

New Horizons

APRIL 2024



THE CORNERSTONE



Bournemouth Park Road,
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5JL
(For car park on Central Ave, sat navs
use SS2 5HR no 59)

www.thecornerstonesouthend.org.uk
Email:
CornerstoneReception@outlook.com

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	3.30pm-5.00pm	Messy Church (1 st Monday in the month)
	3.15pm-4pm	Welcome (2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th 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 nd and 4 th Monday of each month)
Tues	10.00 am	THE HUB
		Starting with Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
	11.30 am	Followed with fellowship and activities on 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



Beyond Easter

The date of Easter for 2024 has come and it is gone. The Easter eggs in our yearly hunt have been eaten. The Easter lilies are beginning to wilt and will soon be discarded.

But the message of Easter lives on. The things we associate with Easter may have passed on, but the meaning of the holiday (Holy Day) is forever present for those whose lives have been touched by the spiritual impact of its story on daily life.

There is no day in the calendar year that has a greater impact on the quality of life for everyone than the power of the Easter event. For it is in the historical account that we find the continuing life of One whose teachings affect humankind's best hope for a meaningful life.

For committed followers of Christ, Easter Sunday is more than a special day on the calendar – it represents a celebration of the centre of our spiritual universe. If the story of Easter is not valid, then our faith is not valid. Our message is incomplete without the exclamation point of the resurrection of Christ. No, our message is empty. A martyr's death has power to inspire, but it does not have the power to save.

It is interesting that the government-approved church in the largest country in East Asia can preach the Bible except for the resurrection and the second coming of Christ. The atheistic government understands that the Gospel is empty and incomplete without the Easter message.

But what if Easter Sunday had been devoid of the resurrection truth? Would there have been a reason for Christians to meet? I fear that we handle holy truth so much we may miss its significance. Christianity is

an Easter religion. Paul was very clear, no resurrection, no faith - at all!

As you reflect on the joy of Easter and the powerful truth you heard declared, let this glorious message sink deep in your soul. Jesus has conquered death. Because He lives, we will live also throughout eternity. But greater still we will not just live, but we will experience eternity in Heaven with all its glory.

But there is more! Our celebration on Easter Sunday was an affirmation that the Saviour will return as the Lord of Lords. He will place His enemies as a footstool under His feet. The evil of this world will crash and burn into the lake of fire. The crucified Lamb will return as the conquering King of Kings.

I believe the crowds gather on Easter because deep inside there is a longing for the resurrection message to be true. Those who nonchalantly enter the worship centre to satisfy the nagging of others or who decide to give God one day a year endure the worship, but deep inside, I believe they hope the story is true.

The message cannot be handled casually. There is a truth that demands response. I fear "church members" who pay their dues on Easter have a deep misunderstanding of the Easter reality. Christ did not die and rise on the third day for casual belief or acceptance. He died to bring radical change in the lives of all who would embrace the resurrection message through repentance and faith. Christ has no interest in indifferent church membership or faith. He demands a commitment that requires death to self and resurrection to new life.

Is the Easter season behind us? It is never over so long as we celebrate His ongoing messages of hope, accountability, and love. Easter is not just a date on the calendar, but rather it is a call for responsible action, positive attitudes, and an awakening spirit that we are alive.

May we continue not only to celebrate Easter beyond Easter, but also like the early church share it's message willingly and boldly.

May God help us to do that. Amen.

**God bless,
Sohail**

Jesus is Lord!
Yet from His throne eternal
in flesh He came to die in pain
on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord!
From Him all life proceeding,
yet gave His life a ransom
thus setting us free

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise Him with hallelujahs,
for Jesus is Lord!*

Jesus is Lord!
O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
from death He rose and all His foes
shall own His name.
Jesus is lord!
God sends His Holy spirit
to show by works of power
that Jesus is Lord.

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise Him with hallelujahs,
for Jesus is Lord!*

**David Mansell
Mission Praise No. 367
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 those in our fellowship who 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



In our thoughts and prayers, especially at this time, are our King and Catherine the Princess of Wales who are both undergoing treatment for cancer. We pray for their recovery and remember that they too have family who are worried but supporting them through this dark period. We ask for your blessing Lord on our Royal Family.

Amen

Things have a way of
working out.
Never underestimate
the power of
Faith and Prayer



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

I start by thanking everyone for their kind wishes, cards and flowers on the occasion of our 50th Wedding Anniversary. You will all be aware that there has been too much going on to plan a big celebration, but we hope to 'do something' later in the year. I'm not holding my breath, but we are told Frank's surgery will be on 4th April.

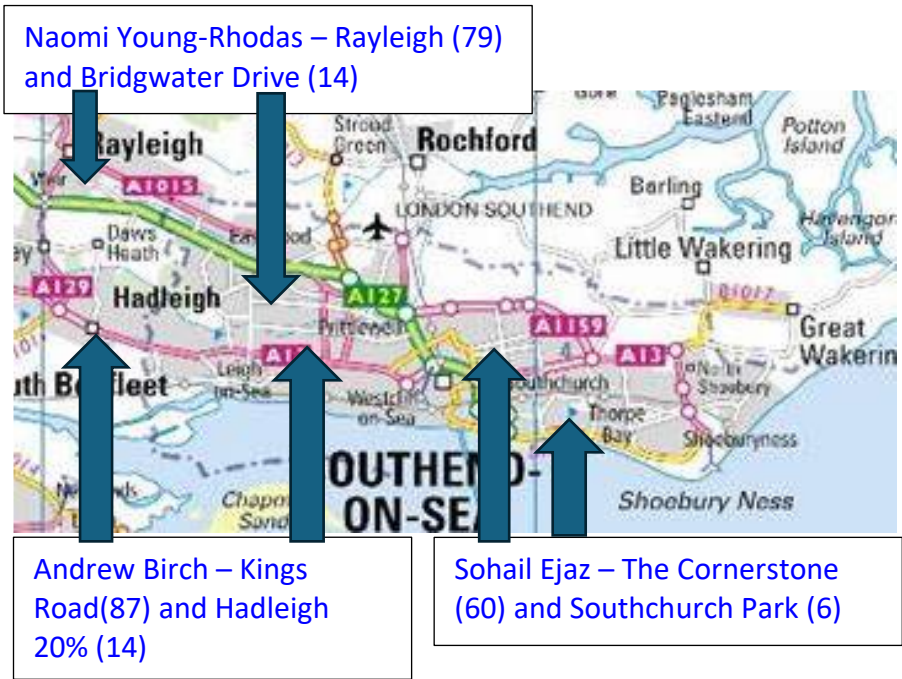
I heard from our friend (and former Bournemouth Park member) Alan Barnes that he is finally retiring after 42 years of service in Blackburn. Yes it was that long ago that Alan and Jenny departed our church at Chelmsford Avenue, to be Superintendent at the Blackburn Ragged School, which he subsequently led into the URC - it is now known as Kingsway URC and Alan has also had responsibility for Woodlands URC for several years. These two churches are now embedded in the East Lancashire Missional Partnership. One might say that Alan was a pioneer - Local Lay Leaders are becoming a regular feature in the URC, sometimes serving a church alone, or a group as part of a team ministry, but I don't think they were around back then. We do wish Alan well as he adjusts to a slower pace! Or finds something else to fill his time.

At the beginning of March we gathered to celebrate the life of Geof Whitman, husband of our former Minister Celia, with the funeral and thanksgiving services being led by Rev. Dr Jim Tarrant. Our Sunday Services were led by Roger Brett on 3rd about the Ten Commandments, and on 17th about the New Covenant - a promise which is kept unlike election manifestos. Sohail led our services on 10th March - Church Parade and Mothering Sunday speaking of the importance of obedience to one's parents, and 24th Palm Sunday and Communion. By the time this magazine is published Sohail will also have led our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services.

At the Annual General Meeting for 2023 held on 24th March 2024, we had an opportunity to thank Joan Harvey for her many years of service as flower secretary, as she retired from that role. I understand there

has been a volunteer to assist Val Mead to continue presenting flower arrangements Sunday by Sunday. If you wish to contribute to the church flowers there is a list on the foyer notice board, or alternatively you can give cash to Val.

After the AGM formalities, we spent a short while considering the proposed Mission Partnership for our area. The current situation is:



- The 6 churches will be scoped for 2 FT Ministers
- Andrew Birch retires 2026. No vacancy will be declared
- Sohail has intimated that when Machrina finishes training they are likely to move; this will create one vacancy c.2027
- We do not yet know if/how long Naomi will remain at Rayleigh/Bridgewater
- The 3 current ministers will meet shortly
- It is expected that Elders or representatives from the 6 churches will meet for preliminary discussions -possibly alongside someone from the Synod office.

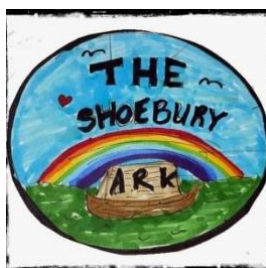
Synod has stated it does not wish to be prescriptive as to how the proposed MP will work but has been asked to provide a presentation of hypothetical scenarios, which could assist in developing a plan for our 6 churches. I'm sure you will have questions and/or misgivings about the future, so please do speak to Sohail, myself or Roger. We are in many ways better placed than other areas which have the added dimension of LEPs to think about, and indeed the above mentions East Lancashire Missional Partnership which is 10 churches! We must think of this proposal as a new challenge for our denomination and approach it with prayer and trust in the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts and deliberations.

Ruth Dixon

FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW



Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

The Road to Emmaus

Their quiet walk to Emmaus was immersed in despair for a couple of Christ's disciples as they reviewed the horrible happening in the city they left behind.



The darkness and depression that enveloped these two men are often reflected in our lives today. Whatever may be the distant goal of our travels, our Emmaus, we abide in a time of despair. We are economically strapped; there is little security in the things we have pinned our hopes upon. The traditions we have so avidly clung to are not as relevant as they once appeared to be. We reach back for yesterday because we are uncertain of today and afraid of tomorrow.

A stranger joined the two men on their way to Emmaus. Eventually revealing Himself as the resurrected Christ. He transformed their day of despair into the most glorious experience of their lives. It is this same Christ who accompanies us on our daily walk to our Emmaus. It is He who seeks to transform our darkness and despair into brightness and joy. The ugly and painful things that happen to us are not the end of life. We may have lost a loved one, but we need not lose our faith. We may have little worldly security, but our salvation is still intact. We may know the agony of pain even while we abide in eternal peace. We may be terribly lonely, but we are never alone. The death of Jesus resolved in life eternal; the dying that is part of our daily walk will give way to resurrection.

Christ has arisen; we shall live forever!

Meditations on a Loving God
Leslie F Brandt

Cornerstone News



Joan Harvey has decided that it is time for her to step down as a Flower Secretary. She has been arranging the Church flowers, with Val Mead, for a great number of years now and we thank her for the many hours she has spent making the Church (The Cornerstone and before that Bournemouth Park URC) look beautiful week by week and on special occasions.

Thank you Joan for sharing your talent of flower arranging with us.

Dear friends at Cornerstone

My family & I would like to thank you for all the loving support we received from you all during the sad loss of our precious Geof. We also want to thank you for helping to make the thanksgiving service for Geof just as he wanted it to be.

Geof and I spent many happy times with you and when we visited you after my retirement, it always felt like we were coming home. Geof planned most of what he wanted for the service and he always wanted his funeral service to be at Bournemouth Park / The Cornerstone, and you made this possible.

Thank you for all you did behind the scenes and on the day for your practical help and your care and loving gentle words, all of which certainly helped this service to be what he wanted it to be.

You also helped us to feel comforted and blessed at this difficult time, as we celebrated the life of Geof, our cherished husband, Dad, and Grandad.

**Yours in His love
Celia, Nicky & family**

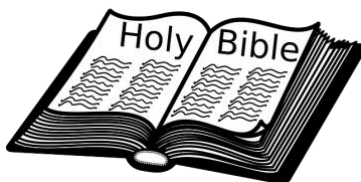


I would just like to thank all of my friends at the Cornerstone for their kind thoughts, prayers, and cards at this very difficult and sad time of losing my dear Les.

God Bless,
Love
Janet Gooding

BIBLE STUDY

The Lent Sessions went well and all commented that they greatly benefitted from them. We aim to restart on Monday 8th April, on a theme yet to be decided and continue on the second and third Mondays of each month at 7.00 pm.



Please join us at church or on zoom. No need to speak or to be afraid. We all feel a bit shy about our lack of knowledge and so learn from each other in a very understanding atmosphere.

Please contact Sohail or Michael for details.

**There is no storm
that God won't carry you through.
No bridge that God won't help you cross.
No battle that God won't help you win.
No heartache that God
won't help you let go of.**

**God is so much bigger than anything you
will face today.**

**Leave everything in His hands
and embrace this day confidently,
knowing that He will take care of you.**

The life and witness of Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna

This last month I have watched two seemingly unrelated programmes on the television. They were both mini-series, telling the stories of workers in industries on which we relied, and still rely quite heavily.

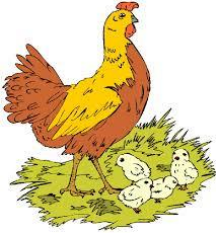
I expect a lot of you watched the one, the tale of Mr Bates versus the Post Office. which brought back into the forefront of our news how the scandal of the Horizons computer systems devastated the lives of hundreds of postmasters and postmistresses as they found themselves trying to balance the books week on week. I could hardly take it in that Fujitsu are still running the computer systems for the Post Office to this day. Do we never learn !

However, this leads me to thinking that there is nothing new and the fight for justice brought to the public eye by media of one sort or another, and having more effect than any number of meetings, has been a long established fact of life.

So, this month, I will tell you about Charlotte Tonna born in Norwich in 1790, the daughter of Revd Michael Browne, vicar of St Giles church, and his wife Charlotte. There were at least two children, as we hear about a brother and there may have been more. As a young girl Charlotte showed a strong will and a great imagination, and together with an insatiable quest for learning, set her on a path in life not open to many ladies in those times. At the age of six she asked her uncle to teach her French and after reading about Martyrs when she was eight asked her father if she could be one too!

When Charlotte was 23 she married Captain George Phelan of the 60th regiment. Phelan was not a good man and the marriage was not a happy one with Charlotte suffering mental and physical abuse at the hands of Phelan. She was however very loyal to her marriage vows and refused all entreaties of her friends to report the man and leave him. They lived in Kilkenny in Ireland on the estate owned by Phelan. Life was made so unbearable for her that Charlotte did leave the marriage and she made her friends promise to destroy all correspondence between them after her death, still maintaining the facts were to be kept out of public view such was her strength of belief in her vows.

When her father died, Charlotte took to writing to support her mother and after leaving Phelan she went to live with her brother, Captain John Browne in Clifton. Sadly, John died in a boating accident two years later and Charlotte took over the household including the care of his two sons.



Her writing career began to expand and she began to write books for children, introducing them to the natural world through the real life stories of birds and animals. There were works about Bees, Swans, a Wasp and a Hen and her chicks. She wrote under the pen name of Charlotte Elizabeth to stop Phelan getting the money she earned from her writing.

By far her most popular books were about the world she saw around her. After she took over John's household she moved first to Sandhurst, and then to London. It was the conditions that she saw working people living in here that set her on her quest to let the middle and upper classes of society hear, and in prose see, the conditions they shut their eyes and ears to around them every day.

The other series I watched was *The Mill*, all about 19th century working conditions in the cotton mills, particularly for children, some as young as six who crawled in and out around the working looms collecting up the cotton waste that would otherwise clog and stop the workings. Dangerous and often maiming and even threatening lives of these children from the poorest of families where every penny earned helped put the sparsest of food on the table.

I am sure you all know the story by Hans Christian Anderson, *The Little Matchgirl*, and the conditions in the match factories of the East End. (Whoever would have thought that that area would, in the 21st century, be a highly sought after place to live with some of the highest prices for housing in the capital)

Those were the conditions that Charlotte brought into the public eye, through her writing. Her book "*The Wrongs of Women*" describing the conditions at work and then at home, to which they returned when the working twelve or fourteen hour day was over. Charlotte high-lighted

the long hours, very poor pay, lack of food and sanitation in four volumes in 1843 and 1844.

Another of her books was “Helen Fleetwood a tale of the factories” which was serialised in the Christian Ladies Magazine between 1839 and 1841. This triggered a huge outcry among these gentile lady readers and, as a result of Charlotte's writing, they helped to gather the support needed to pass the London Factory Act in the mid 1840's. This changed the working life for children, reduced the working hours and started to bring in fairer pay.

Captain Phelan died in Dublin in 1837 and despite his treatment of her, she took on the care of his mother and sister.

She married again in 1841 to Lewis Hipolatus Joseph Tonna, a very happy marriage in her own words describing him as an excellent husband. He too was a writer and after Charlotte died in 1846 from cancer he wrote a memoir celebrating Charlotte's life.



Alison Shannon

Enjoy a chuckle (or perhaps a groan)!

- All of us older folk know all about living on the edge. We used to answer the phone without knowing who it was!
- Someone just called my phone, sneezed, and then just hung up. I am getting sick and tired of all these cold calls!
- Yesterday I wore something from 5 years ago and it still fits! So proud of myself. It was a scarf. But still, let's be positive here!
- I sent a sample of my DNA to a genealogy firm so they could research my Family Tree. They sent me a packet of seeds and suggested I start again!
- When they get home from travelling, people often don't realise their luggage also needs time to recover. I rest my case!
- At the Doctor's surgery this morning, the Doctor said he would like to talk to me about my weight. I said, "Well, it was about 25 minutes, but at least the chairs were comfy!"
- At a couples counselling meeting the speaker mentioned that couples are so disconnected that 85% of husbands don't even know their wives' favourite flower. Stanley turned to his wife and whispered: "It's self-raising, isn't it?"

And God promised men that
good and obedient wives would
be found in all corners of the world.
Then He made the earth round
and laughed
and laughed
and laughed

MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

Mar

Thu	28 th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Worship	Our Minister
Fri	29 th	10.30am	Good Friday Worship	Our Minister
Sun	31 st	10.30am	Hot Cross Buns & Coffee/Tea	
		for		
		11.00am	Easter Worship (HC)	Our Minister

April

Thu	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sun	7 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Mon	8 th	11.30am	Pilots planning meeting:	
Mon	8 th	2pm to 4.30pm	Easter Family Fun Day	
Mon	8 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Thu	11 th	7.30pm	Elders' meeting	
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
Mon	15 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Sun	21 st	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	28 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Our Minister

May

Thu	2 nd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	5 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Worship & Parade Service	Our Minister
Mon	13 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (Pentecost)	Roger Brett
Mon	20 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Thu	23 rd	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC) (Trinity)	Our Minister

If you have the chance
to make people happy,
just do it.
Sometimes people are struggling
silently.
Maybe, your act of kindness
can make their day

The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for May 2024

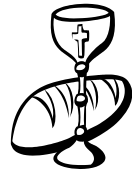


Your next issue will be published on **Sunday May 5th**
and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for
this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday April 25th**.

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 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. She
will 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

Apr 7th Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp
 14th Anne Clarke and Val Mead
 21st Val Hayman
 28th Sandra Russ

May 5th Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp
 12th Anne Clarke and Val Mead

Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

Apr 2nd Stella Duboux
 9th Wendy Brett and Val Mead
 16th **See below**
 23rd Carol Smith and Pat Pates
 30th **See below**



May 7th Stella Duboux
 14th 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 your heart is heavy and
your mind is weary, turn to God.
Ask Him for guidance, wisdom
and strength because at the end
of the day God is the only one
you can truly depend on to
restore you.

Amen

WHO TO CONTACT

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk
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Treasurer	Elizabeth Helm 07973 199759
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Pilots	Derek Goodyear 07863 208914
C'Stone Toddlers	Mary Goodhew (01702) 467512
Scout Group	Lorna Skippon (01702) 477309
Use of Premises	Roger Brett (01702) 479874
Flower arranging	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.**