

New Horizons

September 2025



**Give thanks to the Lord
for He is good**

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 (Closed until Jan 2026)
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.



WITH OUR GRATEFUL THANKS

Dear members of the Cornerstone URC,

On behalf of our entire family, I am writing to express our heartfelt gratitude to you and the entire congregation for your extraordinary kindness, generosity and understanding in allowing Shameer and Abneer to remain at the manse for several months while they searched for a new place to call home.

Your generosity has provided them with not only shelter, but also with a sense of stability and comfort during what could have been a time of uncertainty and upheaval.

We are deeply grateful for the way you have embodied the spirit of Christian love and service, and for the warmth and care you have extended to our sons.

The spirit and compassion of community you have shown is truly a reflection of the values at the heart of your church.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your support and flexibility. Your willingness to extend this grace has made a profound difference in their lives, and it will not be forgotten.

May God richly bless your church, your ministry, and each one of you as you continue to serve in His name.

With sincere thanks, deepest appreciation and every blessing.

Reverend Sohail Ejaz and Family

Reflections by an Elder

This month we hear from Roger.

When leading worship, you reveal parts of yourself. And this is good. People prefer you to speak from personal experience. So, this piece is a bit more about me rather than follow a party line of a sermon or Worship address or even a talk at a Church Meeting.



Starting work with a local authority I had to set up and run a scheme designed to help vulnerable people, usually elderly, to stay in their own homes for longer. Modern communications, 24 hour a day contact, and response as required.

In a way it was a lonely job as I and my team were not understood by the rest of the Council. We worked with a specialised IT system, provided 24-hour cover with no excuses or gaps and no WFH, were exempt from strikes and worked over Christmas. With no internal support, I met with other managers across London and Essex in two of the many groups across the country set up by our IT supplier. Useful perhaps, but mainly they dealt with equipment issues.

More was needed and in 1992 at the annual 'Calling for Help' conference a national organisation was proposed. Its purpose would be to increase awareness of the systems, helping more people get the support that they needed in a proper way, support managers and operators with regular local meetings and training and have an input on present and future legislation.

I was involved in the discussions and on the 16th November 1994, The Association of Social Alarm Providers (ASAP) became a registered Company Limited by Guarantee and Not having a Share Capital. It had membership of 54 organisations from both manufacturers and Control Centres across both public and private sectors for the whole of the UK.

Soon ASAP had an office and staff. The local groups held regular meetings to provide support and assistance to one another. The

executive was chosen by the members of those meetings. I became London's representative along with people from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as English Counties. I joined the Training Group and the Policies Group and eventually became the National Chair for a year. Corporately we were involved with BT, RICA, the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs and the British Standards Institute among others. All in our desire to increase awareness and provide support across the board.

As for the local groups they had their own set ups. In London, for example, we had our own advertising campaign on London Bus Stops and produced a video entitled Feel Safe in Your own home.

Every one of our now 100 members provided their services differently but with monthly newsletters and regular meetings to inform and support we finally agreed some common standards across delivery, training, equipment, policies and procedures and standards. We laid down the 'What', such as answer calls within 20secs but the 'How' was down to the individual organisation.

The name changed to Telecare Services Association, I took on different Council responsibilities and left TSA in 2001 but it is still going strong with a vision to enrich, enhance and enable people's everyday lives through technology enabled care.

So now 24 years later we have proposed Mission Partnerships. Ours has the prospect of six churches all of whom aim to 'love God and others through Jesus Christ; are a body of believers who know that no single one of them is complete without the gift of salvation from the One that makes them whole; who strive together to be more like the Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to light the way for others to come to know Him.' As our website puts it.

This time I am only helping six churches move towards a common view of how and where to do 'Mission' or maybe 'Increase Awareness of God's Love", looking towards good preaching, helping and supporting across the MP in Children and Youth work, with regular meetings and communication. safeguarding, GDDPR, finance, copyright policies and procedures etc. etc.

If we managed it with 100 mostly local authorities then I am sure we can manage it with six local churches given prayerful discussion and acceptance by everyone, that their ideas are not the only ones, that others may do it better. and stopping doing something and passing over the baton is not failure, does not detract from what has gone in the past but allows continuity into the future, passing on of God's love and sacrifice for us all.



Letting go is not such a bad thing and frees people up to do something different. Jesus had a working group that He sent out in pairs, the disciples later, when left on their own, worked together to pass on the Good News. We are looking towards being a MP that provides support, makes the tasks simpler, easier and shared. Mutual benefit for all and a greater opportunity for mission.

Oh! No! I did follow the party line after all.

Roger

**Always pray to have eyes
that see the best in people,
a heart that forgives the
worst, a mind that forgets
the bad, and a soul that
never loses faith
in God.**

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

Our prayers for ourselves in this troubled world.

O God, our heavenly Father we give thanks that you will always give us freedom in all its glory through the sacrifice of your son, Jesus.

If we love You and follow Jesus, we are assured of the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

We pray for faiths that profess freedom, but restrict thought, discovery, discussion and stop any attempt to rethink and question their dogma.

We give thanks that we can question whether the old ideas and customs still apply in the world today. To seek your guidance as to whether change is needed and if so, how it helps us to better proclaim The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Amen



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

It is said that this has been the hottest and driest summer on record; today, as I write, it may be the exception to the rule, it's grey, cool and windy and I have one eye on the clouds that look like they could dump on my washing at any time! We may sometimes seem to be preoccupied by the weather which often dictates how and where we spend our time; and of course how can we really appreciate a bright sunny day without experiencing the opposite?

A lot has happened since the last magazine so here are some notes to bring you up to date.

At Synod level, the Moderator is on Sabbatical and Nicola Grieves, the long-standing CYDO, has retired [at least from the Synod post - she is now a Rector in the Church of England <https://barrowbenefice.org.uk/revd-nicola-grieves-has-been-appointed-as-rector-in-the-barrow-benefice/> we wish her every blessing for this new position and we await news of her replacement.

Locally, we are getting regular meetings under way across the Mission Partnership and discovering how others do things differently. I expect the momentum will increase in the coming months as we need to formalise things before a pastorate vacancy is declared when we can begin the process of seeking a new Minister. During the vacancy, Elders are able to undertake many of the normal functions of a church - baptisms, funerals etc so do please speak to Roger or myself, if there is a need. We would be particularly happy to speak with those who may be considering the privileges of full membership of the church.

Here at The Cornerstone, we have had our regular routine Sunday services and one or two not-so-regular. We were delighted that the Scout group took responsibility for the July parade service, and each section made a presentation and chose a hymn. The cub section presented a banner to the church, which can now be viewed on the notice board inside the worship space. We do thank the young people and officers for sharing their experiences and look forward to hearing more in the future.

On 17th August, our Junior Church/Pilots group took a major part in the service about the story of Joseph and his brothers. This is a very enthusiastic group of young people and Derek, Mary and I are much encouraged their debut went so well. The service was followed by a lunch and a showing of the film "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat". I'm sure we will have the opportunity to do something similar in the future. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the lunch spread - there was quite a bit left over as only around half the morning congregation stayed on, and this was gladly received at the St Vincent's Centre in Short Street, where those who were getting a hot evening meal could take away a little extra for later.



The Manse in Wansfell Gardens is now vacant, as Shameer and Abneer have moved into their bachelor pad. In due course we will be bringing a proposal as to what should be done with the property, meanwhile for insurance purposes we are having to make regular visits to check on things. If anyone is willing to assist with that, please let me know.

Looking forward, our Elders' Election may seem a long way off at the November Church meeting. However, it is our custom that nominations are received throughout October, and Elders will be making recommendation to the September Church meeting on the minimum number, in accordance with the church constitution. So, it is not too early to be thinking about whom you might wish to nominate. Those retiring at the end of 2025 are Clive Goodhew, Derek Goodyear and Alison Shannon, all of whom are eligible for re-election.

22nd September - 4th October is FairTrade Fortnight. I know many of us committed years ago to buying FairTrade products such as tea and coffee, but you might wish to use this particular period to try out other things - some supermarkets have a decent range these days and you can get some ideas here

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/>

The final Sunday in September will be our Harvest Festival when you are invited to bring gifts of packet or tinned goods which will be donated to the Shoebury Ark. On the previous Friday evening there will be a Fish and Chip Supper and entertainment -please sign up at the Foyer Notice Board.

Through the church's membership of the Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) we were invited to participate in Anglian Water's Just Bin It campaign, which fits nicely alongside our commitment to good stewardship of God's creation. The campaign is basically a reminder of what should or should not be flushed into our drains and there will be some publicity items for you to take and share with friends, neighbours and clubs.

On the subject of bins, many of us will be getting a suite of wheelie bins for our home rubbish. Whether we want them or not, it does present a unique opportunity to identify your home as a place where Jesus Christ is followed and could open conversations with your neighbours. Wheelie bin stickers are a thing! You can get a simple fish symbol with your house number here

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/264752239219>

Or there are other sites where you can design your own for a small fee.

Southend's waste is recycled into energy, rather than landfill, and you can read details of that process here.

<https://suffolkefw.co.uk/community-and-education/education-activities/> or arrange a visit to see the process yourself.

We are into the Season of Creation, and I hope to provide some resources for reflection alongside the regular prayer diary.

The 2025 Christian Resources Exhibition takes place at Sandown Park, Esher on 15-16 October. In my experience this is a fantastic and inspiring event, with a plethora of exhibits, workshops and worship, so if you do have the opportunity, it is well worth suffering the M25!

I hope those who have been away over the last couple of months have had an enjoyable and refreshing time. I am sure there is an opportunity for you to share about the places you have visited, by writing a paragraph or two in forthcoming magazines.

I wish I could sign off with singing 'I can see clearly now...' but I'm not there yet and may end up needing new spectacles because of the increase in the light reaching my eyes. I'm trying to be patient (!)

Ruth Dixon

The Cornerstone Toddlers



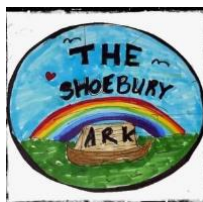
Following discussions, it was decided to postpone the re-opening of Toddlers until Wednesday 7th January 2026.

For further details, please contact Mary Goodhew (01702 467512) or Ann Thorp (07753 348856)

Faith in Action – See below



Collection point - Grey trug at Reception Desk



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

FAITH

Makes all things possible

LOVE

Makes all things easier

HOPE

Makes all things work

FAMILY

Makes life worth living

Facts about staying healthy

1. If walking/cycling is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water and is fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run, does nothing ... yet lives for 450 years.

And you tell me to exercise!

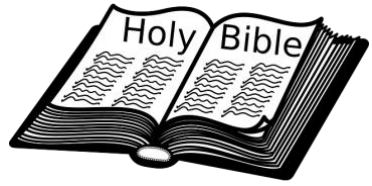
I don't think so - Just saying!!

**Help when you can.
Be there when you can.
Encourage when you can.**

**A truly happy life
comes from giving more
than you take.**

BIBLE STUDY

It will be good to be together again this month when Ann will take us through the last two Fruits of the Spirit, Gentleness and Self Control.



We have learnt much on our journey studying these fruits and the last two seem to bring all the others to a meaningful conclusion.

There may be a change in the dates of our meetings this month, as shown in the diary on page 17, but I will be in touch soon.

We shall need to discuss our next topic during September so I would ask you to give this some thought. All ideas welcome as we look ahead to the birth of our Lord.

**Thank you.
Michael**

My First Job

- My first job was at an orange factory, but I got canned. I couldn't concentrate.
- My first job was in a calendar factory. I got sacked for taking days off.
- My first job was in a glue factory, but I couldn't stick it.

She fell in love

- She fell in love with an electrician and got shocked.
- She fell in love with a crane operator and got let down.
- She fell in love with a magician - he vanished into thin air.

FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT YOUR HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENING AT THE CORNERSTONE



All will be welcome on
Friday 26th September 2025



**Fish and Chips = £9.00
(pay more if you like)
Entertainment afterwards is FREE**

Fish and Chip order form will be available on the Foyer Notice Board in mid-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.

We have a Wicked Witch, a Fairy Godmother, a touch of Rossini, Fishermen singing, Ex military, Things that go wrong, boating, skating, flying, a song without singing, singers old and new, a musical duet and much, much more.



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 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025 FROM 5.30PM
ROGER**

A Modern Day Good Samaritan Story

It was late on Sunday evening when Paddy Walsh was knocked into the gutter by a hit and run driver. It happened on Baker Row and there weren't many people about. But perhaps help was at hand when Wayne Thompson came down the road and saw Paddy lying in a pool of blood. Wayne had recently been made redundant and was off to his weekly drinking session with his mates in the Rose and Crown. As he approached Paddy, he noticed his wallet in the inside pocket of his jacket. It contained more than enough for a good night's drinking and a few extras during the week. Wayne took it and left Paddy lying there, unconscious.

On the opposite side of the road was St Luke's Church and Canon Smith had just put on his slippers after the last service of the day and was looking forward to a relaxing evening by the fire with a good book. As he glanced out of the window he noticed Paddy on the other side of the street. He did nothing because he knew someone else would be along soon and after all, Sunday was his most tiring day and he was entitled to a bit of rest after looking after people for the other six days of the week. Yes, someone would be along soon.

Baker Row Shelter for the Homeless would shortly be opening its doors for the night and John Grime was hoping to be first in the queue and get one of the beds closest to the radiators and a bowl of soup while it was still hot. He saw Paddy, by now groaning in the gutter, and was moved to pity. Opposite was a public phone box and John went and called 999. Within a short time, the ambulance arrived and took Paddy off to hospital. He wanted to go with the ambulance but the Police needed to interview and take a statement from him down at the Police Station. It meant that he ended up last in the queue for the shelter.

For Wayne Thompson, Paddy was prey, fair game. For Canon Smith he was a nuisance and an inconvenience. For John Grime he was not only someone in need but someone who offered him a chance to serve and minister to his needs. When you are faced with vulnerable people, which of the three attitudes do you take? But more importantly, why?

(A sharing from St George's, Shoebury Newsletter)

Gardening

Gardening is the perfect stress-reliever.
It's peaceful, calming and fun
..... Until you try to stand up after
weeding and remember you're not 30 anymore!



**To plant a garden is
to believe in tomorrow**

Audrey Hepburn

Weather



The forecast this weekend is for constant rane, hale, gails, drissle, thundre, litnin, hy tydes, tawnaydoes and frizzing colde. Also hurricanes and soonamies.

It's going to be a really bad spell of weather!

DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CORNERSTONE

September

Thu	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	7 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Daniel Williams
Mon	8 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ian Milller
Mon	15 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Fri	19 th	10.00am	First Aid Course	
Sun	21 st	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett
Mon	22 nd	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Thurs	25 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting	
Fri	26 th	5.30pm	Harvest Festival Evening (Food 6.00pm & 7.15pm Concert)	
Sun	28 th	10.30am	Harvest Festival/ Parade Service	Pastor Alan Barnes

October

Thur	2 nd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	5 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sat	11 th	10.30am	Synod Meet at Christchurch Chelmsford	
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Commitment for Life Service	Ann & Ruth
Mon	13 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Daniel Williams
Mon	27 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	

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
October 2025**



Publication will be on Sunday October 5th and we please ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday 25th September.

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**

Church Flowers

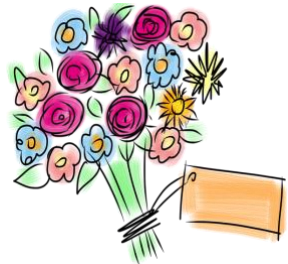
The Flower List is on the noticeboard in the Foyer and if you would like to supply flowers for any Sunday in the future, please place your name on the list or contact Val.

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.

September

7th
14th
21st
28th

Eric & Pat Garrard
David & Beverley Osborn
Brenda Kemp
HARVEST



Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Sept</u>	7 th	Sandra Russ
	14 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	21 st	Melanie Diji
	28 th	Sandra Russ
<u>Oct</u>	5 th	Help please!
	12 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead



We welcome Melanie, for the first time, to the “CoffeeTeam” this month, and we thank her for volunteering.

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

Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

<u>Sept</u>	2 nd	Stella Duboux
	9 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	16 th	See below
	23 rd	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
	30 th	See below
<u>Oct</u>	7 th	Stella Duboux
	14 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.

Imagine reading a
book with no way to
turn back the page.

How carefully would you
read it.

That's Life!

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.**