

# CORNERSTONE NEWS JULY/AUGUST 2025



## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he  
leads me beside quiet waters,  
he restores my soul. He guides me in paths  
of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and staff they  
comfort me. You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies. You anoint  
my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and love will follow me all  
the days of my life, and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord for ever.



**Hythe United Reformed Church**  
**New Road, Hythe, Southampton SO45 6BR**  
**Telephone 023 8084 5005**

**E-mail:**

**[enquiries@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk)**

**Registered Charity No. 1141707**



**CORNERSTONE**  
Hythe United Reformed Church

SECRETARY:	Dr Richard Hall	023 8084 0191 <a href="mailto:secretary@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">secretary@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
TREASURER:	Nick Tustian	023 8084 0296 <a href="mailto:treasurer@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">treasurer@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Diana Sandy	023 8084 2745 <a href="mailto:newsletter@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">newsletter@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
ROOM LETTING SECRETARY:	Mike Garside	07518 654447 <a href="mailto:bookings@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">bookings@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
PASTORAL MINISTRY:	The Elders	<a href="mailto:pastoral@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">pastoral@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP:	Bev Hall	023 8084 0191 <a href="mailto:e+f@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">e+f@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
FAMILIES MATTER:	Laura Gray	023 8020 7623 <a href="mailto:office.fm.hurc@gmail.com">office.fm.hurc@gmail.com</a>
SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR:	Wendy Tustian	07584 200509 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">safeguarding@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>
CHURCH OFFICE:	Cornerstone New Rd, Hythe	023 8084 5005 <a href="mailto:office@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk">office@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk</a>

## 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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## **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

**The deadline for the September issue is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

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

# Letter from the Elders



Dear Friends,

As Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, they faced an insurmountable obstacle - the sea before them and Pharaoh's army behind them. In this moment, God instructed Moses: **"Lift up your staff...and divide the water"**. Moses obeyed, leading to an astonishing miracle where **"the waters were divided"** (Exodus 14 v 16). This allowed over two million Israelites to walk across dry ground safely.

When Jesus learns that Lazarus is ill, He delays His visit. By the time He arrives, Lazarus has been dead for four days. Despite this apparent hopelessness, **Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb (John 11)**. Miraculously, he emerges alive.

Just two examples from the Old and New Testament where God shows his amazing power. In the first it's over an element from his creation, and the other actually over death itself. Amazing, and there are countless other examples of God showing his incredible and limitless power that I could have quoted. So I ask you a very simple question- **"DO WE WORSHIP THIS SAME ALL POWERFUL GOD?"**

**"Of course we do"** I hear you cry. The God we worship through his Son Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13 v 8 even tells us that. So I ask you perhaps an even more difficult question. "When you pray and ask God to intervene, to do something amazing or seemingly impossible, do you really believe it will actually happen? Certainly, Moses and Jesus did from the two examples quoted in the first two paragraphs.

Or just maybe we surround our prayers and supplications in some fuzzy words such "In your time O Lord", "According to Your will O God" and even "Lord if it is part of your plan". On the one hand this is perhaps absolutely correct because it recognises our lack of understanding of what God can and will do. However, on the other hand are we fudging our request and giving ourselves a bit of a "safety valve" to prevent us from feeling disappointed if we don't get the answer we want.

When the prophets of the Old Testament prayed, and when Jesus

asked for Lazarus to rise from the dead the answers were instant and dramatic as they needed to be. Which leaves me with perhaps the most challenging thing that Jesus said in his ministry as recorded in Matthew 17 v 20: **“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain: ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”**

Jesus tells us very clearly that we should expect the miraculous from God. We should expect him to intervene in the most amazing and incredible ways. We worship a God of the possible, not the impossible, and we shouldn't try and shackle him by inserting words that reflect our own limited understanding and indeed perhaps lack of total faith in what God can do.

We do worship a powerful and almighty God who has demonstrated his love for us over and over again, not least through his Son, Jesus. So let's pray with confidence, let's seek his wisdom and guidance. We want to see the power of God unleashed on lives that are wrecked and a very troubled and broken World. We may not actually move a mountain but I'd settle for the occasional molehill every now and then.

God Bless, *Nick Justian*

## ANN SHIELD



We have received the sad news that Ann Shield died on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Ann was the wife of our former minister Revd Tony Shield and was a Member at Cornerstone until she moved to be near her daughter in Broadstone in 2016. The Service of Thanksgiving for Ann will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00 pm at Broadstone URC.



## 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 mostly by videos shown on the big screens or by organ and piano or occasionally by a small worship band.

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



## WORSHIP IN JULY

Date	Speaker	Theme:
6 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Keen	Preacher's Choice <b><i>Service includes Communion</i></b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	Revd George Gibson	Bride of Christ - A Holy Nation
20 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Borley	<b><i>All Age Service</i></b>
27 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Tony Wingett	Hebrew Names of God – Yahweh-Sholom The Lord is Peace

## WORSHIP IN AUGUST

Date	Speaker	Theme:
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Revd George Gibson	Bride of Christ – God's Own Possessions <b><i>Service includes Communion</i></b>
10 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Borley	<b><i>All Age Service</i></b>
17 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Ted Slade	Hebrew Names of God – El Shaddai Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Wootten	Hebrew Names of God – Abba (Father)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Revd George Gibson	Gifts for Healing <b><i>Healing Service</i></b>

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July**

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Summer Holidays 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**For more details please contact Dave Symmonds**





## BOYS' BRIGADE

All the boys took part in a treasure hunt around the village using their observation skills to answer the questions. The Anchors/Juniors have played table games and made chocolate chip muffins and listened to the Bible story of the

Feeding of the Five Thousand.

After listening to the story of Moses leading his people out of Egypt the Company boys were set a challenge to build a Lego model of a cart that Moses could use to carry himself and his belongings out of Egypt to the Promised Land. They talked about Pentecost and decorated sweet jars for Fathers Day.

We break up for the summer holidays on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

*Gill Tabenor*



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

At the service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, Naomi Thatcher was welcomed into membership.

We wish her God's blessing in the years ahead.



# Table Top Sale

9.30am – 12noon

July 8<sup>th</sup>

with a

**Grand Sale on July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Closed during August

**Re-opens September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Come and have a look around  
and enjoy a Tea or Coffee too!



## YOUTH BIBLE GROUP

Hello, it's me, Bobby, again, here to talk about our Youth Bible Study. We have only had one session since you were last updated by Grace and that session was on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

For a very long time we had been trying to get Kevin Thatcher to come and answer all of our many questions with his incredible and profound wisdom and on Friday, we finally did so. We began the discussions with the beginning of it all, Genesis 1 v 1. We made our way to the end of chapter 1 with plenty of stops for discussion in between. One of these discussions was my question which was if Jesus was present in some form when the whole thing started, and if so, what form did he take? I was told that he probably was there but not as meat and bone until 0BC. This question was prompted by the first sentence of Genesis 1 v 26, which reads 'Then God said "let us make man in our image, in our likeness"'. I wanted to know why God said 'us' and 'our' instead of 'me' and 'my', and who the 'us' referred to.

After finding answers about this and many other questions and theories, we played a game designed by Kevin. We split into two teams, each with three team members, and had to take turns to try and name an animal mentioned in the Bible. If your team failed, you lost a point and if you succeeded, you gained a point. After 10 rounds, the game resulted in a tie so we played a tiebreaker. This time we were told that there are three mythical animals in the Bible and we had to write the three we thought. My team won, of course, because we got one of our three correct, dragon. Kevin then told us that the only three mythical creatures mentioned in the Bible were leviathan, dragon and behemoth.

After that, we did more talking and I asked Kevin about parallel universes and if there was no God in a different universe. He gave a long and intelligent response including an explanation of Schrödinger's cat and it must be said that despite my attempt to keep up with the intellectual speech he made, I was, along with everybody else I believe, somewhat baffled. We then prayed about all sorts and went our own ways.

Thank you for reading, *Bobby*



## 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

### JULY/AUGUST PROGRAMME

**10<sup>th</sup> July** Families Matter - Peter Blasby

**24<sup>th</sup> July** Easy Table Quiz and our Bring and Buy table

**14<sup>th</sup> August** Garden Party at the home of Beverly Souter

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

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.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July - 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm**

We will follow the lunch with various board games.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August - 12.30 pm**

We will meet on the lawn behind The Grove (weather permitting). So bring a deckchair and your picnic lunch and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

# PRAYER POINTERS FOR JULY/AUGUST

## **1 John 5 v 14-15**

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us. And if we know that He hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of Him.*

## **Jeremiah 6 v 16**

*This is what the Lord says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

### **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 POINTERS FOR JULY**

### **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>**

- ◆ Lord we remember all the families who lost a loved one in the Air India plane crash. We ask that they will be comforted. We pray answers will be found as to the cause and we thank you that extra checks are now being put in place for added safety. We also pray for everyone who has a real fear of travel, either by water, rail, roads or flight.
- ◆ Lord, conflicts in the Middle East are causing problems with shipping. So many businesses here in the UK rely on imported goods, we ask Lord for safety for these vessels. We also ask for common sense Lord as to the tariffs countries impose on imported or exported goods that are reflected in our cost of living.
- ◆ We remember also Lord our custom and excise officers. We pray for their safety and that of the animals they work with and we also ask that much contraband will be discovered and the people who import harmful substances will be caught.

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>**

- ◆ Today Lord we lift up everyone who is involved with SASRA (The Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association) We thank you for their courage as they work and minister to our men and women in the armed forces wherever they are stationed. Please help and enable all military charities that offer help with housing, caring for the wounded, mentally or physically and also help our veterans to adapt to civilian life.
- ◆ We thank you for the many activities that are available within our communities that help us to get out and about and make friends. We also remember those who live by themselves, and are unable to go out. Help them Lord not to feel lonely. We ask that the befriending services of the Red Cross will have the resources they need, both human and financial so that no one who asks for their help will be denied.

## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

- ♦ As we come to worship You today Lord we ask that all church and open air services will be blessed. We pray that there will be many coming to know You for the first time as Your Holy Spirit floods our land.
- ♦ Lord we ask that You will bring peace once again to the Middle East, especially between Israel and Iran, Israel and Gaza and also Lord the war between Russia and Ukraine. Lord may all who have lost loved ones in these conflicts know Your comfort. We pray for all who have been wounded mentally or physically. May they know Your healing Lord. We also pray for all who have lost their homes through these conflicts and ask that they will find shelter.

## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**

- ♦ Lord we ask that You will be with and help our Bible Society workers as they give out bibles within refugee camps, many in the receiver's own language. We thank you also for their witness in explaining the Gospel of the Good News of Jesus to both believer's and non-believers in these camps. We pray for Your protection for Your people in these camps as they share Your words of salvation with those around them. Both Africa and Asia are mainly Muslim people, and some hold very extremist views, we ask that Your Holy Spirit will flow through these camps and bring Your peace to reign.
- ♦ For all in these refugee camps; please help them retain their self-dignity and worth, please grant them hope and please help their situations to improve. We pray for all the aid agencies who work in these camps. Thank you for the gifts of food, water, shelter, clothing and medicine that is distributed to so many. Please continue to hold up the medical teams that work tirelessly to bring relief, from general healthcare, midwifery and emergency operations.

## **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**

- ♦ Lord we pray for all our church services, many will be on holiday, so we ask Lord that all visitors will be made welcome. And again Lord, may all hear the messages that you are sending us, either through the worship or the spoken word, and Lord may many new friendships be made.
- ♦ We pray too for all our emergency services. Now that the school holidays have started, its known that lots of children get into various scrapes as they seek to explore and enjoy new areas and experiences, especially climbing.
- ♦ We also pray for parents as they do their best to arrange childcare as they have to work. Lord, for families that can't afford a day out or are even unable to provide regular meals, we thank you for all the holiday clubs that are either free or reasonably priced that also provide a free meal. So Lord as families embrace the summer holiday, we ask that you will enable them to spend time together and enjoy lots of fun and laughter.

## **PRAYER POINTERS FOR AUGUST**

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- ♦ Lord we pray for the University graduates that are taking a year out to travel. We ask that not only will their adventure help them to grow in wisdom, understanding and compassion; but they would also be kept safe. Help them make a difference to the charities they engage with as they help with local projects around the world.

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**

- ♦ We pray for the work of Beach Missions around our coastland. We ask that You will be with all those taking part, please Lord help the younger members of the teams as they seek to share the love of Jesus with people they meet. We ask also Lord that they will witness many coming to faith through their efforts.



- ◆ Lord, it is not a holiday for everyone; for graduates and school leavers they may be struggling to find work, so we ask that there will be many job fairs to help them find the kind of job they are looking for. We ask that many local firms will be able to offer apprenticeships that will offer a real skill.
- ◆ We pray also for those who cannot work due to illness or disability, again please grant them a creative heart and enable them to find something they can enjoy doing.
- ◆ We pray for our armed services as they take on lots of new recruits. We ask that new welfare measures will have been put in place to safeguard the young men and women, especially those who are away from home for the first time. For those in the Navy we ask that You will keep them safe as they patrol our waterways and go on exercises abroad.

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>**

- ◆ We give You thanks for Your creation Lord: Its beauty and complexity not only feeds our bodies but our souls as well. Who can fail to praise you Lord when we see such wondrous sights, like sunrise and sunsets, or hear the rustle of leaves on a tree or the trill of a songbird. Thank you Lord that You speak to us in these moments; as You lead us beside still waters in our soul.
- ◆ We ask Lord there will be more protected areas in our oceans, especially where new undersea grasses and kelp is being planted, and the coral reefs. Help us in keeping our rivers and streams free of pollutants from nearby businesses and sewage spills and leakage. We pray for all endeavours that will help clear our waterways of rubbish and debris. And please grant that we all would have a care about our local green spaces up and down the country.
- ◆ We pray for our local council, please grant them the wisdom they need as they prioritise council services. Thank you that they too are doing the best they can with limited finances and resources in the battle against climate change.

## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- ♦ Today Lord we thank you for everyone who operates our sound desk; and the ability to stream our services across the internet. We pray for everyone who accesses our services online. Lord, we ask that You will meet with them, and for those who don't know You yet, may they come and accept the salvation Jesus offers.
- ♦ In our daily lives we are becoming more dependant on the use of computer's, robots, etc., for work, leisure, security, and medical diagnoses and procedures. Thank you for all this progress; but we ask Lord for safeguards to be put in place. We ask that You will enable the interception of any cyber attacks against our government, businesses, emergency services, or private devices. We also ask that age verification will be required online to protect our children and young people from harmful contents. We ask also Lord that these systems will not easily be overcome.

## **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>**

- ♦ Thank you Lord for all who work hard to prepare your places of worship; the cleaners, tea and coffee providers, flowers and all who welcome and assist us. Bless each one and again open our hearts and minds to the messages you have for us. Grant our speakers understanding of your word, and help them in their preparations. Grant them boldness and passion as they bring Your message to us.
- ♦ On Bank holiday Monday we ask for your traveling mercies as people are out and about visiting new and favourite destinations. As this can cause a lot of heavy road and rail travel, we ask that You be with our emergency services as they try to get through this heavy traffic.
- ♦ This week Lord our young people get their exam results. May they be pleasantly surprised with their grades. May none be disappointed.

- ♦ We also remember our farmers, most will be up early till last light. We pray their crops will be plentiful and of a good quality despite a poor start. We also ask that they will be able to hire the equipment they need, and the resources to both harvest and store the crops. Lord may they receive a fair price for their produce so they won't be worse off and consider giving up. We also ask Lord that there will be more opportunities for farmers to get together so they don't feel so isolated.

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>

*Philippians 1 v 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, v 10 so that you (we) may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, v 11 (and may we be) filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God. (bracketed words mine)*  
**Amen.**

# Families Matter

at Hythe URC

## CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

starting with

**FAMILIES MATTER AGM**

**at 7pm**

All are welcome to attend. Please come along and find out more about what Families Matter do.

Refreshments will be served after the AGM, prior to the rest of the Church Meeting

For more information contact FM on 023 8020 7623 or  
[office.fm.hurc@gmail.com](mailto:office.fm.hurc@gmail.com)



## FLOWERS AT CORNERSTONE

Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the flowers for 2025. The Rota is now complete for this year.

### FLOWER ROTA FOR JULY/AUGUST

6<sup>th</sup> July - Pat & Peter Dudley for family birthdays

13<sup>th</sup> July - Elizabeth Dennis in memory of husband John

20<sup>th</sup> July - Marilyn Hood for Family

27<sup>th</sup> July - Helen Roissetter in memory of Ernie

3<sup>rd</sup> August - Marion and Ray Richiardi. Thanks for church family

10<sup>th</sup> August - Pamela Bridge for parents

17<sup>th</sup> August - Sue Ruddock in memory of Mum

24<sup>th</sup> August - Mike & Polly Garside for their wedding anniversary


31<sup>st</sup> August - Joy & Roy Funnell for their wedding anniversary

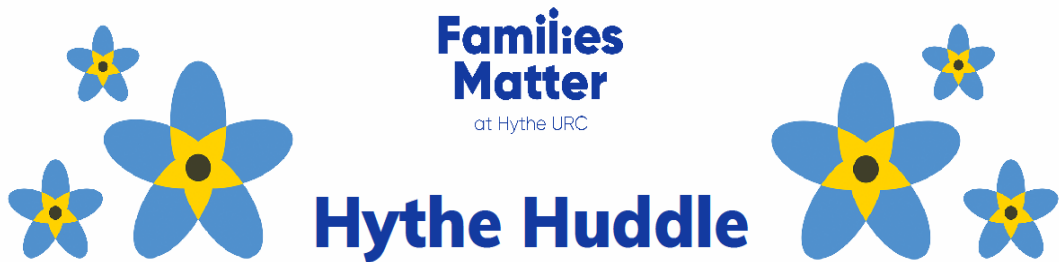
Thank you and take care,

*Pamela Bridge*

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).

Friends are Flowers  
in the  
Garden of Life





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

Meet first Wednesday of each month 2.00 to 4.00 pm  
at Cornerstone United Reformed Church, Hythe

### **Entertainment**

2<sup>nd</sup> July - Games

6<sup>th</sup> August - Burnt Toast (a local group of entertainers)  
All are Welcome

For more information contact us on 023 8020 7623  
[office@families-matter.org.uk](mailto:office@families-matter.org.uk)

# SUMMER BARBECUE



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**12.00 - 4.00 pm**

at Craigmore, Roman Road, SO45 4QJ  
(home of Bev and Richard Hall)

**Cost £6 per person**

*Burger & hotdog provided*

*Please bring something to drink and  
a salad or pudding to share.*

For catering purposes please sign  
the list in church

or ring Bev or Richard on 023 8084 0191  
or email [beverley.b.hall@talktalk.net](mailto:beverley.b.hall@talktalk.net)

**Everyone welcome**

## BOOK REVIEW



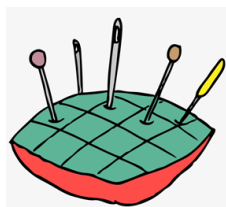
**The Works of the Lord** is a collection of 52 biblical reflections on creation, science and technology. Each contributor is a scientist and/or a theologian, who uses the insights from their scientific studies to inform their faith and worship within a biblical context. The reflection begins with a passage of scripture and it ends with a short prayer. The book isn't a scientific, philosophical or theological treatise. It seeks to encourage us to experience how science can help to deepen our understanding of God revealed in creation.

**Coming to Faith Through Dawkins** contains 12 essays on the pathway from New Atheism to Christianity, edited by Denis Alexander and Alister McGrath. The contributors come from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures, who became disillusioned by the arguments and conclusions of Richard Dawkins. Inevitably extracts from science, philosophy and theology are mentioned in the book, and the comments are well referenced. It is not a 12 plan for converting your atheist friend. The inspiration lies in following each person's journey to faith in Christ.

*Both books can be obtained from the Faraday Institute.*

[www.faraday.cam.ac.uk](http://www.faraday.cam.ac.uk)

*Thanks to Ray Richiardi for sending this information*



### 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.



## DRAMA LLAMAS

Hello dear friends, the last month has been a very busy one for our little Drama Llama team and I would love to say that we will be having a rest now but I don't think that is going to be the case. I will explain more later but first of all I would like to talk about our last performance.

Naomi came up with the idea of basing it on Esther as this is a book which the young people are studying. So as penance for coming up with this suggestion, Naomi took on one of the main characters and boy did she bring the sketch alive. We are hoping that we achieved the right balance between light hearted humour with Bobby's narration and serious drama with Naomi and Grace. Ray took on most of the directing and off stage work as I was slightly distracted with other things. I have noticed a big difference in our performances since Ray has been helping us and we are becoming more polished each time. I am also very proud of how well Grace took on her role as maid. Whilst she only had a few lines, I felt she was able to bring them to life and her presence on stage has definitely grown. Not surprising really as she is part of an amateur dramatic group outside of Drama Llamas.



You may have noticed that we actually did a little more than our drama and ended up leading the whole service. My initial intention was to work alongside Nick to get a feel for how to run a service. However one thing led to another and we ended up taking over completely. Notice the use of the word 'we' as it most definitely was a team effort. I had been struggling to come up with any idea for the service and stumbled upon the fact that it was Trinity Sunday for the Catholic church so initially our plan was to base it on that. However, for some reason we ended up focusing on the Holy Spirit. Possibly because it is the one element of the triad which I struggle with most. I looked up random facts about the Holy Spirit which is how we came up with the idea for the game for our introduction. Bobby and Liam led it very well, at least it looked like everyone was enjoying it from where I was sat. Who would have thought 'Play Your Cards Right' could be used for a church service. Nick then brought it all into context with the theme for our service whilst also sharing about his relationship and understanding of the Holy Spirit.



Our prayers, which were beautifully written and lead by Liam, worked perfectly for me, helping me to appreciate the awesome presence of the Holy Spirit. Ric brought the whole service together with a wonderful summary at the end. I know that there is no way we could have put this all together on our own, so am pretty sure that God had a hand in it. I will not bore you with too many details, however I will just say this. When we were working on the plan for the service, we had no idea what bible readings to use. One day I came up with the idea of using the first and last reference in the Bible of the Holy Spirit as readings to book-end the sermon section of the service. Later on I found out that Ric had had exactly the same thought and was surprised when he saw the order of service including them. Working on this service has really developed my relationship with the Holy Trinity. Whereas before I always felt a connection with God the Father, now I am sensing the Holy Spirit around me more often. I used to think that the Holy Spirit only stepped in at times of great need such as illness or threat. Now I realise that the Holy Spirit is around me all the time, sometimes gently guiding me as with the service and other times bashing me over the head to get my attention. Maybe I would have less headaches if I started to tune in to the gentle guidance of God.



You may have noticed that I was slightly nervous at the start of our service. In my previous life I would have thought nothing about standing up in front of a large group of strangers to share my knowledge as a specialist dementia nurse so why was I so phased by leading the service? Even Bobby had to remind me to slow down after I stumbled through the welcome. I had not realised what a big deal leading the service would be as all of a sudden I was responsible for carrying God's word. During the first song, I looked out and saw all my church friends, smiling and singing with me. All of a sudden I realised I was not on my own so I took a deep breath, allowed God in and enjoyed the rest of the service.



We are currently working on our next drama although are a very long way off even thinking about writing the script. For some reason we have been trusted with the next two All Age services so there is quite a bit of planning to do. I am delighted that the service in July will be a baptism service so there will be more than enough drama and no need for Drama Llamas to add any more. So we are already looking at our July

service, trying to come up with ideas and themes. Writing this has made me realise that the most important thing for us to do right now is to pray about it. I know for sure that God can do for us what we could never do for ourselves and that includes leading services.

I am conscious that there will not be another newsletter until September and I am quietly confident that we will have a clear plan for our All Age services to share with you by then. So on that note, I had better crack on and do my research or in other words, read the Bible.

Take care and enjoy the summer,

*Emma*



## **BIRTHDAYS IN JULY/AUGUST**

### **Congratulations to:**

- Jean Mills who will be 95 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July
- Val Blasby who will be 88 on the 8<sup>th</sup> July
- Dora Gouldie who will be 93 on the 24<sup>th</sup> July
- Merle Wills who will be 80 on the 29<sup>th</sup> July
- Eira McCaughey who will be 90 on the 21<sup>st</sup> August

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)

## FRIENDSHIP

Begin the day with friendliness and only friends you'll find  
Yes, greet the dawn with happiness, keep happy thoughts in mind  
Salute the day with peaceful thoughts and peace will fill your heart  
Begin the day with joyful soul and joy will be your part

Begin the day with friendliness, keep friendly all day long  
Keep in your soul a friendly thought, your heart a friendly song  
Have in your mind a word of cheer for all who come your way  
And they will bless you too, in turn, and wish you "Happy day!"

Begin each day with friendly thoughts and as the day goes on  
Keep friendly, loving good and kind just as you were at dawn  
The day will be a friendly one and then at night you'll find  
That you were happy all day long through friendly thoughts in mind.

*Taken from "Bless This Home"  
Published by Golden House Publishing Co, Inc.*



### **HYTHE ACTIVE EXERCISE GROUP**

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

**(We have our summer break during the school  
holidays)**

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



**Jean Mills** says: "Thank you to my friends at Cornerstone for the lovely flowers that I received. Thank you also of course to Marion for being the "delivery girl". Marion and I were also able to have a "catch-up chat" so that turned Monday into a "sun-day"! Yellow flowers bring some sunshine into the lounge

so a daily dose of "TLC" is regularly applied!

**Diane Fry** writes: "Many thanks for the beautiful flowers delivered by hand one Sunday afternoon. They were very much appreciated and had pride of place by the sunny front room window!"

**Emma Borley** writes: "Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received after our All Age Service. Also a huge thank you to everyone for your support before, during and after the service."

**Jo and Terry Pearce** say: "Thank you for the church flowers recently delivered as we celebrated our 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. It was a very unexpected and pleasant gift and warmly received."

**Pat Dudley** writes: "What a lovely surprise to receive flowers especially when feeling rather unwell. Also a grateful thank you to Sylvia who cheerfully delivered them on the Sunday afternoon. I would also say thank you and God bless to the team who take part in this ministry each week



## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 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)

# JULY 2025 CALENDAR

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

Tuesday	1	<b>HOMEGROUP WEEK</b>
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 : 7.30pm Youth Club
Saturday	5	8.30am Men's Breakfast
<b>SUNDAY</b>	6	10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
Monday	7	10.00am Daytime Prayers : 5.30pm Boys' Brigade
Tuesday	8	9.30am Table Top
Wednesday	9	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group : 7.00pm Families Matter AGM followed by Church Meeting
Thursday	10	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group : 2.15pm Women's Guild
Friday	11	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.00pm Youth Bible Group
Saturday	12	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	13	10.30am Morning Worship followed by Picnic Lunch
Monday	14	<b>HOMEGROUP WEEK</b> 10.00am Daytime Prayers : 5.30pm Boys' Brigade
Tuesday	15	
Wednesday	16	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 10.00am Toddler Group
Thursday	17	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group
Friday	18	10.00am Pins and Needles : 7.30pm Youth Club
Saturday	19	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	20	10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	21	10.00am Daytime Prayers : 5.30pm Boys' Brigade
Tuesday	22	9.30am Table Top Grand Sale
Wednesday	23	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 7.30pm Elders Meeting
Thursday	24	10.00am HytheActive Exercise Group : 2.15pm Women's Guild
Friday	25	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	26	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	27	10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	28	10.00am Daytime Prayers
Tuesday	29	
Wednesday	30	8.30am Early Morning Prayer
Thursday	31	

# AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR

The Foyer is CLOSED during August

Friday	1	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	2	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	3	10.30am Morning Worship with Communion
Monday	4	10.00am Daytime Prayers
Tuesday	5	
Wednesday	6	8.30am Early Morning Prayer : 2.00pm Hythe Huddle
Thursday	7	
Friday	8	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	9	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	10	10.30am Morning Worship followed by Picnic Lunch
Monday	11	10.00am Daytime Prayers
Tuesday	12	
Wednesday	13	8.30am Early Morning Prayer
Thursday	14	2.15pm Women's Guild Garden Party at the home of Beverly Souter
Friday	15	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	16	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	17	10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	18	10.00am Daytime Prayers
Tuesday	19	
Wednesday	20	8.30am Early Morning Prayer
Thursday	21	
Friday	22	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	23	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	24	<b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 10.30am Morning Worship
Monday	25	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
Tuesday	26	
Wednesday	27	8.30am Early Morning Prayer
Thursday	28	
Friday	29	10.00am Pins and Needles
Saturday	30	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	31	10.30am Morning Worship

# 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

## THINGS TO DO IN JULY

All our usual activities plus

Men's Breakfast - 8.30am 5th July.

Families Matter AGM &  
Church Meeting  
7.00 pm 9th July.

## AUGUST IS HOLIDAY TIME!

but some things will continue

Sunday Services at 10.30am.

Monday morning prayers  
will take place as usual at 10.00am  
but they will not meet on 25th.

Wednesday early morning prayers at 8.30am  
will continue throughout the month.

Pins and Needles will continue to meet  
every Friday morning at 10.00am.