

Palm Sunday
13th April



**Hosannah in the
Highest**

**CORNERSTONE
NEWS
APRIL 2025**

Good Friday
18th April



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**20th
April**



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New Road, Hythe, Southampton SO45 6BR
Telephone 023 8084 5005

E-mail:

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Registered Charity No. 1141707



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The United Reformed Church

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FURTHER INFORMATION

To join our email distribution list please email Joy Funnell at joy@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk

For pastoral care offers or needs please contact one of the elders or email pastoral@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk

For church information please contact Richard Hall 023 8084 0191 secretary@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk or Craigmore, Roman Road, Dibden Purlieu SO45 4QJ

Please contact your home-group leader, Elders and Team Leaders or any trusted Christian for any spiritual support and guidance at this time.

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MAY NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the May issue is Sunday 20th April

The Editor would be very grateful to receive items and messages for the next issue of our newsletter, which will bless others in the church at this time, so please send such items to

E-mail: newsletter@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk

Items can be sent by post to

Diana Sandy, 38 Knightwood Road, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 6JL

Telephone : 023 8084 2745

Waterside Churches Together EASTER EVENTS IN HYTHE

Good Friday Reflection

18th April - 11.00 am



Waterside Churches will gather in Jones Lane car park at 10:45 am and process behind three crosses assembling outside Waitrose at 11.00 am for a short reflective service.

Coffee and hot cross buns will be available afterwards at St Johns Hall.

The Joy of Easter

Saturday 19th April - 11.00 am to 1.00 pm

A celebration of Easter led by Family Church

Outside Family Church office,
opposite Waitrose
Craft for children

Come and join with other
Christians and spread the
amazing Easter message to the
Waterside community.



Letter from the Elders



Dear Friends,

The price is paid!

I'm pretty sure that no one really likes being in debt, but that at some stage in our lives we have all been in such a position, perhaps with a mortgage or credit card or other form of loan. It can sometimes feel like a weight around the neck which we are longing to be free of.

Our church has had to take on loans in the past and as you may know we recently had to take out a couple of loans from the Synod to help pay for the big building repairs project that was finally completed at the end of last year. From recent conversations with Nick, our Treasurer, we are just now in the position to pay off the outstanding balance of the first of these loans, which was for £15,000. This is a great achievement and to be celebrated, but we still have the balance on the bigger loan of £20,000 to repay in due course.

Of course, we are thinking here of monetary loans and debts, which can often cause serious problems for many people. But even bigger problems are caused by the many ways that we get things wrong and mess up in our lives – often through the breakdown of relationships and by putting ourselves first, digging ourselves an even bigger hole which becomes even more difficult to get out of!

But this is where Jesus and Easter come in! God could see that He needed some drastic action to provide a way for his people on earth to come back into a loving relationship with Him. Jesus was the answer, dying for our sins on the cross and doing away with the huge debt that we owe and rising again in glory to overcome death and our debt. **Yes, the price is paid!**

So, as we come to Easter let's celebrate God's great victory over sin and death and the birth of new life, hope and love through all that Jesus has done for us.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY EASTER!

Richard Hall



WORSHIP AT CORNERSTONE

Morning worship at Cornerstone starts at 10.30 am every Sunday and all are welcome.

Services are also streamed live via our YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/CornerstoneHytheURC> and the recording of the service will be available on YouTube afterwards.

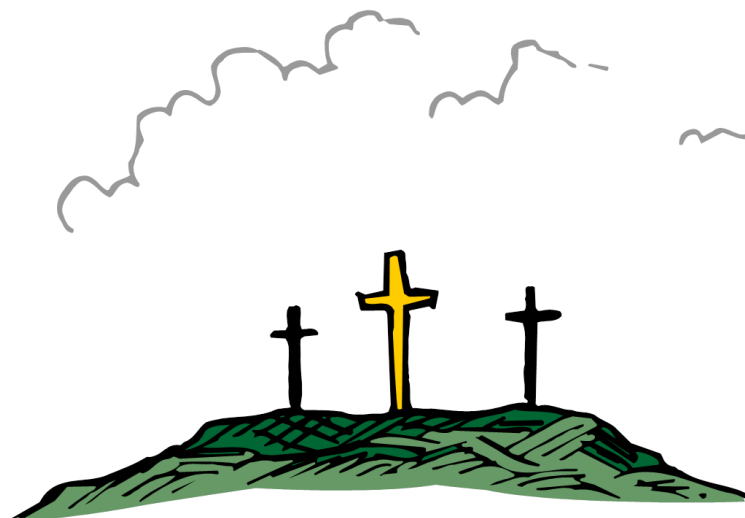
Most Sundays all parts of the service will be live, but occasionally the sermon will be a recording shown on the screen. Singing is a full part of our worship with a mix of songs and hymns accompanied by organ, piano or small worship group and recorded songs shown on the big screens.

After the service, **Coffee and Tea** will be served in the main hall where people enjoy fellowship together.



WORSHIP IN APRIL

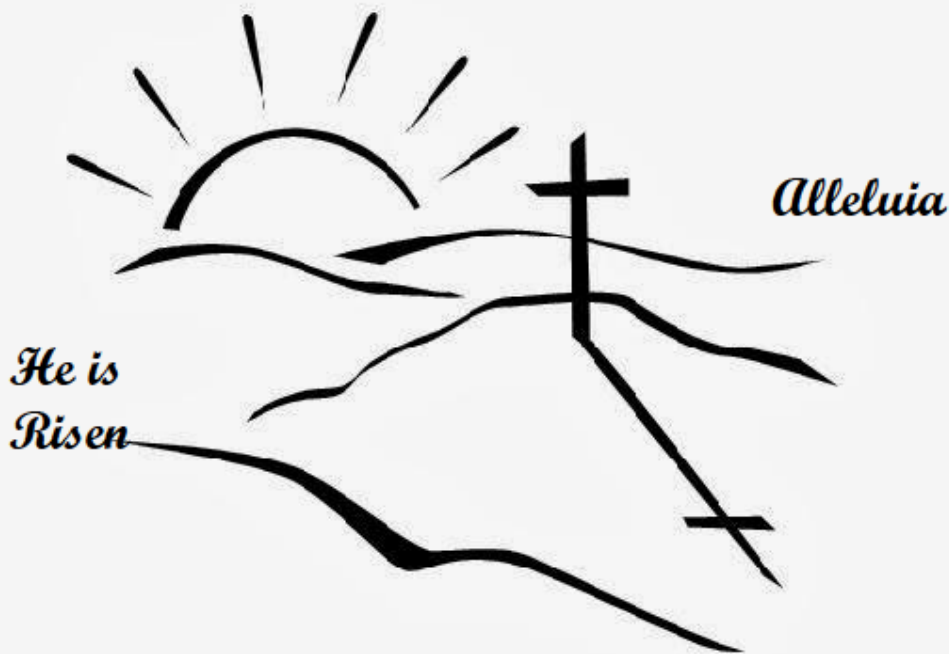
Date	Speaker	Theme:
6 th	Jon White (video)	PASSION SUNDAY Jesus in Luke - The Hope of Salvation <i>Service includes Communion</i>
13 th	Doug Barnett	PALM SUNDAY Jesus in Luke - Palm Sunday
Thurs 17 th	Revd George Gibson	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00 pm - Communion
20 th	Kay Keen	EASTER SUNDAY Jesus in Luke - Easter Sunday <i>Service includes Communion</i>
27 th	Simeon Woodcraft	Preacher's choice



Waterside Churches Together

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service



At 6.00am on Sunday 20th April 2025

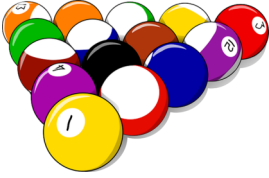
at Calshot Beach

Outside Beach Hut No. 86

Service of Celebration

Everyone is welcome as all the churches on the Waterside join together to celebrate the Risen Lord

YOUTH CLUB



For 11 to 18 Year Olds

**7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
alternate Fridays**



As well as the usual games such as snooker, pool, table tennis, football etc., we also have some other fun activities planned each week...

For further details and programmes please contact
Dave Symmonds

Email : youthclub@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk

We will be meeting on Friday 25th April

YOUTH BIBLE GROUP

7.00 pm to 9.00 pm - alternate Fridays



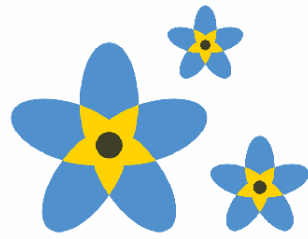
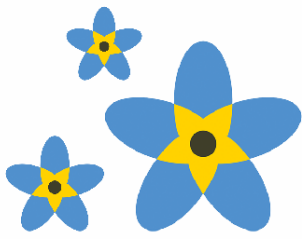
We meet in the Youth Lounge for chat, Bible study and prayer. There's hot chocolate and slush puppies as well.

This is for young people 13 to 18, who want to learn more about being a Christian through studying God's word together in a relaxed and fun way.

We will be meeting on Friday 4th April

Easter Holiday - 5th to 21st April

For more details please contact Dave Symmonds



Hythe Huddle

**Drop in support group for people
living with dementia and their carers**



Entertainment

2nd April

Easter Craft

7th May

The Melody Makers - Choir

4th June

Amanda Parsons - Singer

2nd July

Games

Meet first Wednesday of each month

2 - 4 pm

Cornerstone United Reformed Church, Hythe

Refreshments kindly donated by **TESCO**



For more information contact us on:

023 8020 7623 office@families-matter.org.uk



BOYS' BRIGADE



All the boys made pancakes, ate them with their favourite toppings and played tossing a pancake (a plastic plate) relay game. We chatted about the meaning of Shrove Tuesday. The Anchors and Juniors discovered where major cities, seas and islands were located around the UK. They also made chocolate crispy cakes and learned some facts about St. Patrick's day and completed puzzles on that theme.

The Company section boys made Lent boxes and are collecting small change during Lent to be donated to Families Matter. They have constructed a bridge made from a kit, this can be seen in the foyer. They have also made individual trifles.

We break up for Easter on Monday 31st March and return on Monday 28th April.

Gill Tabenor

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Congratulations to:

Carole Pearce who will be 82 on the 3rd
Joan Shewry who will be 84 on the 9th



If any church member is approaching 80 or over and would like their name added to the Birthday List in Cornerstone News, please let Joy Funnell know. She is in church on most Sunday mornings or you can send her an e-mail:

joy@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk



Wessex Synod

120 Alma Road, Southampton,
SO14 6UW

Synod Moderator:

The Revd Dr Michael Hopkins

Moderator's PA:

Mrs Deborah Walker

A Message for Lent 2025

Dear friends,

As we enter this Lenten season, we find ourselves in a world filled with challenges. The on-going humanitarian crises in Gaza and Ukraine, the increasingly visible effects of climate change, and the divisive political rhetoric that surrounds us can leave us feeling overwhelmed and powerless. Yet it is precisely in such times that the meaning of Lent becomes most powerful. When Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, he faced not just external temptations but profound questions about his identity and purpose. His forty days of struggle weren't about proving his willpower - they were about clarifying who he was called to be in a broken world.

Perhaps our greatest temptation today is not chocolate, social media, or other small indulgences we might give up for Lent. Perhaps our greatest temptation is to turn away from the difficult truths about ourselves and our world, to sleepwalk through life rather than to engage with it fully and courageously.

When we look away from the suffering in Gaza or Ukraine, when we ignore the realities of climate change, when we dismiss those whose politics differ from ours, we're not just avoiding uncomfortable topics, we're avoiding the deeper work God calls us to do: the work of becoming more fully ourselves and more fully present in God's world.

Fortunately, there is good news: the same Spirit that Luke tells us led Jesus into the wilderness remains with us today. The same Spirit that the writer of Genesis tells us hovered over the waters of creation continues to move through the chaos of our lives and our world, bringing forth new possibilities, new understanding, and new life.

This Lent is a good time to ask ourselves what are we running from today? What truth are we afraid to face? Where might the Spirit be leading us to grow? As you reflect, remember that we don't face our wilderness alone. We journey together as Christ's body, supporting one another with compassion and hope; and we journey with the Spirit, who knows that our struggles are not about proving ourselves good or bad, but about discovering who we are truly called to be.

May this Lenten season be for each of us a time of honest reflection and renewed commitment. May we find the courage to face difficult truths about ourselves and our world. And may we emerge from these forty days more fully alive, more deeply connected, and more ready to be bearers of God's love and justice in a world that so desperately needs them.

With prayers for a blessed Lent,

Michael Hopkins
Wessex Synod Moderator

Telephone: 023 8067 8570
www.urcwessex.org.uk
E-mail: office@urcwessex.org.uk



HYTHE ACTIVE EXERCISE GROUP

We meet on Thursdays at 10.00 am in the Hall at Cornerstone for exercise and fellowship.

Why not come along and try? You can do as much or as little of the exercises as you choose, and some attendees remain seated. It's an enjoyable time, and there is good evidence that strength and balance exercises reduce the risk of falls in older age.



WOMEN'S GUILD

You will be very welcome to join us at any of our meetings at Cornerstone on **2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons** from **2.15 pm to 3.30 pm**

APRIL PROGRAMME

10th Memories of a Headmaster -
Mike Garside

24th Easter Afternoon - Revd Eric Parker
There will be a Bring and Buy table only at the second meeting each month from now on.



For further information please contact our President, Joy Funnell on 023 8084 3404 or e-mail guild@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk



PICNIC LUNCH

There will be no Picnic Lunch in April
The next one will be on Sunday 11th May
12.30 pm- 2.00 pm

On the second Sunday of each month there is a get-together picnic lunch in the hall after worship and coffee for all who would like to stay.

PRAYER POINTERS FOR APRIL



**During the week there are opportunities
to pray with others**

Before the service on Sunday
in the Counselling room at 10.15 am

After the service on Sundays
an opportunity to receive prayer

On Monday mornings in Meeting Room 1
from 10.00 am to 11.00 am

On Wednesday mornings
in the Foyer from
8.30 am to 9.30 am

At Homegroup meetings fortnightly



THIS MONTH PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- 1st** All the Homegroups, the leaders and members who will be meeting this week.
- 2nd** The Toddler Group, all the children, parents and helpers.
- 3rd** The Hythe Huddle as it meets every month
- 4th** The Early Morning prayer group and the Monday Morning prayer group
- 5th** Our Foyer ministry as we seek to have the foyer open each day
- 6th** Pray for Jon White our preacher today
- 7th** Those recently bereaved that they may be comforted through trust in God and His promises.
- 8th** The Counsellor that sees her clients each week on our premises
- 9th** Our Church AGM and wisdom to deal with any decisions we need to make
- 10th** The Hythe Active Group who meet every week and mostly stay for coffee after their exercise
- 11th** The Women's Wellbeing group that meets every Friday
- 12th** Our Church Gardeners as they work to keep our surroundings looking good
- 13th** Pray for Doug Barnett and his family
- 14th** Our Boys' Brigade members, officers and helpers
- 15th** The Dementia Groups as they help those living with dementia and their carers

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- 16th** Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. The people suffering there and the vast rebuilding projects that will be needed
- 17th** Those in government, locally or nationally that they might fulfil their responsibilities with integrity and mercy
- 18th** The Families Matter SWANs group that meets every Friday
- 19th** The Crossings as they seek to help those who find themselves homeless or in danger of becoming homeless
- 20th** Kay Keen as she brings God's word to us today and pray for any visitors who may be with us today
- 21st** The pre-school ballet groups and their little pink ballet dancers and parents
- 22nd** The Youth Club and Youth Bible Study that meet alternately on Friday evenings
- 23rd** All those you know in ill health at the moment that they receive the help they need from our medical profession
- 24th** Our Women's Guild, all the members and the committee
- 25th** The Pins and Needles group
- 26th** Our Light Years group and their leaders
- 27th** Simeon Woodcraft who comes to open God's word to us today
- 28th** Thank God for our wonderful world and ask Him to enable us to solve the energy crisis without further damaging the balance of nature
- 29th** Our Elders and Team leaders as they seek God's will in leading our church
- 30th** Pray for yourself, your family and your neighbours



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 7th March 2025

It was with great pleasure this year that Bev and myself organised the World Day of Prayer at Cornerstone.

The service this year was arranged by the people of the Cook Islands with the uplifting theme “I made you Wonderful”. The Cook islanders have celebrated 200 years of Christianity in the group of 15 islands which is spread over nearly 800,000 square miles in the Pacific Ocean.

The service was based on the words of Psalm 139 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (verse14) and it was a lovely time of fellowship and praise. Woven into the service were the stories of three Christian women who shared their struggles during Covid, of their culture and feeling devalued and of the improvements in obstetric care. Throughout the service we were prompted to remember that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. We are all unique and special and we should cherish all aspects of who we are and of those around us

The service finished with refreshments, fruits and cakes, enjoyed by all.

Our grateful thanks to Margaret, Richard, Pam, Marion, Sue, all the cake makers and all those who helped us to put on such an inspiring afternoon. My personal thanks to Bev for inviting me to join her in this venture and for guiding me through the process. It will be another three years before Cornerstone hosts this event so we can rest a while. Next year St Andrews will be hosting and the service is arranged by the people of Nigeria. Watch this space next year for more information!

Stephanie James-Brown

FLOWERS AT CORNERSTONE



It is a pleasure to organise the church flowers for another year and I hope that everyone will be able to enjoy them.

I am still taking names for the 2025 rota. People donate the flowers for many reasons: in memory of a loved one, a birthday or anniversary, a celebration, or just to give thanks.

The average cost is £25 to £30 but please do not be put off by this amount. You can always share with someone else. Just contact me and I will help you.

I would welcome donations for the Easter Services

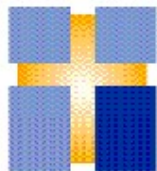
I can be contacted at church in person, by telephone on 023 8084 3249, or e-mail: pamela@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk.



FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL

- 6th - Peter and Mary York for family
- 13th - Diana Sandy in memory of her husband, Mike
- 20th - EASTER DONATIONS
- 27th - Lynda Swatridge in memory of Derek & Emma
and for family

Thank you and take care,
Pamela Bridge



CORNERSTONE

Hythe United Reformed Church

Southampton Grad Band



Spring Concert
Saturday 17th May at 7.30pm



Wind Band Favourites Old and New
including Mancini Magic, West Side Story,
alongside Hits of the 60s and In the
Miller Mood

Complimentary programme and interval refreshments
Proceeds for Cornerstone Building Repairs Fund

Tickets £10 (under 18 - £5) from the Church Office
023 8084 5005 or the Herald office in Hythe
Or email Richard enquiries@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk

New Road, Hythe, SO45 6BR
www.cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk Charity No: 1141707

MAY DAY WALK - MONDAY 5th MAY



Join us for a leisurely walk in the New Forest on May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 5th May. (There will not be a walk on Easter Bank holiday Monday).

Meet at **10.30am at TILERY ROAD car park** (grid ref SU308024), which is about 200m along a gravel track off of the Balmer Lawn Road behind the Balmer Lawn Hotel.

Directions: From Beaulieu take B3055 to Brockenhurst. Approaching Brockenhurst continue ahead past Mill Lane and pass under the railway bridge. After 600m at the left-hand bend in the road, turn **SHARP RIGHT** onto the gravel track. The car park is 200m along the track.

The **walk is about 5km (3.1 miles) long** and will take about 1½-1¾ hours. It's mostly along gravel tracks, but waterproof shoes or boots are advised.

Afterwards, you may wish to join us for lunch at the Snakecatcher, Lyndhurst Road, Brockenhurst, at about 12.45pm.

Please let Richard Hall know if you plan to go on the walk and if you'd like to have lunch at the Snakecatcher. Contact him on email: secretary@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk or 023 8084 0191.

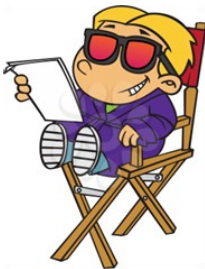




DRAMA LLAMAS

Hello dear friends, welcome to Spring, my favourite season and not just because it includes Mothers Day and Easter. The longer, warmer days always lift my mood as does seeing nature spring back into life, filling my garden with new growth and chirping birds.

I hope you all enjoyed our Valentines Day sketch. We think it went very well and we had lots of fun putting it together for you all. I am also very pleased to say that I remembered all of my lines which is an added bonus. Unfortunately, we had a slight technical hitch and Bobby's microphone wasn't switched on. Hopefully it didn't distract too much from our message.



Our latest drama will be for our Mothers Day service so hopefully you would all have enjoyed it by the time you read this. As I have mentioned before, Drama Llamas has been in a period of change and I am really pleased with how everything is working out. Our latest drama is a perfect example of this. Nick wrote the script for us (thank you Wendy for making sure he finished it on time). I hope you will agree that it is very light hearted yet still carries a very strong message. Whilst Nick has

made it possible for Naomi and Bobby to use scripts, I am hoping that they don't need to. It is so much easier organising the rehearsals with the smaller group and this time we have also rehearsed straight after our Sunday service. I am also pleased that Ray has very kindly volunteered to help with our rehearsals. It makes a huge difference having his input and perspective on things, particularly with Bobby who I think has got a little annoyed with being directed by his Mum all the time.

Normally at this point, I would ramble on a little about my inspiration for the drama, however this month I can't do that as I didn't write it! I don't think it would be fair to ask Nick to write the article as well as the script so you are stuck with me! The play focuses on our sins and how despite making numerous mistakes, God still loves and forgives us. As I write this, we are heading towards the end of Lent which is a time for us to reflect on our own lives, both our thoughts and our actions. I have been reading the Book of Psalms this month. Well I use the word

reading very loosely as I have actually been listening to them. I was finding it very hard to connect with the words so I found an app which means I can listen to a recording of them whilst reading them. On reflection, maybe this was their purpose as they were originally written as songs. Apologies, I digress. This morning, Psalms 62 really struck me as this was the first one which I felt was not focused on asking God for protection during conflicts, so I did a bit of research. It is attributed to David and was possibly written during the turmoil with his son Absalom which may explain the depth of feelings expressed in it. How difficult that must have been for him, knowing that the son he loved was planning to harm him. David lived knowing what his son Absalom was capable of. Absalom orchestrated the murder of his half brother Amnon to avenge the rape of his sister. After fleeing, he was allowed to return. He staged a coup against his father, David, by rallying support and attempting to overthrow him. Ultimately this led to a battle where Absalom was killed.



Reading the books of Samuel and Psalms has been really eye opening for me as I have been able to see David's growth through the challenges life threw at him. Knowing the context of when the song was written has helped me to better understand the message. David does not ask God for anything, instead he pours out his heart and expresses his great faith and confidence in Him. Imagine how hard that would be to cope with, bearing in mind, back in those days it was quite normal to fight and kill people. There is a true feeling of how much David is trusting God with everything which I know for me can be very hard at times.



Easter is deeply connected with the concept of forgiveness, both asking God to forgive our sins and also forgiving others. David asked for God's forgiveness many times, as written in Psalm 51, so it is something which God clearly wants us to hold in our hearts and work on. We know that David was heard because he fought and won many battles including those within his family. Are you willing to truly ask God to forgive you for all your wrongs both large and small? I will leave you to ponder on that thought.

Take care and God bless,

Emma

YOUTH BIBLE GROUP



Hello, its me, Bobby, again. Since I last wrote there have been two more Youth Bible Studies, one on the 7th March and the other on the 21st.

The first of the two meetings was on the topic of 'How can I make the most of my life?' in which we discussed answers to three main questions that read:

- What should we do?
- How should we do it?
- How should we use what we have?

In response to the first question, we answered after reading a Bible passage on the subject, that we have to devote ourselves to pleasing God and not do what other people do but what God does. I then raised the question 'What if other people do what God does, because God tells us not to do what they do?'. After a lengthy discussion about the point I made, we came to the conclusion that what was meant was that we shouldn't copy others for the sake of copying others and the only person we should copy is God.

When we moved on to the second question, 'how should we do it?', we quickly answered with: we do it by forgetting our past, spreading the Gospel, doing good in the world and praising God.

For the final question 'how should we use what we have?', we decided that the best thing to do with our money and possessions is donate to a reliable charity. To end our discussion we talked about what we should or shouldn't do with ourselves. For our ears we mustn't listen to gossip, for our mouth we should think before we speak and spread the Gospel rather than gossip and for our hands we must give not take and do not fight. Finally, I mentioned that in my opinion, my life would be just as good without free will, because nothing would ever be my fault or my responsibility and I could just do what I'm told, nothing more and nothing less.

The second episode of our general meetings and discussion was on the topic of wisdom. However, before we began we had to give Angela a small present as she is moving house so this would be her last Bible Study with us for a tragically long time.

We were asked what wisdom is and gave many answers including:

- Philosophy and morals
- It comes with age (with an exception in the case of Bev Hall)
- It comes from God
- It helps us make life choices

We then had some chit chat and I told some absolutely hilarious jokes I had found like this one.

'Did you hear about the Olympic athlete with three kids?'

'No'

'One was Mark one was Seth and the other was called Onya. One day there was a fire in his house and he yelled to his kids "Onya, Mark, get Seth and go!" ba-boom-chhhhhh!!!!'

After the comedic epidemic we played UNO and Grace won.

Thank you for reading,

Bobby



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 12th April at 8.30 am

More information in the Weekly Notice Sheets.

For details please contact Dave Symmonds -

call/text 07747698910 or e-mail:

mensbreakfast@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk



JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH WESSEX SYNOD

Mission House Project

Are you a young person, looking for a new exciting opportunity? Do you want to use your skills and learn new ones? Are you considering your next steps?

Whether its for a year out or for a longer commitment, this fully funded project in Wessex Synod might be what you are looking for. Live in community initially, as one of three participants in the house. Learn about mission and explore your calling with opportunities for formal and informal training.

Serve the local church and its community, getting involved in the thriving mission work as well as establishing new projects.
<https://www.broadstoneurc.org/>

We look forward to sharing more about this exciting project with you. Placements begin September 1st 2025 with participants moving into the house during August.

Contact Ruth White for an information and application pack and to register your interest: cydo-s@urcwessex.org.uk

Community Outreach Worker Bitterne United Reformed Church

Appointee must be a committed Christian working within the aims and objectives of the United Reformed Church

Rate of Pay: £13.25 per hour

Hours: 25 hours per week

Location: Bitterne URC, Southampton SO18 5EF

Closing date: 10th April 2025

For more information, please download the information pack from our website:

<https://bitterneurc.org.uk/outreach-community-worker>

Enquiries: Telephone 023 8042 1844 or

E-mail: bitterne_sec@yahoo.co.uk



TABLE TOP SALES

The next Table Top sales are on **Tuesdays 1st, 15th and 29th April** from **9.30am – 12 noon**, in the hall at Cornerstone, so don't miss them!!

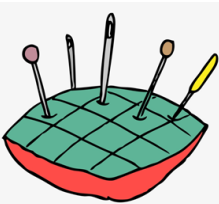
There'll be a great selection of:

Electrical items, Jewellery, Collectables, Kitchenware, Tableware, Glassware, Bags, Toys, Jig-saw Puzzles – great variety and sizes, Paperback Books – extensive library! CDs and DVDs.

New goods are arriving all the time, so it's a great opportunity to get a good bargain!

Of course, it's also a great time for fellowship with coffee, tea and biscuits always available in the Foyer! All proceeds go to the Cornerstone Building Repairs Fund. So don't miss it!

Joan Shewry and Richard & Bev Hall



PINS AND NEEDLES

10.00 am to 12 noon

Every Friday morning in the Foyer

We are a friendly group who meet for two hours on a Friday morning in the Foyer as we knit, sew and crochet. Tea, coffee and pleasant conversation are always available. Further information can be obtained from Agnes Macintosh.



BEN CARTER'S JAZZ - AN UPDATE

In April 2024, we shared the exciting news about Ben Carter, a talented local jazz saxophonist, who had launched a crowdfunding campaign to record his debut album. Now, we're thrilled to report that Ben's album *Pulsar* was released in the summer of 2024 to glowing reviews and has even been featured on Jazz FM!

Ben, who grew up in Hythe and was one of Kirsty Newbury's piano students, began his musical career playing with local youth jazz groups, such as the Romsey Area Youth Jazz Orchestra and

Southampton Youth Jazz Orchestra, before studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. At just 23, Ben's dedication to jazz and his original compositions culminated in the creation of his first album *Pulsar* - a title inspired by the rhythmic pulses of collapsing stars.

Since its release, *Pulsar* has made waves in the jazz community, with a track from the album even receiving airplay on Jazz FM. Ben's goal remains clear: "My main goal is for as many people as possible to listen to my music and hopefully enjoy it."

The album is available on Spotify and iTunes, or you can purchase a CD through Ben's website at www.bencartersax.uk or by speaking to Kirsty (£12 + p&p). For those who love supporting local talent, this is a fantastic way to bring Ben's sound into your home.

Beyond the album, Ben continues to perform with his band, the Ben Carter Quintet, and is also part of a new group, *Impossible Conversations*, which blends funk and modern jazz. With upcoming gigs in cities like Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham, and Cambridge, this group is receiving high praise. A recent jazz critic described their performance as "exceptional" and compared them to the Ezra Collective, a band that went on to win the Mercury Music Prize.

Locally, Ben also recently joined Kirsty to perform at the Honey Pot Children's Charity Christmas Carol Concert in Romsey Abbey, where they helped raise over £10,000 for young carers.

We're excited to see where Ben's musical journey takes him next and look forward to hearing more from both *Pulsar* and *Impossible Conversations* in the months ahead.



Eric Parker writes: "Thank you for the flowers wishing me a happy 80th birthday. These I discovered in my porch on Sunday early afternoon/late evening, on 2nd March. They are much appreciated and sit safely in my lounge. Thank you too, to the anonymous kind person who left them. It was very good of you. I am sorry I wasn't able to thank you personally."

Diana Sandy writes: "Thank you for the beautiful flowers from Cornerstone. They arrived as I was recovering from Norovirus and not feeling well. They were very much appreciated and I have now made a full recovery. Thanks also to Sylvia for giving up her Sunday afternoon to deliver them and put them in water for me."

Diane Fry writes: "Thank you so much for the lovely flowers placed outside my door after the service on the 9th March. They were very much appreciated and filled the living room with Spring colours! Lots of love."

Marion Brodie says: "Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered by Sylvia. I am sorry I missed her as I was out."

Helen Roissetter says: "Thank you so much to all my friends at Cornerstone for the beautiful flowers I received for my birthday. They were a lovely surprise. A special thank you to Sue and Marion who delivered them and stayed for a chat, it made my day."

THANKS FROM BEN PEARCE

Ben Pearce would like to thank people for their kind donations on his 60th birthday. He is delighted to announce **an updated total of £900** has been collected for The Crossings.

APRIL 2025 CALENDAR

The Foyer is open Monday to Saturday - 10.00 am - 12 noon - except Bank Holidays

Tuesday	1	HOMEGROUP WEEK 9.30am Table Top
Wednesday	2	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group : 2.00pm Hythe Huddle
Thursday	3	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group
Friday	4	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.00pm Youth Bible Group
Saturday	5	
SUNDAY	6	PASSION SUNDAY 10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
Monday	7	10.00am Daytime Prayers
Tuesday	8	
Wednesday	9	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 6.00pm Baked Potato Supper : 7.30pm Church AGM
Thursday	10	2.15pm Women's Guild
Friday	11	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	12	8.30am Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY	13	PALM SUNDAY 10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	14	10.00am Daytime Prayers
Tuesday	15	9.30am Table Top
Wednesday	16	8.30am Early Morning Prayer
Thursday	17	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7.00pm Communion
Friday	18	GOOD FRIDAY 11.00 am Service outside Waitrose
Saturday	19	EASTER SATURDAY 11.00am Celebration of Easter with Family Church
SUNDAY	20	EASTER SUNDAY : NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6.00am Sunrise Service : 10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
Monday	21	EASTER MONDAY
Tuesday	22	
Wednesday	23	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group
Thursday	24	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group : 2.15pm Women's Guild
Friday	25	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.30pm Youth Club
Saturday	26	
SUNDAY	27	10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	28	10.00am Daytime Prayers : 5.30pm Boys' Brigade
Tuesday	29	9.30am Table Top
Wednesday	30	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The Foyer is open Monday to Saturday from 10.00am-12.00 noon except Bank Holidays and during August

SUNDAY

- 10.30am Morning Worship with Light Years (4-11 years)
10.30am Holy Communion:
(1st Sunday usually - see Worship notice)

MONDAY

- 10.00-11.00am Prayer Time at Cornerstone
5.30-7.00pm The Boys' Brigade** (5-11 years)

TUESDAY

- 9.30am-12noon Table Top Sale (Alternate weeks as advertised)

WEDNESDAY

- 8.30-9.30am Early Morning Prayer
10.00-11.30am Toddler Group**
7.30pm Church Meeting (2nd or 4th Wednesday quarterly)

THURSDAY

- 10.00am-12noon Hythe Active Exercise Group
2.15-3.30pm Women's Guild (2nd and 4th Thursdays)

FRIDAY

- 10.00am-12noon Pins & Needles Group
7.00-9.00pm Youth Bible Group** (Alternate weeks) (13-18 years)
7.30-9.00pm Youth Club** (Alternate weeks) (11-18 years)

SATURDAY

- 08.30-10.30am Men's Breakfast (as announced)

HOMEGROUPS meet twice a month on various days, at various times, and various venues.

** Except School Holidays & Bank Holidays

MORE THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH



Baked Potato Supper on 9th at 6 pm
followed by our Church AGM
at 7.30 pm

Men's Breakfast at
8.30 am on 12th



Good Friday 18th
Walk of Witness
Meet in the Jones Lane
Car Park at 10.45 am

Easter Sunday 20th
Sunrise Service at 6.00 am at
Calshot



....Table Top Sale on 1st, 15th
& 29th with many interesting
and valuable items for sale.
Definitely worth a visit.

...and Women's Guild will be
meeting on 10th and 24th where
you will find a warm welcome,
so do come and join us.

