

# New Horizons

SEPTEMBER 2021



Give thanks with a grateful heart

## THE CORNERSTONE



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

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](http://www.thecornerstonesouthend.org.uk)  
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[cornerstonequestions@outlook.com](mailto:cornerstonequestions@outlook.com)

## WORSHIP AND ACTION

Sunday 10.30 am **Morning Worship** and Junior Church.  
**Holy Communion** is celebrated during Worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

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

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

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

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

Tues 10.00 am Tea and Coffee in the Foyer  
11.30 am The Tuesday Rendezvous  
(1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays or as announced)

Wed 9.30 am The Cornerstone Toddlers during Term Time

Thurs 6.00 pm Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts  
7.45-9.15 Scouts

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

Fridays **Changes from Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September**  
5.00 - 6.30pm Messy Church (1<sup>st</sup> Friday in the month)  
5.00 - 6.30pm Pilots (every other Friday)  
7.00 - 9.00pm 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.

Following the removal of legal COVID restrictions, there is no longer a limit on the number of people we can accommodate for worship including singing, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back, including children. However, recognising that some people may still be very cautious about the possibility of contracting Covid-19, there are some measures we can all take in the interests of the most vulnerable:

- Hand sanitiser remains available at both entrances, and the worship space will continue to be well ventilated
- You are no longer required to book or sign in, although the QR code remains available if you wish to use it
- You may wish to take a regular Lateral Flow Test to determine whether or not you are likely to be carrying infection. These are available free from pharmacies or by post from Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- There are re-usable stickers available for you to indicate how you would prefer to be greeted by fellow worshippers
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory; however you may prefer to use one to minimise your risk to others particularly when moving around, singing aloud or in close proximity (eg queuing for coffee)
- If you prefer not to sit close to people outside your household please continue to deploy the “Do not use this seat” markers. Additionally there are under-used areas of the worship space and/or foyer.
- For the time being we will refrain from passing an offertory bag from person to person; a collection plate is available at the rear of the worship space. Please make your offering by the close of the service to assist the Treasurer in timely counting
- Likewise, Communion this month will be laid out for you to come forward and collect; Elders will keep this under review.

And if you are not ready or able to return to in-person worship, our services continue to be streamed to our YouTube Channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZ8TMU6-Grmmgl4p87\\_puQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZ8TMU6-Grmmgl4p87_puQ)

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**There is no Letter to the Fellowship from our Minister this month, as he was on holiday at the time of producing this magazine.**

## 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 restrictions are lifted and we return to a “new normal”. 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. We pray for their return to good health.

It was with much sorrow that we learnt that our dear friend Ann Crowhurst passed away last month. We can be thankful that Ann’s long time of suffering is now over and she is safe in the arms of Jesus. Please remember Vic, Lucy and Kathy, 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 those outside of The Cornerstone.

Please pray for all Christians in Afghanistan as they are threatened by their new government and also pray for those in the neighbouring countries who are in danger. At best they have been tolerated by those in power and the population; not being allowed to talk about their Christianity, to produce or import religious literature nor to spread the Gospel.

Also pray for the rest of the people in the area who are fearful of what might happen to them if they do not follow the directions of their new masters and suffer horrific punishment.

We all complained about COVID restrictions. Were we justified?

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



September already, now 18 months since the world reeled from the effects of a novel virus changing our habits and economy in ways we never envisaged; and we will no doubt be living with these changes for some time to come.

As a church we were saddened when we could not come together in physical meeting for worship and fellowship, but with technology have found that things can continue. We learned that those who are less able and cannot attend each week really appreciated the services on YouTube or by CD and as things open up again, we do plan to continue this even though our public worship is no longer subject to restrictions. We learned that business can be conducted quite efficiently by Zoom, that our facial expressions and mannerisms need not be inhibited by the camera and that fewer in person meetings with less petrol use are better for the environment. However, the times of fellowship together over coffee around a table are a blessing and the Sunday after service and Tuesday morning fellowship sessions were reintroduced as soon as we could safely do so. You will read elsewhere in this issue of the plans to resume other activities this month most in slightly different ways. The New Normal is under way!

At home in the garden, we have had a good harvest of courgettes, beans and beetroot which have been eaten, preserved and given away. Thank you to everyone who has made donations to the church for produce over the past months. Sadly, the weather conditions have been really bad for tomatoes and like gardeners all over the country we have lost most of the plants to blight. So, no bags of toms available this year.

I had a bit of a shock last month when I went to have my eyes tested and ended up with four pairs of spectacles and a hit to my credit card! Gone are the days when you could go in and just get a new lens into old frames, they are another example of our wasteful society. I have, however, discovered old spectacles can be recycled for use in Africa <https://www.arthurblake.co.uk/pages/recycle-your-old-glasses-arthur-blake>. If there is a volunteer willing to co-ordinate

collection and despatch on behalf of the church, I am sure we can arrange a collection point.

**Ruth Dixon**

## **ELDERS' ELECTION**

The election is due to take place in November, so nominations will be open throughout next month (October). Retiring Elders are myself, Sarah Wilson, Roger Brett and Clive Goodhew, of whom myself, Sarah and Roger are eligible for re-election. There are six vacancies including those carried over from previous years so ample opportunity for people to serve the church in this way. Want to know more? Download [Theyve\\_asked\\_Elder.pdf \(urc.org.uk\)](#) or ask the Secretary for a copy.

## **CHURCH TREASURER**

Another in the “They’ve asked me to...” series worth a read is:-



[Theyve\\_asked\\_me\\_to\\_be\\_a\\_Church\\_Treasurer.pdf](#)

Ann has indicated she will relinquish the treasurer post at the end of this year, so we are looking for someone to keep us in good financial order. If you think it might be you, do please have a word with Ann.

## **FRONTLINE SUNDAYS**

I had the privilege of leading two services in August and chose to use materials from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, encouraging us to think about where exactly is our Frontline, where do we make a difference to people’s lives? We started with placing dots on a map of the places we live, work, shop, visit etc. I have kept the map available if you missed this and wish to add to it. I hope the coasters and question cards have been useful too.

This series (there are three more to come over time) encourages us to think of the everyday places in our lives as opportunities to share

the gospel, that what we say and do in those places can be a good conversation starter. And we can share those stories together in order to build up one another for the task.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Your gifts of tinned and packaged goods will be gladly received for The Storehouse. Thank You.

## **NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP**

### **THANK YOU**

Brenda and Michael Wardle would like to thank all of those at The Cornerstone who kindly sent cards and good wishes on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding. The orchid is doing well and it will receive much tender care.



### **CHURCH FLOWERS**



As we are now returning to worship in the church, we would like to outline a plan to re-introduce some flower arrangements.

We have been very fortunate in the past to be able to supply a flower arrangement in church every Sunday, but for various reasons this will not be possible in the future.

So, the plan is that we will do flowers for Sundays on request.

We will put a notice on the board in the church where you will be able to put your name against the date you require the flowers. It will also confirm that that Sunday is available (or not)!

You can also let Joan (Harvey) or myself know of any requests.

We will continue to do special floral arrangements for the Easter and Harvest festivals.

Many thanks to everyone for their generosity in the past, and we look forward to supplying some flowers in the future, which help to mark special events and occasions.

**Val Mead and Joan Harvey**

## **PILOTS, MESSY CHURCH, TODDLERS AND YOUTH CLUB**

During the lockdown we have been keeping in touch with our children, teens and families by sending out a Messy Church in a bag once a month and forwarding the weekly Families on Faith Adventures at Home online material produced by the Children and Youth team at Church House. We've also had a Holiday Club, Advent and Lent packs to send out.



This has all been great but no substitute for meeting regularly with all our families, which we have really missed.

I am delighted then to announce that we are able to restart our face-to-face activities. Toddlers has already resumed and Pilots, Messy Church and Youth Club will begin from **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> September**. This is a change of day for Pilots and Messy Church.

Messy Church will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month from 5.00 to 6.30 pm and Pilots every other Friday, also from 5.00 to 6.30 pm.

Youth Club will continue to run from 7.00 to 9.00 pm.

It has been decided to change the day for a number of reasons. With Messy Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, and both Toddlers and Pilots on a Wednesday, Youth Club on a Friday and Elders also on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, it was becoming increasingly difficult for our volunteers (several of whom are involved in all these things).

Moving Pilots and Messy Church to a Friday will hopefully make it a lot easier for us. We also want to make the change from Pilots to Youth Club when our youngsters reach 11 easier by being on the



same night. It will also give us the opportunity to occasionally extend the meeting time of Pilots to later in the evening if we want to go out somewhere or hold a film night as the children do not have to get up for school the following morning.

We have not seen our youngsters since March 2020 so are uncertain how many will return to our activities. Many may feel anxious about coming back and we are also uncertain about how things will go, so please pray for our youngsters, families and staff as we resume.

**Derek Goodyear, Pilots' Captain**

## **FAITH-FILLED LIFE - AN INTRODUCTION**

Earlier this year, a few of the Cornerstone Elders took part in a URC course called 'Faith-filled Life'.

Faith-filled Life is the first part of *Stepwise*, the discipleship development programme run by the United Reformed Church. It sets out to answer 2 big questions: 'What am I on the planet for?' And 'Where do I belong?'

That might sound daunting, but Stepwise is really for everyone: all ages, shapes and sizes - including you! It allows you to reflect on, and develop, your Christian faith, and to be stimulated and challenged in the context of your own community and church.

It emphasises the importance of learning from your daily life, wherever you are and whoever God might be calling you to be, and helps you to see how you can make a positive and transformative difference in your own life and the lives of others.

We found Faith-filled Life very enriching. The discussions and activities we worked on really helped us to think about our role in the Church, and also the wider role of the Cornerstone in our local area.

In this series for New Horizons, each month I'll be sharing a reflection on one of the sessions that makes up the 'Faith-filled Life course'. We'll cover the following topics as we go along:

## **1. The Bible and Mission**

- What is the Bible? How do we read and understand it. We'll also begin to think about 'Mission' and what it means for us.

## **2. Who am I?**

- 'Who am I?' in relation to God. We will consider this question from a theological point of view (nothing too complex!)

## **3. Where do I fit?**

- We'll discuss where we might fit in God's plan, and how we can identify what God is doing in our community.

## **4. What Journey am I on?**

- We'll consider our own 'walk with God', and when God has influenced our decision-making.

## **5. How do I deal with Challenges?**

- What resources does our faith give us to help us with the challenges of everyday life?

## **6. Which way now?**

- We'll bring together and reflect on the different aspects of Faith-filled Life, and what our next steps might be in our lives as followers of Christ.

Throughout the whole series, one of the big questions we'll keep coming back to is 'Where have I seen God recently?'

You can try to practice this by thinking about this question at least once a week.

Where have you seen him? Perhaps in a beautiful sunset, perhaps in the kindness of a stranger, perhaps in a prayer being answered or old friend getting in touch again. Take a moment to look back at your experiences and look for 'God moments' within them.

We can then start to think about how God can use you in other people's lives.

I hope you'll enjoy the series!

**Sarah Wilson**

**THINGS I AM SUPER GOOD AT**  
(How many ring a bell with you?)

1. Forgetting someone's name 30 seconds after they tell me.
2. Running, late, that is.
3. Making plans ..... then regretting making plans.
4. Thinking of a great comeback - an hour later.
5. Digging through the rubbish bin for the food box I just tossed, because I already have forgotten the directions.
6. Adding items to online carts. Then deleting.
7. Googling my ailments. Then panicking.
8. Leaving laundry to wrinkle in the dryer.
9. Forgetting why I walked into the room.
10. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".

**The world is full of good people.  
If you can't find one,  
be one.**

New Group starting:

## THE 'TUESDAY RENDEZVOUS!'

Why not come and join us.....see what it's all about!

The aim is to be a social group. To meet friends in a comfortable, relaxed environment.



If your interest is handicrafts, some of us will be knitting, patchworking, crocheting, embroidering or finding new crafts to try out.

If you are interested in 'friendly' challenges, games such as scrabble, cribbage, dominos and other board games are available, or why not exercise the little grey cells by doing a jigsaw - some of which are very challenging!!!!



If all this seems too much, then come along anyway and enjoy a chat - just putting the world to rights!!!!

All this happens - on the first and third Tuesday of the month, immediately after the Coffee Morning.

You can join in at anytime, bring your lunch and stay and enjoy the fellowship that finally being able to join together can bring. The group usually finishes about 2.30, but we can be around for longer if people need to chat.

So, Tuesday's where it's at, we look forward to seeing you!!!!

**Val and Nigel  
(Mead)**

**Some of the most beautiful things  
In life cannot be seen or touched.  
They are felt with the  
HEART**

## PETER'S PIECE



### Soli Deo gloria ("glory to God alone")

This month we come to the fifth and final 'Latin Slogan' which defines the Reformation and the Salvation we preach, "Glory be to God alone."

We the sons of Adam, humans, born under condemnation, as Jesus tells Nicodemus *whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

Till that moment of belief, we stand marred by inherited sin, following after our ancestor Adam, and are therefore under the condemnation of God, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

But glory to God for he has provided a way for us to be set free from that inherited condemnation, by faith in his Son Jesus the Christ who died on the cross bearing for us, each one individually, the condemnation. As we place our faith and trust in Jesus we are born again, freed from condemnation, born not from Adam but born anew in Jesus. [John 3:3] This is all to the glory of God alone who has provided for us this way, in Jesus, to be reborn, free of Adam's inherited condemnation. *The LORD has done this and it is marvellous in our eyes.* Psalm 118:23. Glory be to God alone.

Having thus been freed we can now live as God designed, to his glory. *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31 What a challenge this is! In the simply common place everyday things of life as well as the 'big,' sacrificial acts we are to live to the glory of God.

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,* not merely to impress human bosses. Colossians 3:23. NIV eagerly, bringing glory to God alone.

Soli Deo gloria

Peter Hunt

## Revised Common Lectionary for September 2021

### **Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

### **Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

### **Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

### **Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

### **Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Psalm 26

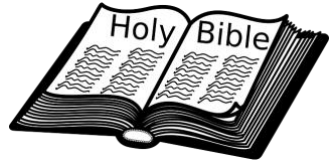
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

**Do search for solutions  
but do try to avoid looking  
just for  
problems!**

## Digging Deeper

All are welcome to join us on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Monday 13 September when we shall be considering Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus and again for the last in the series, 7.30 pm on Monday 27 September for the Samaritan woman's encounter, at the well, with Jesus.



On the 11 October, we will be starting a new series to take us up to Christmas.

The Planning group are meeting soon to consider the next series. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on some aspect of the life, work and person of Jesus our Lord and Saviour that you feel would be profitable for us to consider together then please let us know in time for that meeting of the Planning Group.

**Peter**

### WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

- ❖ There is a shortage of chicken and milk shakes at Nando's, McDonald's and Gregg's. On the positive side, there is plenty of toilet rolls!
- ❖ Disaster!! Fred Astaire slipped over whilst carrying a trifle. He now has pudding on his top hat, pudding on his tails.
- ❖ My mother used to say "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach" ..... Lovely woman, lousy surgeon.
- ❖ I must pass on my thanks to the woman who invented waterproof canvas for camping ..... Ta Pauline.
- ❖ I just had a policeman knock on my door saying he was looking for a man with one eye ..... I told him to use both as he'd probably find him a lot quicker.
- ❖ Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water!

## HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE MIDDLE-AGED?

Those tell-tale signs.....

- You don't understand what young peasants are talking about.
- You struggle to read Chaucer in weak candlelight.
- You hate rowdy taverns.
- You constantly worry that you might have the Black Death.
- You tell your wife that Crusaders seem to look younger every year.
- You struggle with technology such as the heavy plough and the longbow.
- You find Gothic architecture too modern.
- You keep forgetting who the King is.
- You dream of buying a second hovel in France.



**Always  
find a reason to laugh.  
It may not add years to your life  
but it surely will add  
life to your years.**



## The Next Issue of New Horizons for October



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 **3<sup>rd</sup> October** and we shall be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**.

Thank you  
**Anne and Michael**

### **SOMETIMES**



We need a bridge and sometimes we are the bridge. No one has escaped troubled waters, rough seas and challenging, scary days.

There are times in our lives when we are given the chance to be that help for someone else. It really doesn't matter where you are right now. What matters, is that you remember we are stronger together, and taking a hand is just as important as offering one.

**Paul Boynton**

## SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

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

### September

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30am	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3pm	Induction of new Eastern Synod Moderator	
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Sarah Wilson
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Toddlers begins meeting	
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup>	5 - 6.30pm	Pilots	
		7.00pm	Youth Club both start	
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship, <b>Harvest Thanksgiving &amp; Family Church Parade</b>	Our Minister
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Digging Deeper	
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church Meeting	

### October

Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	5 - 6.30pm	Messy Church	
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Synod Meeting, Plume Ave, Colchester	
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship, <b>Church Parade</b>	Our Minister
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30pm	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman

## Is Coffee going back to “Normal”?

Well, almost. We are trying to reduce the use of recyclable and disposable cups so you will be able to have your drink in a cup or mug once again. Our volunteers will now use the dishwasher or the bowl and hot water to wash them as before but, if you prefer to have a disposable cup, then that will still be an option for the time being.

### Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<b><u>Sept</u></b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux and Val Hayman
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Linda and Mike Mead
<b><u>Oct</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Suzanne and Paul Dyer
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



### Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<b><u>Sept</u></b>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<b><u>Oct</u></b>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux



**A Friend**  
Is one who  
strengthens you  
with prayers,  
blesses you  
with love  
and encourages  
you with  
**HOPE**

## WHO'S WHO?

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 <a href="mailto:tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk">tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Blackwell 07753 348856
<b>Envelopes</b>	Mike Mead 07802 749912
<b>Gift Aid</b>	David Osborn (01702) 611337
<b>Preachers List</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Junior Church</b>	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
<b>Joint Leaders</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Pilots</b>	Derek Goodyear 07863 208914
<b>Prayer Fellowship</b>	Peter & Zoy Hunt (01702) 864814
<b>Digging Deeper</b>	Peter Hunt (01702) 864814
<b>C'Stone Toddlers</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Scout Group</b>	Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309
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**Please remember that your Elders are ordained  
to serve our members and friends  
who have pastoral concerns.**