

# New Horizons

JUNE 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](http://www.thecornerstonesouthend.org.uk)  
Email:  
[CornerstoneReception@outlook.com](mailto:CornerstoneReception@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



### *Walking Worthy of Our Calling*

I once heard a story about a preacher who got on a bus and bought his ticket only to discover he had been given too much change. When he was getting off, he told the bus driver who replied I know. Why did you give me too much asked the preacher?

“I was in church yesterday and heard you preach replied the driver, I wanted to see if you were worth listening to”.

Whether we're preachers or not everything we do as Christians says something about us. When we decide to follow Jesus, our lives become entwined with a story bigger than ourselves. We adopt the mantle of reflecting Jesus' cosmic love and redemptive hope to a desperate world and people watch us closely. As the theologian Dwight Moody wrote, *“out of 100 men one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian”*.

Living for Jesus is consequently both a joy and challenge. It's a profound privilege to follow Christ's way, but it also means we must hold ourselves to certain standards.

We need to strive to live like Jesus, overflowing with love grace and compassion. This isn't about earning God's approval, Jesus has already sorted that, but rather living with an integrity that matches our convictions.

With this context we can understand Paul as he beckons us in Ephesians to *“live a life worthy of the calling you have received”*. Another translation reads *“walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”*. Ephesians 4:1

It's a stirring demand how are you walking today as you read this?

Just like the preacher on the bus, we are all called to live in a way that authentically reflects the gospel we proclaim even in the little things. Our actions should match our words, and our outward presentation

should match our inward beliefs. This is what Christ-like integrity looks like.

I wonder what does living with this integrity look like for you. Perhaps it's telling the truth in a difficult conversation or being kind to someone just as Jesus has been kind to you.

Don't let commands to walk worthy make you think you always have to be perfect. This isn't about meriting your position or impressing God, rather Paul is exhorting you to live so as to joyfully prove you belong to Jesus.

Walking worthy is about choosing to live each day with integrity by faith. It's a life in step with your saviour, walking gratefully in the shadow of his grace.

Our calling as Christians is a high and holy calling. It means we are called to be children of God, followers of Christ, and ambassadors of His kingdom. This calling is not based on our merit but on God's grace and love. We need to remember and recognize that being called by God is a profound privilege and responsibility. It shapes our identity and purpose.

As a body of Christ, the church, we are united by one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all.

Let's make every effort to maintain unity in the church. This means resolving conflicts, embracing diversity, and working together for the common good.

Walking worthy of our calling is not a one-time event but a daily commitment. It requires intentionality and reliance on the Holy Spirit. What must one do to show their reliance of the Holy Spirit? I believe by starting each day with a prayer, asking God to help them walking worthy of their calling. Reflecting on how they can embody the characteristics of humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity in their actions and decisions.

Living a life worthy of our calling is a journey that involves growing in Christ-like character and building up the body of Christ in love and

unity. It's a high calling, but God equips us through His Spirit to walk in a manner that honours Him.

May we commit to living out our calling in a way that brings glory to God and draws others to His love.

May we step out in faith, offer love to the lonely, give hope to the hopeless and share Jesus' life with others. God is with us every step of the way according to his promises.

**God bless,  
Sohail**



**Nobody is perfect.  
We all make mistakes.  
We say wrong things.  
We do wrong things.  
We fall.  
We get up.  
We learn.  
We grow.  
We move on.  
We live.**

**And we thank God for always giving us another chance.**

## 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 the coming months

Please pray for guidance for yourselves and all people in the United Kingdom as we prepare for the General Election in July and are bombarded with information, promises, inducements and rewards.

Ask to have the wisdom to decide whether these are honest and possible during such difficult financial times.

Pray that our politicians will seek to do good, without fear or favour, to all people, regardless of their political persuasion, faith, creed or origin.



## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Did anyone see this year's Prom Praise? What a fantastic event celebrating the centenary of Eric Liddell's Olympics experience, and how fortunate we are that charitable donations to All Souls Music makes it available on YouTube free of charge. Although nothing can beat the Royal Albert Hall atmosphere and singing alongside 5000 others, when you can't do that you can still be

part of it. If you haven't seen it yet, it is still available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRcNopU6hLM>

I am slowly getting around the garden for the 'Big Weed'. Our house is detached with alleyways either side - neither are our responsibility but I am beginning to understand why my father thought it necessary to clear them frequently. There are a number of very resilient plants I would prefer not to invade my garden from outside:

- Green alkanet that masquerades as a foxglove until the tiny blue flowers emerge and scatter their seed everywhere. I'm told the foliage -minus the seedheads- makes a decent fertiliser - we did try it once but, oh, the smell!
- Potentilla reptans -yellow cinquefoil that covers the ground rapidly by means of runners and deep tap roots. Some gardeners are glad of ground cover but boy does it make a cosy home for slugs!
- Calystegia sepium - common bindweed, a pernicious weed that can overwhelm other plants in a blink of an eye. I must have removed mile of it during the last week, but won't be able to eradicate it until I can get to dig out the roots. In my childhood we called this convolvulus and nowadays there are several ornamental cultivars you can grow for pleasure. Indeed ,in the same family of plants we have Ipomea - Morning Glory which is a fabulous sight.
- Geranium Robertianum - Herb Robert - one of those plants that once you have it you will never get rid of it. I understand

there are some medicinal uses, so maybe I can put this abundance to some good use.

- *Oxalis corniculata atropurpurea* -that tiny wood sorrel that seems to grow in brickwork and concrete cracks, which makes removal difficult. There are a number of more acceptable sorrel plants including the 'Buckler Leaf' herb, which is delicious in salads, but even that one self-seeds madly and would take over the plot if allowed.

In the Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13: 24-29), we find the suggestion that although sowing of the weed seeds was the work of the devil, we have to tolerate their existence for a while in order to allow the crops we do want to flourish. On a purely literal level, this is a hard lesson for any gardener seeing their hard work being strangled so I'm glad I did not get time to raise any new plants this year



Turning now to Church life some practical matters:

- At the Monday children and youthwork gatherings, we have said goodbye to Nana who has left Red Balloon for a new career, and welcomed Jack who is getting to know our youngsters. Numbers fluctuate week by week and we definitely saw a downturn on the first hot Monday afternoon of the year. We have a lively band of teens and tweens that love to kick a ball around, as a result of which it is apparent that the garden fence wood is rotting and will probably not last very much longer. Temporary repairs are in hand but we will probably need to look at renewing this fence very soon.
- The foyer carpet sweepers have finally died on the job. Replacements have been purchased but the type of battery used involves careful treatment to ensure longevity. In particular, the unit should **not** be plugged in to re-charge until the battery has fully run down. That way we will get the best out of these (more expensive than the previous) machines
- A reminder that if your organisation stores food items in the fridges, freezer or kitchen cupboard they should be properly labelled with the group name and the date of opening. This is necessary for proper kitchen management and food hygiene.



- At the end of the summer term, we are expecting a visit from the youth at Belfast City Mission and the fridges and freezer will need to be cleared to accommodate them.

Our times of worship have, as always, been varied. At the end of April Communion Service, Sohail spoke on the narrative of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch - evangelism is not always a big event but times like this, an individual seizing an opportunity for a close encounter. The starting point is where people are on their journey - the Ethiopian was struggling with a passage of scripture and Philip was able to explain that it referred to Jesus. Sounds simple, doesn't it?

On 5<sup>th</sup> May we explored the remaining 'Letters to the Churches' in Revelation, and the lessons that can be learned for us here and now.

Unfortunately, Sohail was unwell for the Parade Service when I found myself, once again up front, talking about Jesus' Ascension and its importance.

Roger led our worship for Pentecost, focussing on the 'coincidence' of Jerusalem being full of foreign Jews for the festival of Shavuot, the miracle of them hearing the gospel in their own language, the power to take that message back to their own lands. He explained that Shavuot celebrates, amongst other things, the giving of the Torah, the old covenant; with the wind and fire of Pentecost being tangible symbols of the new covenant in Jesus Christ. The beginning of the Christian Church happened not with a detailed plan of action but by the moving of the Spirit in individuals like you and me.

#### Church Meeting Roundup:

- It was agreed the six months' accumulated Communion Offerings go to Christian Aid
- The Treasurer warned of a potential deficit of c£29,000 for the current year; there needs to be urgent consideration of how to meet this shortfall
- It was agreed to proceed with negotiations for Pag-Asa Centre to occupy our premises on Saturdays for teaching and worship
- Use of Images - copyright. There had been an instance of an image used without permission, resulting in payment of a penalty fee. Guidance is being produced.

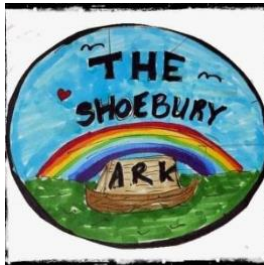
- The next Church Meeting will be held on Thursday evening 25<sup>th</sup> July.
- Mission Partnership- The Ministers will meet shortly and a date is being explored for a meeting of Ministers, Elders and Office Holders.

Ruth Dixon

**FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW**



Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



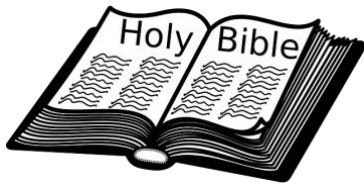
Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

**ALISON IS ON THE MEND!**

Alison Shannon, our, historian, is making good progress and is receiving excellent treatment and care. Not quite ready to venture out, but determination is coming to the fore, as we have come to expect!



We wish her well and pray for her continuing recovery.



## BIBLE STUDY

Our next meeting is on June 3rd when we have "Inadequacy is enough" as the final part of our Mission Partnership discussions.

We will be counting that as our first session for June (normally 2nd Monday) and our second is on the usual date of Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>.

We might also use some time to think about our next topic, but any suggestions before then, to either of us, would be most helpful.

**Sohail or Michael.**

## DOUBLE GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

Congratulations this month to two couples with long standing connections with The Cornerstone.

Mike and Linda Mead celebrate their Golden Wedding on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. They were married by Rev Michael Spencer at Bournemouth Park URC.



Shawn and Anne Clarke celebrate their 50 years on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. They were married by Fr. Edmund Dobson at St George's RC Church, Shoeburyness.

Mike and Linda are travelling down from Warwick for a joint celebration with Shawn and Anne on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June with a meal for friends. Over the years both couples have been able to join with friends for their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries and are thrilled that they can do so again for this golden milestone.

# Harvest Supper

21<sup>st</sup> September 2024

**Fish and Chips  
Ordered and Pre-Paid**

And Big Screen Entertainment

Middle America to the African Savanna  
Young Dancers to Old dancers who still have it  
Comedy Songs and Songs to make you Cry  
American West in 20's to Today's Big Stage  
Lone singer to Big Band, Singer and Dancers.  
Energetic and Quiet  
Something for everyone

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

**REMEMBER  
21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 FROM 5.30PM  
ROGER**

## MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

### June

Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Roger Brett
Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Thu	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>		Synod Big Day Out at Ipswich	
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship & Parade Service	Our Minister
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship, <b>Father's Day</b>	Ruth Dixon
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship (HC)	Our Minister
Mon	24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship	John Amos

### July

Thu	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship	Roger Brett
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>		General Assembly begins	
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship & Parade	Scouts Groups
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>		General Assembly ends	
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>		Last meeting of Pilots until 9 <sup>th</sup> September	
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>		Last meeting of Toddlers until 4 <sup>th</sup> September	
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Sunday Worship (HC)	Rev Celia Whitman
Mon	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship & Church Meeting	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 July and August



This will be published on **Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> July.**

May we make a special request for contributions as several of our regulars are temporarily unavailable to provide their interesting reports, stories and research. No set format, subject or topic and can be funny, serious, thought provoking, or even (respectfully) controversial. However, please be aware that copyright might apply to anything that you copy from another source.

Please, all contributions for this double issue by  
**9 a.m. on Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Thank you.

**Anne and Michael**

## 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.



**June**

9<sup>th</sup>

Mike & Linda Mead  
Shawn & Anne Clarke  
In celebration of their Golden Weddings

## Volunteers are always welcome

### Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>June</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Help please
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Harvey and Brenda



Kemp

<u>July</u>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead

### Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

<u>June</u>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	18 <sup>th</sup>	See below
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Smith and Pat Pates

<u>July</u>	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.



Coffee Fellowship

Sometimes having coffee  
with friends  
is all the  
therapy you need

## **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>	Val Mead (01702) 296189
<b>Editorial Team</b>	Anne Clarke (01702) 293102 <a href="mailto:af.clarke52@gmail.com">af.clarke52@gmail.com</a> Michael Wardle (01702) 613840 <a href="mailto:mjb23wardle@btinternet.com">mjb23wardle@btinternet.com</a>

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