

New Horizons

MAY 2026



PENTECOST

THE CORNERSTONE



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Bournemouth Park Road,
Southend-on-Sea, SS2 5JL
(For car park on Central Ave, sat navs
use SS2 5HR no 59)

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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

This month we celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came down from heaven to the first followers of Jesus.



They knew Jesus wanted them to go out into the world and tell people what he had done, but they were waiting for the promised Helper to come and show them how.

Then in an instant everything changed. The Holy Spirit arrived! They went and spoke of the Good News, 3000 people decided to follow Jesus, and the church was born.

Now, they couldn't see the Holy Spirit, so how did they know the Holy Spirit was there? The Bible says that they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind. They saw what seemed to be flaming tongues of fire that came and rested on their heads. It gave them the ability to speak in languages they didn't even know, so that they could tell everyone about Jesus. They couldn't see the Holy Spirit, but they could feel the Spirit's power in their lives.

We may not experience anything as dramatic as tongues of fire and the sudden ability to speak a foreign language but I'm sure we can all think of moments when we have felt God's presence. It may have been in the kindness of others. Or that inner voice that speaks to us and guides us to follow the path that God wants for us and not our own desires. The ability to tell others about Jesus even though we may find it difficult.

We can't see the Spirit, but we can hear as it speaks to our hearts, we can see it moving in our lives, and we can feel the power of its presence.

Loving God, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be our teacher and guide. Help us to listen and obey as your Spirit teaches us how to tell others about Jesus.

Amen.
Derek Goodyear



We'll walk the land with hearts on fire;
and every step will be a prayer.
Hope is rising, new day dawning;
sound of singing fills the air.

Two thousand years, and still the flame
is burning bright across the land.
Hearts are waiting, longing, aching,
for awakening once again.

**Let the flame burn brighter
in the heart of the darkness,
turning night to glorious day.
Let the song grow louder,
as our love grows stronger,
let it shine! Let it shine!**

We'll walk for truth, speak out for love;
In Jesus' name we shall be strong,
To lift the fallen, to save the children,
To fill the nation with Your song.

Graham Kendrick - MP743
(Used by permission, CCL Licence No. 7114)

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 Barbara Spencer and family at the passing of Michael, a previous Minister of Bournemouth Park URC. Give them peace of spirit and the knowledge that God hears all their prayers.

Father, hear our prayers. **Amen**

Are all really equal?

The book of Genesis tells that God created all in His own image, so it must follow that all are alike? But that was probably addressed to the Jews by Moses. So what about us today?

Paul in his letter to the Christians in Galatia says “*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ*”. Yes, we are all different shapes and sizes, different in appearance, how we behave and how we speak, but that does not matter.

What does matter is we all have the worth, talents and strength to serve in bringing the Gospel to everyone; wherever and whenever we meet them.

**Lord give us the willingness to understand this
and the courage and strength to do it! Amen.**

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



As most of you will know I managed to squeeze in a few days in the sun last month, staying with my niece and her husband. Sarah runs a kitten rescue sanctuary, and you are never far from a cat in her house. They are in the process of rehoming last year's rescues and one little one in particular, became a special friend. His name is Zebi (Zebedee) so called because he bounces everywhere and has a very short attention span. When I was there, she had two neo-nates in an incubator - which increased to four the day after I came home. These are tube or bottle fed every four hours - it is demanding work with lots of blanket washing! I'm not sure I would want to take on anything like that even if I had the time.

We had the first meeting of the South East Essex Mission Partnership Vacancy Group and have begun the work of putting together a partnership profile, learning about each other in the process. Once this is complete the Synod Moderators' meeting will be able to circulate it to potential ministers. Now that Rev. Naomi Young-Roddas has moved on from Rayleigh there are two vacancies, so the process could be quite complicated.

Our Manse in Wansfell Gardens is on the market although at the time of writing there has not been an offer. Kings Road and Rayleigh both have Manses in the synod scheme, although Rayleigh's may not be in the optimum position for the new configuration. We are expected to contribute to the purchase of a new house, if and when necessary.

Our Easter services were well received; on Maundy Thursday we used Iona material 'Seven Actions' and held communion. On Good Friday and Easter Sunday Roger arranged 'lessons and carols' style services to fit the narratives. Roger also stepped in to lead worship on 12th April, with John Amos taking the service on 19th April and Rev. Celia Whitman on 26th with Communion.



Our Easter collection for the Shoebury Ark raised £211 and the November to April Communion collections for the URC Jamaica Appeal £604.21. Thank you for your generosity.

On Easter Sunday we also had to say goodbye to Felicity and her girls who have returned to Africa. We will miss them, especially in Junior Church.

Elders have agreed to allow Daniel Williams to hire the worship space on Sunday afternoons; we were impressed by his sense of call to start a new church, and hope and pray the Lord will bless it abundantly. How wonderful that the building we dedicated to the worship of the Lord just 14 years ago is now being occupied by three congregations worshipping Jesus Christ.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Rev. Michael J B Spencer (former minister of Bournemouth Park) over the weekend of 18/19 April. I have been in touch with Kate and Richard and will share funeral details when I know them.

In connection with a project for a future service, I am asking if anyone has any of the following going spare:

Brown or grey sheets

Flower or foliage garlands preferably autumnal colours

Keys or cutlery, beads or bells

Artificial grass or moss

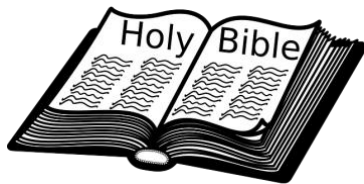
Thank You. If you are curious, you will have to wait and see!

Ruth Dixon

**Happiness comes when we stop
complaining about the troubles we have
and offer thanks for
all the troubles we don't have.**

BIBLE STUDY

Unfortunately, we are still having problems connecting to the internet and we are unable to meet online for the time being.



As and when “normal service” is resumed, please be assured that we will be in touch with dates and times when we can restart.

In the meantime, Michael Wardle and Ann Thorp are available for a chat.



Harvest Weekend 2026

Sunday 27th September 2026 will again see our morning worship, now being led by Ruth Dixon.

Leading up to this on the evening of Friday 25th September, our **Friday night is Music Night** will return. Our Fish and Chips caterer is happy to sort us out and this will be followed by Big Screen fun, frolics and music.

For our community singing I hope to have a chance to sing about London and London Birds, food and drink, outdoor sleeping, marriage, a bad day at work, a Fun Fair entertainment and a DIY attempt.

We will be inviting our Mission Partnership Partners, so make a note in your diary. More to come later when I have done more.

Roger Brett

**The most beautiful things
in the world cannot be
seen or even touched.
They must be felt
with the heart**

Neither use nor ornament or was it?

When my son visits from Sweden he enjoys watching television in his first language and we often have the films and documentaries about the two world wars with all the various things that both sides got up to try and make life harder for their enemies. This set me thinking about all the inventions which have started their life in wartime to become additions to our lives after war or even be so crazy as to never get off the drawing board. So here are some I found starting with the "brilliant" ones which disappeared before they got off the ground and then looking at some, we would find it hard to live without now.



I am sure we have all played at making a light move around the wall and ceilings as the sun has caught on a watch face. Hermann Oberth found the same effect could be used to annoy folk as a youngster in the 1920's and as a man he invented the Sun Gun, and remembering the unpleasant effect the flashing light had when taken across the teachers' eyes. If it could be flashed into Pilots eyes what disasters could ensue! He thought that if the sun's rays could be bounced to a satellite above the earth, then redirected to earth the other action of sun through glass onto material causing fire could be used to great effect setting whole areas ablaze. No one else thought enough of it to take it any further and the Sun Gun was no more.

If someone tells you some thing or someone like Goliath, it is usually to describe a very large object or person. However, the Goliath Track Mine was just the opposite. It was a scaled down version of a tank style weapon made to run on a track. Its explosive detonation was controlled by a joystick which in its turn was held at the end of a long rope or wire by a soldier. The track was laid where they expected the enemy to cross their territory, the soldier in charge of the joystick took the rope and pulled the rope to explode the mine. A pity no one told the Germans how easy it was to cut the rope and stop any explosion!!

Then they tried the Whirlwind Cannon. Cannons are normally shot across from enemy to foe over land or sea. This one was going to be shot up into the air to intercept the Allied planes and its inventor, Mario

Zeppermayr, was very disappointed not to get it to reach the height of the allied aeroplanes. Into Mothballs for that one!

One more and then some more sensible ideas. This is probably the wackiest of all, it was called the Great Gustav and weighed in at 1350 tons. Its weapon was a cannon-carried machine moved on a specially built railway which had to be moved and set up wherever Great Gustav was to cause the most damage. The explosive was on a warhead the size of a small tank and the inventor was convinced that should they be able to work at speed from place to place they could be between 25 and 50 miles from their target. Needless to say, it was never fired in anger or any other,

Have you heard of Vesta Stoudt? No neither had I but we should be pleased that he was an inventor, born of necessity, who worked in the packing department of a munitions factory in Illinois. When the ammunition cases were sealed for transport, the tape used was very unreliable as it was paper based and permeable. Vesta invented a stronger, cloth backed tape, and he went right to the top to get permission to use it in military settings, He wrote to President Roosevelt himself and got the go ahead and it was used for all sealing tapes from then on. Duct Tape was born and aren't we pleased about that.



Everyone has heard about Radar, but do you all know that from that we now have our Microwave Cookers, and all because some chocolate melted in Percy Spencer's pocket when he was testing a radar machine. He started

putting other materials including food and found that by adjusting the wavelengths used he could heat up the materials considerably. More research and by the 1970's the technology in the form of the Microwave Oven was in millions of homes in this country and especially in America.

I don't know about you, but I would be lost without my little tube of Superglue. I have one Dr. Harry Coover to thank whilst he was working on a design for clear lens for gun sights. He tested a material called cyanoacetate but rejected it because of an annoying adhesive property. But as he was working, he found that this same

cyanoacetate had characteristics of adhesion hitherto not available in other adhesives, holding different types of structures and materials together in previously unknown ways. Superglue was born !

And one last one, The Limpet mine which was to be so important to the Navy saboteurs who did such sterling work in very dangerous conditions to destroy enemy shipping. Remember the Cockleshell Heroes? The trouble was getting the mines attached to the hulls of the ships with the detonators set and still getting the frogmen away and safe before the explosion happened, whilst at the same time not giving the positioning of the mines away to the enemy as the timers ticked down, echoing through the hulls.

Two of the team were eating Aniseed balls as they worked and realised the fact that the sweet grew smaller as they sucked at a fixed rate. They could drill a hole in Aniseed balls to house the detonators and the sea water would do the rest. By adjusting the size of the aniseed balls and calculating the dissolving time they could allow the frogmen to be well clear before the explosion happened. And all because of a sweet they bought in Woolworths !

If this has caught your imagination there are lots more stories of men and machines to find, and sorry but it was almost certainly men at that time in history. If women did things like this, men did not acknowledge them I suspect!!

Alison Shannon

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're not fat, you're just on the wrong planet.
- I went to play cards last night and someone had glued the pack together - I'm still trying to deal with it.



A Reminder

At a recent church meeting it was agreed that we should try a recycling scheme for our used medicine blister packs. It was suggested we use prepared bags which when full would be sent off to a recycling centre for these packs. Each bag would cost thirty to forty pounds, and a new bag would be purchased each time the full one was sent in.

We have since found that Boots run a scheme and we can collect them, take them in to Boots and add to their collection point. Deborah Shannon has agreed to act as courier, and I will arrange to see the church collection is passed on; and checked.

This will not cost the church in monetary terms, simply time.

There will be a clear plastic box next to the Ark collection tub in which to put your empty blister packs. They must be empty.

This is not a way of you disposing of excess medicines and the scheme will be rethought if this happens.

Please join in if you wish to do so, the box will be waiting.

Alison Shannon

Can you believe it?

I started a new job as a delivery man today. When I got to my first address there was a sticky note on the door saying, "Dear Mr Delivery Man, we're out, please hide in garage."

That was eight hours ago and still nobody's found me.

DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CORNERSTONE

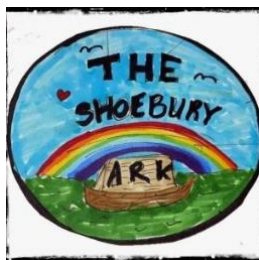
May

Sun	3 rd	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Thu	7 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	10 th	10.30am	Morning Worship/Parade Svce	Ruth Dixon
Sun	17 th	10.30am	Worship - Intergenerational Service	Derek Goodyear
Sun	24 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Roger Brett
Sun	31 st	10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev Celia Whitman

June

Thu	4 th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	
Sun	7 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	John Amos
Sun	14 th	10.30am	Morning Worship/Parade Svce	Ruth Dixon
Sun	21 st	10.30am	Church Anniversary Svce	Roger Brett

Faith in Action – See below



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

**Be strong but not rude.
Be kind but not weak.
Be humble but not proud.
Be proud but not arrogant.**

The next Issue of New Horizons will be for June 2026



Publication will be on Sunday 7th June and we ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday 28th May please.

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.

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.

Sunday Coffee/Tea Rota

May

3 rd	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
10 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
17 th	Sandra Russ
24 th	Help please!
31 st	Joan Harvey and Brenda Kemp



June

7 th	Anne Clarke and Val Mead
14 th	Sandra Russ

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

Tuesday mornings “Drop in”

May

5 th	Stella Duboux
12 th	Wendy Brett and Val Mead
21 st	See below
28 th	Carol Smith and Pat Pates



June

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.

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.**