

New Horizons

OCTOBER 2024



FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH
WE THANK YOU LORD

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 will be served after Morning Worship

Please stay to talk with each other in an informal atmosphere.

Tuesdays at 11.30 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	Messy Church, Pilots and Youth Club not currently meeting
	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 by Prayer Meeting with fellowship and activities on 1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays or as announced.
Wed	9.15am - 11.15am The 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.

As our Minister Rev. Sohail Ejaz is still on sick leave at the time of writing, we do not have our usual letter from him, but send our thoughts, prayers and good wishes to him and his family as he recovers.

Anne and Michael



A LETTER TO THE FELLOWSHIP

Alison Shannon

Hello everyone,

I would like to share a few thoughts with you about feelings about our churchgoing at present, as folk join together to praise and worship our wonderful God.

Since April, I have been isolated from community and I especially feel that on a Sunday morning, more so since the live stream has not been available. Many times, as I have had conversations with friends, I have realised that numbers have been decreasing and there are no doubt reasons for this in the Cornerstone.

We need to look at the wider picture and feel good that in at least two other local churches the opposite is happening. Young families, mid-life folk are growing in numbers so there is life in church elsewhere.

Should this worry us? I don't think so, instead we should look at the ever-present pattern of church life through the ages. Every church, over the years, has a pattern of peaks and troughs and we are in a trough at present, but this means the only way is up.

There are positives; who could be part of the Scouts service and not see the way those leaders were taking young people forward in the faith, although it will be some years before it is acknowledged by the children. We have a new worship group going to use our wonderful premises, majorettes too coming into the hall.

In the second letter of Peter and chapter four we are told that we are all given gifts by God and what we do with them is up to us. They are always available and throughout our lives we can use them in a variety

of ways. For me, as a seven year old, my composition (as they were called) about "what do you want to do when you grow up?" Was to say I wanted to be a nature study teacher.

I have had a wonderful life in the classroom and thank God for that gift. I am not alone. Look around our congregation and see what skills everyone has been able to share - teachers, nurses, secretaries, social workers, civil servants, mothers, fathers and carers. Every one of us have had good lives, not always without pretty hard times I admit, but we are part of an-every member ministry.

In younger days active work is possible, our bodies age, our minds find life tough but whether young or old or in-between God has a job for us to do but we have to recognise the changing times and adapt. Be prepared for change, look for the new and be ready to welcome it into your life, don't resent it and fight it, accept that something else will take its place.

Can't run anymore? (I can't even walk properly at the moment) Then take small steps slowly. Can't make large meals? Just help with coffee. Can't see so well? Use a magnifier.

One thing we can all do PRAY, let's see the growth that is around, praise our Lord and be ready to use the gifts He is still giving us

**God bless each and everyone of us.
Alison**

SUNDAY 27TH @ 2.00am
CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR

**Sometimes the smallest
step in the right direction
ends up being the biggest
step of your life.**

**Tiptoe if you must,
but take a step.**

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 our fellowship as we live in these worrying times of financial worries and the war in Israel/Palestine/Lebanon 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. We especially keep in our thoughts Val Hayman and family on the sad passing of Geoff. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers
Amen

Some thoughts for your prayers.

RESPECT is a word that you do not really hear mentioned much these days, and even less experience it.

Its meaning is to be considerate of other people's opinions, behaviour, wealth (or lack of it!), health, ability, religion, creed, culture and virtually everything in this world where we live.

Whilst He was on earth, Jesus had respect and love for everyone, from the most righteous to the most awful breaker of the law. So, how can we afford to criticise or complain?

**All He asks us to do is
"Love one another as I have loved you".**

Just give it a try?



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

I want to start by thanking those who sent messages of condolence on the passing of Frank's mum, whose funeral took place in Newbottle on 1st October. Joyce lived her 99 years to the full, until recent months when she became very frail. But she is still helping out by having donated her brain for research.

I'm sure everyone is now aware of the issues we have had with internet access from BT. As a result, we are having full fibre internet installed in early October and hope to resume live-streaming by the end of the month. Also, this is the season for the annual service visits for our plant and equipment. It is not always possible to arrange those visits when nothing else is happening, but thankfully most of the engineers are used to having to work around other things that are going on, so they shouldn't be too disruptive.

Our Minister has remained unwell, and I've found myself on the platform on more Sundays than planned. So, I'll mention here if anyone feels willing and able to lead a Sunday service please do have a word with me.

At the end of August, we had a Songs of Praise service and thank you to everyone who contributed their choice. I've heard rumours that 'we should do it more often'. I'm sure that can be arranged with some different choices. And much as I enjoyed doing the research into the various hymns and writers, it seemed to me that I was doing too much talking, so I would encourage you when making future selections to either write your own piece for whoever is leading, or deliver it yourself, so we have a much more collaborative worship offering.

Rev Celia Whitman visited on 1st September and spoke about the Old Testament David who, although flawed, was close to God. The following Sunday we marked Education Sunday reflecting on the number of children, even in the UK, who are not in full time education for various reasons, we also listened to a song recorded for the Methodist Schools Conference 2023 which you can find here:

[The World Is My Parish Song - Transforming Lives Methodist Education International Conference 2023 - YouTube](#)

On 15th September Roger led our worship and communion service and on 22nd September we welcomed leaders, members and families from the 12th Southend scout group for our annual Harvest Festival service, where gifts were collected for the Shoebury Ark. Thanks to everyone for their generosity and to Val Mead for arranging delivery. We also learned a new creation time hymn which was made freely available to churches [Jesus, Creation Sings Your Glory \(youtube.com\)](#). For the final Sunday in September (after this magazine goes to press) we will be hearing from Marcus Wood from the Fire and Iron production company.



Nominations for Elders for a three year period commencing 1st January 2025, take place throughout October, with the election at the November Church Meeting. Please complete the nomination form with proposer, seconder and consent of nominee, and leave in the receptacle provided.

The Cornerstone is hosting the Area Partnership meeting on 8th October 7pm for 7.30 start. Everyone is invited to attend and share time and information with other area churches.

On 13th October we mark Commitment for Life Sunday. Commitment for Life is the URC overseas mission programme, and members and friends are urged to consider a donation for this work and donation envelopes will be available. The Cornerstone partners with projects in Zimbabwe. We hope to bring more information and stories during the worship that day.

September Church Meeting round up: (not mentioned elsewhere)

- Toddler Group resumes on 2nd October.
- Monday children and youth activities are currently suspended due to staffing issues following the liquidation of Red Balloon Foundation.
- Tuesday Prayer Meeting - change of time to 11.30 a.m. to encourage more people to attend after coffee

- Home Communion is offered to those who are now no longer to get to church regularly. Please speak to the Secretary or your Elder to arrange
- The next tranche of Communion Offerings will go to the URC Myanmar appeal

Ruth Dixon

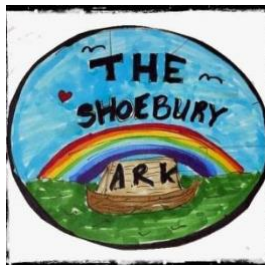
A Big Thank You

Brenda Wardle would like to thank all who sent her cards, good wishes, and the gift from the congregation, on her 90th Birthday. Also, to Val Mead for arranging the lovely flowers in church on Sunday 29th September.

FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW



Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

Harvest Supper and Entertainment Evening

Once again, The Cornerstone foyer was alive with the smell of Fish and Chips as the Harvest Festival Evening got under way. Food is always a good start to an evening's entertainment, and this was no exception.

Lacking a formal announcer Roger took on the role and encouraged the audience to come into the auditorium and settle down in preparation for the evening. Chatter and excitement continued whilst the Washer-uppers made their way in and Roger got the ball rolling.

The screen became alive to the sounds and music of a 1960's American diner and then, after a brief introduction we were off to the African Savanna.

A short extract from the Biblical story of David followed with a chance to sing along to some of the 150 verses. Other big screen activity gave us something that no-one liked (according to the performer), people should be knights even if knights do not exist and how not to get a man. Everyone was given the chance to sing along to Nigel as well as hear his wonderful solo instrumental performance which brought us some culture with Ivor Novello.

We even managed to look at Southend in 1938 and see some great clothing.

As this was a harvest festival and God provides the harvest, we reminded ourselves of this and how we should be doing more to help those less well off than ourselves.

Then it was all over

Fish and chips were provided by Ramms Fish Bar in Woodgrange Drive organised by Michael, drinks and food served by Wendy and Val. With many hands to the clean-up to whom thanks as well.

Grateful thanks to these plus Nigel for the music and all others who helped before, during and after. We have sent £60 to The Shoebury Ark thanks to your generous giving.

Harvest Weekend

The Harvest Supper (write up by Roger on previous page) was great fun as we ate our delicious fish and chips and then ‘sang along a Nigel’ and watched film clips. Thank you to Roger and Wendy for arranging this event.

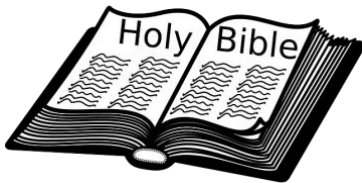
Thanks especially to Ruth for taking the Sunday Parade Service, along with help from the Scouts. The children read the lessons clearly and there were some very proud parents in the congregation. Well done all!

We sang our Harvest hymns accompanied ably by Nigel and the Orchestra and the church looked very seasonal with beautiful autumn flowers arranged by Val Mead.

The children gathered up our Harvest gifts and they were displayed on the table - going eventually to the Shoebury Ark. Thanks to all those who brought these gifts to the church and to Nigel and Val for delivering them.



A great weekend
Anne (Editor)



BIBLE STUDY

In September there were some difficulties with the church internet that meant we were unable to meet online and in person. However, there is some hope that on October 8th a new broadband system will be installed and that some days later we shall be fully “on line” again.

It therefor seems sensible to resume on what would be our normal day of Monday 21st October.

Please contact me if that would help.

Michael

The Iron Butterfly

There is a description of a lady of diminutive appearance that reads "Smooth black leather and a smear of red lipstick" with all the symbols of a Bond character. In the world of espionage there was an overwhelming patriarchy, women were only ever confined to the most menial of tasks and never given serious roles, often being used as tools of seduction.



Little did this world know that with the birth in 1920 in the town of Richmond Virginia USA of a girl to Lillian and Ralph Page would change the status quo forever. This girl was clever, interested in the arts from an early age and very musical. Her name was Eloise Randolph Page and she had such determination and discipline that she set out to be a professional pianist. However, as she grew older her interests changed, and she became intrigued by stories of adventure and espionage.

Eloise applied the same principles of her piano training to getting a career in the Intelligence services, always aware that women did not have pivotal roles in the real work but determined to make that change.

She had such a strong work ethic that she could not be pushed into the background or side-lined. Much of her early working life from the age of 22 was in a very tough post-war time in her country and following graduation with a Masters in Political Science from Washington University she began in a position under the leader of the Strategic Services, the precursor of the CIA.

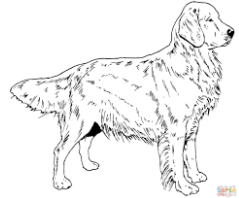
When the CIA was formed in 1947, Eloise was one of its first employees. She was always devoted to her work and made many sacrifices in her personal life to achieve her goals.

She taught Sunday School in her local church in Georgetown, and was described as a lady of gentle demeanour, and delicate of frame. She kept up with fashion trends, never wore trousers to work always a dress, and was never without pristine white gloves.

So strict with herself and others, that she got the nickname of The Iron Butterfly.

She became the first woman to hold the position of Chief of Station when she was seconded to the CIA post in Brussels, after an all-male dominance of thirty years. She shattered male attitudes of no women at the decision-making tables by leading these meetings.

She had a passion for retriever dogs, they were her family and whenever she could take them to work, she did so including her overseas postings.



She opened the door for the thousands of women who now work for the Intelligence services.

"When we lift each other up we all fly higher"

On BBC Sounds at present there is a box set "Control Intelligence" with Kim Katrell narrating Eloise's story.

Alison Shannon

**Hate no-one, no matter
how much they've wronged you.
Live humbly, no matter how wealthy
you become. Think positively, no
matter how hard life is. Give much,
even if you've been given little.
Forgive all, especially yourself.
And
never stop praying for the best
for everyone.**

Southend Vox Chamber Choir

The Cornerstone
is pleased to announce that they will be hosting

Southend Vox Chamber Choir
as they present

A Nightingale Sang

On
Saturday 16th November 2024
Opening at 5.00pm

Tickets can be purchased at
<https://www.southendvox.com/event-list>

Adult: £12. Concession: £10
Ticket prices include refreshments.

Hate has 4 letters, so does Love.
Enemies has 7 letters, so does Friends.
Lying has 5 letters, so does Truth.
Negative has 8, so does Positive.
Under has 5 letters, so does Above.
Cry has 3 letters, so does Joy.
Anger has 5 letters, so does Happy.
Right has 5 letters, so does Heal.
It means life is like a double-edged sword.
So, transform every negative side
into an aura of positivity.
We should choose the better side of life.

Here are some Paraprosdokians for you to enjoy!

These are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous.

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up - we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify...." I answered 'a doctor'.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

BERT'S BOOKS

(books written on the cheap)

- Alice in Poundland
- Charlie and the Chocolate Biscuit
- Around the Garden in Eighty Days
- The Devil Wears Primark
- A Tale of One City

Having A Laugh

- 5 Ants rented an apartment with another 5 ants - now they are tenants.
- A ship carrying red paint collided with another one carrying purple paint. Both crews are thought to be marooned.
- I hate it when I'm singing a song and the artist gets the words wrong.
- Feeling a crunch in a non-crunchy food is one of the single most terrifying experiences a human can face while eating.
- I went to the zoo yesterday and saw a piece of toast in a cage. The Keeper said it was bread in captivity.
- Before the crowbar was invented crows had to drink at home.
- I was driving down the road today when I suddenly disappeared into a portion of sour cream and chive. I didn't see the dip in the road.

The Bench of Friends

I was visiting my son's school and saw a bright coloured bench in the playground. I asked if this was the only place to sit - and he said to me, "No, that's the bench of friends. When someone is lonely or can't find a game partner, they'll sit there and others invite them to play with them." I told him I thought this was great and asked him if he used it himself. He replied "Yes at the beginning of the year when I was new here. I sat there and another pupil came to invite me to play with him. This made me happy and now when I see someone sitting there. I also invite them to play."

What a great idea on mutual aid and kindness to implement in all playgrounds. (Unknown)

ED: They have a buddy bench in my granddaughters' Junior school playground in Hadleigh and they are told about it when they start in year 3. The girls tell me that it is often used and new friendships begin.

The Next Issue of New Horizons is for November



Publication will be on Sunday November 3rd and we ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday October 24th please.

Any or all contributions are welcome, especially those that look forward and where we can learn from past happenings.

And a special reminder from your Editors.

Yes, Christmas is fast approaching, and it is very helpful if we are able to include in November an outline of the events from Advent up to Christmas. Also, please remember that the December issue will also include the Diary for January 2025.

Thank you.

Anne and Michael

MEETINGS AT THE CORNERSTONE

October

Wed	2 nd	9.15am	Cornerstone Toddlers resumes	
Thu	3 rd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	6 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Tue	8 th	7.00pm	Area Partnership Meet at The Cornerstone	
Sat	12 th	10.00am	Synod Meeting at Witham URC	
Thu	10 th	7.30pm	Elders/M&M meeting	
Sat	12 th	10.00am	Synod Meet at Witham URC	
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Commitment for Life Worship	Ann with Ruth
Sun	20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Mon	21 st	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	27th	2.00am	Clocks go back one hour	
Sun	27 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	

November

Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Thu	7 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Remembrance Service and Parade	Roger Brett
Mon	11 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Rev Lythan Nevard (Synod Moderator)
Mon	18 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	

**Be a reflection of what
you'd like to receive.
If you want love, give love.
If you want truth, be truthful.
If you want respect, give respect.
What you give out
will always return**

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 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.



Oct

13th Zoy Hunt
20th Wendy and Roger Brett



Life is like a book.
Some chapters are sad,
some are happy and
some are exciting
But
If you never turn the page,
you will never know what
the next chapter has in store for you.

Volunteers are always welcome

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Oct</u>	6 th	Help please
	13 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	20 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	27 th	Sandra Russ
<u>Nov</u>	3 rd	Help please
	10 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	17 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	24 th	Sandra Russ



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<u>Oct</u>	1 st	Stella Duboux
	8 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	15 th	See below
	22 nd	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
	29 th	See below
<u>Nov</u>	5 th	Stella Duboux (Will there be fireworks?)
	12 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	19 th	See below
	26 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates

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.

Kindness is like coffee.
It awakens your spirit and improves your day



Fill your cup with both.

WHO TO CONTACT

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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
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**Please remember that your Elders are ordained
to give pastoral care to members, friends and anyone in need.**