

# New Horizons

JUNE 2026



## THE CORNERSTONE



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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Email:  
[CornerstoneReception@outlook.com](mailto:CornerstoneReception@outlook.com)

## WORSHIP AND ACTION

Sunday 10.30 am **Morning Worship** and Junior Church.  
**Holy Communion** is celebrated during Worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

**Coffee and tea will be served after Morning Worship**  
Please stay to talk with each other in an informal atmosphere.

**Tuesdays at 11.30 am is a special Time of Prayer** together for: the Fellowship, those with special needs, our neighbours, and our worldwide Christian Family. All are welcome to join with us.

**Church Meetings** are held on alternate months. It is the decision of the Church Meeting that they shall be held after Sunday Morning Worship during the winter but revert to Thursdays at 7.30pm in the summer. This may change so the actual dates and times will be published in this magazine and announced in Church.

### What's on in the week

|       |               |                                                                  |
|-------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tues  | 10.00 am      | <b>THE HUB</b>                                                   |
|       |               | Starting with Tea and Coffee in the Foyer                        |
|       | 11.30 am      | Followed by Prayer Meeting                                       |
|       |               | with fellowship and activities                                   |
|       |               | on 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays or as announced. |
| Thurs | 6.00 pm       | Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts                                     |
|       | 7.45 - 9.15pm | Scouts                                                           |
| Thurs | 7.30 pm       | Elders' Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday)                       |

**We do offer Christian Marriage, Baptisms and Funerals so please talk to the Secretary or any Elder if you feel that we can help.**

*Little Turtles Pre-School* meets on Monday to Friday from 9.00 am during term time. Please contact the Church Secretary for details.

## Letter to the Fellowship

This month from our elder Vic Crowhurst

You probably know by now that I have had an operation on my neck.



My daughter offered to collect me early and take me up to Broomfield, which was very kind of her because I always have had a dislike of arriving late, so we got there early.

It was an eventful day! Often things do not go to plan and thankfully the operation went ahead. There were a few irritating happenings and it was a long day by the time I got home!

Now that I am home, I hope that by doing physiotherapy exercises, I can start walking and regain some of my independence. I expect I will still need some care and help with cooking etc, but not the 24 hour I'm getting in the residential home. I made a friend there who is going to walk with me around the block to start me on a gradual pathway to my recovery

We are all part of God's Eternal plan and are put in a place where we don't necessarily want to be.

We don't always see things as He does but we do have to be patient and calm (not easy) and thankful for what we have, not complaining about what we haven't.

Many songs come to mind, but "We rest on Thee, our shield and our defender" is a favourite of mine with such a rousing tune and the words follow on the next page.

Vic

**(Patients must be patient!)**

**1 We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!**

We go not forth alone against the foe;  
strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,  
we rest on thee, and in thy name we go;  
strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,  
we rest on thee, and in thy name we go.

2 Yea, in thy name, O Captain of salvation!  
In thy dear name, all other names above:  
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,  
our Prince of glory and our King of love,  
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,  
our Prince of glory and our King of love.

3 We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,  
and needing more each day thy grace to know:  
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,  
“We rest on thee, and in thy name we go”;  
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,  
“We rest on thee, and in thy name we go.”

4 We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!  
Thine is the battle, thine shall be the praise;  
when passing through the gates of pearly splendour,  
victors, we rest with thee, through endless days;  
when passing through the gates of pearly splendour,  
victors, we rest with thee, through endless days.

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**Happiness isn't about everything being perfect.  
It's about seeing the good that's already there.**

## **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**

## **A prayer thought for the month of June**

Work and employment is much more than earning money to live.

We learn the disciplines of getting up in the morning, getting washed and dressed, having food and drink, then leaving home on time.

But look at the benefits apart from money. Friendship, working in a team, support from colleagues, learning new skills, widening your interests and your knowledge, to name but a few.

So please pray for those who cannot find work, for those who need help to encourage them to find work, for those whose health can be improved so that they are able to work.

Also pray that employers, managers, supervisors and colleagues may be fair, honest and supportive in their oversight of all people.

## SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK



It's been a weird month. If you know me at all you will know I *plan*. My diary has a list of tasks for each day and sticking to it is the only way I get everything done. Well, something or someone thought it would be a good idea for me to have a lesson in spontaneity and virtually nothing has gone as planned at home, which has meant my attention to church matters has had to be sporadic. If I have missed doing anything at all I apologise.

As you probably know Frank and I attended the celebration service for the life of Rev. Michael Spencer (former Minister of Bournemouth Park Church) in Gloucester on 20<sup>th</sup> May. It was a moving service with a packed church (including Linda and Mike Mead over from Warwick and Sandra (Kirkman as was) and her husband.) and we were able to spend some time reminiscing with Barbara, Kate and Richard. We overnighted at the Churchill Rooms Wootton Bassett - excellent food and service - to break up the journey and meet with an old RAF colleague which was a pleasant evening.

Sadly, Frank became unwell the next day and after a fruitless evening in Southend A&E (more of that another time) he was to return to hospital after the Bank Holiday for tests. Meanwhile he had a routine cardiology appointment on 22nd in West London, from whence he was sent straight to St Mary's Paddington, had the requisite tests and his gallbladder removed within the space of 48 hours. I cannot praise Imperial Healthcare highly enough, joined up and very efficient. As I write Frank is resting at Elizabeth's home, and we expect to bring him back to Southend on Friday once the temperatures have dropped a bit, to continue his recovery at home for a few weeks. My Amazon basket is populated by new cookbooks for a fat-free and sugar free diet.

Somewhere in the middle of all this drama was my 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday! Thank you to everyone who sent good wishes. I managed to accumulate a fair amount of flora, so the coming weekend is likely to be spent in the garden by necessity.

Enough of the Dixon family saga for now. At church it has been a fairly quiet month; we have finally got the new internet installation up and running only to find that there is an incompatibility with the streaming software. Our apologies to those who rely on the streamed services, we have not forgotten you but are in the hands of others to make it happen again. With the internet back up and running it should be possible to resume our Bible Study meetings, for an hour or so two Monday evenings a month, on site and online. If you want take part, please speak to Michael Wardle or Ann for further information.

John Amos led our worship on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the following Sunday was Church Parade when we explored some of the Christian Aid materials about the Beacon of Hope in Nairobi. The cash collection that day amounting to £324.61 is for Christian Aid as part of our ongoing commitment.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May Derek Goodyear arranged an Intergenerational Service in line with the URC emphasis on all ages learning from each other. Our thanks to everyone who took part, do let us know if this is something you would like to do again. Then Roger led our Communion Service for Pentecost when we welcomed Melanie Diji into full membership. Melanie has been worshipping with us for some while now and felt this was the right time to take this step. If there is anyone else who would like to explore membership, please do speak to me or any Elder. The final service, for Trinity Sunday, was led by Rev. Celia Whitman followed by a brief church meeting.

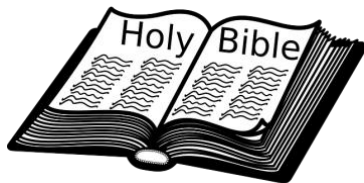
We are to have another meeting of the Mission Partnership steering group on 10<sup>th</sup> June, and I hope there will be more news to share after that.

It hardly seems 21 years ago since our four congregations took the decision to merge -26<sup>th</sup> June 2005 was indeed a momentous date - and yet here we are, still standing and witnessing as best we are able. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June will be marked as our Anniversary Service and a good attendance would be great as we continue our process of discerning the future in partnership with neighbouring URCs.

**Ruth Dixon**

## **BIBLE STUDY**

We now 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 sessions before the summer break will be on Mondays 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July when Ann will lead our thoughts on a further three 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!



### **Harvest weekend 2026**

We have already advertised that our Harvest Festival worship this year will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2026. And that on the Friday prior, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2026 we will have our Fish and Chip supper followed by some rousing entertainment.

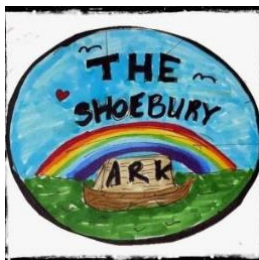
Last time I gave some hints about what you might sing so this time some hints about possible appearances on the Big Screen.

Maybe Never-Never Land, a Lightening violin, Stranger in a strange land, Windy, Good Life meets Midwife, Comic Strip, Lonely Drinking, Street Singing and A Preacher closes the show.

I have told our Mission Partnership Partners so make a note in your diary. Maybe more to come later when I have done more. And confirmed how much Fish and Chips will cost.

**Roger Brett**

## **Faith in Action – See below**



Collection Point - Blue trug at Reception Desk

### **Getting to know you - learning about the fellowship**

Dear Fellowship,

I am Angelo, 60 years old and a proud member of the orchestra.

I am a cradle catholic but lately prefer the Cornerstone for worship.

I have tried various other instruments but have not progressed on them. I am self-taught on basic guitar and it is a joy to strum along to the chosen hymns on Sundays.



Best Wishes

**Angelo Wroblewski**

Thank you Angelo for sharing. If anyone else would like to write their profile for the magazine, we would be delighted to print it. Sometimes we speak to people every Sunday but don't always know their background. Ed.

## Act of God. Force of Nature.

There are times in life when there just doesn't seem to be a logical explanation for an event or outcome of an activity and we mortals are left using an expression like the above, shrugging our shoulders and moving on. This is not easy if you are involved, as in the case recently in the news again when the unexplained disappearance of Ben Needham has caused so much heartache to his family.



Off the coast of Florida, forming an area between Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico in the North Atlantic Ocean lies a notorious part called the Bermuda Triangle.

Over the generations, various myths and legends have grown up related to a supposedly high loss of shipping and aircraft travelling through this area. I say supposedly because if it were actually accurate you would expect insurance to travel through the triangle would be high but according to Lloyds of London it is no higher than normal, and overall consensus of opinion is that losses in the Bermuda Triangle are no more than such involved elsewhere.

So, what is the problem? How has this particular part of the oceans of the world got such a name of doom and gloom for itself?

It is one of the busiest shipping corridors in the world, so more traffic more accidents? Could that be an explanation?

It is very affected by the forces of the Gulf Stream and we are constantly being told how our weather is governed by the Gulf Stream, very strong currents in the deep oceans affecting the over sea air currents and winds all-round the globe to a larger or lesser extent.

This movement of air and water, particularly water, means that were there to be wreckage it would be dispersed rapidly, especially so in the case of an oil slick which would be the first sight for search and some rescue teams after a reported incident.

Then human error has to be factored into any explanation being sourced. Is bad navigation to blame, are there magnetic factors at

play, do pilots get distracted by their own thoughts just because they are flying through the Bermuda Triangle, do ships crews expect the worst and become careless? All these and more have been offered as reasons and dismissed by those who categorise happenings here with the same scepticism as they do UFO beliefs.

There are some very well documented events, and some would even say proven but not understood. Some of the most famous are from the US navy and aviation records. As far back as the 1880's there are stories of loss at sea in the area. In 1918 a ship, the US Cyclops, a collier ship, was travelling through with a huge, very heavy load of Magnesium Ore, when it just disappeared from contact. It had a crew of 306 none of whom were heard from again.

Probably the most famous is the Mystery of Flight 19.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> 1945, five torpedo bombers took off from Fort Lauderdale airbase in Florida. They were still flying wartime like missions, the war with Japan was officially over but US personnel, as were British too, still in far flung parts before demob came. This was to be a routine training flight with the normal crews a mixture of marines and naval aviators, a total of 14 crew over five planes.

Listeners were perturbed when a message came "I don't know where we are....we must have got lost after that last turn". Flying high above the ocean apparently with no instrument reference or compass bearing must have been a very scary time for any new recruits. The Captain was Lt.Charles Taylor, very experienced in this type of aircraft having flown and survived many hours in the war in this or similar planes.

He had gone late to the briefing but was confident enough to just take it as any other training exercise with a mixture of trained and rookie crew personnel.

He already was aware that in the region there could be compass malfunction as anywhere else, but the reputation of the triangle possibly enhanced the thinking. Part of the training was what to do if your compass bearings went haywire, remembering the sort of instrument panels they had in 1945.

So, navigational problem number one to solve was how to learn to calculate where you were from where you started to the current time. At first all was going well, there was good contact with the ground, and then that message. We are lost, how do we get back to Fort Lauderdale?

Taylor must have been confident that all would be well because he did not instigate an SOS call. The last contact with the ground was a call saying fuel was very low, at which point there was a search and rescue mission sent up. This was two planes equipped for purpose with a crew in at least one of the planes of 13 trained men.

One of these planes dropped out of contact almost immediately. It was within the Triangle and at the same time final contact with Captain Taylor's plane was lost too. Neither were heard from again, not just one plane of the five in Flight 19 but all five. So here we have two missions 27 crew all lost on the same day!

Explanation has never been definite to this day, with eighty years of speculation.

Navigational error in all the planes by experienced crew teaching others?

Compass malfunction in all the panels at the same time?



Steven Spielberg made a film, and there is even a Scooby Doo mystery based on the loss of Flight 19, but still we are left with no logical explanation. So

**Act of God or Force of Nature or.....**

**Alison Shannon**

## Celebrating Father's Day - Sometimes a parent can surprise you

Soon after passing her driving test, after much pleading, Dad agreed to insure her on the new family car. Then, again after much persuasion, he allowed her to take her friends for a trip to Southend. She was very careful. She kept to the speed limit and was careful to park in a safe spot. But on the way home, crunch! She never saw the other car. In an instant, the front bumper, headlight and part of the door became a crumbled mass of metal. She was so upset, her Dad would be mad. "I'll be grounded for life" she thought.

As she turned into the driveway, her parents were waiting. When they saw her drive up, they ran outside. She knew that they didn't look very happy. Dad ran ahead of Mum - and right past the damage. He took his daughter's hand and helped her out of the car. "Dad, I am so sorry..." she stammered. But he wouldn't let her finish. "Are you alright? Were you hurt? Was anybody hurt?" he wanted to know, hugging her tighter and tighter. She began to cry - a little surprised that Dad was so understanding, and a little ashamed that she had expected so little from him.

We've all had similar experiences. Just when we expected to pay the price for hurting and letting someone down, they responded with understanding, compassion and immediate forgiveness. So it is with God, who always welcomes us back to him without condition or limit.

The great mystery of faith is that God continues to love us, continues to call us back to him, continues to help us repair the damage we cause. All God asks of us is that we forgive one another as he forgives us, that we lift up those who stumble as God lifts us up when we stumble. What do we find to be the biggest obstacles to forgiving someone who hurts us?

**Prayer:** Loving Father, help us to let go of our angers and resentments, our embarrassments and disappointments, in order to begin repairing our brokenness with others and with you.

**The next Issue of New Horizons will be a double one for  
July and August 2026**



Publication will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July and we ask for your contributions by 9.00am on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 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.

## DIARY OF WORSHIP AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE CORNERSTONE

### June

|     |                  |         |                                     |                   |
|-----|------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Thu | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.30pm  | Elders' Meeting                     |                   |
| Sun | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Morning Worship                     | John Amos         |
| Mon | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.00pm  | Bible Study                         |                   |
| Sun | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship/Parade Svce         | Ruth Dixon        |
| Sun | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 10.30am | Church Anniversary Svce             | Roger Brett       |
| Mon | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 7.00pm  | Bible Study                         |                   |
| Sun | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion | Rev Celia Whitman |

### July

|     |                  |         |                                     |                   |
|-----|------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Thu | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 7.30pm  | Elder' Meeting                      |                   |
| Sun | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.30am | Morning Worship                     | Roger Brett       |
| Sun | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship (Parade Service)    | Scouts            |
| Mon | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 7pm     | Bible Study                         |                   |
| Sun | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship                     | Roger Brett       |
| Thu | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 7.30pm  | Church Meeting                      |                   |
| Sun | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion | Rev Celia Whitman |
| Mon | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 7pm     | Bible Study                         |                   |



**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!**

## **WHO TO CONTACT**

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

|                            |                       |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Minister and Pastor</b> | <b>Vacancy</b>        |                       |
| <b>Secretary</b>           | <b>Ruth Dixon</b>     | <b>(01702) 464186</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | <b>Elizabeth Helm</b> | <b>07973 199759</b>   |

|                  |           |              |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <u>Envelopes</u> | Ann Thorp | 07753 348856 |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|

|                    |               |                |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Scout Group</u> | Lorna Skippon | (01702) 477309 |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|

|                        |             |                |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| <u>Use of Premises</u> | Roger Brett | (01702) 479874 |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|

|                         |          |                |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|
| <u>Flower arranging</u> | Val Mead | (01702) 296189 |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|

|                       |             |                |
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| <u>Editorial Team</u> | Anne Clarke | (01702) 293102 |
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**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.**