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## CORNERSTONE NEWS MAY 2025



Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life.

Matthew 6 v 25-26

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**Registered Charity No. 1141707**



**CORNERSTONE**  
Hythe United Reformed Church

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

To join our email distribution list please email Joy Funnell at [joy@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:joy@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)

For pastoral care offers or needs please contact one of the elders or email [pastoral@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)

For church information please contact Richard Hall 023 8084 0191 [secretary@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto: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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## **JUNE NEWSLETTER**

**The deadline for the June issue is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

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](mailto:newsletter@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)

Items can be sent by post to

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

Telephone : 023 8084 2745



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May**

During Christian Aid Week, please pray for the people and country of Guatemala, which is the focus of the week this year. More than half the population work in agriculture, yet Guatemala is a hunger hotspot. It has one of the highest rates globally of stunted development in children. It is one of the ten countries in the world rated most vulnerable to climate emergencies.

In the Alta Verapaz region, uncertainty looms. Deadly droughts, savage storms and industrial plantations that monopolise the water supply and deforest the land, threaten the community's livelihoods, traditions, even their survival. As a result, crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty. However, the unstoppable power of hope is in the hands of farmers like Aurelia ( featured in the Christian Aid Week resources) who's leading her community to overcome these challenges.

Pray for these farmers, who have sought solutions and who attend specialist agricultural training, to adapt their farming to the changing climate. They are shown how to grow climate resilient crops, produce fertiliser and build rainwater collection systems. Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, provides the specialist agricultural training.

Lord we pray that more farmers, like Aurelia, will gain skills and knowledge so they can build their resilience to extreme weather and take back control of their harvests.

# Letter from the Elders



Dear Friends,

As I sit and write this letter, the sun is shining, and the spring gardens all around are looking really good this year. As the sun is warming the earth, the fish in our pond are coming up to see if there is any food to be had.

In the garden the fruit trees are full of blossom, and its nice to see and hear the bees and flying insects visiting each flower. We also have a gooseberry bush, we have grown it from a cutting. It is one that has lots of very sharp thorns and prickles. To look at it, there is not a lot going on, and looks like an unproductive twig or two, but amazingly the flowers which are so tiny, almost unseen, are producing small fruits which are beginning to form.

This small prickly bush which looks like it is struggling, is still producing fruit. As I ponder some of the similarities between my Christian growth and this bush, I am reminded of lessons learnt from the bible: How God called Moses to free the Israelites from within a burning bush. The flowers so tiny almost unseen: Faith as small as a mustard seed, can, in the name of Jesus move mountains. As for struggling, most of us whether young or old will have, or continue to have, varying degrees of difficulty to overcome. Also at times, we too may be somewhat prickly to those around us. But each of us is still bearing fruit, as we share the Good News of Jesus' birth, life, and as we have just celebrated this Easter, His resurrection.

It says in 2 Corinthians chapter 12 verse 9 *"My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"*. Such amazing Grace. May each of us continue to know His Grace throughout all our days.

Many Blessings,  
*Wendy Axton*



## 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 MAY

Date	Speaker	Theme:
4 <sup>th</sup>	Revd George Gibson	Bride of Christ – A Chosen People <b><i>Service includes Communion</i></b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Brian Harley (video)	Hebrew Names for God – Yahweh - Tsidqenu
18 <sup>th</sup>	Richard and Bev Hall	<b><i>All Age Service</i></b>
25 <sup>th</sup>	Revd George Gibson	Bride of Christ – A Royal Priesthood

## WATERSIDE HOUSE OF PRAYER

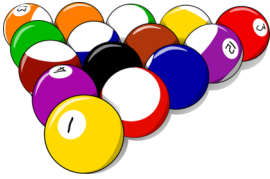


The Waterside House of Prayer (WHoP) which usually meets at St Andrews Church in Dibden Purlieu is on the move. There is currently building work at St Andrews for the next two to three months so the House of Prayer is taking the opportunity to meet in alternative locations up and down the Waterside.

On Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> they will be meeting at Cornerstone between 11.45 am and 1.00 pm.

Anyone is welcome to attend. There are usually representatives from several churches on the Waterside. Please see Margaret Yapp if you would like to know the other locations and dates.

## **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](mailto:youthclub@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)

**We will be meeting on Fridays 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

## **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 Fridays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May**

**Half-term - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

**For more details please contact Dave Symmonds**





## BOYS' BRIGADE

The boys have played football and badminton. The Anchors and Juniors made Easter crosses and the Company boys baked Easter Biscuits.

### **Cake and Bric-a-brac Sale** **May 10<sup>th</sup> - 10.00am-12.30pm**

During Lent, the boys of Company Section have been collecting money for Families Matter. To end this collection, they decided it would be good to hold a sale, to collect every penny they could.

Please come along on May 10<sup>th</sup> and support them or donate a cake or unwanted small items you have around the house.



*Gill Tabenor and Bev Hall*



## BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

### **Happy Birthday to:**

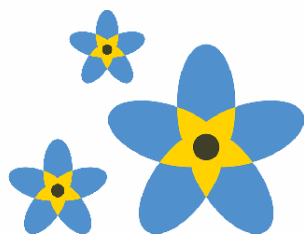
James Borley who will be 12 on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Borley who will be 14 on the 21<sup>st</sup>

### **Congratulations to:**

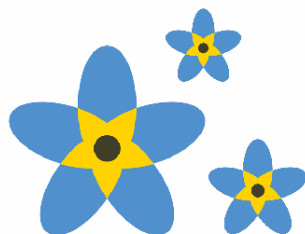
Jeanette Allen who will be 89 on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Freda Coombs who will be 87 on the 26<sup>th</sup>  
Eileen Bartlett who will be 82 on the 28<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto:joy@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)



**Families  
Matter**  
at Hythe URC



# Hythe Huddle

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



## Entertainment

**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](mailto:office@families-matter.org.uk)**





## WOMEN'S GUILD

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

### MAY PROGRAMME

**8<sup>th</sup>** 109<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service - Speaker: Revd Ted Slade

**22<sup>nd</sup>** Beetle Drive and our Bring and Buy table



For further information please contact Joy Funnell  
on 023 8084 3404  
or e-mail [guild@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:guild@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)



### PICNIC LUNCH

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

# **GOOD FRIDAY**

## **A report by Liam Russell**

On 18<sup>th</sup> April, we came together in Hythe to remember the cross.

Good Friday is not a celebration in the usual sense—but a deep, sacred pause. It's a moment to reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for us. A day marked not by joy, but by love—costly, selfless love.

As we sing, as we pray and as we listen, let our hearts be still. Let us remember the pain that was endured, the price that was paid and the grace that was given. We remember the crown of thorns, the nails, the silence of heaven as the Son gave His life. But we also remember why He did it, out of love for each of us, for our redemption and for our hope. So let these songs not just be melodies, but prayers. Let this service not just be tradition.

We joined together outside Waitrose to sing God's word and worship through poems and bible readings. We worshipped God in our local community with St Andrews, St John's, Family Church and ourselves. We had a procession through Hythe with the cross, handing out leaflets and hot cross buns.







**HYTHE  
VILLAGE ON  
GOOD  
FRIDAY  
18<sup>th</sup> APRIL**



**MY NAME IS “I AM”**  
**submitted by Jytta James**

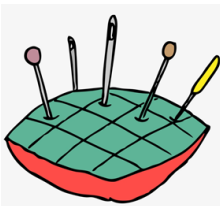
I was regretting the past and fearing the future  
Suddenly my Lord was speaking.

“My name is I Am.” He paused.  
I waited. He continued,  
“When you live in the past  
With its mistakes and regrets  
It is hard. I am not there.  
My name is not I Was.

When you live in the future,  
With its problems and fears,  
It is hard. I am not there.  
My name is not I Will Be.

When you live in this moment,  
It is not hard. I am here.  
My name is I Am.”

*Written by Helen Mallicoat*



**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.

# PRAYER POINTERS FOR MAY

Holy Spirit, anoint and fill us each day to give praise to God, the Father, Jesus, the Son and You, Holy Spirit, for all the blessings we enjoy from the hand of God.

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

Before the service on Sunday  
in the Counselling room  
or Room 1 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

# PRAYER

*changes things*



## PRAYER POINTERS FOR MAY 2025

- 1<sup>st</sup> I see, from my diary, that today is Worker's Day in South Africa. Pray for those who are unfairly treated, work long hours, or are poorly paid in South Africa and in other areas of the world also.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Give thanks for the youth at Cornerstone, who'll be meeting tonight to study their Bibles together. Bless them in their walk with you. Help us each to do our part in encouraging them.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> *"The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."* (Luke 9:58)  
Please pray for the Crossings (the Waterside Churches' response to homelessness in the area since 2019). Father, we pray for all those facing uncertainty in their housing situation. We pray for Andy Clarke, project leader and all those who help by volunteering. (See February Cornerstone News).
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we can come together to worship you Father, as a Fellowship. Give thanks that we can do this openly and pray for those thousands of Christians for whom this is not the case.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Pray that God will bless all V.E. celebrations today and ask Him to bless our army, navy and air force.
- 6<sup>th</sup> In prisons across our country, inmates are coming to faith in Jesus. Through the work of Bible Society, they are being provided with Scriptures and being led through The Bible Course by a chaplain. Let's pray and give thanks for this amazing work.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Today, give thanks for our Fellowship, for all who come onto our church premises. Ask God to bless all those attending Toddler Group today, especially thank our Heavenly Father for Gill and Lawrence and all who volunteer.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for our Women's Guild today. Ted Slade will be the speaker at today's 109<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Give thanks for our church. Pray that we will grow spiritually, and pray for our witness for Jesus in the Waterside Community.



- 10<sup>th</sup>** On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Joy, in notifying us about Sunday worship, shared that when she opened her window that morning, she felt the cold wind on her face, saw no birds, a grey sky and swaying trees. “Then I saw a streak of white clouds moving swiftly across the sky...It brought a feeling of hope.” But what of our world? With all the bad things going on in our world today, do we see a streak of hope for peace? Pray for peace in our world and that our Prince of Peace will soon return.
- 11<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the farmers in Guatemala during Christian Aid Week, 11<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May. Details on page 4.
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Please pray for the Southampton Grad Band Concert at Cornerstone this evening, that Your Holy Spirit will be present and everyone, including the musicians will enjoy the evening.
- 18<sup>th</sup>** A prayer for our worship time today, written by Fred Drummond (Head of Prayer, Evangelical Alliance)  
Christ our Saviour, we worship you.  
Christ our Redeemer, we worship you.  
Christ our Lord, we serve you.  
May our lives glorify you, risen and ascended Lord.
- 19<sup>th</sup>** Pray for our Boys’ Brigade, that each boy will come to know and love you Lord Jesus.
- 20<sup>th</sup>** Please Father, bring about the release and healing of the hostages being held by Hamas in the Middle East.
- 21<sup>st</sup>** Pray for peace across the whole Middle East.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** Give thanks for this lovely time of year, for the trees, the flowers and the beauty all around us. Praise God for His creation.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** Youth Club tonight. Give thanks and pray for our young people.
- 24<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks that because of Jesus and through faith in Him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

- 25<sup>th</sup>** Revd. George Gibson is preaching at Cornerstone today on the Church as the Bride of Christ. Please ask that God will speak through George to receptive hearts.
- 26<sup>th</sup>** Pray for peace in Ukraine, for complete independence from Russia, for healing and restoration of the land and its people.
- 27<sup>th</sup>** Pray, over these couple of days, for the tragic plight of up to 150 million street children, defined as homeless, living outdoors in a city and surviving by begging or stealing. Lord, we pray for governments of countries to do more to rescue and rehabilitate them. Lord, mercifully, hear our prayer. *(from the Care Prayer Diary, Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April - care.org.uk)*
- 28<sup>th</sup>**
- 29<sup>th</sup>** Pray for anyone you know who is housebound or lonely and maybe bring some cheer by a telephone call or a visit.
- 30<sup>th</sup>** We give thanks for King Charles, and pray you will protect him and grant him wisdom.
- 31<sup>st</sup>** Today, pray for the Memorial Service for Angela Lambert at Cornerstone. We thank you Father, for her life and pray for peace and comfort for all her family.

*Lord Jesus Christ, may we be quick to praise and slow to criticise our brothers and sisters. Help us to be peace-makers, those who build unity among God's people, with grace and humility.*

*Lord, as we serve you together, may we see your Kingdom come.*

***In Jesus' name. Amen***





## FLOWERS AT CORNERSTONE

I am 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 have the following dates available:

August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
September 14<sup>th</sup>  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

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

## FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY

4<sup>th</sup> - Marion Brodie in memory of Harry  
11<sup>th</sup> - George Gibson in memory of Tricia  
18<sup>th</sup> - Naomi, Phoebe and Lydia Thatcher in memory of  
Granny  
25<sup>th</sup> - Merle Wills in memory of Sid

Thank you and take care,

*Pamela Bridge*





## TABLE TOP SALES

The next Table Top sales are on  
**Tuesdays 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
from **9.30 am – 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*



## **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.



## FOREVER VALENTINE

*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15 v 13*

Valentine's day has passed this year but the love God offers each one of us through belief in His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is forever, eternal. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us over

2000 years ago that all who believe and trust in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3 v 16.

God created us to know Him. We have always been His. We have a God shaped void within us that only God can fill. The yearning you feel within you is for that connection with God. When you invite Him in, pray, ask God to come into your life, say you want to get to know Him, He will. Then you will experience and know His love, reality, joy and peace and hope for this life and hope for the next life. You can be certain of an eternal life spent with God.

We live in very uncertain times, but we can always be certain of God's unfailing and merciful love for each one of us.

Your God, your heavenly father, Saviour loves you and yearns for you His child to be with Him. Don't let anything or anyone stop you from reaching out and welcoming Him into your life, it will be the best thing you ever do. I did it 40 years ago this year in June 1985. I thank God, it has been the best thing I have done in my life. He is my treasure. *"But whosoever hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely and shall be quiet from fear of evil."* Proverbs 1 v 29-33.

Love, *Kim Difford*



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

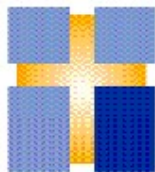
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 8.30 am**

More information in the Weekly Notice Sheets.

For details please contact Dave Symmonds -

call/text 07747698910 or e-mail:

[mensbreakfast@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:mensbreakfast@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)



# CORNERSTONE

Hythe United Reformed Church

## Southampton Grad Band



**Spring Concert**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 [enquiries@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)**

**New Road, Hythe, SO45 6BR**  
**[www.cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](http://www.cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk) Charity No: 1141707**



## MAY DAY WALK - MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY

Join us for a leisurely walk in the New Forest on May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

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 12.30 pm.

**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](mailto:secretary@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk) or 023 8084 0191.





## DRAMA LLAMAS



Hello everyone, I hope you are all enjoying a lovely Spring time. This is my favourite time of year as the days get longer and warmer and our garden starts to bloom. It is also the Eastertide which for me is a very important time, probably more so than Christmas. It

definitely has a different feeling to Christmas which as you know is Jesus birthday. Whilst the birth of a baby is an everyday occurrence, in fact we have all been born, Jesus is the only person I am aware of who has ever been resurrected. For me, Easter is a time of contemplation and gratitude as I consider the sacrifice God and Jesus made for us all.



We hope you enjoyed our last performance which starred Naomi and Bobby. I am very proud of them both as they brought the sketch to life, making many of you laugh and hopefully carrying a clear message to you all. Nick had written the original script which we then tweaked very slightly. In particular, Bobby made a joke

by mispronouncing Matt Le Tissier's name which I could see made Nick chuckle. Again we had a little glitch with the microphones which seems to be a recurring theme with our dramas so maybe we need to look at this again. Don't worry, I won't bore you with all the technical details, as if I'm honest, I haven't got a clue!

By the time you read this, our next Drama Llama item will be over and done with. Which for me will be a huge relief as it will be a monologue performed by yours truly. Thankfully I have had the support of our Director aka Ray who has hopefully helped me to bring this sketch to life. Ray did offer to be on stage with me, however I

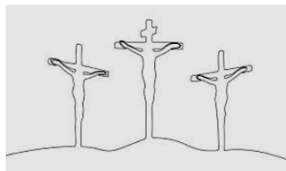
actually work better alone as it changes how I perform. Working with others means I have to remember set lines or actions which as you know I find really hard. In fact, even for my previous monologues, I have used the cunning technique of having a script hidden as a prop.



This time with Ray's help, I have approached things slightly differently by using my version of method acting, immersing myself into my character. Don't get me wrong, I have also had to learn my lines as otherwise it could turn into a chaotic mess. The difference is that I have focused on the meaning of what I am saying rather than the specific words. I have also been praying about it and have handed it all over to God. I feel sorry for Ray's neighbours as they would have heard me run



through it a dozen times the other day in his garden. I have even run through it whilst riding my friend's horse, Red, in the forest. I dread to think what Red thought of me!



You may notice a slight similarity between the ending of this drama and the one Bobby and I performed for Pentecost. Both end with us stating we need to carry God's message. Such a simple task, or is it? I know when I first started my relationship with God that I would have

switched off if someone preached about Jesus resurrection to me. I was not in a place where I could hear what was being said, let alone understand it. For me it was enough just to know that God existed and hearing my friends share about their relationship with Him helped me to see this. I am very grateful that those in my family who have a Christian faith never tried to preach to me about it. My uncle is a minister and I have recently found out that my grandmother was an Elder in her local United Reformed church. Both my grandmother and my uncle carried a gentle message of God's love to me so that when I was ready, I only had to open the door slightly to let Him in.

I am continuing to read the Old Testament and am currently reading Kings. I am finding the difference between the Old and New Testaments quite interesting, although they are both instruction books on how we could live our lives. Notice my use of the word 'could' rather than 'should', as what the Old Testament has taught me is how easy it is for us to choose to step away from God rather than walk with Him.

I have had difficulty working out how to use one of the knitting machines I was given. Even after a year, I still struggle to knit anything properly and have ended up starting about a hundred different projects and finishing just one of them. When I first got the machine, Bobby suggested that I read the instructions but of course I didn't do that. The other day, after numerous failed attempts at trying to knit a sample square, I gave in and read the instructions. Low and behold, I managed to knit the sample in one go. Reading instructions works! It made me realise how the Bible, especially the New Testament is like God's instruction manual for our lives. So rather than just have it sitting looking pretty on my shelf, I should put the action in, start to read it (which you all know I have been) and follow the instructions. As they say, faith without works is dead.



As usual, I have absolutely no idea what we will be doing for our next Drama Llama production as I would like to get the monologue over and done with first. Bev has asked if we could do something for the All Age service in May, so we will see what happens. Bev is still working on the theme for the service so we agreed that we would go with who ever came up with an idea first. On that note, I had better put my thinking cap on!

Take care everyone and enjoy the sunshine,  
God Bless,  
*Emma*



### PARADISE

God's wonderful creation  
Is a pleasure to behold,  
The trees, the birds and animals  
There is a story to be told.

Our earth was made for us by God  
To live forever and in peace,  
To take good care of all his works  
The human family to increase.

A paradise the earth would be  
Where joy and happiness abound,  
God's blessing on all humankind  
No sin or sadness would be found.

This is God's purpose for the earth  
Which has been made by His design  
And through His word we know it's true  
As we await that joyful time.

By *Diana Emmerson*

## DOUBLE JEOPARDY

*“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5 v 1*

In the legal system, there is something known as ‘the law of double jeopardy’. It means that, except in some very specific circumstances, you can’t be tried twice for the same crime. Now, let’s apply this principle to your salvation. Jesus has already been tried and punished for your sins – all of them! So don’t let Satan, the accuser, convince you that God will also punish you for them and send you to hell.

Christ’s last words on the cross, ‘It is finished,’ are translated in the Greek text as ‘paid in full’. All your sins – past, present and future – were atoned for at Calvary. Think of the word ‘finished’. Imagine a master carpenter putting the finishing touches to a beautiful table. Would you take a wood plane and say, ‘I think I can make this look a little better and give it a little more value?’ The carpenter would say, ‘Stop; if you touch it, you will ruin it!’ And they would be right. The same goes for your salvation. You can add nothing to it, but by trying to merit it by your performance and good works, you can definitely take something away from it.

The word *justified* simply means declared or made righteous in the sight of God. The moment you place your trust in Christ as your Saviour, *that’s* how God sees you. ‘Therefore, having been justified by faith [not works, human effort, or performance], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand’ (vv. 1-2). How can you stand before God clothed in grace? By faith in Christ alone and nothing else.

*Taken from UCB Word for Today – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025*

*Daily messages can be found on their website*

*[www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today](http://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today)*

# **ON-GOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND GIVING TO CORNERSTONE**

We are very grateful to you for your continued financial support to our church and its life and mission and here is a reminder of possible ways of giving:

## **1. On-line banking**

For those of you who use on-line banking, the Church's General Fund bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Hythe United Reformed Church  
Sort Code: 40 52 40 Account No: 00016303

If you wish to give to the Outreach Fund the bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Hythe United Reformed Church  
Sort Code: 40 52 40 Account No: 00021634

## **2. Card payment**

We now have a card payment facility available. Please speak to Nick Tustian or Richard Hall if you would like to make a payment by Debit or Credit card.

## **3. Cheques**

We are happy to accept cheques, which should be made payable to "Hythe United Reformed Church". Please write on the back of the cheque whether it is for the General Fund or Outreach Fund and pass it to the Treasurer, Nick Tustian or place it in the Offering Box on a Sunday morning.

## **4. Cash**

Cash offerings may be placed in the Offering Box on a Sunday morning.

## **5. Gift Aid**

In addition, if you are a UK taxpayer and would like the Church to be able obtain a further 25% Gift Aid from the Government please see Nick Tustian or Richard Hall for details.

If you're not sure what to do please email Nick at [treasurer@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk) or give Nick a call on 07554 443254.



**Cynthia Wheeler** says: "I was delightfully surprised to receive a bunch of flowers from the church soon after I moved into Tending Care Home. Thank you Bev for bringing them and staying for a chat. It really brightened my day."

**Jenny Rayner** writes: "Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered to me following my stay in hospital. I am recovering well and really appreciated the flowers and all the kind messages."

**Jytta James** writes: "Thank you so much for the gorgeous flowers, pink and white alstroemerias and pink roses. Beautiful. That's so kind. They lasted for such a long time, too. Love to you all."

**Jeanette Allen** writes: "The lovely flowers delivered by Steph, really cheered me up. It is so nice to be remembered by the Cornerstone family. Thank you."

**David Dando** would like to thank his friends at Cornerstone for the lovely flowers he received. They were waiting for him on his return home and were very much appreciated.

## CORNERSTONE WEBSITE

The new Cornerstone website is now LIVE.  
Just go to

<https://cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk> and  
have a look around. Or scan the QR code

If you spot any errors or have any helpful  
comments please send to Andy Turnpenny  
at [webmaster@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)



# MAY 2025 CALENDAR

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

Thursday	1	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group
Friday	2	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.00pm Youth Bible Group
Saturday	3	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	4	10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
Monday	5	<b>BANK HOLIDAY HOMEGROUP WEEK</b> 10.30am May Day Walk
Tuesday	6	
Wednesday	7	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group : 11.45am Waterside House of Prayer : 2.00pm Hythe Huddle
Thursday	8	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group : 2.15pm Women's Guild
Friday	9	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.30pm Youth Club
Saturday	10	10.00am Boys' Brigade Cake and Bric-a-brac Sale
<b>SUNDAY</b>	11	10.30am Morning Worship followed by Picnic Lunch Christian Aid Week
Monday	12	10.00am Daytime Prayers : 5.30pm Boys' Brigade
Tuesday	13	9.30am Table Top
Wednesday	14	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group : 11.45am Waterside House of Prayer : 7.30pm Elders Meeting
Thursday	15	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group
Friday	16	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.00pm Youth Bible Group
Saturday	17	8.30am Men's Breakfast : 7.30pm Southampton Grad Band Concert
<b>SUNDAY</b>	18	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	19	<b>HOMEGROUP WEEK</b> 10.00am Daytime Prayers : 5.30pm Boys' Brigade
Tuesday	20	
Wednesday	21	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group
Thursday	22	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group : 2.15pm Women's Guild
Friday	23	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.30pm Youth Club
Saturday	24	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	25	10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	26	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday	27	9.30am Table Top
Wednesday	28	8.30am Early Morning Prayer
Thursday	29	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group
Friday	30	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	31	

# 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:  
(1<sup>st</sup> 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday quarterly)

## THURSDAY

- 10.00am-12noon Hythe Active Exercise Group
- 2.15-3.30pm Women's Guild (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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



**M**ay day Walk on 5th

**A** Grad Band concert on 17th 7.30pm

**Y**outh Club and Youth Bible Group  
alternate Friday evenings

**D**on't forget you can come and pray  
together on Monday mornings at  
10.00am and Wednesday early  
mornings at 8.30am at Cornerstone

**A**lternate weeks on Tuesday mornings  
there is a tabletop sale in the hall

**Y**ou are welcome at all our Sunday  
services at 10.30am

