

# New Horizons

MARCH 2024

## Holy Week



## 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](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	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 Remembers his Covenants*

The Christian meaning of Lent revolves around preparation, reflection, and penance. During Lent, Christians all around the world often engage in practices such as fasting, prayer, and giving, as a way to deepen their connection with God and to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Fasting during Lent typically involves abstaining from certain foods or luxuries as a form of self-discipline and solidarity with the sufferings of Christ.

The primary purpose of Lent is meant to be a time of repentance. That's not a feeling of shame but an awareness that sin separates us from God and what Christ endured to save us from sin, death, and the devil. "Shame has its place, but feeling shame over sin is not the same thing as repentance from sin" because "our tempter can take our obedience to God and turn it into a source of pride."

God can be grieved by us. We can make God sad, and we can make God angry, but God swore to Noah that he would never be so angry that he would destroy the people and the world that he made. (Genesis 9:8 - 17) Remember, God wants to help us, not destroy us. This is the meaning of the covenant sealed with a rainbow, and this is the meaning of all God's covenants with us through his son Jesus Christ.

That last covenant, the once announced by Jeremiah, (Jeremiah 31:31-34) has been fulfilled, and each of us is now privileged, if we so choose, to be a part of that covenant, a covenant that is signed by the cross of Jesus and sealed by our baptism into his death and resurrection.

God remembered the promise he made to Noah, and even though we have provoked God in a manner worse even than that of the people who lived before the flood, God has kept his promise. God sent his Son instead of a flood to deal with our sin, And he died for our sin, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God and to allow us to live well both now and forever.

Through Jesus, God remembers us. In fact, through Jesus, God stands at our door and knocks, and he tells us  
*"Here I am. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."*

What then shall we say to this love of God, what shall we say about the signs of his love? The cross and the rainbow? The Bread and the Wine? What shall we do about his knocking at our door what shall we say about his invitation to come and dine?

God wants us to say "Yes" to his love; He wants us to see the signs and wonders he has left for us. He wants us to open the door to our lives and let him come in and do his work, a work in which he makes us more like his son Jesus, a work in which he makes us holy, and saves us from our own sin, our own foolishness.

We began the Lent course a couple of weeks ago, my friends, with the story of Jesus, and how, after he was baptised, he spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted, and how he then went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God saying:

*"The Kingdom of God is near, repent and believe in the good news."*  
God wants us to try our best to be like Jesus, He wants us to believe in his love, He wants us to know that he is near to us and ready to help us, He wants us to turn to him in faith, and strive to lead a new life with Christ.

The word of the gospel, the good news, is that God forgives us our sin, that he remembers his love for us, and extends his saving hand towards us. God's love for us is a marvel and a grace.

But, during this Lent season, let us remember that our forgiveness comes at a cost, that a price is paid for our sin, a price in pain and suffering, and that, as long as we yield to sin, as long as we yield to temptation, not only do we hurt ourselves and others, we hurt God.

We forget the lesson of the rainbow and of the cross, the lesson that tells us that even though we anger God, even though we do things that God cannot approve of, God still loves us, and while he calls us to live a better life, he does not push us away, he does not reject us, he does not condemn us.

The good news that Jesus announced is that God does not forget us, that His kingdom is at hand, and we can enter if we desire to do so. God loves us, God forgives us, and God calls us to his side and offers to us a new beginning in Jesus, a new life in Christ.

So, during this Lent let us examine our lives, to look at all that we do, how we treat our family, and how we act at work or at school and ask ourself if we are taking the easy way, or if there is something we can do to be a more loving and caring person.

Wishing you all a very happy and Christ centred Easter.

**God bless,  
Sohail & Family**

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name;  
I've been born again in Jesus' name,  
and in Jesus' name I come to you  
to share His love as He told me to.

All power is given in Jesus' name  
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name;  
and in Jesus' name I come to you  
to share His power as He told me to.

*He said:  
'Freely, freely, you have received,  
freely, freely give;  
Go in my name  
and because you believe,  
others will know that I live'*

**Carol Owens  
Mission Praise No. 181  
Used by permission, CCL Licence No. 7114**

## 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 in your prayers our previous Minister Rev Celia Whitman and her family and friends, as they mourn the loss of her beloved husband Geoff. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all of their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers  
**Amen**

## Our prayers for all

Heavenly Father, you are the one we worship as the only true God. However, we do know that there are many people in our world who have different faiths and look to different deities. All of the nations cannot get together to ensure that there is peace, justice, shelter, warmth, food, safety, health, freedom and respect for one another.

We pray that all people, whatever their faith, pray and work for peace in whatever way they are able. To respect others' views, to be kind, to be humble, to be generous, not to expect any reward and do no harm by thought, word or deed.

**At the same time, we ask this for ourselves so that we might be true to Your Gospel. Amen**

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

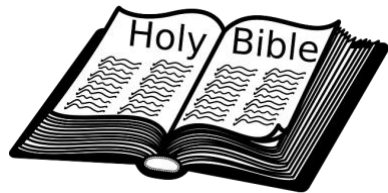


Unfortunately, our Church Secretary Ruth has been unable to write her usual monthly Notebook due to having extra calls on her time. She sends her apologies but would remind you:

**REPORTS FOR AGM BY SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH PLEASE**

### EXPLORING LENT

We continue to explore Lent in a rather different way; not just by studying the time up to Easter but reflecting on the total ministry of Jesus.



Our final two sessions are on Mondays 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of March but we shall restart our usual Bible Study on 8<sup>th</sup> April. Any suggestions for topics are always welcome.

**Sohail and Michael**

### BE AWARE



The clocks **go forward** one hour on Saturday night 30<sup>th</sup> March (early hours of Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>) so, please remember to alter yours in order to be in church on time on the Sunday.

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

## Cornerstone News

### CONGRATULATIONS

The fellowship would like to send their congratulations to Ruth and Frank Dixon, who on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March celebrate their Golden Wedding. They got married in 1974 at Bournemouth Park URC. Love and best wishes to you both.



*In  
Loving  
Memory  
of*

### GEOFFREY WHITMAN

Geoff's Committal is at the Southend Crematorium, South Chapel, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2.20 p.m. followed by a memorial service at The Cornerstone at 3.00 p.m. All are invited to refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Family flowers only. Geoff's family would like donations in his memory to go to HARP (Homeless Action Resource Project) based in Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

Geoff, the husband of our previous minister Rev Celia Whitman, was a member of Bournemouth Park URC during her ministry and was fully involved in the Church fellowship and activities. In later years, he often accompanied Celia, when she came to the Cornerstone to lead some of our services since her retirement. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

R.I.P. Geoff.



## Youth, Children and Families Work

### Recruitment drive on 27<sup>th</sup> March 3.00 p.m.

This will be a refreshments, balloons and leaflet table on Bournemouth Park Road to attract children and parents on the school run.

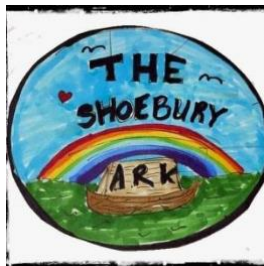
**Wanted** - A Gazebo would be appreciated if anyone has a spare.

### Easter Fun Day - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2.00 p.m.

### FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW



Collection point - Grey tray at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue tray at Reception Desk

At the end of March, we are at the most important celebration of the Church's year; light triumphs over darkness, life triumphs over death.

Taking the scriptures as a whole, one of the major features of the various stories that we hear is the struggles that people have as they journey through life. Some of these struggles are of their own making and some are not. Whatever form they come in, God is always in the background wanting to help and wanting to save; some take up the offer, others do not.



The ones that take God up on His offer find themselves supported and their lives transformed in ways that they never envisaged. This is the extraordinary nature of God's power.

We see the extraordinary nature of God's power at work in the resurrection of Jesus! In the risen Lord we are reminded that God's presence in Jesus is as close to us as we are to ourselves! In the person of Jesus, God is there, eager to save us and draw us into communion with the Holy Trinity and give us life in all its fullness. This is the cause of our Easter Joy; we are not alone, and the opportunity for a life of blessedness, peace and love is always before us.

Pray that the graces of this Holy season will deepen our faith, hope and love, bringing us closer to God and each other.

**Some shared thoughts on the joy of Easter  
(with permission)**



## FAKE NEWS?

We hear the term ‘fake news’ a lot these days. If that term had been in general use at the time of Jesus’ death, Thomas may well have used it himself, and who would have blamed him.

All had seen the gruesome reality of Jesus’ death. They had buried him with their own hands and now the only visible evidence they had was an empty tomb. So, when a couple of friends announce that they had seen the Lord and that he was alive, we can understand their scepticism. Despite the verbal assurances of his companions, Thomas was not convinced that Jesus was alive; “fake news” fever had caught him - “Unless I see the holes that the nails made, I refuse to believe”.

Many today would still doubt whether the whole story was true; certainly those of no faith and even those of faith, because it is easy to accept it as a doctrine but another thing to see its meaning with conviction and courage.

In the Acts of the Apostles, people experienced the power of the risen Lord through the witness and works of Peter and his companions; they believed that Jesus was alive and active in and through them.

Let us pray that people will believe in Jesus’ presence through our witness and works!

**Some shared thoughts on the joy of Easter  
(with permission)**

## A Village with a Past - Alison Shannon

Some folk never move their home far from where they were born, others of us have moved from one end of the country to the other as first parents' work, then education and our own work life has taken us around. I fall into the second category and in my life, I have had ten different locations which I have called home for varying periods of time.

Part of that time I was in the North of England in Durham, and exploring through education large parts of Northumberland and what a beautiful part of the world it is. There were many coal mines in the area when I was there. Long gone now and having been transformed into nature reserves which have enhanced the region even more.

One of the joys of returning on holiday later in life was to discover some of the old mining villages and see them now and discover their history.

One such has the unusual name of Seaton Sluice, the origins of which go back to the times of William the Conqueror. It was originally part of a larger place called Hartley Pans, and as its' name suggests had salt pans which had been used to harvest salt since 1236. Hartley stretched from the Brier Dene Burn, now part of Whitley Bay to Seaton Burn which belonged to Tynemouth Priory. You can now place where we are and the word Burn means small river and Seaton in Old English means a settlement by the sea.

In 1100 the land became the property of the de Laval, (later Delavals) family gifted to them by William as Hubert de Laval was a nephew by marriage to William.

The Salt produced in Hartley was shipped from Blyth before a natural harbour allowed its shipment direct from the village in 1550 but this harbour was prone to silting due to the sea movement of sand limiting its usefulness. One of Hubert's descendants, Ralph Delaval had a pier constructed in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century and sluice gates were built at either end so that the water could be trapped between tides, allowing the gates to be opened at low tide and the silt flushed out of the channel. Improvements were made in the 1760's when a new channel was blasted out through nearby solid rock, known as "The Cut". It was

16m deep, 9m wide and 270m long. Opened in 1763, it could be sealed off at both ends, allowing loading at all times regardless of the tide levels. It was positioned alongside the original channel and a bridge connects the two sides of the channel and the Cut.

The new harbour was such a success that in 1777 80,000 tonnes of coal, 300 tonnes of salt and 1.7 million glass bottles were shipped out from this newly named Seaton Sluice harbour. The coal was brought from the nearby collieries by horse drawn wagons and loaded into barges and salt continued to be exported from Seaton Sluice until the Salt Tax of 1798 put an end to the trade.

But what about the hereto unmentioned Glass Bottles? Again it is thanks to the Delaval family that in 1763 one Sir Francis Delaval obtained Parliamentary approval to develop 25 acres of his land as Glassworks.

Known as the Royal Hartley Bottleworks, expert workers were needed and Sir Francis brought skilled men from Neiberg in Germany to train the local men in Glass making. All the materials were to hand, sea sand, kelp and clay from the links and coal mines waste. Eventually there were six large cone-shaped furnaces dominating the sky-line and they were given each their own name, Gallagan, Bias, Charlotte, Waterford and Success. The bottles were taken from the works to the harbour by a specially constructed narrow gauge railway running through tunnels. In the second World War these tunnels were used as air raid shelters.

The bottles were taken by bottle sloops to London and these boats had a mast which could be lowered to allow them to pass under the arches of the Old London Bridge. One round trip would be made each month and the bottles were largely exported to Europe. Coal barges made the same trips too on larger barges called Collier Brigs.

The bottleworks were so big that they had a marketplace, a brewery, a granary, a brickyard, shops, public houses and their own Chapel. Stone built houses were the homes for the workers in streets around the glassworks. In 1768 there was a purpose built shipyard created so the whole area was self-sufficient for its needs. The bottleworks closed in 1897 and the last shipment was on the "Unity of Boston" bound for the Channel Islands.

Today, there is virtually no sign of the works as the furnaces were demolished and housing has taken over the site. As ports like Blyth and the Tyneside were developed, they could deal with larger and more profitable loads of coal and so the export from Seaton Sluice began to wane. Added to this was the Hartley Colliery disaster in the Hester Pit just two miles west of the village. This was the main coal producing pit and in 1862 a beam in the main pumping station broke and fell down the only mine shaft, trapping 204 men and boys underground. Several families lost all their menfolk in the fall. Coal production here never recovered and neither did the export business in Seaton Sluice. This disaster led to the ruling that all mines should have two shafts. There is a memorial to the miners, men and boys, in the nearby village of Earsdon in St Alban's Church.

Seaton Sluice tried to regenerate itself as a tourist destination and a railway was started before the start of WW1 but it was never completed, the aim was to link Whitley bay to the more northerly coast. The remains of the early construction work on bridges and embankments can still be seen.

The village with its history and allied trades still remains however and on the 2021 census, 2056 people were registered.

Below is the original Cut alongside Seaton Sluice today



## MY MOTHER'S GARDEN

My mother kept a garden,  
a garden of the heart.  
She planted all the good things  
that gave my life its start.

She turned me to the sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream.  
Fostering and nurturing  
the seeds of self-esteem.

And when the winds and rain came,  
she protected me enough  
but not too much because she knew  
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.

Her constant good example  
always taught me right from wrong,  
markers for my pathway  
that will last a lifetime long.

I am my mother's garden.  
I am her legacy.  
And I hope today she feels the love  
reflected back from me.



(author unknown)

## MOTHERS' DAY HUMOUR

- A little boy saw a police dog in the back of a police van. "What did he do?" asked the boy.
- A little girl went into her grandmother's bathroom and saw a set of false teeth soaking in a glass. She shouted "Mummy, Mummy, come quickly the tooth fairy will never believe this!"

## Happy Mother's Day

To the mother who is new, who is up and down all night.  
To the mother whose heart is full, but with empty rooms now.  
To the mother who cried today and wonders if she is enough.  
To the mother who stays at home.  
To the mother who works and juggles so many balls.  
To the mother currently tearing her hair out.  
To the mothers that are no longer with us, but always will be.  
To the mothers who lift each other up.  
To the mothers who show up every day.  
To the mothers waiting to become mothers.  
To you.

Place value on the work you do.  
When the days feel difficult, that's because they are.  
This is the hardest, yet most rewarding job in the world.  
You're not just a person.  
You're a place.  
You are someone's home.  
You are a mother.  
**Happy Mother's Day (every day)**

(Jessica Urlichs)

If you can, call your mother.  
Tell her you love her.  
Remember, you're  
the only person who  
knows what her heart  
sounds like from  
the inside



Happy  
Mother's Day!



## MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

### March

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	3.45pm	Messy Church	
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10am for	10.30am Synod Meeting at Cambridge	
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Mothering Sunday Worship &amp; Church Parade</b>	<b>Our Minister</b>
Mon	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Area Partnership Meeting, Kings Rd URC	
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Mon	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	



### Holy Week

Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday Worship (HC) &amp; A.G.M</b>	<b>Our Minister</b>
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Lent Course	
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	3pm to 4pm	Recruitment drive for young people	
Thu	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	<b>Maundy Thursday Worship</b>	<b>Ruth Dixon</b>
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Good Friday Worship</b>	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Hot Cross Buns & Coffee/Tea	
		for		
		11.00am	<b>Easter Worship (HC)</b>	<b>Ruth Dixon</b>

### April

Thu	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Roger Brett</b>
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Pilots planning meeting:	
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	2pm to 4.30pm	Easter Family Fun Day	
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Our Minister</b>

No matter how stormy  
life gets, never let it bring  
you down.  
Always smile and be thankful  
because God woke you up today  
and every day is a blessing.

**The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for April 2024**



Your next issue will be published on **Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for  
this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**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**



Mar 31<sup>st</sup>

**EASTER**

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

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

Mar      3<sup>rd</sup>    Brenda Kemp and Stella Duboux  
             10<sup>th</sup>    Anne Clarke and Val Mead  
             17<sup>th</sup>    Sandra Russ  
             24<sup>th</sup>    Val Hayman and helpers  
             31<sup>st</sup>    Sandra Russ

Apr      7<sup>th</sup>      Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp  
             14<sup>th</sup>    Anne Clarke and Val Mead

Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

Mar      5<sup>th</sup>      Stella Duboux  
             12<sup>th</sup>    Wendy Brett and Val Mead  
             19<sup>th</sup>    **See below**  
             26<sup>th</sup>    Carol Smith and Pat Pates



Apr      2<sup>nd</sup>      Stella Duboux  
             9<sup>th</sup>      Wendy Brett and Val Mead

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.

When you are overwhelmed,  
remember:  
A little at a time  
is how it gets done.  
One thing.  
One task.  
One moment  
at a time.

## 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.**