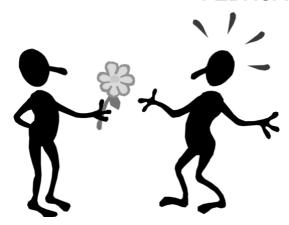
New Horizons

FEBRUARY 2023



REACH OUT IN LOVE

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 Fmail:

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

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 worldwide Christian Family. All are welcome to join with us.

<u>IMPORTANT</u> 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. This may change so the actual dates and times will be published in this magazine and announced in Church.

What's on in the week

Mon		Messy Church (1st Monday in the month) Pilots (2nd, 3rd & 4th Monday in the month) Digging Deeper/Bible Study (2nd and 4th 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 (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

Speaking the Word Faithfully

You might have noticed in your personal, vocational or church life, that at the beginning, our expectation tank is full but as the days

move on and you haven't yet seen the change you so desperately desire, you can begin to feel frustrated.

What do you do when you sense a shift and something is stirring but you don't yet see it come to pass.

During my annual leave, I contemplated on my personal spiritual growth as well as our growth as a church community. The more I thought about the church growth, the more the Lord shifted my concentration towards the Kingdom Growth.

The passage I explored was Ezekiel chapter 37. In this chapter as Ezekiel took God's word into his mouth, everything began to change. It didn't happen immediately. It was in incremental stages.

At first there was just a sound, a rattle and after that there was a movement as the bones formed together, then tendons and flesh covered the bones, and finally life returned.

Ezekiel found himself confronted by a valley of dry bones. He was completely surrounded by what seemed like a hopeless, helpless, impossible situation. It looked as if nothing would ever change, it was too late.

But then God told him to prophesy life, to speak breath into the bones, to command resurrection.

It seems like a ridiculous thing to do, but sometimes in order for us to see the miraculous we must do the ridiculous.

As Ezekiel continue to speak what God said, the sound intensified until it became a movement, things that were scattered, started coming together, order formed out of the chaos.

The dead things, the dry things, the decomposing things started joining up.

Death, despair and darkness were replaced with life and hope and light.

You might be confronted and surrounded by darkness and pain by problems and struggles which seemed completely overwhelming. But Ezekiel reveals to us that we might need to stop speaking about the problem and start proclaiming God's life into our problems.

God has a track-record of bringing dead things to life. Choose to speak his word until what you see lines up with what he has said.

First, you may not see anything change but keep declaring the truth of who God is and what his word says. The dry bones around you will start coming back to life; why? because when God's word is released, proclaimed and declared, dead bones rattle, circumstances shift, situations change, and things move as the impossible becomes probable and God will get all of the glory.

A few thoughts I pondered upon and would like you to consider as well individually as well as a church community:

- For us to declare God's promises, we must first spend time with the promiser. As we do, we grow in confidence and our conviction about his word strengthens.
- Speak words of life to Jesus and let him breathe fresh hope into your heart.
- How might you encourage others to speak life to their situations and circumstances, so they don't feel helpless but can be renewed in their hope?

God bless, Sohail,

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, financial worries 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. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers.

Amen

Some thoughts for everyone.

Sohail, in his letter to the fellowship, draws our attention to spending time with God, speaking words of life to Jesus and letting Him bring fresh hope into your heart.

Ruth Dixon, on the last Sunday of January, drew our attention to the tasks laid upon as Christians which are the consequences of doing what Sohail says. Perhaps it can be summed up in that short hymn or song,

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God"

Perhaps if we concentrated **wholly** on this, putting aside all our fears and worries, even taking the drastic step of stopping whatever else we are doing, then might we stand a chance?

Worship, Bible Study and Prayer excepted

The Boarding of Flight 2023 has been announced...

Your luggage should only contain the best souvenirs from 2022

The bad and sad moments should be left behind

The duration of the flight will be 12 months

So, tighten your seatbelt

the next stop-overs will be:

Health, Love, Joy, Harmony, Well-Being and Peace The Captain offers you the following menu

which will be served during the flight:

A Cocktail of Friendship
A supreme of Health
A Gratin of Prosperity
A Bowl of Excellent News
A Salad of Success
A Cake of Happiness

All accompanied by bursts of laughter.

Wishing you all an enjoyable trip on board flight 2023

Making resolutions?

Remember that a New Year gives us the opportunity to get things done that we forgot to do, or meant to do in 2022.

It gives us a new, clean and blank page, a fresh start, a time to Spring Clean, a time to prune the tree and, most importantly, look for and encourage new shoots.

Some greetings

Richard Lennox and Valerie Ing send their New Year greetings and blessings, love and good wishes to all at The Cornerstone URC Southend and have very happy memories of their visits!

If you could erase all the mistakes of your past, you would also erase all the wisdom of your present.

Remember the lesson, not the disappointment.

Six year olds laugh an average of 300 times a day.
Adults only laugh
15-100 times a day.
BE SIX AGAIN



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

DID I?

Did I offer peace today?
Did I bring a smile to
someone's face?
Did I say words of healing?
Did I let go of my anger and
resentment?
Did I forgive?
Did I love?

These are the real questions

Henri Nouwen



Scan me to fill out our volunteer enquiry form!



Southend's

Homeless Charity

Needs You!

Volunteers are needed at our Bradbury Day Centre!



Do you want to give back to your local community? Could you help teach our residents new skills and boost their confidence by helping to run activities?



Fill out the volunteer enquiry on:
www.harpsouthend.org.uk/volunteer
Or scan the QR code above!

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



When I last wrote for this magazine, we were approaching the Advent season. The weather was fairly mild and the heating at church and home had only just been switched on. How things change – we have had probably the longest spell of icy conditions that Southend has experienced

for many years. But the good news is that one day a week at least you do not have to worry about heating your home, the church is open from 11 till 5 on Mondays so you can come and be warm, chat, play board games, read, knit or simply be. We are providing all the tea or coffee you would wish to drink, a soup and roll lunch plus fruit; and a sandwich later if you wish. So do spread the word in your social circles.

Our Minister took his annual leave in December, for family purposes that unfortunately did not come to pass. I would like to thank everyone who went the extra mile to ensure we did not miss out on any of our festivities. Yes, of course we missed Sohail among us at this special time, but I am so thankful that we have the skills and abilities to continue the church's work and witness.

Also, during December, some of us were able to 'travel' virtually to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, to witness Sarah Wilson's Passing Out Parade. Sarah is now undergoing some final training at Winchester, and will soon be posted to York. We do wish her well in her chosen career.

Looking back to our worship times in December and January -

- 4th December: Roger led our service reflecting on all the reasons why we should "Tell out my soul"
- 5th December: Messy Church with stories and crafts about the important role of angels in the nativity narratives
- 11th December: Church Parade at which the children, young people and their leaders presented "The Greatest Gift" putting Jesus at the heart of Christmas
- 18th December: John Amos. I must admit to being wary of having communion (led by Clive), at the start of a service, but

- it went beautifully with John's theme of "You will call him Jesus for he will save people from their sins"
- The early evening lessons, carols and reflections service familiar readings and meaningful reflections; thanks to everyone who participated
- The family fun afternoon before Christmas where we told the Christmas story in a new way
- Christmas Eve Christingle: once again the message of Jesus as Light for the World in an informal atmosphere
- Christmas Day: Roger and Friends brought us the nativity story delightfully told by Kevin the Carrot and friends. A lot of work went into preparation, thank you Roger
- Special thanks to our musicians who complemented our festive worship, and for all they do throughout the year
- 1st January: John Amos led us to usher in the New Year
- 8th January: Sohail had a similar theme new year, new start leaving the past behind "Behold I am doing a new thing"
- Messy Church started the year with a session on All in Good (God's) Time based on the famous verses from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3
- 15th January: Rev Celia Whitman spoke about spiritual resolutions for a new year and the choices we make
- 22nd January: Sohail considered the Ezekiel vision of the valley of dry bones and urged us to contemplate whether we are like dry bones without life, like the bones with flesh on existing but not particularly productive for the Kingdom, or spirit-breathed and ready to respond to God's call to action. During the service, Clive Goodhew, Alison Shannon and Derek Goodyear were inducted as Elders for a further term.
- 29th January: was our communion service, with a focus on the age-old question "What Would Jesus Do?"

Lent is nearly upon us and you are all invited to participate in the Lent Course on Mondays 7pm starting on 20th February. We shall take a look at the Talking Jesus Course which was introduced at a church meeting last year, which it is hoped will better equip us to talk to people about our faith. We will meet in person at the church, and also by Zoom for those who do not feel able to get out of an

evening. Please do let Vic know if you want to participate – we have ordered 20 personal workbooks but would love to have to get more! Also for Lent, the Water Aid Jars of Change Appeal is back. We have not participated since before Covid, and Water Aid, like many charities, lost out greatly. So do please collect your jar (or label for your own receptacle), toss in your small change and bring it back by Easter.

At the recent church meeting we considered a proposal for reorganising church groups and the deployment of Ministers. It won't be instant, as there is much to discuss at Synod and Area meetings but I'm sure you would wish The Cornerstone to fully participate in the process. Do we have the 'clout' to be 'influencers'?

Save the Dates:

South Essex Area Partnership Re-imagine Church Day

Come and learn a new way of growing church by living out your faith
in the places you are already in

Led by Steve Rouse, Church Team Director for LICC
at The Cornerstone URC 11th March from 10 am - 3 pm

at The Cornerstone URC 11^m March from 10 am - 3 pm with fish "n" chip lunch and a lively vibe - why spend your Saturday anywhere else?

Follow up at the Area Partnership meeting on 23rd March 7.30 p.m. also at The Cornerstone. AP Meetings are open to all.

Following the end of the financial year 31st December 2022 all individuals and organisations who manage pots of money on behalf of the church should have submitted an Income and Expenditure statement to the Treasurer. If you have not yet done this, please do so as soon as possible.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place next month, and I would appreciate all groups/ organisations and delegates sending a written report for inclusion in the Book of Reports, preferably electronically, by 5th March. Thank you.

A vital role carried out by Mike and Linda Mead before they left Southend, does need filling:



Commitment for Life:

- Receive and disseminate the quarterly newsletter.
- Bring to Elders' attention any emergency appeals during the year
- Generally, to ensure CforL is recognised as part of our service and witness

If you think you can carry out this task on behalf of the church please speak to the Secretary.

Ruth Dixon

Digging deeper

The Digging deeper group continues into the New Year. We have been studying the Psalms and although I missed last Monday's session led by Ruth, Monday 13th will conclude this theme.



29th February sees the start of the weekly Lent course, for which booklets will be available. This is a weekly interactive discussion/learning series up to Easter.

I hope you might come along, the evenings are getting lighter, tea and coffee are available at the church from 7.00 pm and the discussion starts at 7.30 till about 8.30, or as John says, "time for Coronation Street". We may continue to Zoom this event for those who live far away.

God Bless Vic Crowhurst

TO YOU - WITH LOVE



If we could look into each other's hearts and understand the unique challenges each of us faces,

I think we would treat each other much more gently, with more love, patience, tolerance and care.

Positive Outlook

You can't really begin to appreciate life until it has knocked you down a few times. You can't really begin to appreciate love until your heart has been broken. And you can't really begin to appreciate happiness until you've known sadness.

Once you've walked through these valleys, the view from the mountaintop is breathtaking.

Hugs were invented to let people know you love them without having to say ANYTHING

How your generosity is helping people in other places

Zimbabwe – Highfield Uniting Presbyterian Church of South Africa

As you are aware we raised funds to enable drilling for water to take place around Highfield's preaching post at Murehwa, with the aim of that community being able to grow food crops. Things do not happen very quickly in Zimbabwe and the transfer of funds took some time, and then the drilling company's equipment was in use elsewhere. When it was finally deployed at Murehwa, the result was quite disappointing. At the point where the drilling took place there was insufficient water found to keep a water tank filled. "Dry wells" are quite common when drilling for oil or water.

The local community has not given up and is raising funds for exploratory drilling elsewhere on the site. Our initial instinct may be to assist further with that, but the situation has become a little complicated since Murehwa has become a church in its own right and is awaiting the appointment of a new Minister.

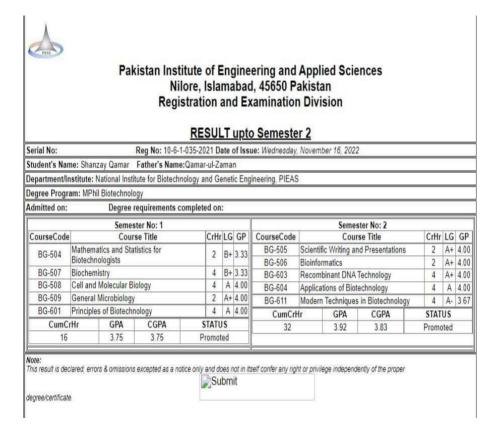
Our twinning arrangement is with Highfield, which now has no further responsibility for Murehwa. If this were not complicated enough, Rev. JJ (who ministered in both places and was our contact person) has moved from Highfield to Bulawayo around 280 miles away.

All in all, we rejoice that Christ's church is growing in Zimbabwe, and Murehwa has become a fully-fledged congregation of UPCSA. We must now establish fresh contact with Highfield, if the twinning arrangement is to continue.

Shanzay Qamar

You will remember that we sent funds to assist a Pakistani student known to the Ejaz family. Shanzay is an intelligent student with a bright future who needed support with tuition fees if she were to reach her potential, and members generously responded to the call to help. In fact, there was a residue from the initial collection, which was able to be sent when Shanzay's ancient computer broke down. This is her reply:-

Thank you so much everyone for supporting me to get a laptop which was my essential need to carry out my research work. As at this time of my education, I am conducting research analysis and interpretation by applying statistical tools to the dataset I have obtained. Unfortunately, due to a poor and dysfunctional computer I was unable to complete my tasks as well as purchase a new PC on my own because of the bleak financial resources I had. I will be forever grateful to God that he has helped me through all of you. I will always remember what you have contributed in building my career and will definitely continue the legacy by helping someone like me in need when I become capable enough. Sending prayers, best wishes and a bundle of thanks your way. God bless you all. Shanzay Qamar



Perhaps our local commitment to life?

Ruth Dixon

On a trip to Mountfichet castle (despite the very steep slopes leading up to it) last year, as I looked around the chapel, I pondered on the thought that only the Priest and the Normans could read and write at that time. The chapel was decorated with religious pictures and I could see "The hand of God seen in a view".

Another "seen in a view" is the famous tapestry we know as Bayeaux.

The well-known "Last Supper" by Leonardo Da Vinci is unique because it was accomplished by a very new technique, but still "the hand of God seen in a view". As Da Vinci took 2 years to complete it, some bits had to be re-done.

Other artists painted different paintings of the Last Supper & God's Son. Early 10th,12th &13th century Spanish, French bible drawings are there, showing God's amazing care.

Rembrandt covered both testaments with great art. Art was very important, as at the beginning of the printed versions of the testaments, Bibles were chained in churches & written in Latin.

A Belgian coal mining site had a lay preacher with souls ready to win. He was the son of a clergyman and his surname was Van Gogh - Christian name Vincent. Originally, he wanted to be a priest and in the last years of his painting, you can see his Christian witness in his religious art.

Vermeer, Titian, Van Dyke & many others told in picture form the glory of the Lord. Even unlikely religious artists like Turner, Millais, Blake, Reynolds agree with the accord.

The gallery style of these artists are not the only artistic way. Go to York, Ely, Canterbury or any cathedral if you are near one day, there are plenty of pictures of different dates and modern stained glass windows tell stories that are first class. Once again, "The hand of God - seen in a view"

Paul Drage

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

February 2023				
Sun	5 th 10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos	
Sun	12 th 10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister	
Mon	13 th 7.00pm	Digging Deeper		
Sun	19 th 10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett	
Mon	20 th 7.00pm	Lent Course begins weekly-(Ta		
Sun	26 th 10.30am	Morning Worship (H.C)	Our Minister	
<u>March</u>	Ond 7.00	F11 184 ::		
Thu	2 nd 7.30pm	Elders' Meeting		
Sun	5 th 10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett	
Sat	11 th 10.00am	Re-Imagining Church		
Cun	12 th 10.30am	(See Secretary's notebook)	Our Minister	
Sun Sat	18 th 10.30am	Morning Worship (Parade)	Our Minister	
Sun	19 th 10.30am	Synod at Stowmarket incl rede Mothering Sunday & H.C.	TBC	
Thur	23 rd 7.30pm	Area Partnership Meeting	IBC	
mui	25 7.50pm	at The Cornerstone		
Sat	25 th	Wedding of Daniel & Rachel		
Sun	26 th 10.30am	Morning Worship & A.G.M	Our Minister	
Mon	27 th 7.00pm	Final Lent Course	Our willington	
Thu	30 th 7.30pm	Elders' Meeting (for April)		
ma	7.00pm	Liders Westing (ion / ipini)		
<u>April</u>				
Sun	2 nd 10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon	
Thu	6 th 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday (H.C.)	Our Minister	
Fri	7 th 10.30am	Good Friday	Our Minister	
Sun	9 th 10.30am	Refreshments		
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Sun

9th 11.00am

Communion Offerings

Easter Sunday Worship (H.C.) Our Minister

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



The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for March 2023

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 5th March and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by 9 a.m. on Thursday 23rd February.

Thank you. Anne and Michael

Church Flowers

Feb 5th - Sandra Russ

12th

19th - Roger and Wendy Brett

26th -

<u>Mar</u> 5th -



The Flower List is on the noticeboard in The Foyer, so if you would like to supply flowers for any of the vacant dates on any Sunday in the future, 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 your own arrangement.

Thank you to all of our coffee and teamakers

Throughout 2022 we have been very well served by our volunteers every Sunday and Tuesday morning, as they prepared our hot drinks and did all of the washing up. Without fuss they swopped duties if they could not attend on any particular occasion and did a great job so, a very big "Thank you" to them.

We never make a charge for our drinks but kind people left donations of £710 during the year, so our thanks also to them.

And 2023 is going well!

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Feb</u>	5 th 12 th 19 th 26 th	Sandra Russ and helpers Anne Clarke and Val Mead Val Hayman and helpers Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ	
<u>Mar</u>	5 th 12 th 19 th 26 th	Sandra Russ and helpers Anne Clarke and Val Mead Val Hayman and helpers Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ	
<u>Apr</u>	2 nd 9 th	Sandra Russ and helpers Anne Clarke and Val Mead	

		Tuesday mornings "Drop in"
<u>Feb</u>	7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th	Stella Duboux Wendy Brett and Val Mead See below Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<u>Mar</u>	7 th 14 th 21 st 28 th	Stella Duboux Wendy Brett and Val Mead See below Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<u>Apr</u>	4 th 11 th	Stella Duboux Wendy Brett and Val Mead



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.

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.