

New Horizons

NOVEMBER 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 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 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

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 has not returned to full activities at the time of writing, we do not have our usual letter from him, but we send our thoughts, prayers and good wishes to him and his family on his gradual return.

Anne and Michael

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

For those
who leave
never
to return.

For those
who return
but are
never the same.

We remember



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 the Hayman and Dixon family on the passing of their loved ones. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers
Amen

Some thoughts for your prayers.

Already we have seen the shops full of Christmas “stuff” and our anxiety levels start to rise as we consider how to cope with it all; once again. This is the time of the year when we need to pray for those who worry about finding money for food, for heating, for shelter, for family, friends. Their stress levels are likely to rise to a level which causes illness of mind, body and spirit and so need much help from others.

We think of all the emergency services, the medical, nursing and caring workers and the burdens that they bear.

Do you remember the saying “a burden shared is a burden halved”? Then, bear in mind that if someone shares their burden with you, you also carry that half, so do remember

Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you;

Psalm 52 v22



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

October has been a rather busy month in the Dixon household, beginning with Frank's Mum's funeral in the North-East. Because of the distance it was a three-day affair, travelling both ways by train accompanying Liz and Dorothy. Keeping a three-year-old occupied during a four hour journey is no mean feat. The weather was atrocious, and we got very wet at St Matthews on the hill at Newbottle. The following morning, we were treated to a glorious sunrise over Penshaw Monument (one of Mum's favourite places) seen from the hotel window. All was well.

During the month we also said goodbye to Geoffrey Hayman, who passed away after a fall earlier in the year. The service was conducted by Rev Jeff Jacobson of West Leigh Baptist Church with a moving tribute from son Andy, and John Barber (now at Providence Baptist Church) spoke of their shared history. Please keep Val, Andy and Christine in your prayers as they continue to mourn this loss.

Our worship during the month has been led by

- 6th Roger Brett on being a little lower than the angels
- 13th Ann Thorp and Ruth Dixon - sharing some of the stories from our Commitment for Life partner country Zimbabwe to show what is done with the money we collect
- 20th John Amos contrasting Job to the disciples seeking glory at the Lord's side
- 27th And as I write we are anticipating the return of our Minister from sick leave to lead our communion service.

Sohail is not returning to full activities immediately, and it is currently expected he will do so in January. Meanwhile it is planned for him to be with us on Sundays 24th November and 8th December, so please do take care that he is not overwhelmed on these occasions - he will come and talk to you if he feels able. After this Sohail will use up his

annual leave; I understand a family trip to Pakistan is planned for this time.

The autumn round of plant and equipment servicing has taken place, and there are inevitably some expenses involved in keeping things running. This includes repairs to the hot water system, and the internet provision, which should be up and running again very soon. On the whole, the church premises are still in reasonable condition, but if you do notice anything broken or missing please fill in one of the Fault Report forms and leave it by the computer keyboard (or for urgent matters telephone myself or Frank.

By the time you read this, nominations for the forthcoming elders' election will have closed. The ballot will take place at the Church Meeting on 24th November, following morning worship.



As most of you are aware, Red Balloon Foundation which had supplied our youth worker, sadly went into liquidation and ceased operation. For the time being we have suspended our Monday evening children and youth activities; we do hope this will be temporary and ask you to pray with us for the uncertain future ahead.

Meanwhile we are planning a Family Fun Afternoon on Sunday 1st December from 2-4 p.m. and would be glad of offers to assist and/or accompany families on the Advent journey. We will be giving out the URC Advent Packs -available to view once I receive them.



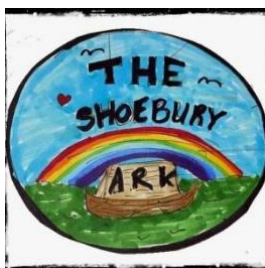
Ruth Dixon

PS. The church internet is now working, but live streaming of the Sunday Services has a technical problem which we hope will be soon resolved.

FAITH IN ACTION --- SEE BELOW



Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

HOLY HOTLINES

WORRY HOTLINE	1 PETER 5:7
FEAR HOTLINE	ISAIAH 41:10
TEMPTATION HOTLINE	1 CORINTHIANS 10:13
DOUBT HOTLINE	ROMANS 10.17
SICKNESS HOTLINE	ISAIAH 53:5
DEPRESSION HOTLINE	PSALM 34:18
LONELINESS HOTLINE	DEUTERONOMY 31:8

LINES ARE OPEN 24/7



The most wanted

I have become fascinated by people who have done things in their lives which would put them in a league beyond most folk we meet.

During the second world-war, the Third Reich were constantly searching out and hunting down resistance workers, who were capable of outwitting the enemy time and time again. There was one woman they held in special contempt, a woman responsible for more jail-breaks, sabotage events and passing information on troop positions to the Nazis' enemies than any other resistance worker in France. The famous Nazi chief, Klaus Barbie is reputed to have said "I would give anything to get my hands on this limping Canadian b....."

This woman was Virginia Hall, she was not Canadian, but she did walk with a limp after an accident led to her losing her left leg below the knee. No modern prosthetic for her but a seven-pound wooden one which she called Cuthbert.

Virginia was born into a wealthy worldly family in Maryland America, very athletic and nothing to hold her back in whatever she wanted to do. She was fluent in French. German and Italian and could get by with basic Russian. After finishing her studies, she applied for work in the U S Foreign Service, wanting to travel and serve her country.

A rejection letter shocked Virginia. In effect the reply read ' No women, not going to happen'.

Women like Virginia are not put off so easily, so she found a 'back door' way in and got a secretarial post in the US embassy in Warsaw, then in Smyrna in Turkey. It was while in Smyrna that her accident happened. She was out hunting birds when she tripped over a wire fence, her gun accidentally discharged and mangled her left foot.

Recuperating at home she again applied to the Foreign Service. This time the reply was that not only was she a woman but also an amputee! Another rejection.

Virginia left America to live in Paris as a civilian, arriving in 1940 just as the Nazi invasion was starting. She got work driving ambulances

for the French army. She fled to England when France was overrun by the German army.

Virginia was at a cocktail party, railing against the Germans and a voice was heard saying "If you feel that strongly come and see me and do something about it".

This voice belonged to Vera Atkins, the spy master said to be the inspiration for Miss Moneybags in Ian Fleming's books.

In 1941 Virginia became the first woman SOE resident in France, using false papers as an American journalist.

The news stories she filed carried coded messages for her bosses, she would put a geranium plant in her window when there was a message to be collected, maybe from behind a loose brick in a wall, or from a cafe, or even a note on a beer glass base handed over by a barman.

She was the spy the Nazis wanted and was most hated by all searching for her. At the height of this search, she escaped to Spain trekking over the Pyrenees, a hardfought journey with her disability. She reported that she was safe but found it hard going with Cuthbert. The bosses sent her a message to say that if Cuthbert was causing her problems, she should eliminate him!

Once out of France the SOE would not send her back as a marked person, so Virginia signed up for the Strategic Services soon to be the CIA.

One of her last escapades in her time was riding a British Torpedo Boat across the channel and disguised as a peasant woman she entered France. She travelled the country organising resistance groups blowing bridges, sabotaging rail and roads, killing and capturing German soldiers. Virginia was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest military honour and the only woman to receive this medal.

She died in 1982, her close family never knew about her wartime work and we have to thank Judith Pearson for the research which led to her writing the biography 'The Wolf At The Door, the true story of Americas greatest spy'.

Alison Shannon



Your greetings this Christmas.

Once again you will be able to have your name and a short personal message in the magazine for your friends at The Cornerstone. This will also be on the board in The Foyer. If you wish to be included, then please speak to, or email, either Anne or Michael.

Also, the good news is that the post box will be making its traditional appearance once again.

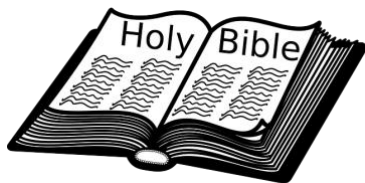
Or, you can do it the traditional way by card via Royal Mail.

As always, our treasurer will be pleased if you feel able to make a donation to church funds, as the result of any savings you might make in postage, (it's gone up again since last Christmas!) and in cards.



**Every smile,
Every laugh,
And every bit of kindness,
Lets a little more light into the world.**

Light up the world today!



BIBLE STUDY

Well, what a disappointment that we were unable to get the internet working for October. However, the good news is that the new connection and equipment has been installed and is now fully operational. Even better news is that it is fantastically quick!!

We can meet again in person and on zoom starting on Monday 11th November at 7.00pm when we shall catch up on our news and so plan for the future.

Please contact me if that would help.

Michael

You Never Walk Alone

You never walk alone, my friend,
though you may think you do.

For in your sorrow and despair
God always walks with you.

There is no hour, no passing day
He is not at your side;

And though unseen, He still is there
to be your friend and guide.

When e're you think you walk alone,
reach out and you will find

The hand of God to lead the way
and bring you peace of mind.



Young in mind and spirit

One thing you never realise when you are young is that when you age, your mind and spirit remain young. You feel young inside, but your young spirit looks at the world through the eyes of an ageing shell. Inside we feel the same as we always have. We have, more or less, the same hopes and dreams and wishes as we had when we are young. Our insides stay young. It's just outside that becomes old and frail. And as we become older, we realise that more of our life is behind us than in front of us.



I read this once and have always remembered it.

“I asked an elderly man once what it was like to be old and to know, the majority of his life was behind him. He told me that he has been the same age his entire life. He said the voice inside of his head had never aged. He has always just been the same boy. His mother's son.

He had always wondered when he would grow up and be an old man. He said he watched his body age, and his faculties dull but the person he is inside never got tired. Never aged. Never changed.

Our spirits are eternal.

Our souls are forever.”

Author unknown

It was lovely to see our good friend Janet Gooding at the church service on Sunday 27th October. She was visiting “down our way” and was able to join in worship with us.

Janet said that when Les was ill and she couldn't get out of the house much, she would watch our streamed services on a Sunday morning and therefore still felt part of our fellowship. Let's hope that our internet service is resumed quickly, and she can join with us again online. It was great to see you Janet.

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 4 2024
Opening at 5.00pm

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

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



Music
acts like a magic key
to which the most
tightly closed
hearts open.

Maria Von Trapp

THE 90/10 PRINCIPLE

Consider a situation. You're eating breakfast with your family. Your daughter accidentally knocks over a cup of coffee onto your business shirt. You curse and harshly scold your daughter for the mishap. She breaks down in tears.

After scolding her, you turn to your wife and criticise her for placing the cup too close to the edge of the table. A short verbal argument follows. You storm upstairs and change your shirt. Back downstairs, you find your daughter has been too busy crying to finish breakfast and get ready for school. She misses the bus. Your wife must leave immediately for work. You rush to the car and drive your daughter to school. Because you are late, you drive 35 mph in a 30 speed zone. There is another 15 minute delay after you are stopped by Police for speeding - you arrive at school. Your daughter runs to the building without saying goodbye.

After arriving at the office 30 minutes late, you find you forgot your briefcase. Your day started terribly, and as it continues, it seems to get worse and worse. You look forward to going home. When you arrive home, you find a small wedge in your relationship with your wife and daughter. WHY? Because of how you reacted in the morning!

Why did you have a bad day?

- a) Did the coffee cause it?
- b) Did your daughter cause it?
- c) Did the traffic policeman cause it?
- d) Did you cause it?

The answer is D.

You had no control over what happened with the coffee but how you reacted in those 5 seconds is what caused your bad day. Here is what could have and should have happened.

Coffee splashes over you. Your daughter is about to cry. You gently say, "It's ok sweetheart, you just need to be more careful next time." Grabbing a towel, you rush upstairs, change your shirt, and grab your briefcase. You come back down in time to look through the window

and see your child getting on the bus. She turns and waves. You and your wife kiss before you both go to work. You arrive 5 minutes early and cheerfully greet the staff. Your boss comments on how good a day you are having.



Notice the difference? Two different scenarios. Both started the same but ended differently. WHY? Because of how you reacted. You really do not have any control over 10% of what happens. The other 90% is determined by your reaction.

Why get stressed out? It will just make things worse. Now you know the 90/10 secret. Apply it and you will be amazed at the results.

Author unknown

**The next Issue of New Horizons will be for
December 2024 and January 2025**



Publication will be on Sunday December 1st and we please ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday November 21st.

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

And a reminder from your Editors.

You will see in our diary, that that we have included all the planned services and events up until Christmas Day so that you can get these dates into your diaries. We shall of course, show them again in our next issue

Thank you.

Anne and Michael

HAVE A CHUCKLE!

- When you are stressed, you eat ice cream, cake, chocolate and sweets. Why? Because stressed spelt backwards is DESSERTS.
- It's perfectly OK to talk to yourself. It's perfectly OK to answer yourself. But it's totally sad that you need to repeat what you said because you weren't listening.
- Wanted: Someone to brush their teeth with me because 9/10 dentists say brushing alone won't help tooth decay.
- Imagine how noisy centipedes would be if they wore tiny flip flops!
- I just sold my homing pigeon on ebay for the 22nd time,
- Everyone in my town wears woollen jumpers that are a size too small. We're a very tight knit community.
- I've just downloaded a new device to my phone that identifies different tree resins. It's called What Sap.
- The wedding was so moving even the cake was in tiers.
- The last time I went to Blackpool, I went on a donkey took me 3 weeks to get there.

Worrying is like
walking around
with an umbrella
waiting for rain



**DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER MATTERS AT THE
CORNERSTONE**

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 & Parade	Roger Brett
Mon	11 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sat	16 th	5.00pm	Southend Vox Chamber Choir present 'A Nightingale Sang'	
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC) Rev Lythan Nevard (The Synod Moderator)	
Mon	18 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Our Minister
		11.45am	Church Meeting with Elders' Elections	



December

Sun	1 st	10.30am	Morning Worship 1 st Advent	Roger Brett
		2.00pm-4.00pm	Advent Fun event	
Thu	5 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	8 th	10.30am	Christmas Children & Youth Service	Leaders & Minister
Mon	9 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	

The ten days before Christmas

Sun	15 th	10.30am	Lessons & Carols Service	John Amos
Sun	22 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Ruth Dixon
Tue	24 th	3.30pm	Christingle Service	Mary & friends
Wed	25 th	10.30am	Christmas Day Service	Roger Brett

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.



November

10th Remembrance Sunday - Zoy Hunt

**We shall remember their courage
as they fought through the carnage
and each sacrifice they made.
We shall remember their bravery
and the blood that was shed
and the ultimate price that they paid.
We shall remember each soldier from all over the world,
by wearing a poppy and with each wreath we lay;
We shall remember the fallen and those who returned
during the silence on Remembrance Day**



Volunteers are always welcome

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Nov</u>	3 rd	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	10 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	17 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	24 th	Sandra Russ
<u>Dec</u>	1 st	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	8 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<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
<u>Dec</u>	3 rd	Stella Duboux
	10 th	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.

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



Fill your cup with both.

WHO TO CONTACT

Minister and Pastor

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
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 give pastoral care to members, friends and anyone in need.**

**We do offer Christian Marriage, Baptisms and Funerals so please talk
to the Secretary or any Elder if you feel that we can help.**