

OCTOBER 2022



'May Flights of Angels Sing Thee to Thy Rest'

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.

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

IMPORTANT CHANGE Church Meetings are held on alternate months. It is the decision of the Church Meeting that they shall be held after Sunday Morning Worship during the winter on a trial basis, but revert to Thursdays at 7.30pm in the summer. The actual dates and times will be published in this magazine and announced in Church.

What's on in the week

Mon		Messy Church (1 st Monday in the month) Pilots (2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Monday in the month) Digging Deeper/Bible Study (2nd and 4 th Monday of each month)
Tues	10.00 am 11.30 am	Tea and Coffee in the Foyer The Tuesday Rendezvous (1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays or as announced)
Wed	9.30 am	Cornerstone Toddlers during Term Time
Thurs	6.00 pm 7.45 - 9.15pm	Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts Scouts
Thurs	7.30 pm	Elders' Meeting (1 st 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



Seeking and Finding God

The challenge to live faithfully, live steadily for God is a central challenge as followers of

Jesus Christ. Our human nature being what it is, continued obedience and faithfulness is hard to maintain. Furthermore, the ups and downs of life in a fallen and distorted world do not provide us with the tools and support we need to consistently live for God.

Our vision, our hearing needs regular examination. Last time when I went to the opticians for my eye test, he used the 'b' word - bifocals, and suggested I should consider. I resisted, but I know the time is coming if not already here when I will need them.

But we also need to have our spiritual vision and spiritual hearing checked on a regular basis.

We have been accused by parents, siblings and even friends, of having 'selective hearing'. I remember my mother had always claimed, and I had always denied, that as soon as the family prayer finished, I would be up from my nap that seemed to have lasted the length of the prayer session and off to whatever was next on my agenda. The same holds true for me spiritually. It holds true for all of us.

During the captivity, the Israelites were discouraged. They were far away from their homeland. They were filled with shame. They felt hopeless. They felt sad and lonely.

They had taken their focus off of God and as a result, they had lost their homeland - Israel. They had been banished to another country -Babylonia where they were surrounded by a foreign culture whose way of living was totally alien to them.

Their minds were full of questions. 'How could we have done this awful thing?' 'Doesn't God care about us anymore?' 'Will God ever rescue us?' 'What are we supposed to do now?'

Into this picture, steps the prophet Jeremiah. He sends a letter from Jerusalem to the exiled Israelites. We can read it in chapter 29.

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all, "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "

Wow! What a letter!

I remember when I arrived in the UK back in 1995, people were still writing letters to each other. Whenever I received a letter from my family, especially from my parents, I would read and reread and reread.

They were a big boost to my spirit thousands of miles away from home. How I longed to hear from my family. Letters from home were eagerly sought and looked for.

I think that we can safely imagine that this letter from Jeremiah was a breath of fresh air to a group of people whose world had been turned upside down. God, through Jeremiah, reminds the Israelites that he is still in control and in charge of life. He tells them to do several important things.

Listen to me! Do not live like the Babylonians and listen to their statements. Don't follow the false prophets. Don't listen to the popular but wrong prophecies and theologies.

Don't give up! I still have plans, good plans for you! I haven't forgotten you or abandoned you. I still love you and want you back. I have not given up on you.

Look for me! As God concludes this portion of the letter to the Israelite exiles, he urges them to look for himself because he wants to be found.

What God was telling the Israelites and is telling us today in the 21st century, is to look for me, find me, and walk with me. Have a right relationship with me.

How much do you want God in your life? God wants all of us - our hopes, our dreams, our fears, our plans, us.

May God continue to help us to look for him, walk with him and call upon him trusting that he has got a plan for us all, individually, as a church and as well as a denomination.

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.

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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 Pat, Clive & Mary Goodhew and their respective families as they mourn. 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

"O Lord, all the world belongs to You and You are always making all things new. What is wrong, You forgive, and the new life You give is what's turning the world upside down."

The problem is that whilst we do belong to Him, do we really acknowledge and believe it?

Do we accept His "new life" offered to us?

If we do not, then we never shall have the opportunity to turn His world and His people "upside down".



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

As I write these notes the URC has been forced to postpone the long-planned-for 50th Anniversary celebrations due to the train strike on 1st October, which meant many people would be unable to travel into London for the service at Methodist Central Hall. This must be heart-breaking for the planning

team who now have to keep the balls in the air ready for a new date, probably next spring. [a new date is unlikely to be announced until the date for the Coronation of King Charles III is known.] Our church meeting also decided to postpone our celebration service and lunch planned for 2nd October, for when the new date is arranged.

Also agreed at church meeting:

- Church meetings: in the light of feedback from previous discussions, and the self-evident number attending that evening meeting
 - For the autumn and winter months (November, January and March, and maybe September) when it seems people are reluctant to come out after dark, Church Meetings will take place on the 4th Sunday of the month immediately following morning worship.
 - Elders will consider what this means for our established worship pattern.

Please therefore reserve these dates in your diaries: 27th November 2022 22nd January 2023 26th March 2023

- The resumption of physical offertory collections during the service for an initial two-month period
- Elders' Election: the recommendation of the Elders that the minimum number of Elders should be 7. Retiring Elders are Derek Goodyear and Clive Goodhew who would not *normally* be eligible for re-election. Nomination papers will be available

during the month of October and nominations will close at noon on the last Sunday of the month. The election will take place at the November Church Meeting

The church meeting is of course at the heart of United Reformed Church life, it is the right and responsibility of all members to participate in church governance. It is not only where decisions that affect the local church are made, but ideas can blossom which can be taken forward nationally; many resolutions at Synods and General Assembly began as a spark of an idea in the local church. I was at a seminar a while ago where the slogan was "Meetings are Ministry; learn to love them"!

In other news, we welcome the announcement from government that businesses (which includes charities and churches) will receive some help towards our fuel bills over the next six months. Quite what this will mean for us remains to be seen, but it is quite clear we shall not be able to sustain energy expenditure of well over £1000 per month without depleting our reserves at an alarming rate. We are fortunate to have fixed our electricity tariff until October 2023, but the same cannot be said for the gas supply, which backs up the air source pump and heats the hot water. This went up in August by 260%. We do need creative ideas for saving energy - things like having the church meeting on Sunday when the building is already heated will help, but can we do more to have events and meetings at times when something else is happening and the heating is already on?

Our minds have been, rightly, fixed on the monarchy in recent weeks, but we did not lose sight of the devastation from flooding in Pakistan. Thank you to everyone who made donations, which when added to accumulated communion offerings made the sum of £460.00 to send to the Disasters Emergency Appeal. Also, we are aware of two ladies in Pakistan, known to Sohail and Machrina, who are in real need of financial support. If you feel moved to help further, please do speak to Sohail who can give you details of their situation.

By the time you read this we will have had our Harvest Festival service and your gifts will have been delivered to The Storehouse for

their foodbank. I am aware that we are all having to tighten our belts a bit in these trying times, but please do remember those who

have to rely on foodbanks and charities; our regular tub for HARP has been emptied so is ready to be filled again. Generosity is one of those 'Holy Habits' we considered a few years ago, and an extra item in your shopping basket now and again will do much to help someone.

Thank You. Ruth Dixon

Digging deeper

Our sessions have resumed and we had a discussion over the modern day's practicality of explaining psalm 23 to someone who had never seen how a



Shepherd in the middle eastern part of the world manages his flock; so unlike the method we use in England.

This drew us into the meaning of the writer as to how God looks after us as one of His creatures. One in the group said they were not keen on being known as a sheep, because sheep are thought to be stupid, but another pointed out that there were some advantages too which led to a humorous discussion of the pro's and con's.

We will continue to meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, both at the church at 7.00pm and simultaneously on Zoom, the link for this is published in the relevant week's notices. Psalms are currently our thing, but other subjects are available by popular demand.

Vic Crowhurst

"Tears" Little drops of water which contains millions of feelings and thousands of unspoken words.

Harvest Entertainment Evening.

The well-fed crowd came into the auditorium with animated chatter, smiles and laughter. As they found their seats the noise became a subdued buzz of excitement. The announcer appeared on the stage. The crowd fell into an expectant silence.

The main performers were heralded and Clive, Nigel, Roger (alphabetical order) moved from the wings into their positions.

The screen became alive with performers in their skimpy outfits moving and dancing in rehearsal whilst the sound system blasted forth songs and music. The scene changed to the main stage at the Royal Opera House and they performed in front of a star-studded audience. Then it is off to a Greek café; a history lesson; a new and an old film and so the evening went on.

There was even time for an intermission from the wonderful Pearl and Dean. Showing in all its fuzzy best with stars from yesteryear.

More song, dance and music. All of which was informed by the MC in his usual witty and amusing way and with little known details.

But the audience also had several chances to expand their lungs with songs both old and older and music from our wonderful musicians. A chance to take part.

Then it was all over

The evening had started with a supper of fish and chips provided once again by 'The Kingfisher Fish and Chip shop' in Southchurch Road organised and collected by Michael and drinks provided by Val before the audience went into the show.

Grateful thanks to these two plus Clive and Nigel for the music and Vic for the IT support. And of course, Wendy for almost everything else. Here is to next year.

Poetic Licence - liberty taken by a prose writer in deviating fact, in order to produce a desired effect.

Harvest Worship

"In the beginning God created". This is the start of the book of Genesis, the first book in our Bible. But God continues to create which is one of the reasons for our harvest celebration. That opportunity to give thanks to Him for his continual gifts to us, His continuing abundant giving to us.

We were pleased to see our Scout Group attending and the first act was for them to gather in the bountiful gifts which the congregation had brought and which will be taken to The Storehouse for those in need.

And both of our readings were very well read to us by members of the Scout Group and were about Praising God (Psalm 103) and the harvest being ready (Matthew Chap 9).

We were asked what staple food we knew about and answers included chapati, bread, water, milk cheese, soup. Which led into Sohail reminding us about how old and widespread the making and use of bread was. It can be found in every culture. In some cultures, it is buried with a loved one and in others, used as a peace offering. Made from simple ingredients flour, water, yeast, salt, sugar and butter. We were reminded that yeast eats the sugar and creates the gas which makes the loaf rise.

But we cannot live by bread alone. God has given us so many more gifts in the way of talents and they are all different. Working together, just like the ingredients of bread, we can create something for God.

For harvest all sorts of ingredients are needed water, air, heat. Farmers can plant the seed but need to be patient and wait to see what God produces. Jesus gave the message that people are the harvest and He needs missionaries to spread the word of God at home and far away and to tell people of 'The God of the Harvest'.

At the end we were asked to pray for those in need at this time. People in places where there is too much water and those in places where there is too little and their harvests are in God's hands but we can support. Amen **Roger Brett**



Saying good bye to our dutiful Queen Elizabeth II

Having watched the state funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth, I think we were all absolutely enthralled by the magnitude and complexity of this stunning event. The discipline and impeccable precision of the Armed Forces and the multitude of ordinary people showing their love for their deceased Monarch whilst lining the routes of the cortege.

We had previously watched as thousands queued for hours and then filed silently past the coffin and paid their respects. Who didn't have a tear in their eye as the Queen's children and then her grandchildren stood to attention, in silence around her, no doubt remembering her not only as Queen but also as a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

I enjoyed the beautiful services that followed her death and the funeral itself at Westminster Abbey - such uplifting music, glorious singing, readings and prayers - so moving but so fitting for our late Queen, whose personal faith had been steadfast during her reign.

All I can say is well done to all the personnel involved in the organisation of this spectacle. And a special thank you to those young soldiers who carried our wonderful Queen's coffin so respectfully, their last duty for her Majesty.

Your promise kept, your duty done, Rest in Peace Ma'am, a rest well deserved.

And now we say:

GOD SAVE THE KING

Anne Clarke

The Queen's funeral flowers

At His Majesty, The King's request, the wreath contained flowers and foliage cut from the gardens of Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Highgrove House.

This includes foliage chosen for its symbolism:

Rosemary for remembrance.

Myrtle, the ancient symbol of a happy marriage and cut from a plant that was grown from a sprig in Her Late Majesty's wedding bouquet in 1947.

And English oak, which symbolises the strength of love.

Also included are:

Scented Pelargoniums, garden roses, autumnal hydrangeas, dahlias, sedum and scabious, all in shades of pinks, hints of gold and deep burgundy, with touches of white, to reflect the Royal Standard.

Also at His Majesty's request, the wreath was made in a totally sustainable way, in a nest of English moss and oak branches, and without the use of floral foam.

The Queen's Bees

Surprisingly poignant was the telling to the Queen's Bees of her death.

It's a custom that goes back centuries.



When the owner of the bees passes away, the bees are gently told of this, and assured that their new master/mistress will look after them. Failure to inform them could lead to honey failure, the death of the bees, or that they might swarm to go somewhere else.

Anne Clarke

Caring for Southend

The 50th Anniversary of the URC made me think of the past because Southend in its' Blue Plaque area of Westcliff celebrates an ex-Congregational Minister's life. Benjamin Waugh came to Runwell Terrace when he was told to have a restful holiday.

This ex-minister cared for young men's cruel treatment in jail, when at that time animal cruelty was protected by a Government Bill of the day and cruelty to children, of all uses, wasn't.

His long dedication to this task led to the creation of the NSPCC. He also had a gift for hymn writing and some survive today in old hymnals. I heard of him when I was a York Road Methodist through a link with John Low, a Methodist local Preacher and NSPCC person. When researching my poetry recently, the Congregationalist link appeared.

More poetry research led to a Southend Minister who walked from Royal Terrace to his church in Shopland, wearing a top hat! Rev Frederick Thackery had lost his oldest son when he drowned. He petitioned for the Town of Southend to have its' own Lifeboat. It arrived in 1879 to assist boat and crews running aground on shore and sand dunes. Today, there are 2 launch sites - Pier end and the Shore end (near Adventure Island Esplanade). Incidentally, Rev Thackery had a cousin, the author William Makepeace Thackery. The NSPCC and RNLI Southend help people still today.

In modern Southend, Ministers use their special gifts to help. One Baptist Minister has an interest in the problem of modern slavery, trying to help and reduce this subject.

Paul Drage

Problems are like washing machines. They twist, they spin and knock us around. But in the end we come out cleaner, brighter and better than before

Chuckle Time

- Two fish in a tank, one says to the other you drive, I'll man the guns!
- At first there were only 25 letters in the alphabet. Nobody knew why.
- Books that were never written: "Running to the Outhouse" by Willy Makit. Illustrated by Betty Wont.
- After months of waiting, I finally got to see a dentist for a set of dentures yesterday! I hope I made a good impression.
- So, I was in a shoe shop this morning trying on a shoe, I said to the assistant "It's too tight". She said "Try it with the tongue out".
 I said "It'th nho ghood, it'th thtill thoo thight"
- I'll never forget the look on the cashier's face when she scanned the packet of bird seed and I asked her how long does it take for the birds to grow once I plant them.
- I finally did it! Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

British Tea Translator:

"Cup of Tea?" - Welcoming a guest.

"Tea?" - I find this situation awkward.

"Spot of tea?" - A foreign guest has activated Hyper-English, Mary Poppins mode.

"Pot of tea?" - Trying to impress in-laws.

"I'll make some tea" - There has been complete devastation.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

<u>October</u>

Sun	2 nd 10.30am	U.R.C. 50 th Service, Postpon Joint service with Southchurd	
			Our Minister
Thu	6 th 7.30pm	Elders' & M&M 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
Sun	23 rd 10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	24 th 7pm	Digging Deeper	
Sun	30 th 10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos

November

Thu	3 rd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	6 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, Reme	embrance Sunday
			Parade Service	Roger Brett
Mon	14 th	7pm	Digging Deeper	
Sat	19 th	Crafters	- Cream Teas & Christm	nas Jumper sale
Sun	20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon

Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change.

Prayer is a conversation you have with God about things He can change

Communion Offerings



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

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Oct</u>	2 nd 9 th 16 th 23 rd 30 th	Sandra Russ and Stella Duboux Anne Clarke and Val Mead Stella Duboux and Val Hayman Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp
<u>Nov</u>	6 th 13 th	Sandra Russ and Stella Duboux Anne Clarke and Val Mead
		Tuesday mornings "Drop in"
<u>Oct</u>	4 th 11 th 18 th	Stella Duboux Wendy Brett and Val Mead See below

- 25th Carol Smith and Pat Pates
- Nov 1st Stella Duboux
 - 8th Wendy Brett and Val Mead
 - 15th 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

 $\underbrace{ \begin{array}{ccc} 2^{nd} & - \mbox{ Roger and Wendy Brett} \\ 9^{th} & - \mbox{ Zoy Hunt} \\ 16^{th} & - \\ 23^{rd} & - \\ 30^{th} & - \\ \hline \\ \underbrace{ \begin{array}{ccc} Nov \\ 6^{th} \\ 13^{th} \end{array} } \end{array} } \begin{array}{c} 6^{th} & - \\ \end{array}$



As you can see, there are a number of gaps on the Flower List for October & November, 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 - November 2022

We always welcome contributions from our readers, whether they are from The Cornerstone or anywhere around the world.

Your next issue will be published on Sunday 6th November and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by 9 a.m. on Thursday 27th October. Thank you.

We would be grateful if all responsible for Advent and Christmas arrangements would provide us with Diary dates for the November magazine. We shall, of course, publish full details in the December 2022/January 2023 issue. (Have you seen the lights, cards, decorations and trees in the shops? Don't forget to look for the cards rejoicing in Christ's birth and the stamps in the Post Office.)

Anne and Michael

Thinking Beyond Sunday and Beyond the Building

A church Calendar for 2022 - September to Christmas.

- 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

Kindness makes you the most beautiful person in the world no matter what you look like

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 Joint Leaders	Ruth Dixon Mary Goodhew	(01702) 464186 (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 af.clarke52@gmail Michael Wardle mjb23wardle@btint	(01702) 613840

Please remember that your Elders are ordained to serve our members and friends who have pastoral concerns.