

## **The Cornerstone Church**

The Cornerstone Church has become a part of the life of Birchington during the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Their leader, David Tidy, has gathered together a band of very able helpers and has converted the old building in Station Road between Video Scene and Peter Newman's Shoe Shop.

The building has a chequered history, beginning life as the village's second "Village Centre", opened by Mrs Susan Gray of Birchington Hall in 1902. It was initially funded by Birchington parishioners, but after the First World War, it was running at a loss. By 1924 it was used as a cinema and went under a number of different names, including The Select Cinema, The Picture House, The Ritz and the Regal. After the Second World War it became a Bingo & Social Club in the 1960s and eventually ended its commercial period as the Pink Panther Club.

Since the Cornerstone Church took over the club they have worked miracles on the building and they cater for a lively group of supporters who add a different dimension to this corner of Birchington.