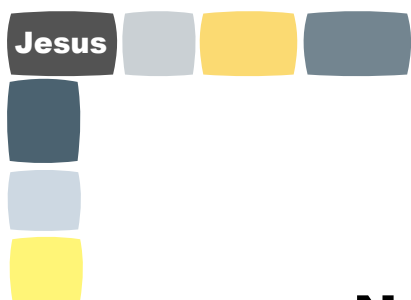


# Cornerstone

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## Newsletter May 2021

I'm writing the Newsletter at the end of April just after the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh, which I imagine lots of you watched on your TV's I think the most moving picture that remains with me was the picture of the Queen sat by herself during the service.

### **"God has not forgotten you"**

In your darkest moments maybe you have been tempted to think that God has forgotten you but as Christians we know that God is always with us and there is nowhere we can run from His presence (PS 139: 7-8).



But actually sensing God's presence and comfort is different. It give joy when you are discouraged (Ps 16:11) it refreshes you when you are weary (Acts 3:20) and sensing God's presence and comfort takes away fear when we are feeling overwhelmed by life .

In Psalm 23 David begins by talking about God and His tender care, saying,"the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" But when he is in danger and suffering, he shifts from talking about God to talking directly to Him.

He says "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me (Ps 23:4)

There is a nearness, a personal-ness to God that David immediately feels when in trouble.

The incomparable presence of God in our pain underscores that a day with Him in trial is better than a thousand pain-free days elsewhere.

Even though the Queen sat alone she was not alone, she has a bright faith in God that has carried her through life and God will continue to do so. I'm impressed that every Christmas during the Queen's speak she always makes mention of Jesus the saviour and encourages people to put their trust in Him.

Which is more than could be said for the religious professorial who led the Dukes funeral service, without an ounce of passion and not much compassion.

If you are struggling today, remember God has not forgotten you. He has engraved you on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49: 15-16) He will never fail you or forsake you. He will walk with you through every dark valley.

The God who has numbered every hair on your head and knows every sparrow that falls to the ground is aware of every detail of your situation. He is using your suffering and pain in ways you would not believe if someone told you.. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. (1 Peter 5:10)

## Cornerstone Diary for May

2<sup>nd</sup> May 10-45 am Morning service, Romans 12:2 speaker Stuart inc Communion

9<sup>th</sup> May Morning Service Speaker Stuart , Romans 12:2

16<sup>th</sup> May Morning service Speaker Paul Jackson

23<sup>rd</sup> May Morning service continuing our look at Romans 12 Speaker Stuart

30<sup>th</sup> May Morning service continuing our look at Romans 12 Speaker Stuart

All our Services start at 10-45

### Fun Club re-starting



We will be re-starting FUN CLUB on the 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6-30. While we have been unable to meet Sophia and Molly have done a sterling job in putting together work packs with craft ideas and taking them to the children on the Fun Club register. They have been well received by the children and their parents who have sent in pictures of the children enjoying the activities, we are at present putting together a short video of these pictures and will be showing it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May during the morning service.

### Mid week Bible Studies

After the long Pandemic lock down we will be re-starting our midweek Bibles studies in June with a video series from keswick.

The speaker is Simon Manchester a church minister from Australia.

This may be a new name to you but after listened to the series , I found Simon to be an excellent Bible teacher and an easy to listen to speaker.

We are going to advertise the series around our local

churches as we have done in the past, as I write there is still some uncertainty about how far all the restrictions will be lifted in June so to be on the safe side please book a place by ringing or text me on 07467024552. To be sure of a place.

Cornerstone Bible studies, Cornerstone Church St Johns Walk off Brett Street

## GOING THE DISTANCE

Wednesday 10-00am five sessions weekly beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> June until 30<sup>th</sup> June

Recorded Talks from  
Keswick 2019 with Simon  
Manchester Rector of St  
Thomas, North Sydney,

On the big screen , looking  
at John 14-17 2<sup>nd</sup> June  
crucial Answers

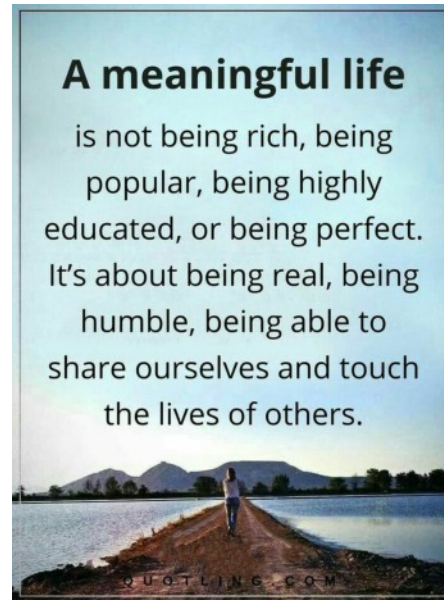
9<sup>th</sup> June New Confidence

16<sup>th</sup> June New Fruitfulness

All are welcome but due to the  
Covid restrictions places are limited.  
to make sure of Your seat please book by text or phone call  
To 07467024552



**Missionary Offering for the next two Months**  
will go to support :- Sjoerd and Rachel van Veen working in W. Africa



## Praying together at Cornerstone

Our next monthly Church Prayer Meeting will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> May at 9-15am Please try and meet with us as we seek God's face for the future both locally and worldwide with all it's uncertainties.



Church will not be fully back to normal there are still lots of restrictions but we need to pray that as we come together week by week there will be a real sense of God's presence with us, and that fear will not keep people away from fellowship with one another.

If you are able it would be great to see you at this the most important meeting on our church calendar!

## Communion service



We are going to have our communion service on the first Sunday of each month, we have purchased some pre-filled communion cups with a double foil cover, under the first cover is a small wafer and then when you remove the second foil cover you can drink the fruit juice.

We used these on Good Friday for the first time they are not ideal but they do provide a way of sharing communion in a Covid safe way. When the restrictions are lifted we will be going back to our usual individual cups and bread.

## Mirror, Mirror, in the Gospel

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” Col. 3:12

Heavenly Father, before we head out for the day, nothing is more “automatic” than to check ourselves out in a mirror, make sure we’re dressed appropriately, and get going.

If we’re in a big hurry, mirror-time may be a mere glance, but getting dressed is not optional. Oh, that this single verse would become just as daily of a rhythm for us.

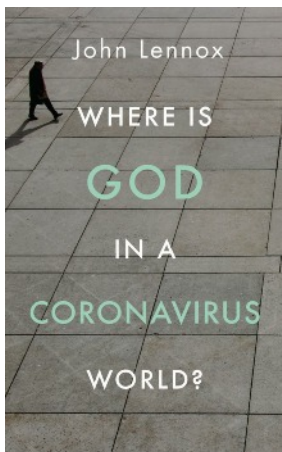
When we look at the mirror of the Gospel, we’ll never see “bad-hair-day,” “dark-eye-circle-day,” or, “I’m-rockin’-it-day.” We’ll see, “chosen by your Father, holy, and dearly loved.” Hallelujah, these three things define us more than anything we’ll ever see in a well-lighted piece of mirrored glass.



We’re “chosen,” not choice—which means God wanted us, and made us His through the work of Jesus. We’re “holy”—set apart by grace, for a life of grace and becoming like Jesus. We’re “dearly loved,”—more so than we’ve yet to realize, experience, or consistently believe.

Accordingly—no matter the temperature, moisture factor, humidity, or activity of the day, our daily clothing choices should always include “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

As we start this new Month, may these “grace-garments” be our most obvious attire, to those among whom we



### May book recommendation

We are living through a unique, era-defining period. Many of our old certainties have gone, whatever our view of the world and whatever our beliefs. The coronavirus pandemic and its effects are perplexing and unsettling for all of us. How do we begin to think it through and cope with it?

Single Copy Price £2.48 from 10ofthose

Start each day with  
a grateful heart.

