

# New Horizons

FEBRUARY 2024



## 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)

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## 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	3.30pm-5.00pm	Messy Church (1 <sup>st</sup> Monday in the month)
	3.15pm-4pm	Welcome (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in the month)
	4.00pm-5.15pm	Pilots (4 -10 years old)
	5.15pm-6.45pm	Youth Club (11+)
	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> Starting with Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
	11.30 am	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



### *God Keeping Us On Course*

I have always been interested in space travels. It is so fascinating to know how everything is planned, prepared, and then performed.

Recently, watching a space travel related programme on discovery tv, I learned something new, or maybe I never realised it before. Apparently, as a space craft sails through the vacuous beauty of the cosmos, it is complex to keep it on an exact path. Navigating in space is not for the faint hearted. When man landed on the moon on July 20th 1969, it was estimated that the lunar spacecraft had spent up to 85% of its journey off course, because of few limitations.

Once the spacecraft had left the earth's orbit, it had mostly drifted unpropelled to the moon. The fact the module successfully reached its destination was down to a set of small retro rockets, which were fired occasionally but effectively to correct the course. When a spacecraft gets off its trajectory, it must be put back on the right track.



Similarly, when we drift from our God-given path, we also need our courses corrected. The hard truth is this; in our overwhelming uncertain and distracting world, we can all unintentionally find ourselves off course.

The stark realities of life can cause us to slide in our faith, compromise with our culture or become spiritually confused amid all the noise. If we're not careful we can end up far from where we wanted to be.

Thankfully, God doesn't leave us to get lost in space. Through the power of his indwelling Holy Spirit, God helps, guides and directs us every day like a precise rocket thruster. He nudges us back onto his path, rerouting us when we've gone rogue and lovingly correcting us

when we've missed the mark. Jesus is our Mission Control, and we must choose to listen to him.

This course correction you see often feels a little like discipline. When God pushes us to change direction, it can be humbling and uncomfortable. God's discipline though is never to be feared because it is always for our benefit.

Hebrews 12:5 says this, *“my child do not make light of the Lord’s discipline and do not lose heart when he rebukes you because the Lord disciplines the one he loves and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son”*.

When God corrects your course, he's treating you as his beloved child, as your father. He's protecting your future and ensuring you don't drift towards destruction.

I wonder if you have ever reflected, where do you feel like you're drifting in your daily life? How might the Holy Spirit be trying to correct your course? Where is he nudging, convicting or rebuking you?

As you read this, take this moment to reach out for God; imagine yourself grabbing his hand, let him call you back towards safety, lean into his course correction, welcome his loving discipline.

Psalm 94:12-13 says, *“blessed is the one you discipline Lord the one you teach from your law; you grant them relief from days of trouble”*.

As you embrace the Holy Spirit's course correction today, you'll find peace in his guiding presence. Follow his commands and he will lead you home.

May God of hope fill you to overflowing with all joy and peace by the power of his Holy Spirit today and always in all ways.

**Amen**  
**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.

Please remember the families and friends of those who are still grieving 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**

## **Our prayers for all people**

O God our Father, we praise you as the Almighty and Powerful and thank you for sending your Son Jesus as The Saviour of our world.

We need all of your help in a world where it seems that the powerful, the greedy, the violent and the dishonest have taken over control of people by harming, wounding and killing.

We also ask for you to inspire, bless and support all of us so that we may do all that we are able. Whether by small deeds and actions or by joining together to make a loud and deafening noise that can be heard by all people and all nations

We know you will answer our prayers, but we shall try to listen and act!

Amen

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



I'm writing this on a very gloomy January morning, grey and drizzle, a far cry from the crisp sunny and frosty mornings of a week ago and a sharp reminder that we can no longer rely on the seasons as we used to years ago. Frozen pipes may be a thing of the past, but our church heating system has been playing up and we have experienced a few chilly Sunday mornings. That should be sorted by the time you read this .....

Looking back at December, I note that we managed to have the full range of Advent and Christmas festival services and family afternoon once again, and thanks to those who were involved. As you all know by now Frank did not get his surgery before Christmas as planned, as the anaesthetist was not happy for it to go ahead within a year of his heart attack. So, we are still playing the waiting game.

On the first Sunday in January we had café style worship in the foyer led by Roger. It was very different from what we are used to but did enable us to interact with each other. Do let Elders know if you enjoyed it and want to do it again. Roger also stepped in on 21<sup>st</sup> January, when Rev Celia Whitman could not come to us (we wish Geoff well as he recovers from the fall). Other services in January were led by our Minister and the Church Meeting /Induction of Elders took place on 28<sup>th</sup>.

There have been some changes to the way we do our children and youth work on Mondays, it had become impossible to engage the attention of 4 year olds and 14 year olds in the same session. We are now opening from 3.15 so families can come straight from school for refreshments - and if you want to come along and help with that or simply chat to families you are most welcome. There are then activities for 4-10 year olds from 4.00-5.15 p.m. and for 11 and over from 5.15 until 6.30 p.m. We have engaged the services of a youth worker from the Red Balloon Foundation who is proving popular with the children, and a great help with the more active parts of the sessions!

Messy Church will still be the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, with refreshments from 3.15 and the session from 4-6.30 p.m.

Lent begins on 14<sup>th</sup> February; you are invited once again to participate in the Water Aid Jars of Change Appeal, and jars will be available the preceding Sunday, to be returned to the Treasurer by Easter.

The Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31.12.23 takes place towards the end of March, and as usual, if you manage a group or session on behalf of the church, please do let me have your notes for inclusion in the Book of Reports, by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. And if your group holds church funds (a kitty), your financial statement for the year ended 31.12.23 should already be with the Treasurer.

I finish on a bright note - I have just been into the garden and seen snowdrops poking through!

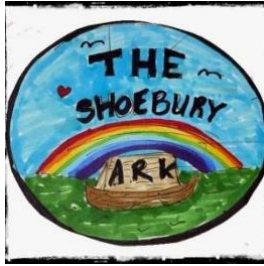


Ruth Dixon

**A wise man once said:**

- Hate has 4 letters but so does Love.
- Enemies has 7 letters but so does Friends.
- Lying has 5 letters but so does Truth.
- Cry has 3 letters but so does Joy.
- Negativity has 10 letters but so does Positivity.

**LIFE IS 2 SIDED, SO CHOOSE THE BETTER SIDE OF IT**



Collection Point - Blue tray at Reception Desk

## JUST IN TIME .....

I made, what has now become, one of my frequent visits to the Shoebury Ark on the coldest Tuesday in January!

The Crafters at our Tuesday Hub had again been very busy knitting and produced a significant number of blankets, so I thought they needed to be delivered.



On arrival, the Ark was extremely busy with people attending for the food bank, cooked meals and many other items, and Pam (the Organiser) was overwhelmed with our generous donation! She said she'd put them out for the clients straightaway.

Later that day she messaged me to say that the blankets had all gone, and she had in fact been 'mobbed' for them, as some of the families are in such fuel poverty they are desperate for anything that will keep them warm!

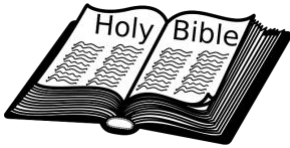
I can honestly say I felt humbled by the level of need some people are in and the response the Ark is making to it! You wouldn't believe, in this day and age, there's such poverty on our doorstep!

Many thanks to our Crafters and **please, please**, keep up the good work you are doing, it is most definitely needed.

Val Mead

**VERY WELL DONE TO OUR CRAFTERS  
FROM ALL OF US AT THE CORNERSTONE**





## EXPLORE LENT WITH US

This year we are approaching Lent in a rather different way; not just by studying the time up to Easter but reflecting on the total ministry of Jesus.

During our conversations we shall explore the three great words from Jesus; The Way, The Truth and the Life. Our overall purpose will be to seek how we can use our talents to show and teach others about that way, that truth and that light.

This will be a time for us all to have the opportunity to, talk, to listen, to share and to learn from one another. **However**, if you feel more comfortable just listening, that will be fine.

We have our first session on Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> either in person at Church or on zoom, so why not join us? Several people will be very pleased to answer any questions you may have so, ask them! Sohail, Machrina, Rev'd Derek Kingston, Ann Blackwell, Sarah Wilson, Michael Wardle, Paul Drage or Nigel Mead.

Other sessions follow on Mondays February 19<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Just give it a go!

**Sohail and Michael**

## FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW



Collection point - Grey tray at Reception Desk

## The Shetland Bus

I spent the first six years of my life in war-torn Hastings where we suffered from the left-over bomb loads from the returning German fighter bombers being dropped on us as they returned across the Channel. I have only hazy memories of events myself and I often wonder if they are real memories, or things I have been told which have become real to me over time. I do remember running into the house when we heard the dreaded Doodlebugs whining overhead with only seconds after the noise cut out before they dropped to the ground. I also remember vividly having to walk up Silverhill to School the morning after the whole of one side had been flattened, and then having one of the families billeted with us until they were rehomed. Imagine four of us, and three of them all in a Morrison shelter overnight! Quite a squash and five of us were under five.

Why that introduction? Well ever since I became old enough to take an interest, I have been fascinated with stories about the War, not so much the battles but the side stories of heroism, service and rescues that are recorded often by very ordinary folk. There is an excellent book called *The War Remembered*, a collated series of stories written by the people concerned later in their lives. It is one such story, not from that book but remembered in the television series *Shetland*.

Very early in 1940 Norway was invaded by Germany. The country was very unprepared for the invasion and it soon fell to the invaders. King Haakon, his family and government came to live in exile and relative safety in London. Thousands of Norwegians also left their homes, many of them coming across the North Sea to make their new home in Shetland. They travelled in small fishing boats they had used in their working lives back home. Their one aim was to restore a free Norway.

In Norway a large disgruntled group formed pockets of resistance but to be effective they needed leaders, weapons and ammunition. They needed to be taught how to become saboteurs with skills to match their aims. Winston Churchill set up a special Operations unit to work behind enemy lines with the resistance groups, teaching them how to evade capture and work on the acts of sabotage as effectively as possible. The SOE became very important as the war went on but here were the early beginnings.

They needed a regular route of movement of the forces between Britain and Norway, which could also be used to evacuate refugees and fugitives. The “Shetland Bus” was conceived and became the way people and materials were moved around between the two countries.

The “Shetlandsbussene” was the nickname given to the SOE group that made a permanent link between Mainland Shetland and German Occupied Norway from 1941 to the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. The name of the group changed over the five years but in 1943 it became officially part of the Norwegian Navy. At the start it was operated by modified fishing boats carrying machine guns disguised as oil tanks on the decks. Losses were quite large and the small boats were joined by three fast and well-armed “submarine chasers” which had a top speed of the equivalent of 25mph and a cruising speed of 17mph. Over the rest of the war these ships made 116 journeys with no loss of life themselves. Crossings were made mostly at night in the pitch dark, without lights and in winter. This meant that passengers and crew had to endure very heavy North Sea conditions in the dark, and the constant threat of discovery by the German aircraft and patrol boats.

The main crews were volunteer young Norwegian fishermen prepared to take the risk. These boats were involved in two-way traffic, taking weapons, machinery, radios and necessary supplies from Britain to Norway and returning with folk who had to escape Norway for one reason or another, or who were needed in Shetland for military reasons. Their base headquarters were firstly in Kergard, and then at Lunna, before moving to Scalloway in Shetland in 1942.

Scalloway quickly became home to the crew and these brave young men were taken to the hearts of the Shetlanders and there is, to this day, a close relationship between the communities on both sides of the North Sea, with many families linked through marriage and their descendants forming links never to be broken. 500 tonnes of goods were transported and the action of the Shetland Bus tied 300,000 German troops down in Norway trying to beat the subterfuge the saboteurs created.

In Scalloway today there is a museum devoted to the project and the leadership and bravery of those men recognised by the Norwegian and British Governments.

There were several outstanding names which are there to tell the tale. One such is Leif Andreas Larsen, called Shetland Larsen, with his own statue in Bergen. In all he made 52 trips to Norway and became the most highly decorated Allied naval officer of the Second World War. He was born in Bergen and joined the Norwegian volunteers in the Finnish Winter War. Soon after the war with Finland ended, the German invasion came and Larsen joined the Norwegian volunteers under the auspices of the Shetland Bus. He came over and trained in Shetland, with his first tour in 1941. He became a crewman on the submarine chaser Hessa, and when that one went in for repair, he was given charge of another called the Vigra. Staying in Shetland after the war, and he and his wife Christine had three daughters.

If this has whetted your appetite to find more, there is a book called 'The Shetland Bus Man' written by one of Larsen's crew Kare Iverson. Iverson had originally left Norway in the early days of the project having been discovered by the Germans in his saboteur days.

**Alison Shannon**

### **Southend City Baptist Church**

The two sites in Clarence Road have united in an unusual way! Tradition and Community. Clarence Road Baptist and 57 West have now become Southend City Baptist Church.

There are also links with The Cornerstone in that Clarence Road shared Bandstand Services with Cliff Town and also had a tin Tabernacle like Bournemouth Park. Now, our churches have a modern logo link i.e. 9.45 Tuesday our screen has a cup, just like City who has a cup with a cross on it.

The Tuesday links continue with Prayer Meetings on the same day.

**Paul Drage**

## MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

### February

Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning worship	<b>John Amos</b>
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	3.45pm to 6pm.	Messy Church	
	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Our Minister</b>
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm to 4pm - welcome; 4pm to 5.15pm - Pilots 5.15pm to 6.45pm - Youth Club		
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship 1 <sup>st</sup> in Lent	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Mon	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	
	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Area Partnership Pastoral Meeting	
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	<b>Our Minister</b>

### March

Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	World Day of Prayer at Avenue Baptist	
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>To be confirmed</b>
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	3.45pm to 6pm.	Messy Church	
	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am for 10.30am	Synod Meeting at Cambridge	
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Worship & Church Parade	<b>Our Minister</b>



**Life is like a piano.  
White keys are happy moments  
and the black ones are sad moments.  
Both keys are played together  
to give us the sweet music called  
Life**

## The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for March 2024



Your next issue will be published on **Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>** and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

How did you celebrate Christmas and the blessings you received? Also, how many New Year Resolutions have you broken?

**Thank you for all of your contributions during 2023 and please keep up the good work in 2024!**

**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



Feb 18<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup>

Wendy & Roger Brett  
Zoy Hunt

The 2024 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 are always welcome and thanks to Sarah Wilson who will help when military duties permit.

## Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<b><u>Feb</u></b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Val Hayman and helpers
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
<b><u>Mar</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sandra Russ
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Any offers of help appreciated!



## Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<b><u>Feb</u></b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>See below</b>
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<b><u>Mar</u></b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>See below</b>



On the Tuesdays 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.

To make a difference  
in someone's life, you  
don't have to be brilliant,  
rich, beautiful, or perfect.  
You just have to care.

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

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<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.**