

New Horizons

MAY 2022



The Ascension

While He was blessing them, He left them
and was taken up into Heaven

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

“Passion for Christ”

Just a couple of weeks ago, we celebrated the most joyous event of history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just before the Holy Week, people passionately and enthusiastically welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. They believed Jesus was the King they have been waiting for, to deliver them from the slavery of Roman Empire, but their plans were different from the plans of God Almighty.

Once they saw and realised what happened on Friday, they were disappointed and felt God had abandoned them. Even the committed followers of Jesus were sad and disoriented.

But the risen Christ changed their lives. They, who were scared, worried, sad and disoriented, led by the Holy Spirit, went out and preached, and taught all what Jesus has taught them. They were full of passion, passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Preaching Christ is what the early church did very well. They went everywhere preaching the word. And most did it with the right attitude: humbly, gently, respectfully, lovingly.

Paul says in Philippians 3 *“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

That’s passion. The apostle Paul was willing to forget his great past in order to pursue and know Christ. He was willing to give up everything for the sake of Christ. If that isn’t passion, I don’t know what is!

What’s your passion? What’s the thing that captures your heart and interest most of all? All of us have our passions in life whether we want to admit it or not. Sports, hobbies, cars, shopping, decorating, gardening, TV, eating (food), movies, hunting, fishing, gardening, golfing, etc.

Regardless of our passion, we all must have a passion for the Christ!
And this passion must be evident in our lives in certain ways.

I believe this is the good news about the good news! The good news is actually about the fact that Jesus Christ died for all mankind. He made eternal salvation possible through His death on the cross! That's good news! We can live forever because of him! God is still at work in our world and in the lives of people!

Some people don't want to get involved in any kind of Christian service and really, it's just a lack of passion for Christ!

If we truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and the only Saviour of the world, how can we not get involved in serving in some form?

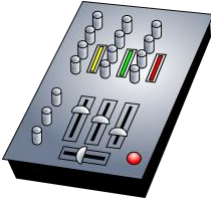
Not everyone can preach or teach, but everyone can do something to serve Christ in the church and outside the services of the church. If we are passionate for Christ, we should always be looking for opportunities to serve, to bless, to help, etc.

Whatever you are interested in can be used for Christ. Almost anything, any passion, any hobby, any talent, any interest can be used for Christ if we are passionate enough.

All I know is that something needs to light our fire for Christ and His church! Resurrection Sunday is past, but Christ lives on! Easter is over, but it's not over. It's time to get fired up for Christ and do whatever we can for Him. We've got so much to do.

God bless,
Sohail

**Someone, somewhere,
is depending on you to do
what God has called
you to do!**



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 live 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

WWJD? Translates as *What would Jesus do?*

I am sure that many of you are familiar with this title which is a question that applies to everything we think and do. So why write about it this month? Well, recently we have seen and heard the question “should the Clergy meddle in politics”? Perhaps it ought to be, “should Christians meddle in politics”?

Well, it all depends on what you mean by ‘*meddle*’. Yes, do comment, suggest, advise, propose solutions and take action, but meddling smacks of interference just to make a point doesn’t it?

We pray about many things, we listen and wait, but then we need to act. Sometimes these actions are difficult. Think about the people in Ukraine, is it enough to just send supplies and money? Is there such a thing as *a just war*?

Try this one

WWJHYD -- *What would Jesus have YOU do?*

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



I think it's safe to say that the common cold is back! I know so many people, ourselves included, who've had a non-Covid infection during the past few weeks. It's a timely reminder that although we shut ourselves off from the outside and each other for two years to avoid catching Covid, in doing so very few had the common cold either; but it didn't die off through lack of hosts and has resumed its place in our communities once again.

Sometimes our faith-life can be like that too. We can cut ourselves off from the Lord - missing out daily devotions or corporate worship can do that - and our church family and that ends up perceiving God to be very distant or even non-existent. But if we open ourselves up to worship and fellowship, we realise He's still there ready to become our life-strength once again. How wonderful would it be if a tide of faith let rip through our communities like Covid did, and like the common cold is now? In today's parlance, let's make Jesus go viral.

The Lent course concluded just before Easter - this was a valuable time of considering our relationships to God, to one another and across society. The twice a month Bible Study is moving on to look at The Acts of the Apostles - everyone is welcome to join either in the vestry or from home via Zoom.

At worship, the month started with a visit from John Amos and the story from John's gospel of Mary pouring an expensive bottle of perfume over Jesus' feet in a spontaneous outpouring of love. Our Minister, Sohail was with us for all of the Holy Week and Easter services and it was good to hear the familiar narratives and recall their purpose and end result Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Thank you to everyone who contributed eggs for our Foodbank collection. Sohail took a break on the fourth Sunday of the month when our worship was led for us by Roger Brett (and since I am writing this in advance, I am not going to predict his theme!)

You may recall that during Advent we began to create podcasts - audio reflections on the internet, available for anyone to listen. So far, we have concentrated on important dates in the Christian calendar and used mainly other people's materials with permissions, although sourcing materials and getting authority is often quite time consuming. Around half a dozen of us are participating so far, and thanks go to Roger for co-ordinating and uploading our recordings. This is an outreach with great potential and ideally, we would do something weekly, with original reflections and a larger variety of voices. So, if a thought strikes you (and I find this tangent often happens during quiet devotional time) do get it on paper while it's still fresh in your mind and if you would like help articulating it, that can be given too. Then pick up a recording device (every smart phone has one) and speak. You may want to practice a few times, but don't worry - the occasional hesitation makes it more authentic. On the other hand, if you would prefer to read someone else's work, do speak to Roger.

During our discussion on church life at the Annual General Meeting, the question was raised as to whether Thursday evenings were still the most appropriate time for church meetings to take place and how we might encourage more church members to participate in the rights and responsibilities of membership. We have in the past held a church meeting after Sunday worship but a fair number of people were unable to stay due to family commitments. So as an experiment, our May church meeting will take place on Sunday 29th May starting at 10.30 a.m. with a short act of worship (extended opening devotions) - Sohail has given up his 5th Sunday off to be with us, so do please do your best to be there. And if you are a regular worshipper but not a church member, you are very welcome to attend and contribute to discussions. There may be a matter requiring a vote of church members but often this is not the case.

Plans are under way for our "street party" on 3rd June to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee and invitations are being distributed throughout the neighbourhood. Please take a flyer for your friends and neighbours too. Val Mead has offered to oversee catering - very brave of her since we cannot predict numbers - and if you have offered, or can offer, to contribute please do speak to her to see what is needed.

The Synod Big Day Out takes place at Trinity Park Ipswich on 16th July. It is intended to book a coach from The Cornerstone which we can make available free thanks to a legacy - information and booking forms are available in the foyer for those wishing to travel on the coach only. If you are going to organise your own travel, please use the booking form on the synod website:

https://www.urch-eastern.org.uk/images/pdfs/booking_form_2022.pdf

I expect to have my front garden plant stall up and running very shortly, so do watch the notice sheet for information.

Ruth Dixon

Are You Having A Laugh?

- Yesterday I visited “The Worlds tiniest Wind Turbine exhibition. Honestly, not a big fan.
- I missed the World Championship of Hairdressing on TV last night. Does anyone know if they are showing highlights?
- The Doctor has prescribed me anti-gloating cream. I can't wait to rub it in!
- I am writing a book about all the things I should be doing in my life. It's an oughtobiography!

Bless my eyes,
to see goodness.

Bless my words,
to speak kindness.

Bless my heart
to feel compassion.

Bless my soul,
to radiate love.

Peter's Piece



Jesus Christ, our daysman

If you haven't yet read Job chapter 9, as I suggested last month, it would help to read it this month and discover Job's desperate need for a 'daysman', (verse 33. KJV) or mediator (NIV), arbiter, someone to go between him and God and speak on our behalf, because he realized the total impossibility of any human to plead his cause with a Just and Holy God. We all stand under a just condemnation! *No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law*, Romans 3:10. We cannot merit our being made right before God.

There is no one righteous, not even one;.." Romans 3:10.

So, like Job, we too need a Daysman. (KJV) In OT days it was the eastern custom for a judge to lay his hands upon the heads of the two parties in a disagreement, thus emphasizing his adjudicatory capacity and his desire to render an unbiased verdict, and so bring the two parties together. Job might consider a human judge as capable of acting as an umpire upon his own claims, but no man was worthy to question the purposes of Yahweh, (God's personal name), or metaphorically, to "lay his hands upon" Him.

Happily, Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 2:5, *There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.*

Jesus is more than a daysman, adjudicating between us and God, or as a mediator pleading our cause before God. No, he does both in bringing peace between us and a Holy God and makes it possible for us, by faith in his redeeming work on the cross, to enter God's presence and enter a perfect relationship with God.

In the Temple of Jesus' time there was a small chamber at the heart of the Temple called the Holy of Holies.

It was sealed off from the rest of the Temple by a special heavy ornate curtain, the thickness of a man's hand. (Approximately 4

inches or 100 mm.) to prevent anybody from entering God's Holy place.

As Jesus died on the cross, he cried out in a loud voice '*tetelestai*'. *John 19:29*. In our versions, 'It is finished!', but more accurately '*Paid in full*'. An accounting term, certifying the complete settlement of a debt! As he did so that curtain, as thick as it was, was torn, note, from top to bottom, opening access for all into God's presence. The debt of our sin before God having been paid in full by Jesus' death.

This is our Daysman - Jesus Christ.

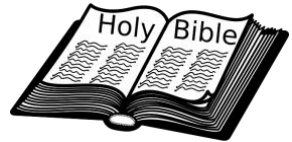
Footnote

*[acknowledgements to Arthur Walwyn Evans - International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia]

**God bless.
Peter Hunt**

Digging deeper

We concluded our Lent course with a feedback session. Some people liked it, some didn't, some felt they had learnt something, others felt there was no depth to it.



Well, as is attributed to John Lydgate, Abe Lincoln and PT Barnum, 'You can satisfy some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't satisfy all of the people all of the time'.

We are now going on to make a study into the Acts of the Apostles, and hope to discover some useful lessons how to view our own Mission. We have a large expansive and beautiful church, almost a cathedral in the centre of Southend City, yet our Congregation is (dare I say it) shrinking and ageing. Join us and help us.

Vic Crowhurst

Committed to supporting | our global partners | in
ZIMBABWE

The Revd Wilbert Sayimani is a URC minister in Bournemouth, with extensive links to the Commitment for Life partner country, Zimbabwe.

Recently, Wilbert submitted a grant application for the installation of a solar geyser for the school, which was, I'm pleased to report, successful. Wilbert wasted no time in purchasing the geyser and having it installed.

He writes:

I would like to thank Commitment for Life so much for the grant you gave to Falcon School in Zimbabwe for the provision of Green Energy. I forwarded the money to the school the moment it got to me, and they did not waste time. The very next day they had a Solar Geyser installed for the school. They now have hot water.

He goes on:

Of priority on my list is the installation of solar energy so they can bring computer lessons and power to the school. Computer Lessons are now part of the school and government curriculum and yet this school is still far from achieving this all because of lack of electricity.

Your support for Commitment for life makes a big difference!

Prayer and Reflection

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts: it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

**Never regret a day in
your life.**

**Good days give
happiness.**

**Bad days give
experience.**

**The worst days
give lessons.**

**The best days
give memories**

The Ascension of Our Lord

Luke 24:50-53

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Left Holding the Bag

He lives! He reigns!

He left His beloved disciples “holding the bag”.

It is a rather colloquial expression, but the fact remains that what Jesus began, the disciples were left behind to continue. At least this appears to be the case until we begin to understand that our Lord didn't really leave His disciples at all. He “parted from them” or disappeared.

He became invisible; He returned to that dimension which is near us and about us but not visible to our eyes that are designed for three-dimensional landscapes.

Before He parted from His faithful followers, He left them with a commission and a promise: a commission to witness of the things they had seen and experienced, to proclaim the Gospel they had heard, and a promise that they would be fully equipped to do the job they were commanded to do. It was not in God's eternal plan that the visible Christ should try to cover all the bases by Himself. So, He “parted from them” only to invisibly, through His Spirit, indwell, empower, and carry out the purposes of His Father through the bodies and brains of men and women who would embrace His salvation and commit themselves in His service.

The disciples of Christ, after receiving the Holy Spirit, proceeded to do this very thing - most of them martyred in the process. Thousands followed in their wake.

Leslie F Brandt - Meditations on a Loving God

Promoted content from Cornerstone Cafe



Fish and Chips from 6.00pm
Pre-ordered and pre-paid



Audience Singing
Songs old and new (well sort of)
All FREE

**Harvest Festival
Evening
24th September
2022**



Big Screen Music and Dance
From 1950's to the present day
All FREE



Live on-stage performances.
But only if people volunteer.
All FREE
Let me know soonest.

Advertisement Content

Some Ponderings

- ❖ 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?
- ❖ How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- ❖ What is the speed of darkness?
- ❖ Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?
- ❖ Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?
- ❖ Why is there only ONE Monopolies Commission?
- ❖ Why is dyslexic so hard to spell?
- ❖ Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze those pink dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?"
- ❖ Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?
- ❖ Why do toasters always have a setting so high that could burn the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- ❖ Why do others press the pedestrian crossing button when you've already done so?

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

May

Sun	1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Thu	5 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Fri	6 th	5.00pm	Messy Church	
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Morning Worship; Parade	Our Minister
Mon	9 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	15 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Thu	19 th	7.30pm	PMG meeting	
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	23 rd	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	29 th	10.30am	Church Meeting with Opening Devotions	

Jun

Fri	3 rd	2.30pm	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party	
Sun	5 th	10.30am	Pentecost - Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Thu	9 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Pilots/J.Church & Scouts Service:	Our Minister & Staff
Mon	13 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	

Church Flowers

May

1 st	-
8 th	-
15 th	- Stella Yates
22 nd	- Alan Barnes Alan has just recently retired from full time Ministry at Blackburn Ragged School after 40 years.
29 th	- Ann Blackwell



June

5 th	- Geoff and Val Hayman
12 th	- Gwen and Colin McMillan
19 th	- Zoy and Peter Hunt
26 th	-

As you can see, there are a few gaps on the Flower List at the present time, so if you would like to supply flowers for any of the vacant Sundays, 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.

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.

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>May</u> | 1 st | Carole and Alan Cornwall |
| | 8 th | Anne Clarke and Val Mead |
| | 15 th | Stella Duboux and Val Hayman |
| | 22 nd | Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ |
| | 29 th | Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp |
| <u>June</u> | 5 th | Carole and Alan Cornwall |
| | 12 th | Anne Clarke and Val Mead |



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>May</u> | 3 rd | Stella Duboux |
| | 10 th | Wendy Brett and Val Mead |
| | 17 th | Carole and Alan Cornwall |
| | 24 th | Carol Smith and Pat Pates |
| | 31 st | Volunteers please |
| <u>June</u> | 5 th | Stella Duboux |
| | 12 th | Wendy Brett and Val Mead |



The Next Issue of New Horizons - June 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 **5th June** and we shall be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 26th May**. Thank you.

Anne and Michael

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

26th May - Church Meeting

26th May - Ascension of Jesus

5th June - Pentecost

2nd to 5th June - Jubilee holiday and a time to get together.

3rd June - Our Jubilee Party. See "Secretary's Notebook" for further details.

5th June - Pentecost - FUN Sunday Worship

12th June - Trinity Sunday

16th July - Eastern Synod's big Day out at Trinity Park Ipswich. - See "Secretary's Notebook" for details.

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.**