

# New Horizons

July and  
August 2025



**It's Summer Holiday time.  
Relax and come back refreshed**

## 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 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	<b>THE HUB</b> Starting with Tea and Coffee in the Foyer
	11.30 am	Followed by Prayer Meeting with fellowship and activities on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <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.

## Reflections by an Elder

This month we welcome some thoughts from Vic Crowhurst.

As I sit here and dictate this piece, I'm absolutely amazed at the technology that writes this out for me without me having to use my hands.



God bless the innovators and designers of this dictation for computer technology. As many of you know, I have not had it easy this last six months and I still don't know what exactly is wrong with me. However, I'm not complaining because God has always been good to me.

I always wanted to be a doctor from an early age and was inspired by the Jungle Doctor books written by Dr Paul White. He was a missionary in the former Tanganyika, in Africa, and served as a GP, surgeon and missionary there for many years. He wrote 10 to 12 books that I could read and later my parents took me first to the zoo in London, and then to Westminster Central Hall to hear the reports of missionaries around the world.

This experience encouraged me against the odds, to apply to go to a medical school in Whitechapel and although it took me a little more time than expected. I qualified in 1976, being married by then and with our first child on its way. So, instead of going abroad, I started to serve as a GP in Ilford and then in Westcliff after that.

But, being of a rebellious nature, I semi-finished my career in 2005 in Westcliff whilst still in practice as a GP. I took up a secondary career as a commercially endorsed first mate sailing with 12 teenagers in the Baltic Sea during the summer and had the opportunity to sail for seven years with these groups of Scouts and others. Some of them well-to-do but some of them

quite literally like many around us in Southend, without a bean to spend but all very lovable.

Due to the many experiences, I had of sailing with them, and the great times we had together, I think that even being kind to people on a boat spreads the word of God in a practical way.

I had to retire for the third time (now who gets to be so lucky as retiring three times?) when I had the diagnosis of prostate cancer and all that that entails. This meant that I was able to be back in the church community that I love and am going to try to serve God now by doing an occasional service.

Although we are small in number, we are great in strength and I try to take every opportunity to talk to people in the high street giving out tracts. I even spoke to somebody in Morley's car park the other week and he is seeking a church near the Porters' area as he gives out tracts in the High Street. He is a believer, but he doesn't yet have a base to work from. I suggested that he comes along one Sunday morning, enjoys a service, has coffee afterwards and a chat to people. We are welcoming and I'm sure will give Andy (I think that's his name I'm terrible now at remembering things) a very warm welcome and it would be so nice if this was to become his spiritual home.

I'm talking on 24 August about the prophet Jeremiah and a couple of my friends promised to come that day and listen to me and possibly give me a critique. I did preach many years ago when I was teenager in the hall at Leytonstone but I do tend to ramble on a bit. I've really got to refine what am going to say: write it all down and then just do it! I know the Holy Spirit will guide me; your thoughts and prayers will also sustain me.

Please enjoy the next couple of months. It might be hot, but it might be like today as I write this after rain last night that has given a coolness to the air which is refreshing.

**We should always thank God that whatever He sends is to our benefit.**

With kind thoughts and blessings.

**Vic**

**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, natural disasters and war.



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 their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers  
**Amen**

**A Double Thank You**

Pat and Eric Garrard wish to thank members and friends at The Cornerstone for their prayers, messages and cards sent to us during Pat's recent illness.

Eric also sends his thanks for the gift from the Church and the cards on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Our prayers for people we do not know.

O God, our heavenly Father, there are many people in this world that we do not know, but you do, and you take care of all of them.

So often we forget, or ignore, people because of their beliefs, their behaviour, or just because they are not like us.

All of them add something to our lives in many different ways; the workers in China, the oil producers in the Middle East, the producers of sunflower oil and grain in Ukraine. The many fruits and nuts from South America; the bananas from Africa and fish from the Atlantic.

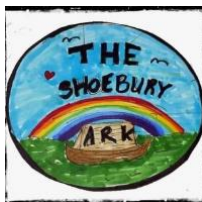
May we rejoice and be thankful for the riches that we have, not to envy others, and to be kind and helpful to those who struggle in any way.

Amen

### Faith in Action – See below



Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk



## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

It has been a June of contrasts weatherwise. As I write, we have just had the hottest weekend of the year so far, but the month started off quite dull with high winds.

I spent one of these windy days with an arborist we had called to attend to the magnificent copper beech in the garden of the Manse Garden. I was surprised they were able to complete the job in those conditions, but they did, and it turned out well.

I'm told that the occupants slept through the noise!



Derek and I attended the Eastern Synod Children and Youth Workers' training and retreat at The Retreat House Pleshey, when we heard how to use bricks (eg Lego) to enhance spiritual and learning experiences, and from Rev. Dr Alex Clare-Young about his experience growing up as trans and Christian and how we might support children and young people with similar feelings. This was probably our last opportunity to meet up with Nicola Grieves (Synod Children and Youth Development Officer) before her retirement in August, and we will miss her industriousness and good humour. Nicola will not be idle in her retirement – she is already an ordained Anglican priest and has taken on the responsibility for her village church.

The day after our return was Pentecost Sunday, which was also Church Parade. Neil Keeble led our worship incorporating a number of his magic tricks which delighted those present (a number of children asked him 'how?' but of course he is not giving anything away) Afterwards a number of folk stayed for a buffet lunch (and thanks to everyone that provided sandwiches) and Pentecost themed cake (thanks Ann they were brilliant) and a time of themed crafts and games.

I had the privilege of leading the service on Trinity Sunday and Father's Day when gifts of handkerchiefs were distributed to our menfolk. Thank you to everyone who participated.

During the month, we have both had a number of medical appointments in Southend and London and consider ourselves fortunate to have a billet in Maida Vale to make the latter a bit easier. We also attended Dorothy's very first Sports Day – she seems to be a reluctant athlete like her mother and grandmother!

I was absent on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the church's 20<sup>th</sup> (China) anniversary which was led by Roger Brett – I understand there was some creativity with clay models, and the service was followed by another delicious cake made by Ann Thorp. I was, in fact away, at the triennial Messy Church International Conference at High Leigh, which involved around a dozen nations and it was good to hear how other people do things. I remain keen to reintroduce a regular Messy Church once helper numbers allow – and we are not the only church in our current situation, focussing on major events and festivals because a regular monthly event is not practical. There were a number of workshops and key speakers and this time the emphasis was on intergenerational worship. This is slightly different to our traditional all-age worship; the idea being that all ages learn together with and from each other. Dr Sam Richards (head of Children and Youth Work in the URC) has long been a proponent of intergenerational church - see February 2018 Reform <https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/2018/01/walking-together-intergenerational-church/> and is part of the ecumenical group Intergenerate UK. She has also made a video which can be found on YouTube. The worship sessions at the conference were led by Sam and Sara Hargreaves, <https://engageworship.org/>, who also shared some techniques to include younger children or people with learning difficulties in the singing of hymns and worship songs – for example signing (BSL or Makaton) or the addition of a chorus between hymn verses.

For Bible Study we used the “Dwelling in the Word” method, which involves reading the same passage more than once, talking with one other person about what a particular verse means taking care to listen to what the other person says; then two pairs get together and share - not what the individual themselves thinks but what they heard from the other person. There was then a time of feedback and with over



150 present the range of experiences was not surprising; so we learned that Scripture can speak to us as individuals in different ways, according to our unique situation at the time.

The conference theme passage was 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 about the church being a body with each of us having a part to play. If I took away nothing else from the weekend it was this: it is *A* part not *ALL* parts. I think there may well be some soul-searching to be done on this in the coming weeks.

We finished with an actual Messy Church session on the theme and of course it would not be Messy Church without an action song, so do look this one up and singalong. <https://youtu.be/NwJz9hJv6E0>

Back home, we are about to engage with the other churches of the proposed Mission Partnership - meetings around Property and Finance and around Worship Leading, and elders are reviewing/updating our pastoral profile. There will be some interesting, and challenging, times ahead.

**Ruth Dixon**

### **The Cornerstone Toddlers**

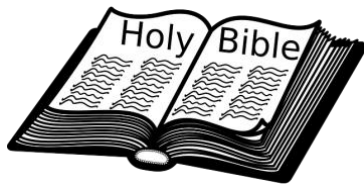


We are having some difficulty, due to sickness, in providing the appropriate care so discussions are ongoing as towards its future.

In the meantime, would you please contact Ann Thorp (07753 348856) for information.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Hurrah! During June we had success when MS Teams really started to work, or rather, we got the hang of it.



Ann took us through two more of The Fruits of The Spirit; Forbearance and Kindness and we are looking forward to her continuing with Goodness and Faithfulness in July.

All can join online from home, or meet together at The Cornerstone, on the Mondays of July 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.

As usual, we take a break during August but, back in September will see us looking at the final two, Gentleness and Self Control.

That will be tough!

**Michael**

### **Some Words of Wisdom**

When you talk, you are only  
repeating what you already know.  
But if you listen,  
you may learn something new.

**Dalai Lama**

Don't shine so that  
others can see you.  
Shine so that through you,  
others can see Him.

**C S Lewis**

**FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT**

**YOUR HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENING**

**AT**

**THE CORNERSTONE**

All will be welcome on  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Fish and Chip order form will be available on the Foyer Notice Board in August. Please pay either Roger or Wendy as soon as you see us. No Money = No food.

Free big screen entertainment of music and song follows along with your singing and music contribution.

Some ideas for what might be shown include a rocking boat song, something about a guy called Cornpole, a piece from the Goes Wrong Company, a French Dance, an old fairy story, a return to Glee and maybe even, something Blue and something about Sunday. Along with Old Singers and New Singers. But with time to spare for more searching who knows.

And of course, our own musicians will have their own time to shine.

If you are eating you arrive at 5.30pm, eat at 6.00pm - Booking forms for food will appear in August  
Or come just for the entertainment from 7.15pm

**REMEMBER**  
**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM 5.30PM**  
**ROGER**

## **It's gardening season:**

- Your thoughts are seeds - plant them wisely, for they will grow into the life you live.
- Perhaps the butterfly is proof that you can go through a period of darkness yet still become something beautiful.
- Happiness blooms where gratitude is planted - focus on what you have, not what you lack.
- I don't know who needs to hear this, but you are a great gardener. That plant really should have tried harder.
- Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.
- A man asked a gardener, "How do your plants grow so beautifully?" The gardener smiled and replied, "I don't force them to grow - I just remove what's holding them back."
- I love how a fly will get into your house through a 2mm crack in a bathroom window but can't find it's way out even if you have the side of your house taken off
- Five weeks ago, I planted myself on the sofa and I've grown considerably!

**Gardeners are the only people  
who willingly go outside to  
get dirty, sweaty, bitten,  
and sunburned  
and call it "relaxing"**

## DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CORNERSTONE

### July

Thu	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Fri	4 <sup>th</sup>		General Assembly (to 7 <sup>th</sup> July)	
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship & Parade	Scouts Leaders
Mon	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Sun	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett
Mon	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Thu	31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Church Meeting (if needed)	

### August

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>		Belfast Boys & Girls Brigade visit	
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders Meeting (if required)	
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Vic Crowhurst
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Rev Celia Whitman

### September

Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15am	The Cornerstone Toddlers start	
Thu	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Daniel Williams
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ian Milller

## 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  
September 2025**



Publication will be on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> and we please ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August.

We always welcome news, views, ideas and anything else that you feel would help others to live a Christian life of love that they seek to share with all.

**Thank you.  
Anne and Michael**

**PS As we start to look at how our Mission Partnership might work, perhaps you might care to provide information, ask questions or let us have your thoughts.**

**Church Flowers**

The 2025 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.

**August**

24<sup>th</sup>

Joan Harvey



### Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>July</u>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
<u>Aug</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp
<u>Sept</u>	7 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Russ
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



If you can help anytime, please have a word with Michael.

### Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

<u>July</u>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Stella Duboux
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>See below</b>
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
	29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>See below</b>
<u>Aug</u>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Duboux
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>See below</b>
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
<u>Sept</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.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### CHURCH OFFICERS

Minister and Pastor	Vacancy	
Secretary	Ruth Dixon	(01702) 464186
Treasurer	Elizabeth Helm	07973 199759

<u>Envelopes</u>	Ann Thorp	07753 348856
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<u>C'Stone Toddlers</u> (Interim contact)	Ann Thorp	07753 348856
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<u>Scout Group</u>	Lorna Skippon	(01702) 477309
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<u>Use of Premises</u>	Roger Brett	(01702) 479874
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<u>Flower arranging</u>	Val Mead	(01702) 296189
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<u>Editorial Team</u>	Anne Clarke	(01702) 293102
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af.clarke52@gmail.com

Michael Wardle	(01702) 613840
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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.**