

New Horizons

MAY 2023



GOD SAVE THE KING

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:
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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.

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 (1st Monday in the month)
5.00 - 6.30pm 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 9.15 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 (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

Cleansing and Restoration

*“Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow”.*

(Psalm 51: 7)

Recently, I watched an old TV series called Restoration, a series of ten programmes, each featuring three historic buildings in the UK in need of restoration. For each building there was an advocate (usually a celebrity of some sort) who states the case for restoration, and each site is assessed by two 'experts'. The public voted for the building they consider the most deserving of restoration. Some buildings according to some experts and the public, were not worth restoring due to extent of their damage.

Redemption? Restoration? Have you ever heard these words and dismissed them on the basis of your sins doing too much damage?

Whether you're dealing with predicaments that have been placed on you by the sins of others or because of problems brought about by your own sin, a lack of assurance that when we repent, we can be forgiven and set free is both paralysing and crippling.

In Psalm 51, the psalmist David knew this from his firsthand experiences. Psalm 51 was written after he was caught having an affair, and getting a woman named Bathsheba pregnant. He was full of remorse and repentance as he saw how far from God his sin had taken him. Bathsheba's husband had died in war, and the baby conceived as a result of the affair had died.

A man after God's own heart now felt alone and as though his guilt-ridden grief-stricken heart was owning him. However, he chose to bring his shortcomings to God. David quickly invited God, his living hope into his situation at a time when he could easily have labelled the situation hopeless. Similarly, God wants us to know no matter how far we've gone, we too can experience hope.

Verse 7 of this psalm is telling. David says: *“Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow”.*

Hyssop was an ancient plant that was saturated with elegant, lavish purple flowers. It almost acted like a purple thread woven throughout scripture at key junctures in people's journeys.



Why did David mention hyssop? Hyssop was used for those with leprosy. People infected and affected by the debilitating condition were placed outside the city. David felt he needed to be cleansed; because his sin had separated him from God. Just like lepers were separated as a result of being infected, so are we infected by sin. We place ourselves outside of God's will and ways, unless we come before him with a repentant heart. David did this by asking God to clean him from the inside out.

We are invited to do the same. Hyssop was the divine paintbrush at Passover, a purification tool for David's redemption. When Jesus became the ultimate lamb at Passover, he was given hyssop on the cross.

We will never be a people without hope, because Jesus has cleansed us and can forgive us of all unrighteousness. We can look back at our sin and then look up at him for cleansing. The cross of Jesus is the whole alphabet of human hope. It's offered to us when we fall. It's extended to us when we fail, and despite our flaws and future sin, God's outstretched arm taps us on the shoulder, and tenderly rubs the healing balm over our heart and says, it is finished. This is our help

Allow God to tenderly rub his healing balm over your heart and proclaim; it is finished. Dwell on this truth because, we cannot work, earn or bargain for his love; it is freely given and freely received.

**God bless,
Sohail**

Freely, freely, you will receive, then you may freely give.

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 families and friends who still mourn the loss of a loved one and give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers. **Amen**

Some thoughts for Pentecost

Let's have a think about the elements of Pentecost; the wind and the fire. Both of them can be felt, but only the fire can be seen and apart from that, they have many similarities.

Fire and wind can both cleanse.

Together they can warm us, or create a powerful force, as in a furnace.

They can soothe and comfort, depending on the circumstances.

They can present a beacon for all to see.

They can make a great noise.

They can be invigorating.

They can be lifegiving and lifesaving.

If we accept that wind and fire in the form of The Holy Spirit, nothing can stop us as we will then have all of those properties and pass them on to others.

Death

What a Wonderful Way to Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said,
“Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”

Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don’t know ...”
“You don’t know? You’re a Christian Man and you don’t know what’s on the other side?” said the man.

The doctor was holding the handle of the door, on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
“Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside.
He knew nothing except that his master was here and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death
but I do know one thing

I know my Master is there and that is enough”

**We cannot force someone
to hear a message, they are not ready to receive,
but we must never
underestimate the power of
planting a seed**



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



Just a short note this time, my hand is improving but not as quickly as I wish! I have to remember I am not as young as I was last time around.

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and flowers firstly following my surgery and then for Frank's unexpected encounter with his mortality. We were so grateful for the speedy and efficient response of the London Ambulance Service and the Cardiac team at the Royal Free Hospital. As you can imagine, neither of us has been very happy with doing very little and Frank returned to Grandad duties as soon as he could. As for me, as soon as I can I will set about jam making to fill some of those jars that keep appearing - thank you but I don't need any more right now.

Our Warm Space concluded at the end of March, and I would like to thank everyone who supported it for three months, and particularly Alison who took over the provision of refreshments after my surgery.

There was no Messy Church in April due to the school holiday, but we did have a Family Fun Afternoon arranged by Derek, Vic and others, when the Easter story was explored in crafts, games and worship sessions. This event was very well supported and we pray that seeds have been sown in those we met that day. Bank Holidays mean there will be no Messy Church in May either, so we resume in June.

We have had a variety of Sunday worship services and styles over the Easter period beginning with Palm Sunday when we sang and experienced the familiar stories through the medium of Roger Jones' "Jerusalem Joy" - would you believe that cantata is now 50 years old?

On Maundy Thursday, our Minister led the Service of Shadows, and traditional services on Good Friday and Easter Day.

On 16th April, following the postponed URC50 celebration at Westminster Central Hall, we held our own joint service with

Southchurch Park members, to mark the occasion; Sohail and I used materials from the URC Celebration Book, entitled The River of Life, and members of the congregation contributed with reflections on bible passages about that precious commodity water and the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

On 23rd we considered the narrative of Jesus appearing to the two on the road to Emmaus, revealing his identity only when he broke bread, then we shared the Sacrament.

On 30th April John Amos visited us and his service was on Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

That's all from me now. Time to relinquish the keyboard and splint the wrist again.

Ruth Dixon

Dedicated to all English Teachers

One day, Sam asked his English Teacher, “Why do we ignore some letters in pronunciation eg, the letter H in Hour, Honour etc?”

His English Teacher said, “We are not ignoring them; they’re considered silent”

Sam was even more confused!

During the lunch break his Teacher gave him her packed lunch and asked him to heat it up in the cafeteria.

He ate all the food and returned to her the empty container.

His Teacher asked “What happened? I told you to go and HEAT my food, you are returning to me an empty container.

Sam replied, “But Miss, I thought ‘H’ was silent!



THE CORNERSTONE
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Bournemouth Park Road
Southend-on-Sea SS2 5JL

invites you to a



CORONATION PARTY

on

Saturday, 6th May, 2023

from 2 to 4 pm

REFRESHMENTS (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Cakes, etc)

BOUNCY CASTLE : FACE PAINTING : CRAFTS

GAMES : CORONATION QUIZ

This event is FREE (including all refreshments)

All are welcome

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Prior to the party the processions and coronation service will be live-streamed on our large screen in the church from 10.30 am.

You are welcome to come along and watch



Psalm 42 vv 1-2

As the deer pants for a stream of clear water, so I long for you O God. I thirst for you the Living God. Where can I go and worship in your presence?



When I was first given a challenge with this text, two words came to my mind. They were water and journey, let me try and show you where they took me as I explored the ideas.

As human beings we can survive quite a long time without food but under normal circumstances we cannot do the same without water. In the recent aftermath of the Turkey earthquakes we have seen the exceptions where the body has gone into a form of shutdown and bodies have survived for extended periods of time, but it is not the norm.

As human beings we are between 50% and 80% water in our body mass, we cannot store water and we need a new supply daily. Like me you have all seen the tragic film of children trekking miles to collect often dirty water for their homes, disease ridden and back breaking but it is all they have and I am pleased that we supported Water Aid over this Lent just passed.

Animals too, as the psalmist says they *“pant after cool fresh water and will travel miles to find a watering hole”*. The David Attenborough series has brought that journey right into our living rooms and then we can go and simply turn a tap to make our cup of tea.

Astrobiologists have just recently said that if life exists on other planets in our solar system, it will not be on Mars. Far more likely, it will be on the moons of Jupiter where they think there is frozen water under the surface. As I prepare this article, the mission named “Juice,” Jupiter Ice, is preparing to launch on its eight-year journey to Jupiter to explore the possibility of water in some form or other on its moons.

Water is necessary for our very existence.

At the end of the last century (that sounds such a long time ago when you hear it like that!) in 1998 we took my father, who was living with us after Mum died, on what he called his Roots holiday. I had just started looking into my family history and asked him about his recollections of his life. He said at one point “I could show you lots of places I remember if we were down there now”, hence the holiday to Gloucestershire where he had grown up, and the start of a journey for all of us.

We visited lots of the villages around the countryside he knew, and one is called Kemble, about three miles from Cirencester. Here, on a hillside above the village, there is a small spring, perpetually flowing even in the driest summer. It is 310 feet above sea level and called Lyd Well. It is also known as the Thames Head.

So, a journey starts which will take that water from spring to little stream to larger brook and then into a small river. Along its path the river gets broader and deeper, flows through many counties, towns and villages and we know it as the River Thames.

When we returned to Waking where we were living at the time, we took my dad to two places. First to the post on the footpath in Shoebury, near the garrison, to see the post which marks the point at which the River Thames officially becomes the North Sea and then to Waking Stairs to see the nearest point to us, where this great journey ends. So, as we made that journey ourselves, we had seen the beginning and end of the journey made by the waters of this great river.

We have all had a series of journeys in our lives, some long and some short. We all start as newborns and so our life journey starts. We are washed in clean water, drink gallons of it over the years, we learn to keep ourselves clean; how important was it to wash our hands so thoroughly during the pandemic? If we garden, we save precious rainwater to give to the plants in dry spells, and the dog has his fresh bowlful each day.

Like most, if not all of you, I was baptised as a small baby and I only know what happened on that day in August 1940 because others

have told me about it. It took place in a small country church called Hollington Church in the Woods, in the countryside near to Hastings. It was much safer there than in the centre of the town where the family home was at that time. I have tangible things to remind me, especially a Bible which even with glasses and new eyes I struggle to now read! The print is so tiny and I can hold the book in the palm of my hand.



But as we grow and mature, that ceremony takes on real meaning as we learn about the gift of the Holy Spirit. My own children were baptised with water from the river Jordan and so we are reminded of the Baptism of Jesus.

In Jeremiah in Chapter two and verse thirteen, we read about The Living Water as the Lord tells the prophet that the people have turned from Him, the Lord, the Spring of the Living Water.

The water in rivers go on a journey, from start to end in the sea, constantly moving, never still. We are on a journey of faith always supported by the Living Water

Here at the Cornerstone, we are belatedly celebrating fifty years of the formation of the United Reform Church as the previous churches, Congregational and Presbyterian, came together under one banner. We too will soon be celebrating another significant day in our own journey here in this building as the group of URC churches in Southend came together under one roof, nearly a decade and a half ago.

May we all go on journeying, learning and growing in our faith, our love for each other and all those we meet, with our trust in God, the source of the living water. worshipping God in every space we find, The Psalmist asked "Where can I go and worship in your presence?"

Surely the answer is Everywhere.

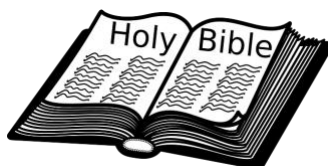
I end with part of the last verse from the Psalm

*I will put my hope in God and
once again, I will praise Him
My Saviour and My God.*

Alison

Bible Study

After Easter we looked at the parable of the Last Samaritan; what it meant in the time of Jesus and how we viewed it in today's world and our own spiritual journeys. What is amazing, is how we were all prepared to be frank and open without fear. We realised that we all felt very much the same when we compared ourselves against the people in the parable.



We intend to look at some other parables in the coming months so why not give it a go and join us? No pressure to say anything; you can even listen out of sight on zoom!

Our next session is on 22nd May at 7.00pm at church or on zoom; all are welcome.

Sohail and Michael

Let nothing upset you.
Let nothing startle you.
All things pass:
God does not change.
Patience wins all it seeks.
Whoever has God lacks nothing:
God alone is enough.

Teresa of Avila

I Don't Believe It!

- ❖ When I got married it was a quiet wedding. The Vicar had laryngitis.
- ❖ I fell asleep in the chair yesterday, when I woke up someone had put a teabag in my mouth. I'm not happy, I hate being taken for a mug.
- ❖ I've just finished converting my van to electric. I swapped the diesel engine for the motor from a tumble dryer. It wouldn't start at first, then I realised I hadn't shut the door properly! Then I took it for a spin!
- ❖ Sadly, I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.
- ❖ I saw a man with a shopping trolley full of horse shoes, rabbit feet and 4 leaf clovers. I thought 'he's pushing his luck!!!'
- ❖ I've been diagnosed with a chronic fear of giants .. Feefiphobia.
- ❖ I just saw 3 people jogging outside and it inspired me to get up and close the blinds.

Why I like Retirement!

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday.

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

PENTECOST: The word is the Greek for 50th. It is literally the 50th day after Easter Sunday.

After the Resurrection - before Pentecost

- The Apostles, we are told, huddled in that same Upper Room where Jesus had broken the bread. They were feeling alone and afraid, full of doubt and worry.
- There was no bold preaching, just a lingering fear that now Jesus had gone back to His Father it might be all over and just a matter of time before they were arrested.
- “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” This was 10 days after our Lord’s Ascension and 50 days after the Resurrection.
- It’s almost impossible to imagine how surprised they must have been that first Pentecost morning when what sounded like a great wind and fire in the shape of tongues came into this closed room and stopped over each of them.
- Jesus had asked His Disciples to remain in Jerusalem. The coming of the Holy Spirit marks the fulfilment of the Lord’s promise.
- The Spirit is mentioned at every significant moment in the Salvation story in both the Old and New Covenants. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit filled Jesus and went out from Him during His acts of healing and saving. Finally, it was the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Now He is glorified, Jesus can pour out that Spirit on us His children.
- We are called in the power of the Spirit to bear much fruit. Those fruits are:
Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self control.

English Lesson

Tsunami	- T is silent
Honest	- H is silent
Psychology	- P is silent
Knife	- K is silent
Wife	- Husband is silent

Things to think about:

- What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- If poison is past its expiry date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- Why is the letter w, in English, called double u? Shouldn't it be called double v?
- If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.
- Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

Never regret a day in your life.

Good days

Give you happiness,

Bad days

Give you experience,

Worst days

Give you lessons,

And best days

Give you memories.

Love Is?

A little girl asked her brother "What is love?"

He replied: "Love is when you steal my chocolate from my lunch box every day and I still hide it in the same place."



Hugs are a beautiful form of communication for any situation. They are a silent way of saying "You matter", with no words to say. If I'm grieving I need to receive them to believe I'm not alone. They may not have the answers but they make us feel better on a bad day.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

May

Thu	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sat	6 th	10.30am	Coronation of King Charles III, on screen.	
			See separate notice in this magazine	
Sun	7 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Family Worship & Parade	Our Minister
Thu	18 th	7.30pm	P.M.G. meeting	
Sun	21 st	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Mon	22 nd	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Thu	25 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Sun	28 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister

June

Thu	1 st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	
Sun	4 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Family Service with Pilots, Scouts etc	Rev Ejaz



The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for June 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 4th June and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by 9 a.m. on Thursday 25th May.

Advance Notice. July and August will be a double issue.

Thank you.
Anne and Michael

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.



Church Flowers



May 14th Alan Barnes

The future Flower List is on the noticeboard in the Foyer and at the moment has no names, apart for May 14th, on it.

If you would like to supply flowers for 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

<u>May</u>	7 th	Ann Thorp + any help please
	14 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	21 st	Val Hayman
	28 th	Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ
<u>June</u>	4 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	11 th	Sandra Russ and helpers



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<u>May</u>	2 nd	Stella Duboux
	9 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	16 th	See below
	25 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<u>June</u>	6 th	Stella Duboux
	13 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	20 th	See below
	27 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates



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.

A satisfied life is
better than a successful life,
because our success is
measured by others, but our
satisfaction is
measured by our own soul,
mind and heart,

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.**