

New Horizons

JUNE 2023



Happy
FATHER'S
DAY

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)

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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 (1 st Monday in the month)
	5.00 - 6.30pm	Pilots (2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Monday in the month)
	7.00 pm	Bible Study (2 nd and 4 th Monday of each month)
Tues	10.00 am	Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
	11.30 am	The Tuesday Rendezvous (1 st and 3 rd 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 (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

Waiting for the Power

There are a lot of people who do not know how to live without excitement, without stimulation. Whether it comes from pleasure or from crisis, they thrive on activity, on doing things, on solving problems, on adrenalin.

The time that exists between one crisis or another, between one activity or another, is regarded by them as dead time, as time that is lost - time that is unimportant, time that doesn't count.

Even people who are not adrenalin junkies find it difficult sometimes, difficult to face a period of time in which not much is happening, a period of time in which they must wait for a promise to be fulfilled, for an event that they are looking forward to take place.

The Book of Acts tells us how the disciples found themselves in this kind of situation - how they found themselves having to face a period in which they would simply have to wait for Christ's promise to them to come true.

After the resurrection Jesus visited with his disciples on several occasions.

He taught them, he encouraged them, he commissioned them to do a job, and then - on the day of his ascension into heaven, when they were anxiously asking him when his kingdom would be established, when the next instalment of the divine plan would take place, he tells them that it is not for them to know the times or periods established by God - but that they should go back to Jerusalem - and wait, wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Wait for the power they would need to witness to him there, and in Judea and all of Samaria, and ultimately in all the world.

For many, waiting is a dreadful thing - Just ask any child. But it doesn't have to be like this Living between times, living between occasions in which all of our minds and hearts and energy are absorbed in affairs of significance can, in fact, be quite wonderful.

It can be, for us, a pause that refreshes, time in which we gain strength, a time in which we quietly grow and are prepared for that which will come next.

When the machine gun was first invented a problem developed with it. It seems that if it was fired continuously for a period of time, the barrel would heat up and cause the gun to jam; even upon occasion to explode;

Initially, two simple solutions were invented to overcome this problem. You could either change the barrels or you could stop firing for a while.

God knows that we too need periods of rest, periods of waiting, periods in which we can be changed; refreshed and renewed, lest we, like those first machine guns, jam up or explode.

And God provides to us periods of time which are times between - periods in which we can be strengthened and prepared for what is to come next.

The prophet Isaiah says that those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they will mount up on wings like eagles, they will run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

In this perspective, waiting is a positive thing, the time between the making of a promise and its fulfilment a time which is, or can be, highly beneficial to us.

When Jesus ascended into heaven before the eyes of his disciples to take his place as Lord at the right hand of God the father an angel visited them and asked them:

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”
(Acts 1:11)

Our attention is not supposed to be focussed so much only on Christ's return, or on the next thing that we want to have happen in our lives that we end up forgetting what else is going on around us.

In the times between, our eyes are meant to be fixed on the present moment that God has given us. We are called to live now in the way God intended us rather than to live in the future.

When the disciples returned to Jerusalem, they stayed together with the rest of those who believed in Jesus. They stayed together and they prayed, and in so doing, they prepared themselves for the job Jesus had told them that they would do when the Holy Spirit came upon them as he had promised it would.

There are many ways to prepare for what we believe is coming next, but in the end for those who are seeking to do God's will and to see God's promises come true in their midst, prayer is of central importance.

Because it is this which prepares us for the gift of the Holy Spirit - it is this which allows us to be open to the power the Spirit bestows.



It is the Holy Spirit which enabled and guided the ministry of the disciples, and it is the Holy Spirit which enables and guides our own ministry as his followers, our own witness to Christ -- indeed it is the Spirit, and only the Spirit, which allows us to be fruitful with our lives.

Our task in the times between, whether it is a time between what is obviously one work of God and another, or simply a time between one event in our daily lives and another is to make ourselves ready to be used of the Spirit; that Spirit which may come, as it does so often, sooner than we think.

We need to trust and have confidence that what has been promised to us by God will come to pass. Whether that promise is of a spiritual gift, or a promise of comfort and of a new life or a promise to bless us and use us in some particular way in his service.

**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.

We especially remember the family of Ken Stevens (brother-in-law of Val Mead), who passed away unexpectedly last month. Please keep Frances and the family in your prayers and also remember families and friends who still mourn the loss of a loved one. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers.
Amen

A few thoughts about prayer to God.

There are no special words or phrases to use to pray.

Speak as if you are confiding in a close friend about your fears, your concerns, both your happy and sad moments, your need for reassurance and help.

Remember to listen for twice as long as you pray.

A thought, a wish, an idea, a concern; they will all be received as prayer.

You might not always be listening, but God never sleeps, never takes a holiday, never gets tired, angry or impatient!

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



A big thank you to everyone for the cards and gift for my big 0 birthday last month. I am trying very hard to continue **not** feeling my age!

It has been a busy month, beginning with the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th when some of us gathered to watch the service and procession on the big screen. Later in the day the place was buzzing with some 120 visitors partying with us for the occasion; our thanks to Suzie Armstrong, Stacey Thorne and the whole team which organised food, crafts and bouncy castles, then cleared up again afterwards!

It fell to Roger to follow the celebrations with our Sunday worship focussed on the King's promise to serve and the help and support he will receive from the Lord as he does so; likewise for us. Roger used the illustration of the beaver building a dam for its own purposes, but with the consequence that all manner of other wildlife thrives; so the King's leadership, and ours, should be such that the nation, and the people around us, should be positively affected. Because of the Bank Holiday there was no Messy Church in May. Sohail led the Church Parade on 14th, considering what it is to be church, and the purpose of the church in today's world, and on 21st Rev Celia Whitman took our service for Transfiguration Sunday, urging us to so reflect the radiance of Jesus that others see it and want it too. Our Communion service for Pentecost was led by Sohail when he urged us to be bold and prepared to talk about our faith, whenever and wherever we are.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ken Stevens (Val Mead's brother in law) during the month. Like me, Ken was raised in the Bournemouth Park congregation and will be known to some of us and our hearts reach out to Frances and all the family.

A couple of reminders:

- We have two large bins in the car park for general waste and recyclables. These are emptied on a regular basis, and the contractor generally leaves the lids locked. If you have nimble fingers it is possible to manoeuvre the lock manually,

otherwise there is a large black plastic key near the key safe in the reception cupboard. Please do not leave bags on rubbish on top of the bins, and if you need to use that key, please make sure it is returned to that cupboard, thank you.

- Fault and breakage reporting: forms were designed to assist with the process of getting things repaired or replaced and these can be found in a plastic wallet hanging from the leaflet racks near the reception desk and in the hall lobby. Completed forms should be left at the computer desk. Notes left on other scraps of paper often go astray and simply telling someone about a fault does not always ensure the correct person gets to know. So please do follow this procedure - unless it is an emergency in which case telephone Vic Crowhurst, or myself/Frank. Thank you.

Looking forward, we mark the church anniversary on Sunday 25th June which this year coincides with our Minister, Sohail, being away for duty on behalf of the national church. We decided at the Church Meeting that the service would be a “Songs of Praise” where you are invited to choose a hymn or reading and share what message it has for you. We will follow the service with a “Bring and Share” lunch which Machrina has offered to co-ordinate. So, there will be two lists for your attention in the preceding weeks.

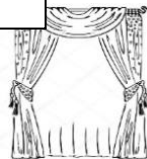
Finally, our website is very outdated and in need of a ‘do-over’. Before I set a date for this, I will need some up to date material for the organisation/group pages. Please will everyone who convenes any of the church groups write a few sentences about what is happening and who the main contact is; permission is needed to display personal data (eg name and telephone number) and for any photographs you may wish to include. Roger has a form; oh yes he does!

Ruth Dixon

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE FOR
JULY AND AUGUST.**



High Kicks, High Jinks, High FUN
An Exuberance of Colour and Music
At The Cornerstone



Fish and Chips from 6.00pm
Pre-ordered and pre-paid

Audience Participation
Songs you remember from your
mother's knee
All FREE

Harvest Festival
Evening
23rd September 2023



Big Screen Magic.
Multi-colour parades to black
and white cosy kitchen
All FREE



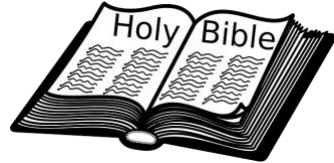
Stars might include Elephants
and Lions, Tony Blair and his
Father-in-Law, Dancing
Candlesticks, singing children
and Balloon Dancing

Only book and pay for food
- Booking open from
August.

BIBLE STUDY

A time to discover, to learn and to talk about how we live out OUR FAITH as we open up The Bible

We continue to look at some of the parables in The Bible to see if we can see lessons for today's world and how we might deepen our faith to spread the gospel of Jesus.



This is not a discussion group for “experts” but is for all to share and speak freely, without any right or wrong answers!

At our last session on Monday 22nd May we welcomed a new face who is looking forward to our next session on Monday June 13th at 7.00pm. Why not join us on zoom or at the Cornerstone, or have a word with Ruth, Sohail or Michael? We know that not everyone has transport or can access zoom, but we are sure that we can find a way for all to join in somehow.

Sohail and Michael

Did You Know?

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve.
It was an Apple with very limited memory.
Just 1 Byte and everything crashed!

It was hard getting over my addiction to the Hokey Cokey.
But I've turned myself around and that's what it's all about.

Working at an unemployment office has to be a tense job, knowing if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day.

They say the body is made up of 80% water.
In that case, I'm not fat, I'm flooded!



Happy Father's Day to all you dads out there and those who are a father figure to others.

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for all fathers. We ask you to bless and support them in their vocation that they may mirror your unconditional love and care.

Help them to be good role models and give them the grace and patience to handle difficult situations in a kind and loving way.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit said,
"I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from
the wise and learned and revealed them
to little children. Yes, Father, for this
was your good pleasure."

Luke 10:21

STUFF

The truth is, that all of the **STUFF** here on earth we work so hard to buy and accumulate does not mean a thing.

At the end of the day People will be cleaning out our **STUFF**, going through our **STUFF**, figuring out what to do with all of our **STUFF**.

This **STUFF** we've accumulated in our life.

The only thing of **VALUE** that remains, are **MEMORIES** and what we deposit into others.



May we all learn to spend less time accumulating **STUFF** and spend way more time making **MEMORIES**.

**Grandchildren just make you
feel better when you are around them.
They're sunshine for your
soul and medicine for your mind.**

What is a Grandparent - by 8 year olds

- When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.
- They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and why we shouldn't step on cracks.
- They have to answer questions like "Why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats".
- When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over and over again.
- They know we should have snack time before bed time and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

June

Thu	1 st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	
Sun	4 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	11 th	10.30am	Parade Service	Our Minister
Mon	12 th	7.00pm	Bible Study, see page 10	
Sun	18 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (Father's Day)	Roger Brett
Sun	25 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC) Church Anniversary - Songs of Praise followed by Bring and Share lunch	
Mon	26 th	7pm	Bible Study, see page 10	
Fri	30 th		General Assembly start.	

July

Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	2 nd		General Assembly end.	
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' & M&M meeting	
Sat	8 th		Closing Service of Brentwood URC	
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Morning Worship & Parade	Our Minister
Mon	10 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	24 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Thu	27 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon

**One of the
most important things
you can do on this
earth
is to let people know
they are not alone**

**The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for both
July and August 2023.**



We always welcome contributions from our readers, whether they are from The Cornerstone or anywhere around the world. And don't forget to report back if you are going away on holiday!

Your next issue will be published on Sunday 2nd July and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by 9 a.m. on Thursday 22nd June.

**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



The future Flower List is on the noticeboard in the Foyer and at the moment there are no names on it.

If you would like to supply flowers for any Sunday in the future, please place your name on the list or 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>June</u>	4 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	11 th	Sandra Russ and helpers
	18 th	Val Hayman and helpers
	25 th	Machrina Ejaz
<u>July</u>	2 nd	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	9 th	Sandra Russ and helpers
	16 th	Val Hayman and helpers
	23 rd	Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ
	30 th	Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<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
<u>July</u>	4 th	Stella Duboux
	11 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	18 th	See below
	25 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.

We are all a bit broken in some way but remember - even broken crayons can fill a page with glorious colour

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 (01702) 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.**