

New Horizons

APRIL 2022



Holy Week

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

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 7.00 pm Digging Deeper/Bible Study
(2nd and 4th Monday of each month)

Tues 10.00 am Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
11.30 am The Tuesday Rendezvous
(1st and 3rd 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 (1st Thursday)

Fridays 5.00 - 6.30pm Messy Church (1st 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. Please contact the Church Secretary for details.



Letter to the Fellowship

The Path to Resurrection

Philippians 3: ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead”.

As a young Christian, I became involved in a church that was way over the emotional edge and I was convinced that type of behaviour was part of a normal Christian life. I thought all “true” Christians were to express themselves that way. I wanted to experience the resurrection power of the “Holy Spirit”. I thought this “power” was some supernatural force that was given to “zap” people and knock them over.

There are many today who continue to seek God’s power in the same way as a “thing” or a “force” that can be used for their own needs and wants. There is a serious problem with this thinking. The “power” of the resurrection isn’t a “thing” or some “force”, it is love!

It was love that exploded Jesus out of the tomb! It was love that sent Jesus into the world! John 3:16 says, *“God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

When I came to this country almost 27 years ago and heard The song “The Old Rugged Cross”, it became one of my favourites as it reminded me of one of my favourite songs in Urdu that says *“Croos hai tera nishan”* (Cross is your target/mark). During the early years of my Christian walk I spent much of it clinging to the Cross.

The cross is where I found real life and liberty. I wasn’t afraid of its cleansing power either. If “carrying my cross daily” meant suffering, I didn’t care. It didn’t bother or concern me because I just held on to it for dear life.

Many Christians, once they are “saved,” are afraid of the personal effects of the cross and don’t even want to get near it because

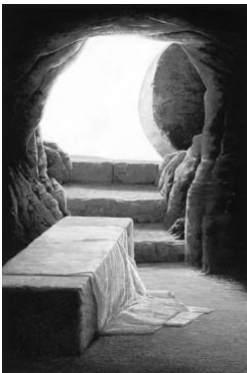
crucifixion represents death and dying. They know they must die to self, but they often think that in order to die to self they must perform a kind of spiritual suicide or self-humiliation because they have to put their old ways to death.

What is misunderstood is that you can't crucify yourself. Imagine trying to physically crucify yourself! If you take a nail in one hand and a hammer in the other, you can pound a nail through your feet. If you hold a nail just right, you can pound it through one hand, but what happens to the other hand? There is no way to hammer a nail through it. It's impossible. We need someone else to crucify us. We can't do it on our own.

Sadly, some even think that "crucify yourself daily" means to put yourself down, or mentally criticise yourself to keep your thoughts pure, and focus on what is holy and righteous.

I used to verbally kick myself to sleep at night because I hated the things I did. As a young Christian, I saw myself as a terrible hypocrite.

Then someone came along and said, *"You can't crucify yourself! Jesus has to do it. He is the one who puts the old man to death. The only way it can be done is to surrender fully to Him by asking Him to be your leader and forgiver."*



As a Christian we have already been put to death in him. The crucifixion of Jesus lasted for six hours. In those six hours, Jesus paid the ultimate price to guarantee access to God the Father. It did not then, nor does it now, take a lifetime of performing good deeds or working at living a pure and righteous life.

From the cross, Jesus went into the tomb. It was within the tomb that He experienced the power of the resurrection. He opened the way for us to receive eternal life.

I'm not discussing the benefits of the cross! They last for all eternity. What often happens is that we tend to stay at, or constantly go back

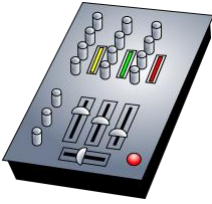
to, the cross for things that have already been put to death by Jesus. It's time to press on into His newness of life so that we might truly know the power of the resurrection.

Before Jesus was resurrected, he had to spend three days in the tomb. In order to be resurrected he first had to die. However, before he was crucified, he had to go through the agony and suffering of Gethsemane. It was there in the garden that Jesus, so overwhelmed by the terror of being separated with the Father for the first time in all of eternity, that he sweat blood to the "point of death."

So, our spiritual, mental and physical healing, as well as bringing healing to others, can only be found through the power of the resurrection. But first we must walk the only path that takes us there, the path which runs through the Garden of Gethsemane and to the cross.

**Happy Resurrection Day
Sohail & Family**





Data Protection Notice: If you are in church for worship and do not wish to be seen on the Internet, please ask at the AV Desk to be directed to a seat not covered by the camera.

Covid 19 Precautions: GUIDANCE

The Government has removed legal restrictions and now emphasises personal responsibility for living with Covid-19. The plan includes:

- Keeping our buildings well ventilated. If you feel the cold, please consider sitting on the Bournemouth Park Road side where there are no open windows
- Encouraging the use of face masks in indoor settings, to protect others
- Staying at home if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms;
- Continuing to sanitise your hands on entering the building;

Please remember that some people are more vulnerable than others. They may need to keep their distance and/or deploy the “keep this seat vacant” signs.

Thank You.

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

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 we return to life without the legal restrictions of Covid. Let us be aware that some people may need time to adjust and give them space if they need it.

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.

Please remember in your prayers the families of recently deceased loved ones. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers
Amen

Some thoughts for prayer when things are so difficult at the present time

Lord, hear the prayers
of those who trust in You.
Especially the lowly,
those sorely tried,
and those who suffer and flee
before the roar of weapons.
Restore peace to our hearts;
once again, grant Your peace
to our days.

AMEN

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



A very short notebook this month, as I've been very busy doing tasks (eg next month's Messy Church and getting ready for the AGM) in advance, to enable me to take a short break. It was a lovely surprise when our son announced he was taking me to visit Sarah in Spain. I had just sown lots of seeds and of course the tomatoes are now in dire need of pricking out and potting on! Prayers please for no blight this year!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Ukraine relief appeal, we collected the sum of £403.00, including the February communion offering. Now that we have resumed the second offering on Communion Sundays, it is intended to accumulate funds for our next donation which will be a local charity.

At the end of March, Mike and Linda Mead had their last service with us before moving to Warwick. We wish them every blessing while they find a home and wait for what God has in store for them next. Of course, Mike leaves a vacancy in 'drum corner' so if you are a closet percussionist, it is time to come out into the open!

We are pleased to be able to resume our Easter Day collection of fresh and chocolate eggs, so do bring them with you on the day, or if you are not attending, they can be brought to my house in advance. I do however need some largish cardboard boxes to transport them on to the Foodbank.

Do watch out for the weekly notice sheet where you can find details not only of what we are doing at The Cornerstone, but also courses and seminars to broaden your horizons, and other things going on in the town which might benefit from a Christian presence, maybe a new frontline.

By the time you read this I will be back from my travels, hopefully refreshed and renewed for service. My thanks to those who have filled in during my absence. God bless.

Ruth Dixon

The Kingdom of Heaven is like

If you were in church on Sunday 20th March you will recall me mentioning the importance of sharing our Jesus or Kingdom stories in terms to which people can readily relate. Jesus did that with the rural scene that people were familiar with, but we cannot expect our contemporaries to grasp the significance of a metaphor they have not themselves experienced or heard about. The marathon runner story was relatable precisely because most people know what it is and probably know someone who has trained to run it.

So, here's a challenge for the next few weeks; read Matthew 13 and first try to imagine yourself as a character in the stories. How does it relate to life today? Now pray and think of everyday situations people find themselves in here and now, and see how the Kingdom can be part of that. If you are able, write down your "The Kingdom of Heaven is like "stories to be shared.

At the beginning of June, when the country marks the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, many of us will mix with neighbours who do not know the Lord - what an opportunity to share the gospel with our Kingdom stories.

Ruth Dixon

You're Having A Laugh

- I told my wife she'd drawn her eyebrows too high. She seemed surprised!
- I've just paid £14 for two Oxo Cubes. The Stock Market has gone crazy!
- I was wondering why music was coming from my printer. Apparently, the paper was jamming.
- I got a parking ticket the other day for being parked illegally. Not sure why. The sign clearly said "Fine for Parking".
- I have a new girlfriend. She works shifts at a factory making wheelie bins. I'm not sure what day to take her out.

Peter's Piece



Who is the God of the Bible?

I hope you will remember from last month's Peter's Piece that we have embarked on a refresher of some of the foundation truths of the Christian faith.

Last month we started with a few thoughts on the Holy Bible, which is, in the Protestant Churches of the Reformed tradition, the sole guide for faith and practice for both the ordering of church life and the rule for individual members' belief and behaviour.

This month we are considering *God*, and our personal relationship with Him.

Of, course this is a vast subject, [God is infinite, limitless] but let's just challenge ourselves with the question, 'What does 'God' really mean to me?'

In the Bible we discover that God IS ---- the One and Only, Holy, Just, Righteous, Creator and sustainer *The LORD our God, the LORD is one.* Deuteronomy 6: *The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.* Psalm 145:17 *"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;* Isaiah 6:3, Isaiah 45:21

Job, ponders the question of who God IS, read chapter 9. He comes to the realization as to just who God IS and cries out *If only there were someone to mediate between us, someone to bring us together,* Job 9:33. In other words God is so vast just how are we, even begin to, come to know him? Jesus said *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.*

Just what does God mean to us? Have our ears not only heard but our eyes truly seen God? [Job 42:5 & 6.]

John in the NT tells us *God is love.* God does not just love, God IS, in very essence, LOVE.

The Greek word, one of five words they had for love, that the NT writers used for God's love, is **agape** *agape* Self-sacrificing love, to the point of giving one's life - *This is how we know what love is:*

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.. 1John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.. John 3:16. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5.

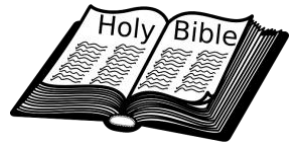
*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!
'Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counsellor? Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?'
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory for ever! Amen. Romans 11:33-36*

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

Peter Hunt

Digging deeper

Digging deeper has been studying a topic entitled 'Better Together', which explores 5 areas of Christian relationships, including family, church, with strangers, broken ones and with God.



After Easter we will start a new topic, something in the New Testament.

If you have any areas you would like to air, contact Vic, Peter or Sohail so we can add your item in.

We are always open to thoughts, it's your call.

Vic Crowhurst



“That’s Entertainment” Return of the Harvest Festival Evening



“We’ll Meet Again” - **24th September 2022**

“It’s 9.00 O’clock on a Saturday” NO! You arrive at 5.30pm, eat at 6.00pm, enjoy entertainment from 7.15pm

“Food Glorious Food” - Yes! Certainly!

“Fish and Chips and Vinegar” And “Tea for Two”

“Money, Money, Money” - But only for the food

“What kind of Fool Am I?” Well, all kinds but here we go with -
“Another Opening Another Show”

“Singing in the Rain?” - Not quite but in the Worship Area. Live and on the big Screen.

“76 Trombones?” Maybe but unlikely.

“Let’s face the Music and Dance” Certainly if you want to. But it will surely be ‘The Music of the Night’

“Help” - Yes Please.

“Sing, Sing, Sing, Sing” Not just the Andrews Sisters but you as well. In the audience, solos or group. Up to you.

“Dream the Impossible Dream” Surely Not.

Let’s hope it “S’Wonderful”

Not “Whistling in the Dark” - Nor is it an “Impossible Dream”

And “I promise you a happy ending” - Come and “Tap your troubles way” - And “Fill the world with Love”



No prizes for finding the songs. Just a bit of fun like the whole evening.



24th September 2022 from 5.30pm

Roger

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

April

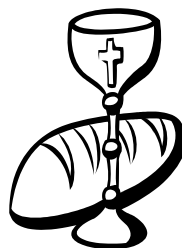
Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Thu	7 th	7.30pm	Elders & M&M Meeting	
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
Mon	11 th	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	
Thu	14 th	TBA	Maundy Thurs Service	Our Minister
Fri	15 th	10.30am	Good Friday Worship	Our Minister
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Easter Day Worship	Our Minister
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	25 th	7.00pm	Digging Deeper	

May

Sun	1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Thu	5 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Fri	6 th	5.00pm	Messy Church	

Communion Offerings

These collections are taken at the two Sunday Communion Services during the last hymn and are for local charitable organisations outside of The Cornerstone.



Thank you for your generosity for collecting £403.00 for the Ukraine Relief Appeal. This amount included the February Communion Offering.

**To make a difference
in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant,
rich, beautiful or perfect.
You just have to care.**

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Apr</u>	3 rd	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	10 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	17 th	Stella Duboux and Val Hayman
	24 th	Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ
<u>May</u>	1 st	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	8 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

<u>Apr</u>	5 th	Stella Duboux
	12 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	19 th	Carole and Alan Cornwall
	26 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<u>May</u>	3 rd	Stella Duboux
	10 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead



Church Flowers

<u>Apr</u>	3 rd	-
	10 th	-
	17 th	Easter
	24 th	Zoy Hunt
<u>May</u>	1 st	-
	8 th	-



There are gaps on the Flower List at the present time, so if you would like to supply flowers for any of the vacant Sundays in April or May, please contact Val or Joan. They would be very happy to buy the flowers on your behalf and arrange them or alternatively, you are very welcome to do an arrangement yourself.

The Next Issue of New Horizons - May 2022



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.

The next issue will be published on Sunday **1st May** and we shall be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 21st April**. Thank you.

Anne and Michael

Thinking Beyond Sunday and Beyond the Building A church Calendar for 2022 - April to October

23rd April - St Georges Day

26th May - Church Meeting

26th May - Ascension of Jesus

5th June - Pentecost

2nd to 5th June - Jubilee holiday and a time to get together. Please answer the questionnaire and let Ruth know what you want to happen and when. With FUN Sunday Worship

12th June - Trinity Sunday

16th July - Eastern Synod's big Day out at Trinity Park Ipswich. - Maybe there will be a free bus.

1st October 2022 - 50th Anniversary of the URC

Synod events can be booked at - training@urceastern.org.uk

All sorts of goodies to look forward to.

WHO'S WHO?

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
Treasurer	Elizabeth Helm 07973 199759
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	Vic Crowhurst (01702) 588409
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.**