

New Horizons

SEPTEMBER 2022



HARVEST CELEBRATION

FREELY, FREELY, YOU HAVE RECEIVED
FREELY, FREELY GIVE

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.

Please note changes to activities on Mondays.

Mon 5.00 - 6.00pm Messy Church (1st Monday in the month)
5.00 - 6.00pm Pilots (2nd, 3rd & 4th Monday in the month)
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 - 9.15pm Scouts

Thurs 7.30 pm Elders' Meeting (1st Thursday)

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

Wearing What God Provides

By the time you read this article, GCSES and A levels results must have been declared by then. Some happy, contented, people and some not that content with their progress in education. I heard some students saying, "the bad or late results have ruined the dreams and purposes of their lives". Really? Heard one saying, if he had a choice, he would have followed his own dreams after finishing compulsory school education.

Each of us is called by our Creator God to fulfil our purpose in life. Each of us is given gifts and talents to use for the glory of God. Yet, how many of us are tempted to wear life-clothes that we know won't fit.

A mother tries to encourage her daughter to wear a stethoscope because being a physician has excellent career opportunities. "Look at the prestige and security of graduating from medical school," she says. "You've got the brains so make the best of them." But what the daughter would really like to try on is the Speedo of a competitive Olympic swimmer.

A father goes out and buys his son a complete set of cricket equipment from spikes to helmet. "You'd make a great cricket player, son. Why, when I was your age, I wish that I'd had the chances that you have." But the son really isn't interested in wearing cricket whites. What he'd really like to wear is an actor's costume on stage in the musical that the school is putting on. This, however, is not part of his father's dream.

A husband wants his wife to wear an apron and stay in the kitchen. Isn't that, after all, where women belong? Their job is to look after the kids and clean the house. She doesn't know how to tell him that what she would like to do is to go to college to study theology. She feels called to ministry and what she would really like to wear is a preaching stole.

A wife wants her husband to wear a business suit and move up the corporate ladder. She knows that he has the potential so she pushes him up one rung at a time no matter how much overtime it takes. But what he really feels called to do is work with the children of his community. He'd like to be able to take off his business suit after a long day at the office and put on a Scout leader's uniform. That is what he really feels called to do.

Society tells its citizens through advertising and the mass media that we are all supposed to wear the clothing of successful people. We are supposed to make lots of money and buy lots of possessions. But most people with whom I speak are less concerned about wearing success than they are about wearing a smile.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if more people could be simply content and happy with their lives and families? Wouldn't the world be a very different place if we took off the trappings of success and put more value on a happy face.

God wants us to be happy and the only way to be truly content in life is to live the life that God would have us live, to wear the clothes that God would have us wear and do the things that God would have us do.

We know the story of David and Goliath. David slays the Philistine giant Goliath and saves the Israelite nation. He does it with a sling shot and a sharp stone which fells the mighty warrior in his tracks and enables David to slice off his head.

But before the climax of the story, there is another subplot. After David accepted Goliath's challenge, King Saul tried to make him look and act like a soldier. He tried to dress him in armour and give him a sword and shield. But David was a mere boy, a young shepherd. The sword was too big. The armour was too heavy. David could not even walk in this stuff let alone fight in it.

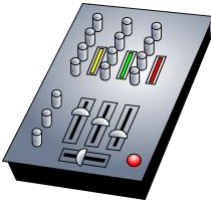
He took off the clumsy soldier's armour and went to find the things that were more familiar to him. *"He took his shepherd's stick and then picked up five smooth stones from the stream and put them in his bag. With his sling ready, he went out to meet Goliath."* (1 Sam. 12:40) The rest is history.

David was given all of the things that a soldier needed to defeat Goliath. But David wasn't a soldier. He was a shepherd. He didn't fit into soldier's clothing. They simply weren't who he was. He was a shepherd and, if he was going to win the battle, it would have to be as a shepherd. David wore what fit him and he succeeded.

There is, perhaps, a lesson here for us. Maybe it goes something like this. If we want to fulfil God's purpose for our lives, then we should wear the clothes that God provides for us.

There are always people who will want to tell us what we should do with our lives and how we should live. Often those people are the very ones who are closest to us. In the end, however, we will only follow our true path by listening to God's voice and wearing the clothes that God lays out for us.

**God bless,
Sohail**



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.

Living with it!

We are all having to live our lives with COVID, but we still have to take care not to spread it unnecessarily. So, please be mindful of those who are still nervous and to exercise caution around them.

For those unable or unwilling to attend, we continue to stream our services, on:-

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 in these worrying times of sickness and the war in Ukraine.



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. We especially think of Pat & Eric Garrard and their family mourning the loss of their beloved son Mark and also Pat, Clive, Mary Goodhew and family on the recent loss of Clive's brother. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers. **Amen**

Some Prayer Thoughts for others; and for yourself

Was it a coincidence that Sohail talked about status in his letter to the fellowship, and Ruth did so in her sermon on the last Sunday of August? No, God always has a plan for us all; it's good to remember that!

Ruth also spoke about helping others less fortunate than ourselves, but it is good to thank those who have already taken steps to do this. Think of those who have taken in the refugees from Ukraine. Did you know that 40% of these immigrants are now in employment, paying their taxes and making a valuable contribution to our life here? Also, what about the refugees from Hongkong, who already have British status and, have fled from China's oppressive regime? All needing help to resettle here. But **we** must **never** be satisfied.

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



I write on what seems to be the gloomiest day in recent weeks, but it is still quite hot and muggy due to overnight rain; and despite the warning of more rain I've managed to get washing dried outdoors and it's looking like I will need to water the vegetable plants this evening. The courgettes have loved the hot weather, but leafy plants like chard ran to seed almost as soon as they were planted; tomatoes are producing quite well, but the runner beans have simply given up!

Over the last two months we have enjoyed a variety of worship leaders and styles. There is always room for more so if you know of anyone who can lead a service here or there, do have a word with Mary.

Use of our church premises is beginning to pick up a little, and we were able to answer an SOS from the Little Heroes support group who had arranged an 'inflatables' fun day for outdoors but the weather forecast was not good, so it was moved into our hall. This is just the kind of thing we would want the church to be doing so if you know of any charitable organisations in need of space please do put them in touch with Roger. For the time being we are not hiring out the hall for children's parties as we have been unable to find a volunteer to co-ordinate that and arrange to open and close the premises.

In July we took a coach party to the Synod Big Day Out at Ipswich. It was one of the hottest days of the year and many people felt unable to be out all day, so numbers were not as big as hoped. Nevertheless, a good time was had and it was worth doing.

On 17th August some of us joined the Garrard family at the Crematorium and Cliffs Pavilion to say goodbye and celebrate Mark's life. I was privileged to read the Scripture - St Paul's hymn to love which was very apt. If you know anyone with Downs' syndrome you cannot fail to appreciate their capacity to love without any of the inhibitions many of us exhibit. And Mark's love of music was celebrated with tunes from Kylie Minogue and Abba - Thank You for

the Music is still ringing in my ears. Please continue to remember Pat and Eric, Malcolm and Keith and family in your prayers.

On the 19th we had our first Fun Day since 2019 on a sporty theme to follow the recent Commonwealth Games, and the European Championships taking place at the time. After a slow start, by lunchtime 8 families were present, and we had great fun throwing paper plates and cardboard tubes (discus and javelin) and many other games and crafts; the bible message for the day was about 'running the race' before us, not with a view to winning per se, but in order to do what God would have us do.

Please note that during September our services will depart from the normal pattern:

11th September 10.30 a.m. Communion Service

25th September 10.30 a.m. Harvest Festival Parade service - gifts of tinned and dried goods gratefully received for The Storehouse.

It's the time of year when we lay the foundations for the Elders' election to take place at the November church meeting. Elders retiring at the end of 2022 are Derek Goodyear who, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, is not eligible for re-election having completed two consecutive terms, and Clive Goodhew who was previously co-opted for an additional year under the old rules. Elders will be making relevant recommendations to church meeting in accordance with the Constitution; meanwhile would all members please consider whether or not you are called to serve the church in this way.

You may have noticed that we have lost some of our regular 'greeters' to ill health in recent weeks. Whilst we can manage without, provided we are on the alert for visitors, I do know many of our regular worshippers appreciate the greeting and handshake on arrival and it can happen if some more people come forward and volunteer for the rota.

You know what? Christmas will soon be here!

Ruth Dixon

Thanks

Eric and Pat Garrard wish to express their thanks to the Minister, Ruth, the Elders and the Church family for their card messages and prayers for Mark.

Their constant loving care has meant a great deal to us and our family. We were strengthened by this and in seeing them at Mark's funeral. Nigel's playing and Sohail's words were very meaningful and we appreciate all the love shown to us and Mark.

Many thanks.

Pat Garrard in Christian loss

xx

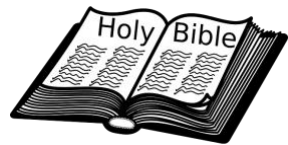
Congratulations

We send our congratulations to Pat & Eric Garrard on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and also to John & Stella Duboux who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, both this month.

God Bless both couples in their celebrations.

Digging deeper

As we hope to resume these Monday 7 pm sessions, we will probably start by looking into one of the Psalms of David. So, if you have any favourites, let me know so they can be considered.



As a starter, number one might be our first on the second week of September.

Vic Crowhurst

Promoted content from Cornerstone Cafe



Saturday Night is Music Night 24th September



The evening starts with Fish and Chips, in our superb Cornerstone Café, along with non-alcoholic drinks at a cost of £8 per person. This needs to be pre-booked and pre-Paid for. Lists from 1st Sept 2022.

Arrive from 5.30 with food served at 6.00pm

At about 7.30 there follows the evening's free entertainment as we move into our magnificent auditorium. No booking required for this. Just turn up

Your Music Night producer is slowly making contact with all of the stars who, if all goes to plan, will be with us in September. These should include:

Alexa Davies, Jessica Keenan, Clive Goodhew, Cliff Richards, Lady Penelope, Allen and Parker, Telly Savalas, Lauren Drew, Maddison Bulleyment, Harriet Watson, Shekinah McFarlane, Jodie Steele, Athena Collins, Ronnie Barker, Bruce Forsyth, Joan Collins, John Le Mesurier, Terry Wogan, Nigel Mead and Fred Astaire among many others.



There will be a chance to let loose your inner Old Time Musical Hall by singing along yourself to our own musicians.

Have a chuckle on a harvest theme

- ❖ Don't tell secrets in the garden. The potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears and the beans talk.
- ❖ Don't kiss beside the garden gate. Love may be blind but the neighbours aint!
- ❖ What did the mummy tomato say to the baby tomato when he was lagging behind. KETCHUP!
- ❖ I have a sad dog that watches over my garden. She's a melon collie.
- ❖ The carrots are worth their weight in gold.
- ❖ Lettuce all try to remember these cute sayings, they are hard to beet.
- ❖ Notice on Gate: The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free but the Bull charges.

And on a weather theme

Stone on a Rope Weather Forecasting

Condition

Stone is wet
Stone is Dry
Shadow on Ground
White on Top
Can't see Stone
Swinging Stone
Stone jumping up and down
Stone Gone

Forecast

Rain
Not Raining
Sunny
Snowing
Foggy
Windy
Earthquake
Tornado

**Do everything with a good heart
And expect nothing in return
And you will never be disappointed.**

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

September

Thu	1 st	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	4 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Mon	5 th	5pm	Messy Church	
Mon	5 th	7.30pm	Area Partnership Pastoral Meeting, Grays	
Wed	7 th	9.30am	Toddlers first meeting	
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	12 th	5pm	Pilots	
Mon	12 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Wed	21 st	7.30pm	Area Partnership Meet, Hutton & Shenfield	
Thu	22 nd	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Sat	24 th	5.30pm	Harvest Festival Evening 2022	
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Harvest/Parade Worship (Harvest gifts to The Storehouse)	Our Minister
Mon	26 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	
Thu	29 th	7.30pm	P.M.G. meeting	

October

Sat	1 st		U.R.C 50 th Anniversary Service, London Watch live on screen. Watch for details.	
Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship (50 th Anniversary of URC) (Joint service with Southchurch Park)	Our Minister
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	8 th	10.30am	Synod Meet at Christchurch Braintree	
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
Mon	10 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett

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>Sept</u>	4 th	Sandra Russ and Stella Duboux
	11 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	18 th	Stella Duboux and Val Hayman
	25 th	Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ
<u>Oct</u>	2 nd	Sandra Russ and Stella Duboux
	9 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<u>Sept</u>	6 th	Stella Duboux
	13 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	20 th	See below
	27 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<u>Oct</u>	4 th	Stella Duboux
	11 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	18 th	See below



On the Tuesdays of the months that are in red type, someone will set up in the servery and we shall then rely on you to help yourself and perhaps assist others if you feel able.

Thank you.

Church Flowers

Sept

- 4th - David and Maureen Stone
- 11th - Eric and Pat Garrard - celebrating their Diamond Wedding
- 18th - John and Stella Duboux - celebrating their Golden Wedding
- 25th - **HARVEST**



Oct

- 2nd -
- 9th - Zoy Hunt
- 16th -
- 23rd -
- 30th -

As you can see, there are a number of gaps on the Flower List for October, 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.



The Next Issue of New Horizons - October 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 **2nd October** and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 22nd September**. Thank you.

Anne and Michael

Thinking Beyond Sunday and Beyond the Building **A church Calendar for 2022 - September to Christmas.**

10th September - Ideas on Worship Via Synod at Bungay
13th & 20th September - Safeguarding Training Via Synod
12th September - Elders on 'Spirituality' Via Synod (On Line)
14th & 21st September - Safeguarding Training Via Synod
17th September - Faith in Action Day Via Synod at Norwich
24th September - Harvest Festival Musical Evening + Food
25th September - Harvest Festival Worship
1st October - Watch URC Jubilee Celebrations at The Cornerstone
2nd October - URC 50th Birthday Celebration - Special Service
10th October - Elders on 'Pastoral' via Synod (On line)
1st November - All Saints Day
5th November - Lay Preachers Day Via Synod at Cambridge
13th November - Remembrance Sunday
14th November - Elders as 'The Secretary' Via Synod (On Line)
19th November - Crafters Do - See Val Mead
26th November - Ideas on Worship Via Synod at Bury St. Edmonds
27th November - Advent Sunday - Communion
8th December - Immaculate Conception
11th December - Junior Church/Pilots and Sohail Lead Worship
24th December - Christingle at 3.30 with Ruth and Mary
25th December - Christmas Day Worship
Synod events can be booked at - training@urceastern.org.uk
All sort 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	Ann Blackwell 07753 348856
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 (0170cf2) 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.**