

New Horizons

JULY and AUGUST 2026



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.
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.

Letter to the Fellowship from our elder Roger Brett



Hevel, Hevel. All is Hevel

My title for this piece comes from the Hebrew words at the start of the book of Ecclesiastes. If we delve into what the word 'Hevel' means, then we begin to wonder if this book should be in the Bible at all.

According to the NIV the verse translates as *"Meaningless! Meaningless!" Everything is meaningless.* The Common English Bible has *"Perfectly pointless, Everything is pointless."* And as for The Message *"Smoke, nothing but smoke –it's all smoke."*

I could go on but you get the message. This is not, at first sight, a book that is going to uplift us as we might hope. But it does show an accurate picture of many people's lives both when it was written and now and, if you look carefully enough, you can discern a better way of living.

This book is written like a modern first-person novel. We have the author who opens and closes the book with their own words and a character called 'The Teacher' giving us insight into our lives.

It is 'The Teacher' who is being quoted at the start. Reading on it is The Teacher who translates 'Hevel' as being like vapour or smoke, something temporary or fleeting. Smoke may look solid, but when we try and grab it there is nothing there. Daily life may be full of beauty and goodness and justice and joy, but so often bad things happen and everything blows away. Just like smoke when we try to grab it there is nothing there. Little that we chase after is real.

Bad things happen to good people. Hevel, Hevel. All is Hevel.

It has to be said, that much of the Bible is not an easy read. It is not for nothing that we encourage new believers in Christ to start with the Gospel of Mark. It is simple and straightforward even though it has a deep message about the Good News of Christ. After which people have the foundation to enable an understanding of the more difficult sections.

And the Bible is difficult because life is difficult and the Bible is full of people trying to live their lives. Sometimes following God's path and sometimes, indeed quite a lot of the time, not following God's path at all. We read about the problems and difficulties they encounter because what they seek is not what God wants them to seek.

The Teacher says that much of our lives are spent doing all sorts of things away from God. But still trying to find meaning and purpose. No wonder life often feels like 'Hevel'. Everything we touch is as smoke and has no substance. We chase wealth, pleasure, status or career none of which have any lasting meaning or significance.

As time passes nothing ever really changes. Mountains were there before us and will be there long after us. Oceans and tides continue to roll. Clouds float in the sky white and black. The Sun shines and the Moon reflects the Sun. And consider the Fortingall Yew, in Perthshire, estimated at 2,000 to 3,000 years old. All of these things existed before and will after us while we chase the pointless and ephemeral earthly pleasures.

Few will remember us in 100 years' time.

Paul tells the Church of Galatia *"walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

As I said, the Bible can be a difficult read. We need to search for the nugget of Gold that helps us in our time of working hard to be closer to our Lord. Actually the idea of a nugget of Gold is not quite right. In nature pure Gold appears as a bright, brassy yellow metal. It is easy to spot among the dross i.e., worthless, commonplace or trivial matter.

What we are really looking for is the diamond among the dross. In nature a diamond appears as a dull, opaque or translucent stone resembling a pebble or lump of pale glass. It is hard to find and has to be worked on to show its true beauty.

I am sure we often wonder what we are doing here both on earth and at The Cornerstone. How are we helping anyone to come closer to God? Are our lives all 'Hevel'?

I hope not and indeed I know that is not the case. I hope we know that our lives are worth something. Worth something to God because of our faith and belief in Him and because we strive hard not to live lives that are 'Hevel'. But lives that show love and care for others.

Our discussions often cover the issue of how we will spend our money and our time and our talents. The list of things where they could be used is seemingly endless. Money, time and talents are spent, and nothing happens. Our Sunday numbers do not increase. Our bank account goes down. We are exhausted. We feel we are having no impact. Will The Cornerstone outlive us or not?

But in Ecclesiastes chapter eleven we have one of those rough diamonds with which the book is littered. It reads *'Send your bread out on the water because, in the course of time, you may find it again. Those who watch the wind blow will never sow, and those who observe the clouds will never reap. Just as you don't understand what the life-breath does in the foetus inside a pregnant woman's womb, so you can't understand the work of God, who makes everything happen. Meaning be generous without immediate expectation.'*

At least twice recently people have come forward to do something for us at The Cornerstone because of the way we have behaved towards them. We have helped them, we have been friendly towards them, we have been like family to them, we have loved them, we have cared for them. In short, we cast our bread and it was returned. We did not know that would happen, we probably never even thought about what we were doing but following God's path and doing the things that He wants casts our bread.

You and I can't control the most important things in our lives. Nothing is guaranteed, and, strangely, that's the beauty of it. When we put trust in God about our future and cast our bread it frees us to be closer to Him and live more like Him and not chasing the earthly pleasures which are just 'Hevel' but the real life that comes from being with God.

That's the surprising wisdom of the book of Ecclesiastes.

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. We think especially of Hilda, David and Michelle Prior on the passing of Allan this month. Allan was an Elder of long standing in our church. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers. **Amen**

IT IS NOT MY FAULT!

Whenever something bad happens, people always try to blame it on someone; just look at the news over the past few weeks.

Yes, it is right that wrongdoing should be investigated and steps taken to punish the guilty where appropriate. Frequently, lessons can be learnt so as to prevent further incidents.

However, all people deserve compassion, support and the opportunity to change whatever they have done.

People in glasshouses should not throw stones.

Let him without sin cast the first stone.

Vengeance is mine said the Lord.

Don't all need to dwell on what the Lord's Prayer says about trespasses?

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



Phew! Heat and wall-to-wall sunshine by day and thunder with heavy rain by night seems reminiscent of summers of my childhood when we would get up, do our chores, make sandwiches and spend the morning on the beach, and decamp to the cool of the park for the afternoon - almost every day of the school holidays. Anyone else have similar memories?

Frank is making good progress following his recent surgery. He has been really fortunate over the last three years+ to have been in the right place at the right time and received excellent care from the London hospitals. Thank you for all your prayers. His recuperation time has meant the repair to the gentlemen's toilet had to wait a while as it involved some heavy work but hopefully will be done by the time you read this magazine.

We are indebted to Sarah from Little Turtles for funding the rubbish removal from the alleyway, which will enable the fence to be mended. Sadly, another fence post has also been damaged in recent weeks, and that probably needs professional replacement. We are hoping the new railing around the garden area will be installed during the summer holidays.

Our worship last month was led by:

7th - John Amos

14th - our church parade focussing on the Armour of God

21st - Roger Brett Church 21st Anniversary and Father's Day; pens were distributed to the gentlemen of the church and Ann Thorp made a lovely celebration cake

28th - Rev Celia Whitman with Holy Communion.

You may recall that during Covid and while we did not have Junior Church, I began to include a few details of each Sunday's message.

As I am no longer able to do so, it would be very helpful if someone else were willing to write a paragraph or two.

We are making slow progress on the Mission Partnership front, and as soon as the profile is finalised, it can go to the Synod Moderators' meeting and be distributed to potential Ministers. Meanwhile, I want to remind everyone that Elders are permitted and able to carry out just about every function the church requires including weddings and funerals and authorised for baptism.

The most important part is caring for one another, and everyone has a part to play in making sure Elders are aware of any pastoral needs and concerns. The exception is the ordination of new Elders and if that were to become necessary we would have to ask an ordained minister to do it.

Which leads in nicely to the matter of the November Elders' election. Elders due to retire are Mary Goodhew and Ann Thorp, both at the end of second term so neither automatically eligible for re-election. So do please spend the summer weeks prayerfully considering who you may wish to nominate when the time comes in October. Under existing rules the nominee must have been in full church membership for a year before the election meeting.

Finally, I take nothing for granted in preparing the monthly prayer diary. As well as prayers for our people and activities, I like to include outward focussed organisations such as Tools with a Mission and Barnabas. But it's not a closed list so if you have any new suggestions, please do say.

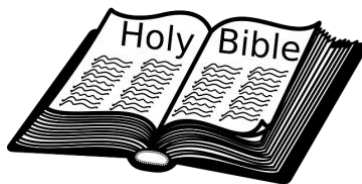
Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Ruth Dixon

**Even if we disagree about everything
we can still be kind to each other.**

BIBLE STUDY

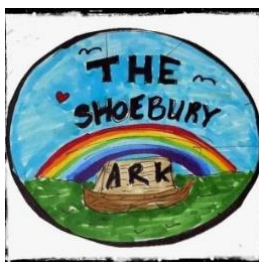
We plan to restart our sessions now that we have an internet connection, with our thanks to all who have been successful in getting the service restored.



Our last session before we break for the summer will be on Monday 13th July when Ann will lead our thoughts on the last one of our biblical characters.

Michael Wardle and Ann Thorp will be sending the details to the usual people, but if you would like to join in person at the church, or online, please let them know. ALL are welcome!

Faith in Action – See below



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

Harvest weekend 2026



We have already advertised that our Harvest Festival worship this year will be on Sunday 27th September 2026.

The details for our Fish and Chip supper, followed by some rousing entertainment on Friday 25th September are on the following page.

YOUR HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENING AT THE CORNERSTONE



All will be welcome on
Friday 25th September 2026



**Fish and Chips = £10.00
(minimum payment)
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 lost stranger, American Myths, a fairy tale myth, people sad and alone, a wonderful pianist, hope of a wedding, some criminals singing, singers old and new, our own live (wonderful) musicians 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 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM 5.30PM
ROGER**

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Fish & Chips wrapped in newspaper.
2. Glass bottles with a refundable deposit.
3. 78rpm records.
4. Party telephone lines.
5. Milk delivered in glass bottles.
6. Television in black & white only.
7. The coal man delivering.
8. Beat bobbies both day & night.
9. Shilling-in-the-slot utility meters.
10. Your G.P. making house calls.
11. Television rental services.
12. Scouts & Guides bob-a-job week.
13. Two films shown per sitting.
14. Conductors on the buses.
15. Usherettes at the cinemas.

If you remember up to 5 - You're a whippersnapper.

If you remember up to 10 - You're getting there.

If you remember all 15 you're
"Older Than The Hills"

Lost and Found



Last month we saw how some ships and aircraft were lost and never heard from again, even on routine journeys. This time I am following the fate of two sailing ships built in the early part of the nineteenth century. The HMS Terror started its life as a "bomb ship", a war vessel specially reinforced to withstand bomb blast and explosions. After its war service ended it was recommissioned as a polar

expeditionary vessel going to both Arctic and Antarctic waters to map as yet, unknown territory.

Ships left in the spring and aimed to return to unfrozen waters to see out the winter. Sadly, losses occurred and so bad was one area it gained the name Frozen Straits.

On a journey planned for the Terror in 1839 it was joined by HMS Erebus, built in 1824 and launched in 1826. Both ships were reinforced with hull strengthening and even had extra means of internal heating. This was to make life as bearable as possible for the crews when nighttime temperatures could drop to -40 centigrade and to -35 in the daytime. Taking off a balaclava could bring the facial skin and hair off with it in the worst conditions. Frostbite was common and fatalities among the crew were to be expected but surprisingly not as many as you would think. These men were very hardy and resilient, one of their worst problems was scurvy due to lack of vitamin C, lime and lemon juice helped but there was never fruit and vegetables in the conditions. Inuit people eat raw meat as it gives them extra vitamin C.

The Terror and Erebus sailed to both polar regions mapping and exploring, bringing back their findings after several expeditions successfully. They mapped the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica, which has been used in future expeditions to this day. This work was done over the three seasons, 1841, 42, and 43. In 1842 all was nearly lost in very stormy weather when the Erebus was forced to make a sharp turn ending right across the bow of the Terror. Collision was

inevitable. Their rigging became entangled and masts broken. They were at the base of an iceberg and Terror was able to break free. Both ships had to make port and be repaired and refitted once more. Extra decking material was added, and sheet metal reinforced the length of the hulls.

Steam engines were becoming the norm and although both were fitted the need to carry coal now meant that there was less room for the routine storage of the necessities for life at sea for the crews.

In this newly powered vessel, it was a brave captain Sir John Franklin and his crew that set out in 1845 . They were seen on July 28th by the HMS Enterprise which was anchored to an iceberg and recorded seeing Erebus sail past. The mission for Terror and Erebus was to find and map the Northwest Passage and initially both ships, working together were successful. By 1848 however, less and less was heard from them and the last recorded word from the ships was that they were trapped in the ice and drifting with the pack ice . The captains decided they had no choice but to abandon their vessels, load up sledges, tents and whatever food that was left and they could move, setting out on foot along the coastline hoping for rescue. Both ships and 129 men were lost, nothing was heard again and when rescue missions were sent nothing was found at the time.

As with so many of these maritime losses, books have been written and films made surmising what might have happened but never with any real explanations. Rescue missions in the 1850's and later found some evidence of abandoned materials but it was hard to prove to whom it had belonged. It seemed the crews had headed south along the coast of King William Island to the Great Fish River, and the Inuit people of the area have stories they tell of the expeditionary parties both of the crews themselves and of potential rescuers.

Some of these stories are quite gruesome in that mutilated bodies and cooking pots with human body parts in them were found, suggesting cannibalism had become their way of life to survive.

In much more recent times, forensic anthropology has begun to add light to the stories and in 1981 human remains were brought back from King William Island for further examination. It was found that there

was a very high lead content in the tissues, and it was suggested that lead poisoning could have been a possible cause of death. Where from?

Food was beginning to be stored in tin cans, and these tin cans were sealed by lead solder. The longer the food was in the tins the more lead entered the food and so to the men.

As recently as 2014 and 2016 expeditions have been sent out, now using undersea divers with more modern methods of search. There is also now, with the newer DNA testing, the ability to be able to identify body parts and so confirm if the finds are in fact from the crews of the Terror and Erebus. This of course is being done with great sensitivity with respect for descendants of the crews.

So far it is thought that there are two men identified. One from work done in Edinburgh, is possibly one of the lieutenants, John Irving, and from work in Greenwich the remains of Harry Goodsir, the assistant ships surgeon.

Work is ongoing under the auspices of the Canadian Underwater Exploration team and it remains to be seen whether it will ever be known what happened to the men who sailed on Terror and Erebus, although a lot is being learned about what they wore, tools they used, recordings they made, even the way they passed their free time.

As to their demise

Alison Shannon

**A Yes from God,
Blesses you.
A No from God,
Protects you.
And Waiting on God,
Prepares you.**

Chuckle Time

- I just had a letter delivered confirming I have secured a job at the Royal Mail. I started last Monday!
- If you weigh 220 lbs on Earth, you only weigh 84 lbs on Mars, and 13 lbs on Pluto. So, you are not fat, you are just on the wrong planet.
- I went to play cards last night and someone had glued the pack together - I am still trying to deal with it.
- Don't eat liquorice before bed, makes you dream about all sorts.
- I went to buy an aeroplane today. The man I bought it from asked me if I wanted to keep the hangar.
- I tried to teach my budgie to eat through a straw. Didn't suck seed.
- Research shows that laughing for 2 mins is just as healthy as a 20 min jog. So, now I'm sitting in the park laughing at all the joggers.

Looking after your plants

"I'm sorry," said the clerk in the flower shop, "we don't have potted geraniums. Could you use African Violets instead?"

Replied the customer sadly.

"No, it was geraniums my wife told me to water while she was away."

6 + 3 = 9
But so does
5 + 4

The way you do things
isn't always the only way
to do them.

RESPECT
other people's
way of thinking

KINDNESS
is the most beautiful thing
a person can embody.

KINDNESS
to those who cross our path,
to those who carry unseen struggles,
and to ourselves.

It is both a
Strength
and a
Light

Never let the world
dim that glow within you

Dear God,

Sometimes I don't have the words.
So I hope you can hear my heart.
Amen



**The next Issue of New Horizons will be for
September 2026**



Publication will be on Sunday 6th September and we ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday 25^h 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. Also, any stories from your Summer Holidays!

**Thank you.
Anne and Michael**

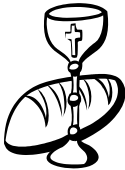
Church Flowers

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.



Aug 23rd Joan Harvey

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.

DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CORNERSTONE

July

Thu	2 nd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	5 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Tues	7 th	10.00am	Coffee followed by The Hub	
Sun	12 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (Parade Service)	Scouts
Mon	13 th	7pm	Bible Study	
Sun	19 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ruth Dixon
Tues	21 st	10.00am	Coffee followed by The Hub	
Sun	26 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Rev Celia Whitman
Thu	30 th	7.30pm	Church Meeting	

August

Sun	2 nd	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Aug	3 rd		Boys Brigade stay until 7 th August	
Tues	4 th	10.00am	Coffee followed by The Hub	
Sun	9 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Vic Crowhurst
Sun	16 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ian Miller
Tues	18 th	10.00am	Coffee followed by The Hub	
Sun	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett
Sun	30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship, S of Praise	Ann Blackwell

September

Tues	1 st	10.00am	Coffee followed by The Hub	
Thu	3 rd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	6 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman
Sun	13 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Ian Miller
Mon	14 th	7.00pm	Bible Study	
Tues	15 th	10.00am	Coffee followed by The Hub	
un	20 th	10.30am	Morning Worship (HC)	Roger Brett



Please join us for tea, coffee and biscuits
after Morning Worship
on any Sunday.



We also meet on Tuesdays from 10am for tea and coffee etc.
This is "open house" to which all are welcome.
Just sit, chat, listen, talk and relax;
or whatever you feel like doing on the day!

This should be posted in every school

Some children are smarter **THAN YOU**.
Some children have cooler clothes **THAN YOU**.
Some children are better at sports **THAN YOU**.

IT DOESN'T MATTER

You have your thing too.
Be the child who can get along.
Be the child who is generous.
Be the child who is happy for others.
Be the child who does the right thing.

BE THE NICE CHILD



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>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	07592614741
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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.**