

# New Horizons

MARCH 2023



## LENT

### THE CORNERSTONE



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

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](http://www.thecornerstonesouthend.org.uk)

Email:

[cornerstonequestions@outlook.com](mailto:cornerstonequestions@outlook.com)

## WORSHIP AND ACTION

Sunday 10.30 am **Morning Worship** and Junior Church.  
**Holy Communion** is celebrated during Worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. 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	5.00 - 6.30pm	Messy Church (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday in the month)
	5.00 - 6.30pm	Pilots (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in the month)
	7.00 pm	Digging Deeper/Bible Study (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month)
Tues	10.00 am	Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
	11.30 am	The Tuesday Rendezvous (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays or as announced)
Wed	9.30 am	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 (1 <sup>st</sup> 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

### Making the Right Choice

Most Christians today, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 around the world celebrated Ash Wednesday. It is the beginning of a significant season for us Christians; Lent - a time of solemnity and self-reflection where we confess our failings and resolve to live a more godly life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Lent is a journey to the cross: meditating on our sin and weakness, looking to Jesus as our perfect example and substitute, and being heightened in our worship of his victory over Satan, sin, and death. On the cross, Jesus took our place to appease God's righteous anger toward our sin and rebellion.

I think many of us are living too comfortably. God doesn't save us from our sin so that we can sit guilt-free in church on Sundays and lead stationary lives. He saves us so we can minister to and share love with others. If the goal of our lives as Christians is to become more Christ-like, then the mission of our lives should be the same as Jesus' mission. His mission is to save people.

I wonder if non-believers would stop doubting organized religion if we lived the way we're called to live. Christians are good at telling people we'll pray for them. We're good at interacting with our church friends. But what are we doing to actually reach out? Are we seeking the lost or just hoping they'll show up on our doorstep begging for help someday? All around us, people are drowning as they look for answers. We have the answer.

It is true that God may have called us to be exactly where we are. But it is absolutely vital to grasp that he didn't call us there so we could settle in and live our life in comfort and superficial peace. We often let the world tell us how to live, but what does the world really know about living? So many lives are filled with deception, distraction, selfishness, and chaos. Do we really want to fit into what the world dictates as "normal"? Shouldn't we be passionately sharing the love, grace, peace and forgiveness of Christ with a world that so desperately needs it?

Maybe we're scared. Maybe we doubt our individual abilities. Maybe we don't feel personally "called" to this mission. Maybe we're too busy chasing things that ultimately don't matter to notice what's going on around us. Maybe we forget that our lives are not supposed to be about us. Maybe we fail to realize that just because we're on the same side as everyone else, that doesn't mean we're on the right side. Maybe we trust God enough to let Him save us, but not enough to let Him use us for the work He prepared for us.

As we go through our Lenten journey, we need to consider what direction is it leading us. That direction is towards Jesus. He deserves to be the centre of our lives and He's calling us to live for more than just our own happiness. We also know that there is no greater joy than the joy that comes from loving others.

The most amazing and overwhelming truth in our lives is that God doesn't have to save us, but He chooses to. He doesn't have to love us, but He chooses to. He doesn't have to forgive us, but He chooses to. He doesn't need us, but He reaches for us. We have choices too. We can choose to walk with God, or not. We can choose to love those around us, or not. We can choose to follow the world, or we can choose to follow Him.

May this Lenten journey help us to make the right choice. Amen.

**God bless,  
Sohail**

Nobody is perfect.  
We all make mistakes.  
We say wrong things, we do wrong things.  
We fall, we get up.  
We learn, we grow, we move on.  
We live and we thank God for always giving us another chance.

## 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 about our prayers for others

Every Sunday we offer prayers for those outside of our congregation as we ask God to do something to stop suffering, wars, cruelty, poverty, homelessness as well as all manner of hurtful actions. We then follow this by asking Him to put things right, to bless and support those who do good.

At this time, do you ever ask Him “Is it I Lord that you asking to step up and do something to help”?

Perhaps we should add some extra words when we say  
**“Lord hear our prayers”?**

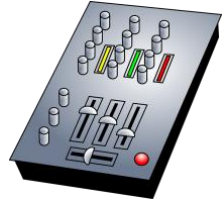
Perhaps **“and what are you calling me to do”?**

Whatever our age, state of health or ability

**All of us can do something, you only have to ask!**

## **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.



## **Zoy Hunt says “Never say Never”.**

Having said that I would never do it again, I have decided that I need a bit of distraction and excitement in my life at the moment. So, I have committed to ‘Tackle the Tower’ at Southend Hospital one more time and if anyone can sponsor me, even in a small way, I would be most grateful.

I am supporting the Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist Team at Southend Hospital who have been so supportive and kind to Peter and myself.

**Zoy Hunt**

**Anyone care to join her as she abseils down Southend Hospital Tower Block?**

**Or perhaps even cheer her on when she does it?**

**For anyone outside of The Cornerstone who wishes to participate in any way, the editors will gratefully put you in touch with Zoy.**

## **A FACT ALL MOTHERS KNOW:**

**Children have two stomachs!**

One is the meal stomach. It’s about the size of a pea. This is why children cannot consume an entire breakfast, lunch or dinner.

The second stomach is the snack stomach. This stomach stretches and has an infinite amount of space.

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



Phew, nearly missed the deadline, as I'm juggling quite a few balls at the moment, not the least of which is early preparation for the Annual General Meeting later this month.

Most of you will have heard that after 6 years of waiting I am finally due to get wrist replacement surgery on 10<sup>th</sup> March, which will put me out of action for a few weeks. As this is right at seed-sowing, pricking out and potting on time, I have taken the very hard decision not to grow any food crops this spring. Sorry to those of you to whom I supply young plants, you will have to look elsewhere this year.

Once I've had the surgery, I hope to play around with Microsoft Word's dictation system to see if I can produce anything worthy of publishing next month! Please do pray for a speedy recovery - I do want to be making jam when the fruit harvest comes.

Our services during February were led by

- 5<sup>th</sup> John Amos who took 'the Beatitudes' as his theme, starting with commenting that the disciples *came* to Jesus, and asking why we have come to church today? John went on to say that each of the Beatitudes could be considered an attitude or mindset we can choose to adopt.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Messy Church, followed up the theme of What Would Jesus Do? I have been told that at least one little boy is wearing his bracelet to pre-school! Do you wear yours?
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sohail reminded us that we are to be salt and light for the world; when salt becomes tasteless it is of no use, thus we need to continually return to Jesus to refresh and renew our faith in order to be effective in mission
- 19<sup>th</sup> Roger's theme was the transfiguration of Jesus, an experience so powerful that the apostle Peter wrote about it many years later. What do we do to share our experiences of God? When someone asks what did you do at the weekend, do you reply 'I went up the mountain to listen to the Lord'?
- 26<sup>th</sup> Sohail drew our attention to the Lenten course that we have just started, "Talking Jesus", and asked if we were

ready to start spreading The Gospel of Jesus? Then, we had a time to be challenged as we met around The Lord's Table.

The Warm Space continued through February and will go on until the end of March. Take up has not been huge, except on the Monday of half term when several families were present. Nevertheless, I believe it was the right thing to do, and we have been able to have some good conversations; I am grateful for the support of our Minister, along with Alison and Rob, each week.



Lent is here, and the Water Aid Jars of Change Appeal is under way. If you have not yet taken your jar/label please do, and bring filled jars back by Easter Sunday. Water is vital to life and there are still many areas of the world without clean water for drinking, washing and cooking. Every penny saved can help bless a community with something we take for granted.

Our Lent Course "Talking Jesus" began on 20<sup>th</sup> February, it's not too late to join and find ways to become more confident about sharing our faith in order to grow the Kingdom. Along a similar line, we are hosting an event on 11<sup>th</sup> March, on behalf of the Area partnership "Re-Imagining Church" run by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. Sadly, I am unable to be present, but have participated previously so can say it is well worth coming along to be inspired as to what you can do for the Kingdom in your everyday situations. Please speak to Sohail for more information. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. The Cornerstone is also hosting the Area Partnership meeting, open to all connected with our area URCs. It would be great if there were a good turnout of Cornerstoners for this event.

I have news from Milton Keynes that Hilda Cramond is now happily settled in her care home near Julie, and thanks everyone for many years of love and fellowship.

If you want to contact Hilda, the address is:



Mrs H Cramond  
Burlington Hall  
Room 16  
9 Station Road  
Woburn Sands  
MK17 8RR  
Tel: 01908 533337 extn 316

Julie and Martin have been clearing out Hilda's flat in order to sell it; Julie sends her love to everyone.

**Ruth Dixon**

### **BE AWARE**



The clocks **go forward** one hour on Saturday night 25<sup>th</sup> March (early hours of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>) so, please remember to alter yours in order to be in church on time on the Sunday.

**Remember - Spring forward/Fall back.**

### **Definition of TIME**

Time is slow when you wait!  
Time is fast when you are late!  
Time is deadly when you are sad!  
Time is short when you are happy!  
Time is endless when you are in pain!  
Time is long when you feel bored!  
Every time, time is determined by your  
Feelings and your psychological conditions  
and not by clocks.  
So, have a nice time  
Always.

## 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 **11<sup>th</sup> 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 **23<sup>rd</sup> March 7.30 p.m.**  
**also at The Cornerstone.** AP Meetings are open to all.

Following the end of the financial year 31<sup>st</sup> 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.**

## Digging Deeper

Greetings everyone,

Digging Deeper is leaning on its shovel for  
the Lenten period, and instead Talking Jesus  
is the current buzz-word.



We kicked off last Monday with a video and lively discussion at the  
church and on Zoom.

Anyone who wants to can join in, as each of the sessions are  
individual and there is a workbook, available from me, to guide you  
personally at each meet.

Blessings,

**Vic Crowhurst**

## WHAT FOOLISHNESS!

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

What foolishness!

To buy into the nonsense that the crucifixion of a carpenter-turned-preacher could somehow be interpreted as God taking upon Himself the sins of the world. Yet this is what we as Christians hold to, that in which we hope, in which we invest our whole lives - past, present and future.

What foolishness!

To believe that a God of love reigns over this fractured, violence-ridden world of ours, that He really cares about the starving millions, the imprisoned, the deprived, the victims of disease and torture, terrorism and warfare, and the natural calamities that almost daily befall the inhabitants of this planet. Yet this is what we claim; this is the proclamation we joyously fling into the teeth of pagans and unbelievers about us. "Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7).

What foolishness

To insist that God is in our midst, that He abides within us, that He loves us and cares about us as His own beloved children, that He is personally concerned about each one of us and has a plan for our lives on this world and guarantees life everlasting in the kingdom to come.

Yet this is indeed what we believe; it is this that keeps us pushing on through sunshine or rain, highs or lows, whatever the conflicts and calamities that stand in our way.

**"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength"**

**Leslie F Brandt  
Meditations on a Loving God**

**Mother** *noun*. A person with the ability to detect a lie, hear the smallest noises and see out the back of their head.

### Are these the things your Mum used to say to you?

- ❖ Were you born in a barn?
- ❖ It's like Blackpool illuminations in here.
- ❖ Eat your crusts, you'll get curly hair.
- ❖ No pudding unless you eat your dinner.
- ❖ Back in my day.
- ❖ Move away from the TV, you'll get square eyes.
- ❖ I want, never gets.
- ❖ There's no such word as can't.
- ❖ Say pardon, not what.
- ❖ Because I said so.
- ❖ It'll all end in tears.

### Words of Wisdom from Children

1. Never trust a dog to watch your food - **Patrick, 10**.
2. When your mum is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" Don't answer her - **Michael, 14**
3. Never tell your mum her diet's not working - **David, 14**
4. When your mum is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair - **Hayley, 10**
5. Never hold a dust buster and a cat at the same time - **Andy, 9**
6. Felt marker pens are not good to use as lipstick - **Kellie, 8**
7. Never allow your 3 year old brother in the same room as your school homework - **Tracey, 14**
8. Don't sneeze in front of mum when you are eating crackers - **Grace, 12**

## SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

### March

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	World Day of Prayer at St Albans, Westcliff	
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm	Messy Church	
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper - Lent Course	
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Re-Imagining Church Day	
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (Parade)	<b>Our Minister</b>
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper - Lent Course	
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Synod at Stowmarket incl redeployment	
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mothering Sunday & H.C.	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Mon	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper - Lent Course	
Thur	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Area Partnership Meeting at The Cornerstone	
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship & A.G.M	<b>Our Minister</b>
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Digging Deeper - Final Lent Course	
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders'/M&M Meeting (for April)	

### April

Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Ruth Dixon</b>
Thu	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>Maundy Thursday (H.C.)</b>	<b>Our Minister</b>
Fri	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Our Minister</b>
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Refreshments	
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	<b>Easter Sunday Worship (H.C.)</b>	<b>Our Minister</b>
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of U.R.C. at Westminster Central Hall, to be streamed at The Cornerstone. Walk from Church House to Central Hall at 10.30am	
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Joint Worship - 50 <sup>th</sup> Service	<b>Ruth &amp; Sohail</b>

### **May 6<sup>th</sup> - Coronation of King Charles III.**

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Coronation Weekend.

Discussion has taken place, decisions about events will follow.

## 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.



### The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for April 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> April** and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**.

**Thank you.  
Anne and Michael**

#### **Good advice:**

- Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
- Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
- Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all they have.
- Pray not for things but for wisdom and courage.
- Keep your promises.
- Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
- Don't rain on other people's parades.
- Be the first to say "Hello".
- Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.

## Church Flowers

Mar 5<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> - No names

April 2<sup>nd</sup> -  
9<sup>th</sup> Easter Day



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

## Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Sandra Russ and helpers  
12<sup>th</sup> Anne Clarke and Val Mead  
19<sup>th</sup> Val Hayman and helpers  
26<sup>th</sup> Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ

Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandra Russ and helpers  
9<sup>th</sup> Anne Clarke and Val Mead



## Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

Mar 7<sup>th</sup> Stella Duboux  
14<sup>th</sup> Wendy Brett and Val Mead  
21<sup>st</sup> **See below**  
28<sup>th</sup> Carol Smith and Pat Pates

Apr 4<sup>th</sup> Stella Duboux  
11<sup>th</sup> 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?

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 <a href="mailto:tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk">tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elizabeth Helm 07973 199759
<b>Envelopes</b>	Ann Blackwell 07753 348856
<b>Gift Aid</b>	David Osborn (01702) 611337
<b>Preachers List</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Junior Church</b>	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
<b>Joint Leaders</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Pilots</b>	Derek Goodyear 07863 208914
<b>Prayer Fellowship</b>	Peter & Zoy Hunt (01702) 864814
<b>Digging Deeper</b>	Vic Crowhurst (01702) 588409
<b>C'Stone Toddlers</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Scout Group</b>	Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309
<b>Use of Premises</b>	Roger Brett (0170cf2) 479874
<b>Flower arranging</b>	Joan Harvey Val Mead (01702) 296189
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**Please remember that your Elders are ordained  
to serve our members and friends  
who have pastoral concerns.**