith, in the Reformation of the 16th Century, set down the five things which are the basis of Christian Salvation. by which sinful human beings are declared right by a holy and just God.

They are known as the Five Solas, a Latin slogan which summarize the basis of our Protestant Faith. *Sola* means ‘alone’ and by these five ‘alones’ our saving faith is set, so that it can be clearly seen and declared that salvation is open and free to all, rich or poor, learned, or ignorant, old or young, and of whatever nationality. There are no qualifying demands.

The first we will consider, there is no value order, is *Sola Fide*, ‘*by faith alone*’. We cannot earn, buy, merit or in any way work for, our salvation. We are declared to be right by and before a holy and just God when we place our faith and trust solely in Jesus Christ, in his death and victorious resurrection, on our behalf.

This is very appropriate as this time of the year we celebrate Easter and remember afresh the cost of our salvation, as Jesus, the perfect, innocent Son of God was made sin for me and bore the punishment and death that was duly mine, in his body, on the cross. It is accepting by faith and trust all that Jesus has done for me that I am declared to be right by God. It is personal, we each need to put our faith and trust in Jesus for ourselves. Just belonging to a church will not do nor will having the blessing of being born into a Christian family. It is by God’s grace by faith alone.

When we do trust, by his Holy Spirit Jesus the Christ comes to live in us and, as we let him, will enable us to live lives worthy of his Name, which is pleasing and brings praise and glory to God our Father. If you have not already, trust Him NOW and tell somebody.

Revised Common Lectionary readings for April

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

Second Sunday of Easter - April 11, 2021

- Acts 4:32-35 - Psalm 133
- 1 John 1:1-2:2 - John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter - April 18, 2021

- Acts 3:12-19 - Psalm 4
- 1 John 3:1-7 - Luke 24:36b-48

Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 25, 2021

- Acts 4:5-12 - Psalm 23
- 1 John 3:16-24 - John 10:11-18

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021

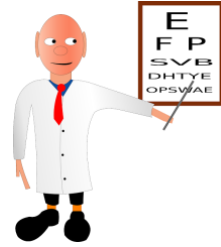
- Acts 8:26-40 - Psalm 22:25-31
- 1 John 4:7-21 - John 15:1-8

Breaking News

- The man who makes the giant eclairs at our patisserie is retiring. There'll be some big choux to fill when he goes
- Thieves have stolen all road signs in Yorkshire. Police are looking for Leeds.
- My son kept chewing on the electrical cords, so I had to ground him. He's doing better currently and conducting himself properly.
- I've just been on a course to learn how to complain properly. It was so good, I managed to get my money back.

Decisions, oh decisions!

Do you remember going to have your eyes tested, when halfway through the test, the optician would put an instrument with two or more lenses on it, and as they were changed over ask, “is that better or worse”?



They clearly knew what they were doing, as you eventually got to the point where you could really not tell the difference and they then said, “about the same?” You had made a decision, but were you sure it was the right one?

Life is a bit like that as you really cannot say to the optician’s question “that’s perfect”. So often, if not always, there is no perfect solution to any problem because there are always downsides to whatever we do. It often means we have to do the best that we can that results in the least amount of harm.

What matters is always making sure that the good far outweighs the bad.

Doing nothing rarely helps to solve a problem.

Oh! Isn’t life hard?

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

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

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

Please see the Secretary's Notebook for details.

April

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

May

Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	

The Next Issue of New Horizons



We always welcome contributions from our readers, whether they are from The Cornerstone or anywhere around the world.

Please let us have your personal stories, recollections, inspiring thoughts from biblical or other sources, acts of kindness both given and received, encouragement to mission; really anything that you have found interesting.

We would be pleased to receive any contributions for the May issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 22nd April.**

Thank you.

WHO'S WHO?

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