

New Horizons

MAY 2021



PENTECOST

Let's Light That Fire

THE CORNERSTONE



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

www.thecornerstonesouthend.org.uk

Email:

cornerstonequestions@outlook.com

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 watch for any other information that you may 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

Back to Normal

As we are seeing our world begin to float back into some form of a routine and normality, we are seeing that things are changing in our daily living. The news media is starting to cover other stories as well as the Pandemic News. The stores are gearing up for re-opening. The sports grounds and venues are allowing people in, though in small numbers. Life seems to be getting back to “normal.”

The question on everyone’s mind seems to be “Will we ever be the same again?” I believe the more appropriate question should be, “Should we ever be the same as we once were?”

Our world has become a different place within the past 14 months. I believe that it has been a better place in many ways. The “normal” bickering and fighting of politicians has somewhat stopped. The “normal” hustle and bustle, pressures on individual and cooperative lives eased. The “normal” selfishness of people has subsided. The “normal” prayerlessness of our nation has been reversed to some extent.

No, we should not go back to “normal.” So, what should we do to keep our current focus? What should we do to keep the unity of our world, our country, our community and our churches alive? We have to call our country, our community and our church back to its first love!

Let me share a few thoughts from a famous passage from the book of revelation.

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Revelation 2: 2 - 4

This message reveals the very power and presence of Christ within the church. The presence of Jesus is essential for every church to appreciate and understand.

When Jesus is present within a church, worship becomes real, rather than routine, prayer becomes powerful rather than placid, outreach becomes effective rather than mere effort, people become loving rather than lethargic and joy becomes contagious.

The church needs to be a place where people can see the evidence of the presence and love of Christ. The church needs to be a place where people can establish a personal relationship with Christ. The church needs to be a place that is genuine in fellowship, followership and faith.

The Ephesian church had become so busy serving Christ and doing the work of the church; that they had forgotten their love for Christ. They had become so focused on their routine for Christ that they failed to maintain their relationship with Christ. How could they exchange action for intimacy?

How could they accept average instead of significant? Simple; it happened over time, slowly, little by little. Life slips away each day you forget to pray. Love erodes as you fail to read and study God's Word. Love evaporates bit by bit with every curse word that you speak and every unkind act that you make.

The Ephesians not only lost their love for Christ but also, they lost their love for other people. There is a direct connection between loving Christ and loving other people. It is impossible to love others without being connected to the true source of love. The Ephesians were effectively removing their ability to impact the world when they failed to love Christ.

So, should we get back to "normal"?

In my opinion, if normal means that we go back to our own security and depending on ourselves; then the answer is no.

If normal means that we go back to looking out for our own needs and ignore the needs of others; then the answer is no.

If normal means that we return to the usual routines of life and ignore spending time with God; in or outside the church, then the answer is no.

If normal means that we return to keep the show running without renewing our love for God and his people, then the answer is no.

If normal means that we strive to retrieve the passion and enthusiasm that we had when we first met Christ; the answer is yes.

May God help us to ponder upon these vital questions before we get back to *"Normal"*.

**God bless,
Sohail**

O God of burning,
cleansing flame, send the fire!
Your blood-bought gift today we claim:
send the fire today!
Look down and see this waiting host,
and send the promised Holy Ghost;
we need another Pentecost!
Send the fire today,
send the fire today!

God of Elijah, hear our cry:
send the fire!
And make us fit to live or die;
send the fire today!
To burn up every trace of sin,
to bring the light and glory in,
the revolution now begin!
Send the fire today,
send the fire today!

William Booth adapted Lex Loizides - Complete MP 1004
(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 partial lockdown but there is light at the end of the tunnel.



If you are unable to attend our worship on the church premises, 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. We especially think of our Queen and family on the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. 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.

We pray for the country of India where the population is being ravaged by the pandemic as the health system is unable to cope with those who are sick. A country of poverty, deprivation, poor nutrition where help is rarely available. Where those who govern appear to have closed their eyes and ignored the severity of the situation.

All this in a country that is producing and exporting huge volumes of the life-saving vaccine, but cannot afford to purchase it to treat their own sick people.

We give thanks for those countries that are now coming forward with essential equipment, medicines and oxygen as they share what they have with those who have almost nothing.

We give thanks for what we have whilst feeling ashamed that we have not shared enough before and even today. Help us to remember that forgiveness only works if it brings a change in our behaviour. **AMEN**



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

It's been a chilly spring this year, the greenhouse is crammed full of plants as it is not yet warm enough to leave them out overnight. All being well in a few weeks I should have tomato plants and courgettes ready to go. Do let me know if you need any.

We re-started live in-person worship on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday and, although we cannot yet lift our combined voices in praise, those who attend feel a blessing from being with other people; our Sunday services were led by our Minister Sohail, and Roger Brett. Until 21st June at the earliest we are having to restrict numbers to around 30, but have yet to come close. So. if you are holding back but would like to attend, please arrange to book in, either by telephone or email to me Monday-Friday each week.

Services continue to be available on our YouTube channel for those who do not attend in person as well as our weekly fellowship gatherings on Zoom. Please note that the service on 16th May will not be live, as there is not sufficient quarantine time from the previous day when Toni-Ellen Etchells marries Arwel Bennett.

We have also made a cautious resumption to children's activities with an outdoor Pilots' session on Sunday 25th April with more planned for 23rd May and 20th June.

Our premises are once again a polling station for the local elections on 6th May. This means that apart from the pre-school, nothing else can take place that day and no-one should be on the premises except for voting purposes.

Rev. Lythan Nevard has accepted the call to be Moderator of the Eastern Synod, and subject to ratification by General Assembly will take up the post sometime in August. Her husband Phil is also a URC Minister and has been called to a three-church pastorate just outside Cambridge. We wish them well. During the vacancy a number of people have covered the Moderator's duties and we thank them for going the extra mile.

Synod Training events have taken place on line, and it has been good to join with others from across the synod for these. Currently the following are on offer from Synod and all are on line.

Church Leadership: This is a good course for anyone whether in leadership positions or not

Church Leadership: An Overview Thursday 6th May

Church Leadership: Mission Thursday 13th May

Church Leadership: Worship Thursday 20th May

Church Leadership: Spirituality Thursday 27th May

Church Leadership: Pastoral Care Thursday 3rd June

Church Leadership: the Secretary Thursday 10th June

Book with Lindsey Brown: training@urceastern.org.uk

Safeguarding: essential for elders and anyone working with children or vulnerable adults.

Course 2 - evenings - Tuesdays 7.30pm - 8.45pm
8th June, 15th June, 22nd June

Course 3 - afternoons - Tuesdays 2.30pm - 3.45pm
8th June, 15th June, 22nd June

Attendance on all three is essential to complete the course but this can be swapped in on one of the other courses running if there are dates you are unable to make.

Book with Nicola Grieves cydo@urceastern.org.uk

Is Everybody In? An Introduction to Church Welcome and Inclusion
Save the Date: Saturday June 12th, 10am - 1pm. Delivered by the Mission and Training Team and special guest speakers. Further information to follow.

**The launch of *Constance: Pioneer, Pastor, Preacher*
18th May 7-8pm**

• Speakers • Poetry • Videos • Worship

You are warmly invited to attend this exciting book launch, again on line. Join contributors to the book, participants from the centenary conference, members of the Congregational Federation, the United Reformed Church and the Council for World Mission and pioneers from around the world.

If you are interested in attending please email mission@urc.org.uk with your name, email address and which church you belong to, or are representing, if appropriate. The book can be purchased for £7.99 at the URC shop *Constance - Pioneer, Pastor, Preacher* - edited by Janet Wootton (urcshop.co.uk)

If all goes well with the Government's 'road map' we can look forward to doing a lot more things together in the not too distant future. Now is the time to be thinking about what we might do for the Kingdom of God in our neighbourhood, what kind of church we shall be in the future.

Ruth Dixon

COULD IT BE YOU?

Roger Brett has been managing our premises bookings for some while now. He has recently taken up the post of South Essex Area Partnership Pastoral Advocate and would like to hand over the bookings diary to someone else. Interested? Have a word with Roger to see what is involved and whether you might take this on.

Ann Thorp has indicated she will relinquish the Treasurer post at the end of 2021. Ideally, a replacement will shadow Ann for some time before taking up office so we are inviting you to consider whether you can do this important work for the church. Unlike the Secretary, there is no requirement for the Treasurer to be an Elder. Do have a word with Ann to find out more about the role.

THE GRAPEVINE

A variation on “Footprints” from the Church of St Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton



Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, varying the pace. But your footprints are a disorganised stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures and returns.

For much of the way, it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling his constantly. You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: your footprints, that once etched the sand next to Jesus', are now walking precisely in his steps. Inside his larger footsteps are your smaller ones, safely you and Jesus are becoming one. This goes on for many miles but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large footsteps seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints; they have become one.



This goes on for a long time but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over

the place. Stops, starts, deep gashes in the sand. A veritable mess of prints. You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends.

Now you pray: "Lord, I understand the first scene, with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But you walked through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you."

"That is correct."

"... And when the smaller footprints grew and filled yours, I was actually learning to walk in your steps; followed you very closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far."

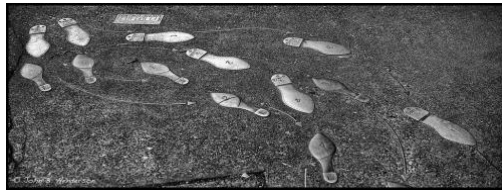
"... When the smaller footprints grew and filled in yours, I suppose that I was becoming like you in every way."

"Precisely."

"So, Lord, was there a repression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than the first."

There was a pause as the Lord answers with a smile in his voice.

"You didn't know? - that was when I danced."



"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to weep, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)

During our Lent course one of the many quotes we encountered was from **Hildegard of Bingen** and Vic said she was a character well worth exploring further.

This is the text that started this train of thought and research into Hildegard's life:

Humankind, full of creative possibilities, is God's work. Humankind alone is called to assist God. Humankind is called to co-create. With nature's help humankind can set into creation that is necessary and life sustaining.

Our course was all about the responsibility God has set us to care for the creation He has given us. Bear in mind that Hildegard wrote that in the years between 1110 and 1179 and you begin to see what a forward thinking lady she was.

So, let's take a brief look at this remarkable woman. She was born in 1098 and dies on the 17th September 1179 and she was a German Benedictine abbess and writer. She also is said to have been a composer, philosopher and Christian Mystic. She is considered to be the founder of scientific natural history in Germany. She wrote theological, botanical and medicinal texts, as well as letters, songs for female choirs and enjoyed the art of miniature illuminations for manuscripts.



Recognised as a saint in the Roman catholic tradition for many centuries it wasn't until May 2012 that Pope Benedict XVI extended the liturgical cult of Hildegard to the entire church and in October that year he named her a Doctor of the Church in recognition of her holiness in life and her original teaching.



Born in Sponheim to Mechtild and Hildebert both from families of high standing and in the service of Count Meginjard of Sponheim, she was the youngest of ten children (seven of whom survived babyhood.) She was a sickly child and so did not experience a wide ranging childhood, often seeing visions and she wrote about these much later in her life and expressed them as being “the Living Light” “which as the sun and moon and stars appear in the water, so writings sermons, virtues and human actions take form for me and gleam”. Perhaps because of these visions and her withdrawn lifestyle, her parents sent her as an oblate to the Benedictine monastery at Disibodenberg.

Together with another nun, Jutta, she formed a growing community of women attached to the male monastery. Jutta died in 1136 and Hildegard was elected as the Magistra. The abbot asked her to be the Abbess but this would have been under his authority and Hildegard wanted more independence for herself and her fellow nuns. She asked permission for them to move to Rupertsberg. So, from an established safe place they would go to a place of poverty and from a well built and maintained stone building to a temporary shelter but Hildegard intended to set up independently.

The Abbot would have none of it so Hildegard went over his head and got the approval of the Archbishop. The Abbot still would not give her permission to leave the monastery and Hildegard became paralysed and no one could move her not even the Abbott himself. Faced with an unsurmountable problem he gave in and the nuns went to their new home with Hildegard and founded the monastery of St Rupertsberg in 1150.

She recovered and went on to lead her nuns until her death. She was a prolific writer and one of her greatest pieces was the Scivias, an abbreviation for Sci vias Domini "Know the ways of the Lord" which was illuminated at Rupertsberg but sadly has been 'lost' since 1945.

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And so to a very different character whose day is celebrated on the 30th May each year, **Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans.**

I suspect far more people will have some knowledge of Joan, than they did about Hildegarde, and yet one lived to be 81 years old and the other just 19. There probably couldn't be a more contrasting lifestyle either and yet both were determined ladies who were not going to just accept what men told them to do, they wanted their own independence and stood firmly for what they believed in so passionately.

Joan was born to Jacques d'Arc and Isabelle Romee, a peasant family, at Domremy in the Vosges district of France on the 6th January 1412. The family owned about 50 acres of farmland and her father also acted as a village official, responsible for collecting taxes and was head of the local Watch. This helped to bring in extra income for his family. At this time France and England were locked in the 100 years' war (started in 1337) all over who really inherited the French throne.

As a young girl, Joan also claimed to have visions seeing figures she believed to be Saint Michael, Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret. They collectively told her that she should drive out the English and take the Dauphin to his consecration in Reims. At this time nearly all of France was under the control of the Anglo Burgundian forces, the English controlled Paris and Rouen and the Burgundians Reims, the traditional site for the coronation of French Kings. In both countries the ruling monarch had died and England had the infant Henry VI, the nominal king of both countries, as Queen Isabeau of Bavaria had granted the right of succession of the French throne to Henry V and his heirs rather than to her son Charles. The accepted thinking of the time was that Charles was illegitimate.



Above is a picture of the siege of Orleans led by Joan.

In her short time at home, Joan saw her village burned and there were regular local raids by the soldiers looking for food and treating the villagers with anything but respect. Joan herself was illiterate and in order to draw attention to the ill treatment she had scribes write her dictated letters to the garrison commander at the nearby town of Vancouleurs, for an escort to take her to the French Court at Chinon.

The commander's response was to laugh at this young slip of a girl but Joan, undeterred, returned the following year where she made her case that although she would rather be at her mother's side spinning, she knew she had to go to do the will of her Lord.

She was granted a meeting and she gave the leaders a prophesy about the forthcoming battle outside Orleans several days ahead of the messengers who brought the report detailing Joan's prediction to the letter. They granted her access to Charles in 1429 when she was just 17, and she asked to travel with the army to Orleans dressed as a soldier with protective armour. She had nothing of her own and had to rely on donated sword, horse, banner and armour. Dauphin Charles granted her request and placed her at the head of his army, which shows the desperation of the man who could put an illiterate farm girl at the head of his army because she said the voice of God had told her to be there. The army followed her strategies in battles that followed until the English withdrew and the Dauphin could be taken to Reims.



A truce with the English in the following months left Joan with little to do but she sent a letter to the English telling them to leave France. The truce with the English came to an end and Joan was captured when she joined with their opposing forces.

Joan was denied the right to a legal advisor and the right she demanded to have advocates on her side to redress the balance of all against her. When arrested, Joan was wearing her army clothes and she was accused of cross dressing. She had continued to do so in prison, as all the male clothes could be inter fastened, thus stopping the guards being able to sexually assault her. This was not possible in women's clothing of the day and they forced her to change but she told an official that 'a great English lord entered my cell and tried to take me by force' so, she was allowed to resume her male garb. They also questioned her short hair which they believed was not the usual way of an innocent woman wearing it, so she must have ulterior motives.

Nothing was able to save Joan from the accusations of heresy and she was sentenced to death to be burned at the stake on 30th May 1431. She asked for a cross to be held up in front of her eyes and a soldier also made a small cross, that she put on the front of her dress. She was beatified on April 18th 1909 by Pope Pius X and her saints day is held as the 30th May.

Alison



Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard when he lives in the jungle without a razor?

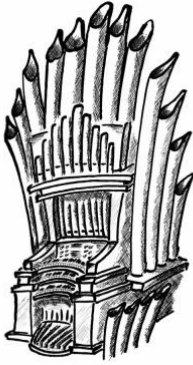
Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough?

What is the speed of darkness?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars but check when you say the paint is wet?

The National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR)



Readers of our magazine may not realise that there is a register of pipe organs that are in places of Worship, Church Buildings, Crematoria etc in the UK.

Keeping the records up to date involves organisations that have a pipe organ informing the Royal College of Organists (RCO) who maintain the NPOR.

We have recently updated our record entry and you may be interested to access this by simply searching online for The National Pipe Organ Register or NPOR. From the menu go into the Address and enter Southend and you should see our new entry!

When dealing with our update, the Officer from the RCO remarked how effectively and sensitively the pipe organ fits into the new Church buildings as unfortunately this is not always the case in a new building when the organ is sometimes 'just fitted in' at the last minute and is never heard or seen at its best advantage!

I often use the NPOR to 'check out' the specifications of the instruments of any new places we visit, or if I hear an organ on 'Songs of Praise' that sounds impressive - it is good to be able to look it up on the Register to find out its history and builders etc! This is what 'sad organ nuts' like me do!!!!

We are very fortunate to have our 'new buildings' and a good pipe organ installed in it - and some of the pipes go back to 1876 and are still playing merrily.

Happy reading!

Nigel Mead

Primary School Children writing About the Sea

- 1) Sharks are ugly and mean and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend any more. (Emily age 6)
- 2) When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn't blow, the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans. (William age 7)
- 3) Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves into chargers. (David age 7)
- 4) If you are surrounded by sea, you are an island. If you don't have sea all round you, you are incontinent. (Susan age 7)

Action or Atrophy

- ❖ Monet was painting great pictures at 86.
- ❖ Titan put the last brush stroke to the "Battle of Lepanto" at 98. He finished his "Last Supper" at 99.
- ❖ Goethe finished "Faust" at 81.
- ❖ Tennyson wrote "Crossing the Bar" when he was 83.
- ❖ Voltaire was still penning plays when he died at the age of 84.
- ❖ Wagner wrote his finest operas in the final years of his life. "Parsifal" in the last year. He died at the age of 70.
- ❖ At 74 Verdi composed his "Othello"; at 80 he produced his famous "Falstaff".

At 50 the mind hasn't yet reached its zenith.

At 60 it is at its best and from then on declines so gradually that at 80 those who have kept themselves mentally alert can be just as productive as at 30.

Memory may slip a bit but judgement and reason may actually improve and creative imagination is scarcely touched by age.

Source Unknown

**How we treat others
is the ultimate test
of our love
for Christ**

Thank you Joan

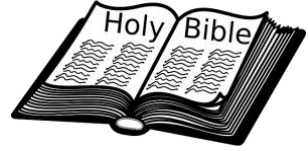
Our member Joan Harvey has decided to take a step back from our children's groups after many years of devoted service. We do thank her for her input and encouragement; a bouquet of flowers was delivered by Val and Nigel on behalf of the Children and Youth Team.



(PS TO give you some idea of her length of service, Joan was one of my very first Sunday School teachers! RCD)

Digging Deeper May - 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.

- 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

**Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.
All things break.
And all things can be mended.
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.
So, go,
Love intentionally,
Extravagantly,
Unconditionally.
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.**

L. R. Knost



Peter's Piece

“Sola Scriptura”

We continue our consideration of the five ‘Solos.’ This month we have before us ‘Sola Scriptura’. This reminds us that the Scriptures, the Holy Bible are the sole guide for our salvation., doctrine, teaching, correcting and training. 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible alone, God’s written Word, is the sole authority in telling us of our need and how we can have that need met so that we can be made right before a just and Holy God.

The Bible has two sections - the Old and the New Testaments and together, the former the Old testament containing 39 books and the second the New Testament having 27 books, form one unique whole proclaiming God, his love and his work of Creation and Salvation.

The Bible tells us that it was God himself who made this wonderful planet earth and the vast universe, in which it is set. They didn’t just evolve over millions of years without a designer and maker. It also records that it was,

- Man’s *first disobedience, and the fruit*

*of that forbidden tree. Whose mortal taste
brought death into the world, and all our woe,
with loss of Eden, till one greater Man
restore us, and regain the blissful seat.*

John Milton 1608=74

The Bible is to be trusted and is the only, sole source of the good news of God and of his Messiah and His death when he was made sin and bore our punishment on the cross for our sin so that by faith in his bearing the judgement that was justly ours; taking our rightful punishment upon himself we are set free from the just deserts of sin. It is only in the Bible, the Scriptures that we learn of this Salvation which by faith can be ours.

Peter

Revised Common Lectionary readings for May

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 9, 2021

- Acts 10:44-48 - Psalm 98
- 1 John 5:1-6 - John 15:9-17

Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 16, 2021

Lessons for Ascension Day May 14th

- Acts 1:1-11, - Psalm 47
- Ephesians 1:15-23 - Luke 24:44-53

Day of Pentecost - May 23, 2021

- Acts 2:1-21 - Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Romans 8:22-27 - John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Trinity Sunday - May 30, 2021

- Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29
- Romans 8:12-17 - John 3:1-17

Sunday - June 6, 2021

- 1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) and Psalm 138
- Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130
- 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 - Mark 3:20-35

PLEASE DO FIND OUT!

They say that “the grass is always greener in the next field” when trying to dissuade you from making a change.

**However, will you ever find out
if you do not have a look in that next field?**

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

Please see the Secretary's Notebook of details for current restrictions

May

Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Morning Worship & Parade	Our Minister
Mon	10 th	7.00pm	Digger Deeper	
Thu	13 th		Ascension Day	
Sat	15 th	4.30pm	Wedding of Toni-Ellen & Arwel	
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (pre-recorded)	Peter Hunt
Sat	22 nd		Messtival! - Messy Church online; (follow-up on 23 rd May)	
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC) Pentecost	Our Minister
Sun	23 rd	2.00pm to 3.30pm	Pilots & Messy Church	
Mon	24 th	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	
Thu	27 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos

The Scout Group returns at various times from the end of April and throughout May.

June

Thu	3 rd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	6 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Worship with Young People	Our Minister
Mon	14 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Fathers' Day	Roger Brett
Sun	27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	28 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	

A Special Wedding

It is with great delight we announce, on Saturday 15th May at 4.30pm 2021, we shall celebrate with the Etchells and Bennett families as they witness the marriage of Toni-Ellen Etchells and Arwel Bennett. Toni-Ellen has been part of our church since birth, baptised in December 1996, a regular member of our Junior Church and Girls' Brigade and a church member since 2014.



We wish the happy couple every blessing and best wishes for their future life together.

(In accordance with Covid Safety Regulations only 15 members of their families and friends will be able to attend, hopefully a recording will be available in due course).

Mary & Clive

The Next Issue of New Horizons for June



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 June issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 27th May.**

We shall be doing a double issue for July and August as we hope to be able to revel in postponed events and holidays! There will be a reminder in our June magazine.

Thank you.

Anne and Michael

WHO'S WHO?

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
Treasurer	Ann Blackwell 07753 348856
Envelopes	Mike Mead 07802 749912
Gift Aid	David Osborn (01702) 611337
Preachers List	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Junior Church	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
Joint Leaders	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Pilots	Derek Goodyear 07863 208914
Prayer Fellowship	Peter & Zoy Hunt (01702) 864814
Digging Deeper	Peter Hunt (01702) 864814
C'Stone Toddlers	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Scout Group	Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309
Use of Premises	Roger Brett (01702) 479874
Flower arranging	Joan Harvey Val Mead (01702) 296189
Editorial Team	Anne Clarke (01702) 293102 af.clarke52@gmail.com Michael Wardle (01702) 613840 mjb23wardle@btinternet.com

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