

# New Horizons

NOVEMBER 2023



THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

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.

**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	Bible Study (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of each month)
Tues	10.00 am	<b>THE HUB</b>
	11.30 am	Starting with Tea and Coffee in the Foyer Followed with fellowship and activities on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <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.**

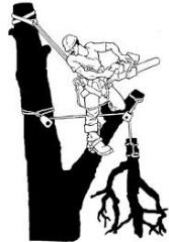
*Little Turtles Pre-School* meets on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am during term time. Please contact the Church Secretary for details.

## Letter to the Fellowship



I recently visited a friend who moved to a new home with family. I admired their house, especially how well their front and back gardens were maintained. He said, when they moved into this place five months ago, the bushes in front looked terrible. The main garden hadn't been cared for in so long that the bushes had grown into the trees, pulling down the branches, creating a thick wall of dry, dusty and intertwined shrubbery and blocking out the sunlight. Almost everything in the front yard was dead from lack of sun and sometimes even rain.

A couple of months ago, he said, we inquired as to how much it would cost to cut all that dirty mess down, so that we and the yard could receive a little sunlight. We found a reasonable price and the next morning two men came to start the job. About half way through the day, we were starting to feel for those guys as by this point all of us were realizing that they had terribly underestimated the work it would take to tear this thing down. What was supposedly only going to take a couple of hours, took all day long. From morning till dark, they hacked at that wall, and still had to return the next day to collect all the branches and leaves as it had already become too dark.



When the sun came up that next morning we felt it, and we stepped outside to see results. It looked, well.... horrible! The bushes and trees looked even more plain and uninviting than before. And now that the light shined brightly into our yard, the dryness and ugliness of everything showed in a way we hadn't seen it before! We were so disappointed.

*But only two months later, the bushes, the grass, the flowers, everything is nice and green and beautiful!*

That made me think as I look at life around us, in our churches, families and the community. In order for the sun to come in, the dross has to be cut down. At first, a lot of ugly things will be

exposed. But as the sun shines down with all its nutrients and the rain moistens and washes away what was once all dry and dirty, little sprouts of fresh life begin to sprout and with time, before you know it, everything becomes new and any evidence of the old disappears.

So, it is with our hardened and dry hearts. At the beginning of our Advent season, we need to clear away the dross and let the Son come in! We need to let His light come into our lives to make us aware of all those things that are hiding our real inner beauty. We needn't be discouraged when we see the results at first – just keep allowing His nutrients to nourish us and His rain to wash us. Soon you and all our neighbours will see a beautiful thing grow and they will probably want to know how they too can get their hearts looking so nice!

**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 financial worries and the war in Israel/Palestine and 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 at this time Peter Hunt, who passed away last month. Please keep Zoy, their family and friends in your thoughts at this sad time. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

**Father, hear our prayers  
Amen**

## Our prayers for The World

Father, are we not praying hard enough? Are we not working hard enough? Are we not shouting hard enough? Why are people and nations not working hard enough for peace amongst all people?

Now is really the time for the message of your Son Jesus, to be heard from OUR mouths, so God give us the will and the energy to do all that we can to abolish the evil in your world.

Amen

Two peoples, one land,  
Three faiths, one root,  
One earth, one mother,  
One sky, one beginning, one future, one destiny,  
One broken heart,  
One God.

We pray to You:  
Grant us a vision of unity.  
May we see the many in the one and the one in the many.  
May you, Life of All the Worlds,  
Source of All Amazing Differences  
Help us to see clearly.  
Guide us gently and firmly toward each other,  
Toward peace.

Amen

**Rabbi Sheila Weinberg  
Jewish Community of Amherst,  
Amherst, MA**

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day isn't about crying.  
It's not even about death.  
It's about being grateful and  
acknowledging the selfless  
sacrifice so many men and women have  
made and are ready to make.



I am a single poppy  
A reminder to you all,  
That courage faith and honour,  
Will stand where heroes fall.

Forever lost.  
Forever changed.  
We care.  
So we remember.

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



Dear All,

Once again family matters and medical appointments have meant I had no time to prepare an article for this magazine. I will try and do better next month!

**Ruth**

### **Peter Hunt - RIP**

Zoy shared the sad news that Peter was called home to the Father's arms on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> October.

We will miss his wisdom, experience and bible knowledge.



The last few months have been quite difficult and we must be thankful his suffering is now over and he is in a far better place.

Please join me to remember Zoy and all the family in your prayers at this time and in the days to come.

His funeral will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Burial at 11.00 a.m. followed by a Memorial Service at the Cornerstone at 1.00 p.m.

**Ruth**

### **Colin Edwards - RIP**

Colin, together with his parents, were well known at Cliff Town URC, Colin particularly for his skill on the organ.

Over the years his teaching talents spread across the country and latterly to his music and choral work in Essex.

Sadly, Colin died on October 26<sup>th</sup> as the result of a road collision in Southend and will be sorely missed.

**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.



Collection point - Grey tray at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue tray at Reception Desk

A Thank You letter received:



To our dear friends at Cornerstone URC,

Your monetary gift and boxes of food will help towards supporting the families in the Shoeburyness area who are struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Thank you so much for your support.

Blessings,

From the trustees, manager and volunteers at The Shoebury Ark.

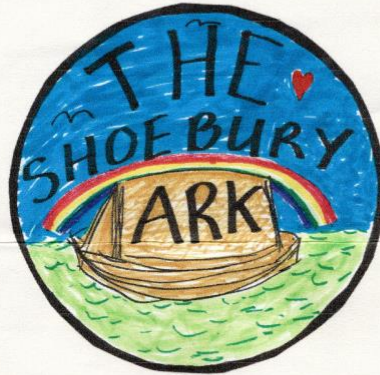


# THE SHOEBURY ARK



We aim to help alleviate poverty in the Shoeburyness area by providing freshly cooked meals.

We also sell tinned/packet food and preloved children's clothing at very low cost .



Open Every Tuesday  
2 PM - 4 PM  
at



Friars Baptist Church, Eagle Way  
Shoeburyness, SS3 9UW

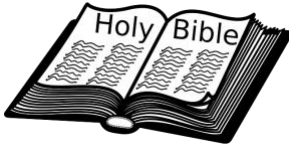
Alleviating  
Poverty in  
Shoebury

Contact Us [info@shoeburyark.org.uk](mailto:info@shoeburyark.org.uk)

"Like" our Facebook page to  
keep informed and see  
what we are doing.

[www.facebook.com/shoeburyark](http://www.facebook.com/shoeburyark)

Charity number 1198094



## OUR FAITH as we open up The Bible

We are sorry that we have had a rocky start since we had our summer break, due to illness and other issues. However, we are hoping to start again on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November as we approach Advent.

We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7.00pm in person at the church or on zoom. All are welcome, even to just listen or watch.

Our aim is to continue exploring the life and message of Jesus to find out what it says to us in the present time so that we might be better equipped to pass on that message by word and by example.

**Sohail and Michael**

### Not from Essex, but very worthy

If you follow the news you will probably have heard that a lady called Phyllis Latour died on the 8<sup>th</sup> October at the incredible age of 102. Incredible you may well ask but Why?

Here is something of her story which began in South Africa where she was born in 1921 to Phillippe Latour and his wife Louise. Phillippe was a French national, a doctor and Louise was English. She was orphaned by the age of four as her father died in conflicts in the Congo and her mother, remarried to a racing driver lost her life in a motor accident.

After a boarding school education, Phyllis moved to England in May 1939 to join the Women's Auxillary Airforce, which she did in November that year. She was training to be a mechanic for air frames but her fluent French soon saw her asked by the SOE to become an agent and she went through the vigorous training both physical and mental. Her Godmother had died, after being imprisoned by the Nazis and her Godmother's father was shot by the Nazis also. She regarded these two people as her grandparents and

joining the SOS became a revenge action for Phyllis with the work to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in other countries, at the time especially in Nazi Germany.

She parachuted into Normandy in May 1944 to operate as part of the Scientific circuit using the code name Genevieve. She was a wireless operator alongside others, who acted as couriers and organisers of the resistance.

She was slightly-built and could pass for a teenager. At this time her cover story was that she was now living in the region having moved to escape the Allied bombing. She rode a bicycle around the area selling soap and chatting with the German soldiers, gaining snippets of military information which she then transmitted to the authorities in a strange way. She encoded the messages, printed them on a piece of silk, which was wrapped round a knitting needle inserted into a shoe lace which she then used to tie up her hair. These messages then were taken by bicycle to the agents who transmitted them.

Because the Germans were very good at finding where the transmitting was taking place and it took half an hour to send any message Phyllis would be constantly on the move for that time after getting the message out. She was often away from her home overnight and would sleep in the forest or with Allied sympathisers. After she had successfully passed on a message, she would then prick the silk all over to break up the message she has printed. She says in her story that she used about 2000 pieces of silk altogether.

This was so successful that although Phyllis was taken in for questioning twice and searched, the Germans took no notice of her hair and she was released on both occasions.

Another tale she tells in her own story is that while she was working one day at her desk, two German soldiers came in searching for food. She told them she had Scarlet Fever, very contagious and the men soon left.

During her time in Normandy, Phyllis sent 137 coded messages, which gave information of where the German troops were, their movements and ultimately helped in the planning of the 'D' Day landings.

She stayed in France until the liberation, after which she returned to England. After the war, Phyllis went to live in New Zealand, married and had four children.

It was only in the last fifteen years that she told them anything about her life as a spy and as recently as 2022 she was able to be interviewed and persuaded to write her own life story as she saw it in hindsight .

She was presented with the Legion of Honour by The French and in doing so the French Ambassador, Laurent Contini said “I have deep admiration for her bravery and it will be with great honour that I will present her with the award of Chevalier de L'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honniere, France's highest decoration”. Forever to be known as Genevieve, the spy who defeated the Germans with her knitting and her hairbands.

### Your greetings this Christmas.



Once again you will be able to have your name and a short personal message in the magazine for your friends at The Cornerstone. This will also be on the board in The Foyer. If you wish to be included, then please speak to, or email, either Anne or Michael.

Also, the good news is that the post box will be making its traditional appearance once again.

Or, you can do it the traditional way by card via Royal Mail.

As always, our treasurer will be pleased if you feel able to make a donation to church funds, as the result of any savings you might make in postage and cards.



## The Gospel of Another Chance - Luke 13: 1-9

It is true in respect to most churches; it may be true about our lives as well. There is a good deal of foliage. There may be some colourful blooming now and then. But the real test of faith and obedience is in the fruit that is borne as a consequence of our lives and living. It may be impossible for us to make any judgment in this matter, but the Master of the vineyard has a right to expect fruit-bearing and productive living. We must wonder at times whether or not we measure up.

We don't believe that evidence of fruit-bearing or productivity have to be statistical - or always visible to the naked eye. Fruit-bearing is not necessarily synonymous with good works or service for God. Fruit is what we are; service is what we do. We are required to bear fruit - wherever God has placed us: the shop or the school, the home or the office, Main Street or marketplace. We are to "live" Christ - not the narrow, severe, critical, unloving Christ as interpreted and reflected by some people, but the Christ of the Gospels, the joyful, loving, patient, kind, gentle, selfless Christ of Christmas and Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost. It means that we are to be kind among people who are cruel, tolerant among those who are irritable and complaining, self-controlled among those who live by their appetites, joyful among the unhappy and ungrateful, generous among the poor and needy, and loving and concerned in all situations - even when we have to take a prophetic stand against injustice and prejudice and greed.

And this is where all of us have failed - again and again. Let us be grateful for the Gospel of another chance. It is as if Jesus were interceding on our behalf: "Give them another chance, Father. I will stir them, prune them, and allow some hard times to refine and renew them and teach them how to rely on divine grace, but give them another chance." Our great God is merciful and patient and He will make us into fruit-bearing Christians.



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

## **The Southend Area Partnership was set up to enable our local URCS to get together when District Councils were abolished.**

It meets regularly and shares their news, views and ideas by each church presenting a written report. We thought you might be interested to read the one from The Cornerstone for their October Meeting

*“The Cornerstone has been looking at itself due to reduced congregations with, recently, even younger members poorly or caring for seriously ill partners as well as older family members. Friends do use the online service weekly. Sadly, aside from the ministers’ family, there are no young people in the congregation unless a parade service takes place. Some individuals have started to attend, one of whom has dyslexia and preachers are asked to give thought to having hymns which are repetitive to enable him to join in. One of our members has become engaged which is a joy.*

*Toddlers, Pilots and Messy Church suffer from reduced leadership and lower numbers. Toddlers’ numbers have recently begun to increase with many nannies and a few dads bringing their little ones. Particularly for Pilots and Messy Church, it is also difficult to plan because individual attendance is very uncertain.*

*The Tuesday Group (The Hub) follows on from a well-attended coffee morning and they are looking at carrying out a course called Hymns we Love aimed at the older generation to explore the Christian Faith.*

*As the result of a request from a child for a Bible to read, the church is using some of a gift from a past dear member to hand out Children’s Bibles on request.*

*Whilst we have activities as mentioned for younger people, we are also investigating setting up a youth club with other congregations to give greater numbers. Contact has recently been made with the Red Balloon Foundation to have assistance on family fun days (e.g. Christmas time) and for Pilots, Messy Church and Youth Club in the New Year, to be financed through another past members legacy.*

*Events such as a Harvest supper with Fish and Chips, songs for the audience to sing and some excerpts from musical films will be shown. At Christmas we are looking to distribute the URC family box which includes games, activities and things to make, with the option to add our own details. A Coronation party was held, run by some people who only attend youth events. Free food was provided so the numbers attending was quite large, but sadly, people are often never seen again.*

*The Church Secretary's husband has not been well recently, so she has had to step back from continuing her duties to assist him and others have taken on some roles.*

*Rev Sohail Ejaz's wife, Machrina, has begun her ministerial training in Cambridge and we all wished her well.*

*Our Children and Youth Service presentation will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> December, with cash gifts instead of toys being collected for distribution. On 17<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm we will hold the annual Lessons and Carols service. Our Christmas Eve services, on a Sunday this year, will be held at 10.30am with Holy Communion, led by our Minister and at 3.30pm our regular Christingle Service will take place. On 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am Rev Sohail Ejaz will lead our service. Everyone is welcome.*

*A Doug Horley's Praise Party is to be organised for some time in Spring 2024."*

Jesus says, 'Let go of your complaints, forgive those who loved you poorly, step over your feelings of being rejected, and have the courage to trust that you won't fall into an abyss of nothingness but into the safe embrace of a God whose love will heal all your wounds.'

## A Little Bit Of Humour

Teacher: Give me a sentence using the words, defence, defeat and detail.

Student: When a horse jumps over defence, defeat goes before detail.

- What a disappointment, I paid a carpenter up front yesterday to build me a custom-made bed and he has done a bunk. It's one thing on top of another!
- I applied for a job hanging mirrors. It's something I can see myself doing!
- I saw an envelope on my doorstep that said 'Do Not Bend'. I stood for ages trying to figure out how to pick it up.
- I just read that it takes three sheep to make one sweater. Amazing! I didn't even know that they could knit!
- So, a neighbour knocked on my front door at 3.00 a.m. 3.00 a.m.!!!! Luckily, I was already up playing the Bag Pipes!

## A No Nonsense Guide to Coffee

Americano:	Black Coffee
Flat White:	White Coffee
Cappuccino:	Frothy Coffee
Latte:	Milky Coffee
Espresso:	Strong Coffee
Machiato:	Milk topped with Coffee
Mocha:	Choccy Coffee
Tea:	Not Coffee



## SERVICES AND MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

### November

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	
			<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	<b>Our Minister</b>
Mon	13 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Bible Study	
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
approx.		12.00pm	Church meeting and Elders' Elections	
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Bible Study	

### December

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (1 <sup>st</sup> Advent)	Roger Brett
Thurs	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship, Family Church Parade	
			<b>J.Ch &amp; Pilots &amp; Our Minister</b>	
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	7pm	Bible Study	
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	5pm	<b>Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	<b>Christingle Service</b>	Mary & Derek
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>	Our Minister
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon

### January 2024

Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
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**The Next Issue of New Horizons will be a double one for December 2023 and January 2024.**



Your next issue will be published on **Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**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**

<b><u>Nov</u></b>	19 <sup>th</sup>	Zoy Hunt and Family In memory of Peter
<b><u>Dec</u></b>	10 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Kemp



The future Flower List is on the noticeboard in the Foyer and 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.

**Volunteers will always be very welcome to help our existing teams on a regular or an occasional basis.**

## **Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota**

<b><u>Nov</u></b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Val Hayman and helpers
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Machrina Ejaz and Sandra Russ
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ and helpers
<b><u>Dec</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ and helpers



## **Tuesday mornings “Drop in”**

<b><u>Nov</u></b>	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
<b><u>Dec</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stella Duboux
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead



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 TO CONTACT

<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>Pilots</b>	Derek Goodyear 07863 208914
<b>C'Stone Toddlers</b>	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
<b>Scout Group</b>	Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309
<b>Use of Premises</b>	Roger Brett (01702) 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.**