

New Horizons

October 2025



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.

Reflections by an Elder

This month by Derek Goodyear.

Those of you that know me will realise that the idea of sitting down and writing a letter to the Fellowship is way out of my comfort zone. It's something I've put off but eventually of course "my turn" has come. And it's made me reflect on all the times in my life where God has challenged me and placed me on a new path even though I may have been reluctant to take it.



My first encounter with "Church" was when I joined the Cubs at Chelmsford Avenue Church aged 8 (almost 60 years ago) and met the then Akela, Iris Riches, who was to become so important in my journey to faith and a lifelong friend who sadly passed away in June of this year. She encouraged me to join the Sunday School, and I never looked back.

I became a church member aged 19 and three years later an Elder. Scouting was also a big part of my life, and I was a Cub Leader for over 30 years, but then health issues forced me to have to step away. At the time the churches were in the process of coming together to form what is now The Cornerstone and they were looking for someone to take on the role of chairing the Redevelopment Committee. I was approached and said "no way", I'd never had any experience in anything like that. A second person asked me, and I still said no, but when a third approached me, it got me thinking that perhaps God wanted me in that role. I, with an awful lot of trepidation, said yes, and it proved to be one of the best decisions I ever made. Three years of hard work liaising with architects and builders but the result is the building we are blessed with today.

Not long after The Cornerstone opened, we were faced with closure of the Girls Brigade Company due to lack of leaders and rising costs. I was asked to consider opening a Pilots Company (the URCs own non-uniform children's organisation) and this time I wasn't so reluctant to say yes as I was keen to get back to working with youngsters. I

wasn't however quite so keen when asked to join the national Pilots committee and even less so when asked to be that committee's representative on the national children and youth work committee. Again, it took being approached by three different people before finally saying yes.

And in my personal life I've had many challenges as well. Serious health issues as a child, not expected to survive beyond my teens. But God obviously had plans for me and I'm still here facing a new set of health issues but with the knowledge that Jesus is alongside me.

These challenges have made me increasingly appreciate the importance of prayer. Not just my personal prayers but that of others praying for me. But above all the importance of not just thanking God and asking for his blessings but listening to him. That can be a voice in your head or others giving you the message he wants you to hear. Asking for things is easy, listening (especially when it's something we don't want to hear) can be very difficult. The Bible is full of stories of Gods people not wanting to listen! But as I know from personal experience, he has a way of nudging you in the direction he wants you to go.

So, I encourage you all to listen for the voice of Jesus. Whatever life may throw at you he will never lead you down the wrong path.

Psalm 62, verses 5-6 (The Message):

God, the one and only – I'll wait as long as he says. Everything I hope for comes from Him, so why not? He's solid rock under my feet, breathing room for my soul, an impregnable castle: I'm set for life.

Derek Goodyear

**God is for you.
He has a plan for you.**

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 call for a special prayer at a distressing time.

Please pray for Hollie and Marc as they mourn their baby daughter who was recently born asleep. Please ask The Lord to give them the strength they need to face the coming days.

An answer to prayer

It was wonderful to see Alison Shannon back in Church last month and also attending The Hub. She has needed our prayers over the last few years when she has been housebound and she has been watching our streamed services but seeing her back amongst us was an answer to them all.

Welcome back Alison.

Prayers for all of the people on this earth

That all must have:-

Shelter
Warmth
Food
Clean water
Freedom
Health care
Peace and safety

Together with the love of all people in Your World

Amen



Harvest thanks

We had a wonderful Harvest Weekend, starting on the Friday evening with a Fish & Chip supper followed by a Musical Extravaganza put together by Roger Brett (more about this further on in the magazine). Our thanks go to all who helped to make this such an enjoyable evening.

The Harvest Festival Parade Service on the Sunday morning was led by Alan Barnes. Known to many of us of the old Bournemouth Park URC, who travelled from Blackburn to lead our worship. He kept our youngsters entertained with chocolates, fruit and a strong message delivered by a haughty dahlia and a common garden dandelion!

The church was beautifully decorated by Val with Autumn flower arrangements and Nigel, and the orchestra filled the church with the joyful sound of harvest hymns, which we thoroughly enjoyed singing. During the service our harvest gifts were collected up and put on display. What a fantastic selection of food etc will be delivered to the Shoebury Ark during the week.

It was a great weekend, thanks everyone.



SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

Last Sunday (21st September) I watched something that will be etched on my mind for ever. A young widow, mother of two, fighting back the tears and gazing heavenward for strength, then boldly saying, with the watching world as witness, to her husband's murderer "I forgive you".

Could you do that? Could I do that?

Whatever your opinion of Charlie Kirk and the overt conflation of faith and politics he espoused, when you cast aside the 'fluff' and misinformation you glean from the internet, there can be no doubt that Jesus Christ dwells in that household, for I am certain Erika Kirk would not have been able to forgive otherwise. I pray He will continue to comfort and uphold her.

I was exchanging messages with a Minister friend, and we agreed we had been more moved by Charlie Kirk's assassination than any other during our lifetime (and don't get me wrong I am also troubled by for example current events in Gaza). And I think the reason is this - when he was killed, ***he was out doing what we aspire to do, what the Lord commands us to do.*** He had carved out for himself a platform from which to engage with a section of society that had become disengaged from both faith and politics, and he spoke respectfully with anyone and everyone - especially those who disagreed with him. Was he right all the time? No, he was, like us, a flawed human being and he knew it. But his unique talent was getting people talking about faith, about politics and American life. And from the point of view of our "We don't do God" UK government it was refreshing to see so many US politicians at his memorial speaking about God in their lives. This side of the pond we have an unspoken convention of keeping faith and politics (government) in different pockets, but maybe, just maybe our Christian politicians can now be a little bolder.

Time will tell whether Charlie Kirk is some kind of latter-day St Stephen as some are suggesting; but the impact on the church is undeniable, with thousands upon thousands more Americans seeking out church worship since his death. And that's a good thing, isn't it?

I'm going to leave this here - I have many more thoughts but need to assimilate them.

At worship we had two firsts last month. On 7th September our friend Daniel Williams (from SCF) led our service and Ian Miller from Christ Church Rayleigh on 14th. Elders welcome feedback as 2026 services are being planned. On 21st September Roger led our Communion service and Alan Barnes came to us from Blackburn to take the Harvest Festival Parade Service (if you haven't seen our dahlia and dandelion double act please do visit the you tube channel!) Your gifts for the Shoebury Ark were gratefully received and thanks to Val and Nigel for delivering them. As I have previously mentioned, now that we have resumed Junior Church, I am not in a position to provide commentary on our worship sessions, and it would be good if someone else could undertake this.

Commitment for Life is the URC's overseas aid effort which raises funds for life changing programmes administered via Christian Aid partners in Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and the Palestine occupied territories. Our church partners with Zimbabwe and at the service on 12th October we will be bringing news of what has been happening there. From 5th October designated envelopes will be available for your donations - please prayerfully reflect on what you can give to this cause.

Elders' Election nominations are open throughout October and forms are available at the reception desk, to be signed by proposer, seconder and nominee. The election will take place at the November Church Meeting. Retiring Elders are Clive Goodhew, Derek Goodyear and Alison Shannon, all of whom are eligible for re-election. Our constitution requires that Elders should be over 18 years old and in full membership of the United Reformed Church for at least one year. The September church meeting accepted the Elders' recommendation that the **minimum** number of Elders should be 8 and

members are requested to prayerfully consider offering themselves for election.

As most of you know, our Sarah has been despatched to the Saudi Arabian desert for three months. Until now Sarah has transported Val and Pippa each Sunday from Leigh to church and back again. If you can help on a rota basis, to continue that until Sarah's return, please do speak to Liz Helm who is co-ordinating.

The empty Manse must be visited weekly, to comply with insurance requirements, and we welcome volunteers to assist with that - ask Roger for a key. It need not be a long visit, just check around for anything amiss and report, bring any mail into the church.

On the finance front, our M&M assessment for 2026 is just over £40,000.00. With our current monthly operating deficit, and the cost of heating over the winter months, we are not well placed to meet this target without dipping further into reserves. We are having a survey of the heating system carried out and expect recommendations for new plant and equipment.

Church meeting also reluctantly decided to remove the HARP collection point for the time being, and concentrate our support on the Shoebury Ark. I will leave the Ark trug in place for any items you wish to give - see <https://shoeburyark.org.uk/>

With the darker evenings, we are now entering the period when church meetings are held on a Sunday after morning service, in November, January and March. I mention this now so you can plan your lunch arrangements!

Ruth Dixon

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance.

The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.

C S Lewis

Harvest Fun Evening 2025

I am sure that we have seen joggers on the street plodding on come rain or shine. Their jogging seems never ending and or enjoyable.

This is the total opposite of our Harvest Supper evening, at least for me. Every year about August/September Mary and I agree my preaching dates for the following year before she goes wider. We also confirm the date of the Harvest service. This sets the weekend for the Harvest Supper. I now have a deadline and once this year's adulation has died down next year's preparation can start.

And that is the first fun bit. Adding to the spreadsheet of musicals or just songs or singers who might be used. Viewing on-line for suitability. Cutting down from hundreds to a final list of 11 of the best. Or at least 'best' in my opinion. All sorts of fun doing this.



I find songs to sing and our musicians find the music. My words are sorted; systems, cables and remote controls are tested. Chippy is put on standby, help is asked for and before you know it the curtain goes up and the show starts. Which is the second fun for me. To show off all my work, to hear the

laughing and clapping and our musician playing to whom I offer my grateful thanks. And to those who help with setting up, taking down, collecting food.

And last night was good (in my opinion) with laughter and at least one emotional piece. Everything went well even if it Goes Wrong on Screen. All seemed to enjoy the evening. We kept the cost the same as last year even though the chippy charged £8.20 up from £7.40 but have still given The Ark £40 (income over expenditure).

Make a note of the 25th September 2026. 'Y' 'U' may ask, 4x'E's of remembering and 'U' can 'C' a new Harvest Fun evening. There might even be 'T'.

Roger

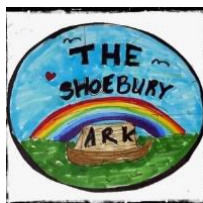
The Cornerstone Toddlers



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

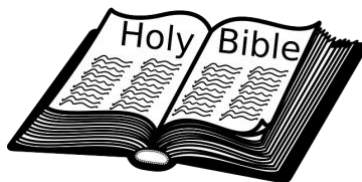


Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

BIBLE STUDY

We rounded off September as we finished our reflections on the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Self-Control was the last fruit we explored and perhaps it is the one that presents us with the greatest difficulty as we follow in Christ's footsteps. We must always travel in Faith and Hope!



For our October sessions we shall be looking at how we use these fruits to continue our journey of Faith and our works in today's world.

Please join us in person or online at 7.00pm, Mondays 13th and 27th of October

Thank you.

Michael

Do You Remember?

Pound shillings and pence

Two farthings would make a ha'penny
Two ha'pennies a penny for you.
Three pennies would come to threepence
Or a threepenny bit as we knew.
Six pennies would make up sixpence
Two three penny bits did as well
All were known as a tanner
As any old timer would tell.
Twelve pennies were worth one shilling
Four threepenny bits two tanners a bob
Four tanners eight threepence two shillings
All would make a florin job.
Two and six or a florin and sixpence
Would then become half a crown
Four half crowns made a ten bob note
Two ten bob notes a pound.
A pound note and a shilling into a guinea grew
This is old money pounds shillings and pence
I remember it well
Do you?



And definitely to “Remember”

That early on Sunday 26th October, you need to put your clocks back one hour. If you do not, you might have to wait for someone to let you into The Cornerstone!

DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CORNERSTONE

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	26th		Clocks go back one hour.	
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Daniel Williams
Mon	27 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	

November

Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Thu	6 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Remembrance Day and Parade Service	Roger Brett
Mon	10 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett
Sun	23 rd	11.45am	Church Meeting & Elders' Elections	
Mon	24 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon

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
November 2025**



Publication will be on Sunday November 2nd and we please ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday 23rd October.

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.

Plus, a reminder that in November we include the important dates of our Worship for Advent and Christmas, together with all the other times activities when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**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.

There are no names on the board for October.

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

<u>Oct</u>	5 th	Help please!
	12 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	19 th	Sandra Russ
	26 th	Help please!
Nov	2 nd	Melanie Diji
	9 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
	16 th	Sandra Russ



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

Tuesday mornings "Drop in"

<u>Oct</u>	7 th	Stella Duboux
	14 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
	21 st	See below
	28 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates
Nov	4 th	Stella Duboux
	11 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.

Help when you can.
Be there when you can.
Encourage when you can.
A truly happy life comes
from giving more than you take

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.**