

New Horizons

JULY AND AUGUST 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 getting better, but not quite back to “NORMAL”

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

Praying with Expectations

A few things happened in the last 15 months or so that reminded me again and again how important it is for us all to be closer to the Lord; to pray regularly, diligently and earnestly, but the question remains, "why aren't we? What are the obstacles that hinder us to be on the path we are supposed to follow? We know that we need to be closer to God, we need to be doing more for God, but we find obstacles in the way.

Life is filled with obstacles. Some of them are small, such as maybe a roadblock on the way to work, or some are large, like diseases that keep us from being who and what we want to be.

There are also spiritual obstacles as well. Things that hinder us and stand in our way of receiving God's inheritance for us. These obstacles stand between where we are in our walk with God and where we would like to and should be.

And, when there are obstacles in our lives, the only and the best way to remove them is by trusting God and praying for his strength to enable us to fight against all the schemes of the evil one.

Charles Spurgeon wrote "Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might."



The God almighty we trust and worship, is also approachable without any mediation and is always available to listen to our prayers. Some might take this to mean that we need to beg and plead desperately for God to answer our prayers especially when we are going through hard times. I don't think so.

Hard times are nothing new. Hard times, times of trials and tribulations, seem to be as constant as the sunrise. You can watch the news on any given day and hear of the hard times of those around our country.

You can read the morning paper and learn of the trials of those in our own community. You can totally avoid the media and still become familiar with hard times simply by listening to the troubles of those around you. Hard times are not simply the possession of others, hard times are experienced by each and every person who lives on planet earth today. You've had your difficulties. Hard times have knocked at your door and announced their arrival.

Hard times come in many different packages. Sometimes they wrap themselves in a hospital gown and ICU unit. At other times, they take on the countenance of a marriage gone bad, a child gone astray, or a job folding with no prospects. Hard times can manifest themselves as physical limitations, mental constraints, or emotional fragility. A friend moving away, a mate lying down and never getting up, or the dashed hopes of death can usher in hard times.



I know most of us have gone through tough and difficult times especially in the last 15 months or so, and even when we pray, it seems God doesn't even listen to us let alone answering. But I believe that we must continue to pray without ceasing, expecting for God to bring the answer and do the work because, among many other reasons, He is faithful, just and loves us with an everlasting love!

So, my friends, Raise your expectations today!

Expect God to do something great and no doubt we'll all see mighty breakthroughs!

**God bless,
Sohail**

Prayers for our Fellowship and those we know

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



Please pray for all of our fellowship as, hopefully, restrictions are lifted in July and we return to a “new normal”. In the meantime, if you are unable to attend our worship on the church premises, you can follow our services or other URC churches online.

We keep in our thoughts any of our fellowship who are unwell, in hospital, undergoing surgery/treatment or having tests and pray that these are not cancelled. We pray for their return to good health.

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

Some thoughts for us and for those outside of The Cornerstone.

Please pray for those who have little or no knowledge of the one and only God that we worship. It seems that in these times, the world does not care whether there is a God, or worse actually encourages the belief that there is no God and if there is, it does not make any difference to how we live.

As Christians we are given the task to lead all to God through Jesus Christ as we all know that good works come out of being a Christian, rather than making us a Christian! Only when we have the love of God through Jesus, can we pass it on.

A question. The Lord is on our side; are we on His?

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



I want to start by thanking everyone who supported my front garden plant stall which raised almost £200 for church funds. I was glad to be able to use my love of propagation in this way, and I'm sure there will be another selection later on.

Thank you too to Pam Wanstall's neighbour for donating men's formal clothing for HARP. Part of the work they do is getting people into housing and jobs, so interview wear is welcome, in addition to everyday clothes. Don't forget we have resumed our weekly groceries collection for HARP; if you are not yet coming to church regularly, donations can be left at my house, or Sohail is willing to collect.

The news we were hoping for, the removal of Covid restrictions, has not yet happened and we must continue to sit apart in church, and refrain from singing for at least another month but we are now managing to have post-service refreshments and Coffee Morning on Tuesdays. I know it is difficult to stick to the Rule of 6 and wearing masks for everything but eating and drinking, when we have such a lot to catch up on; but do please bear in mind we are on view from outside, and there is a possibility of a spot inspection so we must be seen to be doing the right thing.



Our Sunday services during the month were led by our Minister Sohail, Roger Brett and John Amos. We are particularly grateful to John who came to us just a few days after a cataract operation. There is still plenty of room for more worshippers on a Sunday, so do please give me a call during the week if you would like to come. I know some people have said they do not wish to return until singing is permitted, however as an instinctive singer, I have actually come to appreciate the lyrics prayers and sermon more over the past

months. In addition, now that the weather is better, when there has been a particularly inspiring hymn (“And can it be?” for example) some of us have left the building to sing in the car park.

Our bi-monthly bible study continues via Zoom; it has the advantage that you can join in even if you would not come out for an evening meeting. You can also join in wherever you are at the time. It is so good to study scripture and learn from one another and it would be great if more people could participate.



The Parent and Toddler group team are considering a few in-person sessions before the summer break, to work out what is achievable within the existing restrictions. This way they will be prepared if the situation continues into September or, if restrictions have to be reintroduced in the autumn/winter months. Your prayers would be appreciated for the team as they discern what is the “New Normal” for this group. Other groups are also thinking on the practicalities of resuming in different ways.

I know it is only July, but as this issue of New Horizons is for two months, summer is not too soon to be thinking who we might invite to consider becoming an Elder in our church, so that person can in turn have time to determine if that is a calling. There is a helpful leaflet here [Theyve_asked_Elder.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#).

General Assembly takes place 9th-12th July. The decision to have a virtual assembly, taken some time ago, has proved to be a wise one since we are not now scabbling to make plans, they are already in place. Officers and delegates are meeting via Zoom, but for the first time every URC member can view the business sessions which are being live streamed on the URC website, YouTube Channel and Facebook page. The business of Assembly can be read here: [Book_of_Reports_2021.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#). I will circulate the agenda the week before so you can ‘dip in’ any time you wish.

We shall be joining Assembly Worship on Sunday 11th at **11.00** a.m. either in Church or on line after coffee is served at 10.30a.m.

I am writing these notes during a week of wet and rather chilly weather, a marked contrast to the heat of a few weeks ago. Although I join millions of others to say 'the garden needs it' I am also hoping it will soon be warm enough to get out and enjoy it this summer!

Ruth Dixon

**SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**“Virtual Prom Praise”
NOT NOW on the Big Screen at church
17th July 2021
6 pm on YouTube**



The All Souls Orchestra and Special Guests will be coming together at All Souls Church, London, UK on **Saturday 17th July 2021** to livestream an evening of the thrilling and diverse music that Prom Praise audiences have come to love year after year.

Music will range from an original orchestral overture written expressly for this season, appearances from well-loved classical and contemporary artists and musicians joining us virtually from the USA and from right in the heart of the UK. Take a Preview

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=4DX5htDJ2yU&fbclid=IwAR0-veQGBHG40w1Y>

Please note that due to the continuing Covid restrictions we will not be screening this at the church, but invite you to watch it from home where you can sing along to your heart's content. It is permitted for you to invite a neighbour to join you. The link to the event will be here during the preceding week: <https://www.allsoulsmusic.org/>

QUIZ TIME

Something to keep you busy for a while

1. In money terms, what is a Pony?
2. Which dessert is named after an opera singer?
3. Which colour is the centre of the rainbow?
4. Which wood is being tested as an alternative for Willow for cricket bats?
5. Where would you see "a fine lady on a white horse"?
6. In which African country is Timbuktu?
7. How many gigabytes are in a terabyte?
8. What name is given to the official recordings of Parliament?
9. Who started the idea of Afternoon Teas in the 1800's?
10. Who wrote Candle in the Wind?
11. Who said "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"?
12. Who has won the most women's singles titles in Wimbledon?
13. When was the first Wimbledon championships held?
14. Is it false or true that the only colour allowed in the court wear at Wimbledon is a strip no wider than 1cm on socks or underwear?
15. Which Spanish Artist kept a pet Ocelot?
16. Who is the author of Room at the Top?
17. Who founded the YMCA in 1844?
18. What is the National instrument of Wales?
19. Which European country was the first to give women the vote?
20. What is the name of the trophy awarded in the British Open Golf Championship?
21. What was the Roman name for York?
22. Which blood vessels carry blood back to the heart?
23. What does the first A stand for in NASA?
24. How many teeth does a fully grown adult human have?
25. Who wrote Cat on a Hot Tin Roof?
26. What element is used to make computer chips?
27. Name the pack of cards used in Fortune Telling?
28. Who were the first Hot Air Balloonist brothers?
29. Which element has the symbol N?
30. Which flower takes its name from the Greek word for a rainbow?

The answers can be found on page 15

Many thanks to Alison for this Quiz.

COMING TO THE CORNERSTONE

Southend Food Clubs



Southend FOOD clubs is run by a Charity called Family Action that has over 50 FOOD clubs throughout the UK

It costs just £1 a year for a family to become a FOOD Club member. Once they have joined, they can purchase a bag of tasty food items every week worth approx. £10-15 for just £3.50! To become a member, you must live or work within 15 minutes of the Club.

A charity called Fairshare works to redistribute some of the hundreds of thousands of tonnes of good food that is wasted in the UK every year by redistributing it to other charities such as Family Action who then pass on the food and the savings by using FOOD Clubs.

Anyone can join a FOOD Club subject to the 15-minute rule. Enough food is provided to meet the needs of the members. So, the more who join the less food is wasted.

Supplies depend upon what is available so there are no guarantees as to the type of food but price checks ensure that it should be at least 3x the £3.50 price paid.

Occasionally, higher priced food items are available at a nominal extra cost, again preventing waste.

We hope to start FOOD Club at The Cornerstone on a Tuesday in September with deliveries in the morning and issuing to FOOD club members in the afternoon. And we look forward to sharing Coffee with you.

The Club will be run by Southend FOOD Clubs but anyone wishing to volunteer can contact Roger who will pass over details.

www.family-action.org.uk

Eco Church- working toward the Silver Award.



Last month we looked at THE FOOD AND DRINK WE CONSUME and THE WAY WE TRAVEL as areas to help us make changes to our lifestyles and move towards the Silver Award. Many of these you may already do, so that is great, thank you. This month we look at three other areas.

THE ENERGY WE USE

- switch your electricity provider to a green supplier
- wear an extra layer of clothing and turn the thermostat down 1 or 2 degrees
- use a hot water bottle or an extra blanket, instead of running the heating overnight
- if buying new appliances, go for AAA energy-rated ones
- don't leave appliances on stand-by when not in use
- place your table or desk by a window so you do not need a light on
- switch to low-energy light bulbs
- only boil the water you actually need in the kettle
- install solar panels and generate your own electricity!

THE THINGS WE BUY AND/OR THROW AWAY

- simplify life, be liberated by needing less
- ask yourself if you really need to buy something
- 3 Rs: Reduce what you buy, Reuse what you have finished with, Recycle what you cannot reuse
- always take your own bags when shopping
- try to reduce your use of plastic, particularly single-use plastic

- explore shampoo and conditioner bars rather than plastic bottles
- try to have a plastic-free Lent - or at least a 'less-plastic' Lent
- drink tap water, not bottled
- 're-invent' secondhand goods from charity and nearly-new shops; improvise, make things!

OTHER IDEAS

- enjoy a Green Christmas - send e-cards to friends; sign the communal card at church & organise one at work; recycle your cards in the New Year; keep the nicest to make gift tags! Try to buy local, fairly traded or secondhand presents; if gifts need batteries use re-chargeables; give membership of an environmental or conservation charity, make your own presents and re-use wrapping paper, put your Christmas lights on a timer or have them on for a shorter time.
- check out your carbon footprint at www.climatestewards.org
- inform yourself: read about what is happening to our world and how you could care for creation
- stand up for the planet: write letters to your MP - make sure your care for the planet is clear, sign online petitions, even go on a protest about caring for the planet
- reconnect with the natural world: get wet -- dig the earth; take an interest in wildflowers, bees, butterflies, fish, birds and rocks; plant trees for special occasions such as baptisms or weddings
- celebrate Creationtide (September 1st to October 4th) service resources at www.creationtide.com
- join/support a Christian environmental charity: Green Christian (www.greenchristian.org.uk), John Ray Institute (www.jri.org.uk) or Operation Noah (www.operationnoah.org)

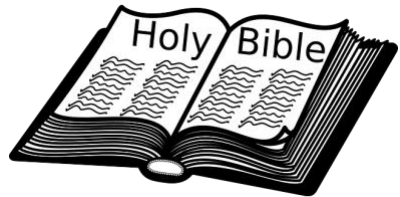
Mike and Linda Mead

Newsflash

- ❖ Just heard that Pound-stretchers and M&S are to be merged. From tomorrow they will be known as Stretchmarks.
- ❖ John Smith has taken a job as the head of Old McDonald's Farm. He is the new CIEIO.
- ❖ The Energiser bunny has been arrested. He was charged with battery.
- ❖ A cartoonist has been found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

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.

- July 12th Bartimaeus's sight restored
- July 26th A man possessed by Legion evil spirits
- Sept 13th Zacchaeus
- Sept 27th A Samaritan woman

**Your mind is a garden
Your thoughts are the seeds
You can grow flowers
Or you can grow weeds!**

Peter's Piece



Solus Christus - Christ Alone.

It is by the name of Jesus Christ -- Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:10-12

There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

We come to the fourth consideration of our Christian faith, in our series of the Five Solas. The five basic points that set out the truth of what we believe. This time it is "Christ Alone". He is the foundation and centre of our faith, of all that we believe, it is Him and no other. These thoughts cover two great aspects of the Christian faith, those of salvation and of mediation.

It is through our trust in Christ alone, his death and resurrection that we are saved, counted right by God. We cannot do anything, in any way to merit, earn or buy salvation. It is needed that we simply, individually, place our faith, trust in Jesus Christ, that by his death the punishment for our sin, not just our wrongdoing, but also of our inherited sinful nature, has been completely dealt with, and we have new life in Him. Jesus said - "*Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*" Luke 18:17

Christ is the one who stands between us and a Holy God and only through him can we approach the Divine Majesty and enter his presence and enjoy all the benefits that he graciously has to bestow. We do not need any special place, or person to intercede either for us or with us. In Christ, the way is open for us to come into the Divine presence of a Holy God.

We can meet with God on our own or with others; as we gather together physically or join with each other virtually by the aid of Zoom. we, each one, stand individually before God and not in any way dependant on the mediation of another. But as we do meet God

together, it is a wonderful and beautiful mystery that we are united as the **body of** Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* Romans 12:5.

Quiz Answers

1. £25.
2. Peach Melba
3. Green
4. Bamboo
5. Banbury Cross
6. Mali
7. 1000
8. Hansard
9. Duchess of Bedford
10. Elton John
11. C S Lewis
12. Martina Navratilova
13. 1877
14. True
15. Salvador Dali
16. John Braine
17. George Williams
18. Harp
19. Finland
20. The Claret Jug
21. Eboracum
22. Veins
23. Aeronautics
24. 32
25. Tennessee Williams
26. Silicon
27. Tarot cards
28. Montgolfier Brothers
29. Nitrogen
30. Iris

How did you do?

Revised Common Lectionary for July/August 2021

Sunday July 4, 2021

- 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48
- 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13

Sunday July 11, 2021

- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24
- Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

Sunday July 18, 2021

- 2 Samuel 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37
- Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday July 25, 2021

- 2 Samuel 11:1-15 and Psalm 14
- Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

Sunday August 1, 2021

- 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a and Psalm 51:1-12
- Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

Sunday August 8, 2021

- 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130
- Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

Sunday August 15, 2021

- 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111
- Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

Sunday August 22, 2021

- 1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84
- Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69

Sunday August 29, 2021

- Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
- James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sunday September 5, 2021

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125
- James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37

Are you having a laugh?

- ❖ 2 cannibals eating a clown one says to the other
“Does this taste funny to you?”
- ❖ I’ve been having a recurring nightmare where I dream I’m a horse. That’s 5 nights on the trot now.
- ❖ I accidentally ordered a gallon of tipex correctional fluid. Big mistake.
- ❖ I bought one of those ‘smart’ light switches, but it was much too clever. So, I replaced it with a dimmer switch.
- ❖ Me: “I am surprised at how winded I am by this exercise”
Personal Trainer: “This was the tour of the gym”
- ❖ The wife asked me if I’d seen the dog bowl. I said “To be honest I didn’t even know he played cricket!”

**Be an encourager,
the world has plenty
of critics already**

The Next Issue of New Horizons for September



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.

Been on holiday? Anything interesting to share? Then let us know about it please.

The next issue will be published on Sunday 5th September and we shall be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by 9 a.m. on Thursday 26th August.

Thank you
Anne and Michael

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

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

July

Sun	4 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Thu	8 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Coffee in The Foyer	
		11.00am	General Assembly worship live streamed in church or watch on line at home	
Mon	12 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	
Sat	17 th		Virtual Prom Praise (online only)	
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Peter Hunt
Thu	22 nd	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	26 th	7.30pm	Digging Deeper	

August

Sun	1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
Sun	15 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett

September

Thu	2 nd	7.30am	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	5 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Sarah Wilson
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	13 th	7.30pm	Digging Deeper	

**Being a Christian
demands a constant
Progression
NOT
Perfection**

Thank you and some information.

We have resumed coffee on Sundays and Tuesdays and our thanks to all of the willing volunteers who are now able to serve us once again.

There are some changes due to the present situation, but you can still have a very pleasant time meeting up with your friends. Biscuits have to be provided safely so they are wrapped and thanks to those who have given them and also for a supply from the church.

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

July 4th Suzanne and Paul Dyer
 11th Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ
 18th Anne Clarke and Val Mead
 25th Stella Duboux and Val Hayman

Aug 1st Carole and Alan Cornwall
 8th Anne Clarke and Val Mead
 15th Linda and Mike Mead
 22nd Suzanne and Paul Dyer
 29th Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ



Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

July 6th Stella Duboux and Brenda Melling
 13th Wendy Brett and Val Mead
 20th Carole and Alan Cornwall
 27th Carol Smith and Pat Pates

Aug 1st Stella Duboux and Brenda Melling
 8th Wendy Brett and Val Mead
 15th Carole and Alan Cornwall
 22nd Carol Smith and Pat Pates



Things always have a way of working out.
Never underestimate the power of
PRAYER,
FAITH,
and **LOVE**

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.**