

New Horizons

MAY 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



The Body of Christ, the Church

After finishing our lent course, we were looking for new, current and relevant topics to study. After a conversation, it was agreed (not by all though) to look at partnership, the hot topic “Mission Partnerships”. Looking at what does the bible teach about working together with our brothers and sisters in our own local churches, local communities as well as internationally.

The biblical passage that came to my mind straightaway was, 1 Corinthians chapter 12, especially verse 12 - *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body; being many, are one body, so also is Christ”*

The power and strength of that scripture is powerful. How you ask can something so simple can be so powerful?

We as Christians are one body, a very well-oiled machine, but not just a machine. We have the breath of life given unto us by God the Father himself which we can find in Genesis. That thought alone is quite the thought. Our importance is greater than any machine. We were created to rule with the Father through His Son, Christ.

When we were put together to be part of such a powerful body we see that things just don’t happen by themselves. It is not supposed to. As Christians we need to come together as one voice with Christ as our head, we will be able to take care of anything.

As one body we could also be described as a very strong chain. And each one of us is a link. With the help of Christ we are impassable. Again, we also need to look at the fact we are also only as strong as the link on either side of us. That is where accountability comes to affect. By this I mean we need to keep our eyes on the head (which is Jesus) and focused.



Paul writes to the Ephesians that we are in a constant spiritual battle against the principalities and evil spirits of the dark one. When we are

not accountable for ourselves how can we work together to overcome the Devil's evil ways?

God himself gave us life to live but we were not up for the task and screwed up and allowed sin to overtake us for many, many years.

When He sent his Son down to earth he gave us a chance to retake our rightful lives that we were destined to take. That could only be done by the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. This is because of how much we messed up on our own, and now we are bailed out by Jesus. He put us right with God the Father. When Jesus died on that cross and was risen to the right hand of the Father, he sent us the Holy Spirit to bind us together to be one body.

No, it is not something that happened at one time. It is a constant thing and still is happening. Not just for the new members of Christ but to us who have fallen and then returned. We choose to leave but Jesus allowed us to come back. We need to make the commitment and take the steps needed to be accountable in the Spirit.

It is not an easy task, but the best part is we don't have to do it alone. In reality we cannot do it by ourselves. We need each other and that is where accountability to our brothers and sisters comes into effect. But we ultimately have to answer to the Head of the body. We all know who that is.

Remember, we are not alone. We are many members of one body with one Head. We all drink of the same Spirit that binds us and holds us together. For, we will rule with Christ in heaven. I find that to be quite awesome. It is also important for us to remember is that we cannot do things alone. If you do, you are then cutting yourself off from the greatest body of all. The body of Christ.

**God bless,
Sohail**

When you have a friend who's going through a storm, don't become a broadcaster; get an umbrella and cover them



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/Russia.



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.

We also keep in our prayers the King and the Princess of Wales as they undergo cancer treatment.

Father, hear our prayers
Amen

Our prayers for all.

O God Our Father, we thought that it was only the poor and needy who turned to crime, in desperation to provide for themselves and their families. However, it seems that even those with plenty, seek to acquire more in wealth, status and power by deceit or violence.

We ask that all people may be guided by Your Word, and your Son Jesus, to see the error of their ways, accept their wrongdoing and ask for forgiveness.

We ask that you give us the ability to see good in everyone, to forgive those who do wrong and help them all to love You.

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



First of all, thank you for your greetings and gifts on the occasion of our 50th Wedding Anniversary, which otherwise went unmarked due to all the other stuff going on.

Thank you all, once again, for your prayers and concern for Frank when his planned surgery took place and the complications that set in afterwards. It was quite an ordeal and he has to take things easy for several weeks. That's three times since March last year St Peter has sent him back from the brink so, we wait to see what further tasks the Lord has set for him. Thanks also to Ann who stepped in to Minute the Elders' meeting while all this was happening. Please note that at this meeting Elders decided to extend the Sunday Church Meeting 'experiment' to May and it will therefore take place at the conclusion of worship on 26th, rather than Thursday 23rd.

As you can imagine, there are no plants sprouting in the greenhouse this year, and the garden is sadly in need of TLC. I often wonder how it is that weeds are so resilient!

Towards the end of March, some of us spent a very wet and windy afternoon on Bournemouth Park Road, with balloons and refreshments, to invite families to the Fun Afternoon on 8th April. This was quite a success as some 60 parents and children attended to experience the Easter story in word, song and crafts. And there have also been some new recruits for the Pilots' Company. The format of opening the doors straight after school and providing toast and a drink is going down well, and the under 11 group then moves into activities at 4 pm. The 11 and over "youth club" is growing with around 14 young people attending. Nana, the Red Balloon Foundation worker, is settling in well and is quite popular with the youth.

Our Minister's planned Easter trip to Pakistan fell through, thus he was able to take the full range of Holy Week and Easter services. On Maundy Thursday we considered anew the concept of loving service to one another with the narrative of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. And on Good Friday, Sohail and Machrina led us through the 'seven words from the cross'. On Easter Sunday Sohail spoke about Mary

Magdelene's journey from searching to believing, and challenged us to consider 'what does the empty tomb mean to you?'

On 7th April Roger led worship with the familiar passage of Jesus appearing to his disciples in the upper room - the absence of Thomas on the first such occasion, his doubts which were addressed directly by Jesus on the next occasion.

The following Sunday we marked Asha Ejaz's 11th birthday. Sohail set the scene for the service by asking about all the things to be found in a church building, the most important being the people who should then be going out to tell others about Jesus. He spoke about the events immediately following Jesus appearing on the Emmaus Road and posed the question why Jesus did not 'open their hearts' to scripture before he died - because the perspective of his death and resurrection leads to much greater understanding.

John Amos visited us on 21st April, designated as Good Shepherd Sunday due to the set reading; there are many mentions of the shepherd in the gospels but the passage from John 10 is particularly useful to teach us that, unlike the hired hand, Jesus will stay with us during times of trouble. This passage also refers to other sheep 'not of this fold' which are to be gathered to Jesus - how can we not take that as a challenge to share our faith stories with unbelievers?

Looking forward to May, the period between Ascension and Pentecost is marked by the global ecumenical prayer initiative They Kingdom Come. More details here:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

I also note that Christian Aid Week starts on 12th and I will include suitable prayers in the prayer diary. If you wish to explore the theme further or make a donation, please look here

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/worship>

If you have children in the family, these songs about justice are particularly appealing

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/global-neighbours/fischy-music>

Pentecost Sunday is 19th May - a time for us all to let the Holy Spirit fill us afresh and renew us for the Lord's service.



Ruth Dixon

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

So, another financial year has been and gone, it feels like only yesterday I was closing the 2022/23 accounts at work.

With the new financial year will come increases to pension, so I ask that for those that are able, please could I ask you to consider if you could increase your offering, even if by a few pounds. We continue to face significant costs, with eye watering energy bills coming in every month.

Don't forget if you're a UK taxpayer, you can increase your donation by 25%, let me know if you need a form for that.

Many thanks

**Elizabeth Helm,
Treasurer**

Harvest Supper

21st September 2024

Fish and Chip Supper

AND

Entertainment

Big Screen and your chance to sing
along to Nigel and Clive

You arrive at 5.30pm, eat at 6.00pm – Booking
forms for food will appear in August
Enjoy entertainment from 7.15pm

REMEMBER
21ST SEPTEMBER 2024 FROM 5.30PM
ROGER

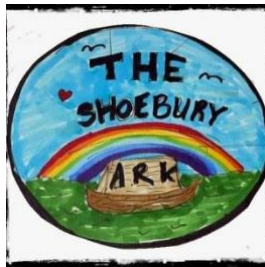
The best and most
beautiful things in the world
cannot be seen or even touched -
they must be felt with the heart.

Helen Keller

FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW



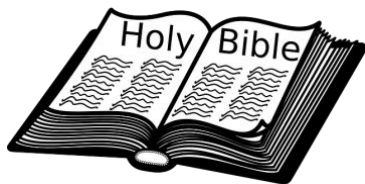
Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

The Miracle of Friendship

There is a miracle called Friendship
That dwells within the heart
and you don't know how it happens
or when it even starts.
But the happiness it brings you
always gives a special lift
and you realise that Friendship
is God's most precious gift.



BIBLE STUDY

We resumed our studies in April by looking at how The New Testament might guide us all in working together in Mission, whatever that might mean and how we do it. We soon realised that

there are no easy answers and no short cuts!

At the forefront of our minds is, that at sometime in the future, we shall have to work in “Mission Partnerships” and so must prepare ourselves before that time arrives.

Our two sessions are online or in church on Mondays 13th May and 3rd of June. All are welcome to join but no need to speak or to be seen. Just sit, think and listen if that is what you prefer.

Please contact Sohail or Michael for details

The story of scripture in four phrases
repeated throughout its pages:

**I love you.
I am with you.
Don't be afraid.
You can come home.**

THE MISSING ARTICLE

Many of you will know that Alison Shannon, who regularly writes a historical item for us, is unwell and having to take some time out.

We wish her well and pray for a speedy recovery.



Just having a laugh

- Don't buy shares in the Origami company - it will soon be folding!
- I have just been diagnosed as colour blind - the news came like a bolt out of the orange!
- I remember going to Blackpool for our holidays in my Dad's company motor. Took us 3 weeks to get there, he was a milkman.
- I have a pet tree. It's like having a pet dog except the bark is quieter.
- So, my geography teacher asked if I could name a country without an R in it? I said "No Way".
- My mate accused me of not being a true cockney. So I pushed him down the apples and oranges.
- A recent study shows 9 out of 10 husbands agree their wives are always right - the 10th hasn't been seen since the study.
- I have been out metal detecting today and found an old Land Rover buried in a field. Was a nice discovery.

A woman in Court, is charged with stealing a tin of peaches.

The Judge asked, "How many peaches were in the tin?" to which she replied, "there were 4."

He told her that she would serve 1 month for each peach.

As she was being led away her husband shouted from the public gallery "And she stole a tin of peas!"

MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

Sun	5 th	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Ruth Dixon
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Sunday Worship & Parade Service	Our Minister
Mon	13 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Sunday Worship (Pentecost)	Roger Brett
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Sunday Worship (HC) (Trinity)	Our Minister
Sun	26 th	12.00pm	Church Meeting	

June

Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Roger Brett
Mon	3 rd	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	8 th		Synod Big Day Out at Ipswich	
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Sunday Worship & Parade Service	Our Minister

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.



The Next Issue of New Horizons will be for June 2024



Your next issue will be published on **Sunday June 2nd** and we will be pleased to receive any contributions for this issue by **9 a.m. on Thursday May 23rd**.
Thank you.

Anne and Michael

PS. An early warning that the double issue for this summer will be for July and August.

The famous saying
“when one door closes, another door opens,”
is actually a famous quote by Alexander Graham Bell.

The quote ends with
“but we often look so long and
so regretfully upon the closed door
that we do not see the ones which open for us.”

Our Children

You will teach them to fly but
they will not fly your flight.

You will teach them to dream but
they will not dream your dream.

You will teach them to live but
they will not live your life. Nevertheless,
in every flight, in every life, in every dream,
the print of the way you taught
will always remain.

Mother Teresa

What Money can buy:

A bed but not sleep.
A clock but not time.
A book but not knowledge.
A position but not respect.
Medicine but not health.
Amusements but not happiness.
Acquaintance but not friendship.
Obedience but not faithfulness.
A house but not a home.

Volunteers are always welcome

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

May 5th Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp
 12th Anne Clarke and Val Mead
 19th Val Hayman and helpers
 26th Sandra Russ

June 2nd Anne Clarke and Val Mead
 9th Sandra Russ

Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

May 7th Stella Duboux
 14th Wendy Brett and Val Mead
 21st **See below**
 28th Carol Smith and Pat Pates

June 4th Stella Duboux
 11th 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.

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

May 19th Alan Barnes - in memory of Jenny

WHO TO CONTACT

Minister	Rev Sohail Ejaz MA (01702) 580879 tcsscp@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Ruth Dixon (01702) 464186
Treasurer	Elizabeth Helm 07973 199759
Envelopes	Ann Blackwell 07753 348856
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
Editorial Team	Anne Clarke (01702) 293102 af.clarke52@gmail.com Michael Wardle (01702) 613840 mjb23wardle@btinternet.com

**Please remember that your Elders are ordained
to serve our members and friends
who have pastoral concerns.**