



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

FAMILY MAGAZINE

2025 AUGUST

Summer
is here!

This is the day the
LORD has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24





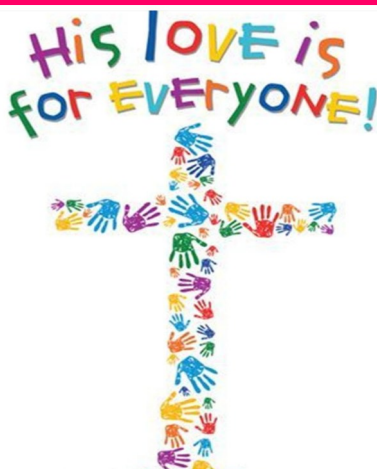
If this is your first time at Pier Avenue Baptist Church or even your second or third visit, we are so glad that you are here. Someone should come to chat to you but if, amongst all the rushing about, they don't, then please say hello to one of the people with a card hanging around their necks. It is always a delight when we see new friends join us

So glad to be able to get back to putting the magazine together. The June edition was missing due to my being confined to a hospital bed !! Now I am at home but still confined to bed but also a wheelchair so am able to sit at computer and do what I enjoy doing most !!!

Hello God... we need your help down here. The world has gone mad. Please hear and answer our prayers. Thank you, God. Amen



A very big thank you goes to all the contributors of the magazine. I am so grateful for the time and effort put in to write these reports and send photographs. There wouldn't be a magazine without them. A special thank you to Mel for the puzzles and her extra help with articles. The next issue is planned for two months time.





The Holy Spirit:

The Friend who is Cheering you on

I have a friend who, a few years back, gave me a fluffy pom-pom to clip onto my bag. She said it was to remind me that she was cheering me on, like a cheerleader waving a pom-pom to support a sports team. Eventually the pom-pom came unattached whilst I was out and was lost. But I knew that she would continue to support me as a friend, even if there was no visible sign of it.

It's great to have friends, but sometimes they can let you down. There may be times when we feel lonely and abandoned, times when nobody seems to truly understand our situation.

As followers of Jesus we always have one friend who will never let us down: The Holy Spirit.

Jesus' first group of friends on earth were fearful when he said he was leaving them to return to his heavenly home. This was his reply to them in John 14: 15 - 21:

¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be^[a] in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

The first disciples had been so close with Jesus that for him to leave felt to them like they were losing a father, as if they were being orphaned. He tells them that he will send them an 'advocate' in his stead.

What Jesus is talking about is the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Godhead, along with himself and the Father. We refer to the Holy Spirit as 'he' because he is one of the three persons of the Trinity. The word that Jesus uses for the Holy Spirit is sometimes translated as 'advocate', 'comforter', 'helper', 'counsellor', 'encourager' or simply 'friend'.

This holy friend, standing in the stead of the physical Jesus, is only the intimate of those who have placed their trust in Jesus. He has been active since the creation of the world, but was granted to all believers at Pentecost, the birth of Christ's Church. Whilst those who don't yet know Jesus may get a 'natural' sense of God's right and wrong through their consciences, sadly, they do not have this gift that we do.

The Holy Spirit lives with us and in us, he teaches us, he reminds us of Jesus' words, guides us and can give us insight into future events.

Unlike my pom-pom friend, however, who has a definite tendency to only talk about the good things we have done and not the bad things, the Holy Spirit will not cheer us on and encourage us regardless of any decision we make or any course of action. One important function of the Spirit is to convict us of sin, to show us when we're going wrong. He will guide us towards the good that God intends for us and against the bad that the enemy would like.

Nevertheless, the Spirit continues to be the perfect friend who will never leave or abandon us; with us wherever we are and whatever we're going through. He is the only one who can give us a peace that passes all understanding, not dependent on circumstances. He is always cheering us on, is always our backer, always our champion. How wonderful! Thank God for him and ask for his presence to be with you today and forever.

Michelle

Transforming and Loving Essex: Clacton Branch

On the evening of Wednesday 25th June, we at Pier Avenue Baptist, hosted an exciting worship event ...

From late afternoon, there was a flurry of activity as people were coming and going, carrying in guitars and a drum kit, arranging wires, checking the sound, putting out leaflets and the inevitable kettle being put on. The congregation of worshippers arrived at 7.30pm, both from PABC and other local churches, and at 8.00pm the celebration began ...

Transforming Essex are a Christian charity, who want to 'change the atmosphere' across our county. In response to the sneering looks and jokes we often get about 'Essex girls' and 'Essex boys', they want to join in with all the great things that God is doing across Essex and shout about it! Love Essex is the evangelistic wing of Transforming Essex. They are happy to travel all around the county supporting local churches with worship and outreach to their communities. They have recently been in conversation with pioneers and church leaders in Jaywick and have met with Michelle and Del to begin planning an alternative Hallowe'en outreach in Clacton town centre this 31st October, which will involve music, conversation and handing out 'bags of light' to passers by.

Transforming Essex also put on 'celebrations' of all that God is doing in different parts of the county. This is what we hosted on 25th June. The event began with some lively sung worship to contemporary Christian rock music. This was followed by some Bible readings and other words from God and then a message from Pete Burgess (a member of the leadership team at Southend Christian Fellowship) on the theme of 'thirsting for more of God', based on Psalm 42. There was also an opportunity for people to come up for individual prayer, which gave a number of people peace and joy.

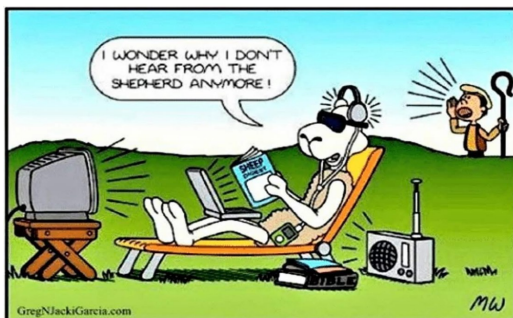
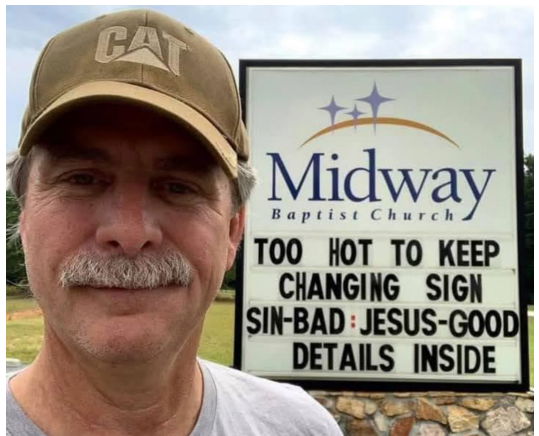
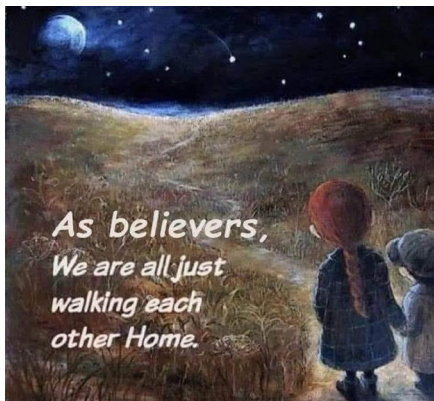
At Pentecost, we at Pier Avenue had prayed in the Spirit and received 'pictures' of God saying that what we have already is great, like a beautiful garden, but we can move on to even more, like a gleaming, heavenly city; that we can receive even more of God's promises. Pete's message seemed to add to these 'pictures'.

A singer from Transforming Essex, Jo, also had a word for us. She said that she could see roots underground that can come up through the soil and flourish and that God wants us to know that the work done previously has not been wasted, but can come to fruition. Exciting stuff! This also comes at a time when I have been encouraging us all to look PABC's mission afresh – e.g. how does God want us to reach out into our local community (both inside and out

We felt blessed by this celebration and are looking forward to the alternative Hallowe'en event and, most of all, what God is getting up to in Clacton through his people!

If you are able to help with the planning of the alternative Hallowe'en event or be there on the day, then please let me know.

Michelle



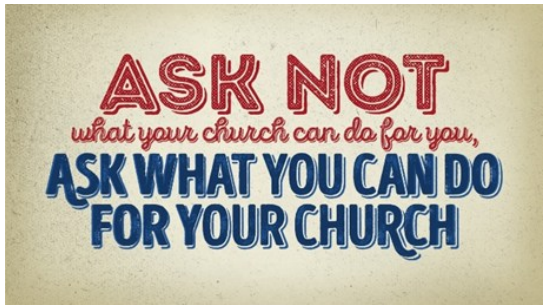
My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Them: Why do you raise your hands when you worship?

Me: Isn't that what a child does when they want to be held?

Your church needs you

I wanted to share some thoughts and ideas at this point through a magazine article prior to what will be shared more formally to members after the summer.



I think we're on the edge of some exciting times ahead with changes in both how we 'view' church and how we 'do' church.

Post COVID in many churches there has been a move from many people helping out in lots of areas to churches, big and small, struggling to find enough support to run the groups and activities they managed to run before COVID. COVID seemed to be a time when some re-evaluated their time and how they were using it and quite often the church seems to have been where cutbacks were made.

Over the years PABC has been well supported but its membership and friend of the church in everything practical, both small maintenance activities to bigger projects like the Friendship Lounge.

In recent years that had been falling onto the shoulders of a few and even worse a reducing few to the point where the few were in danger of imploding under the burden.

Recently we have, as a church leadership, moved outwards a bit and re-created teams for many of the tasks and groups of tasks we need to manage.

Over the summer there is a paper being prepared that will bring together all the tasks that are needed to to run the church and keep it going. This brief introduction is just to get you all thinking about just how church works and functions behind the scenes.

We are looking for everyone to be thinking about how they can help in spreading the workload and expanding the areas that we would like to develop.

It would be great if all Members were able to really get involved and to be a key part of an active membership – there is space for everyone to be a driver (in some area) and not a passenger.

As part of the leadership, I am pointing the finger at myself to a fair degree as it is partly our own fault as a leadership team.

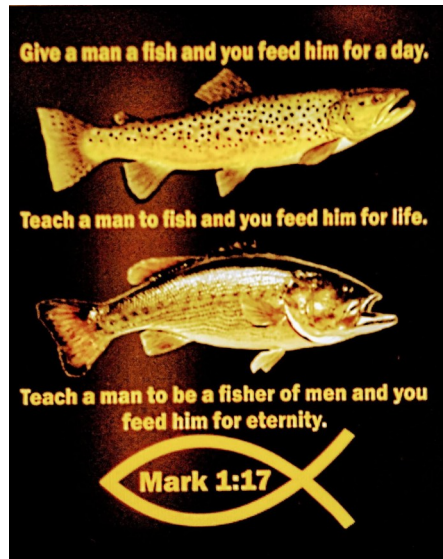
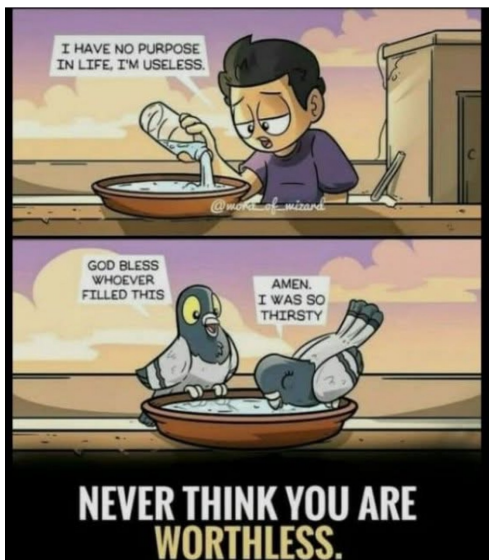
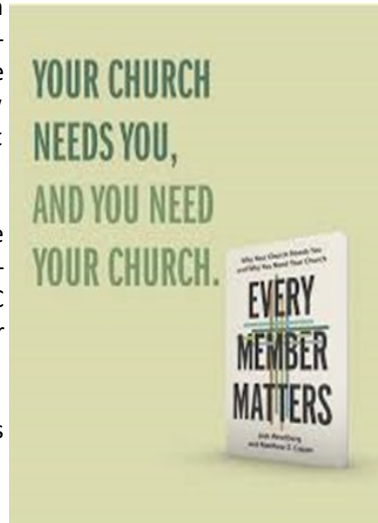
At times it seems easier to just get on with tasks rather than explaining what is needed, how others can help, and helping others get familiar with what needs doing and how to do it - and perhaps the most challenging point is being willing to let others do it in their way and letting them have their spin on how things are done and not expecting everything to be done the same old way.

Included in our forthcoming drive to expand the teams is much better information on what we do, how we do it and how we communicate – many of us are ignorant of groups and forums for things that go on in church life, not because people are trying to keep it secret but simple because we have not made the discovery or link for that group – when we know what's on we can then ask to be part of that group.

I am hoping this article will encourage you to be thinking about your involvement and the contribution you can make to Gods work wiring PABC and beyond that into mission in and around our area.

Watch out for more information arriving towards the end of August.

Ian Smith



**I guess it makes sense
for worship leaders to
wear jeans. In the Bible,
the musicians at the
Temple were all of the
tribe of Levi.**



In the last edition I cut Richard off at the end of his article - so here it is:

Being the worst ukkers player on the ship - A type of variation of Ludo.

Always winning at card bingo.

Failing to find a bucket of steam when required.

Avoiding kissing the gunners daughter.

Always letting his wind blow free.

Tying a 'what knot' incorrectly – Yes there actually is a knot called that.

And other such silly things.

The court then issues a suitable punishment, usually to drink some horrible tasting concoction. The Barber then shaves them with a large wooden cut-throat razor before pouring a bucket of gloop over them, don't ask, before being enthusiastically dunked in the pool by the Bears; the higher the rank the more times you get dunked. Again don't ask me how/why bears get in on the act but there we are. It's tradition dating back to the days of Pontius Pilot. After the ceremony, certificates are issued to certify you are now worthy to enter King Neptune's realm and of the name Shellback.

I cannot remember all of my 'coming of age' so to speak as it was some 46 years ago. However, I do remember having half my moustache being shaved off!



A message from our Treasurer



We finally have a QR Code for online donations!

This QR code can be used from here, and it will soon be available on our website and publicised in the Church. The code links to PABC's own page with a trustworthy fundraising organisation 'Stewardship', with whom the Church has had an account for several years. It will be particularly useful for those who want to make one-off or occasional donations.

Using the QR code with your mobile phone or ipad/tablet camera will link you directly to our giving page. Stewardship charge 4% as an administration fee for gifts given through their site, so for every £1 given, the Church will receive 96p. There are many online fundraising providers, but all charge a percentage and is a fair charge for the administration 'Stewardship' provided through the site.

If you are a UK tax payer, you can also make Gift Aided donations via 'Stewardship'. For every £1 donated with gift aid 25p will be added and 4p will be deducted, so the Church will receive £1.21.

The QR code will be particularly brilliant for visitors who wish to make a donation/gift to the Church while with us. Do feel free to try it out, as I have already done to ensure it worked!

If you can't access this QR code on your phone or device, you can still access the page online through this link:-

www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/PierAvenueBaptistChurch

Please note, however, if you are a regular worshipper it is far better to make your tithes and offerings (as we are prayerfully encouraged to do) directly into the Church bank account. By doing this your gifts can be reliably and regularly received and will not incur any deduction for the administration charge. If donating via the Church bank account, please do let me know if you are a UK tax payer because giving with Gift Aid is an added and valuable bonus.

Do please call or chat to me if you have any query or want to know more.

Thank you. Heather Baines, Treasurer.

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Our last term before the summer holidays saw the girls finishing off badge work and practicing items for our Display and Awards evening. It is always a busy time of year with many having time out for school trips and other special activities.

On 24th May we held a coffee morning and tabletop sale, where we served bacon rolls which proved very popular. We raised just over £120 towards our summer camp. Our second fund raising event on 21st June, was a Quiz night when 5 teams answered 8 rounds of questions on various subjects together with a picture round. The evening raised around £130.

Our Display and Awards evening was well supported as we celebrated all the girls had achieved over the past year. Heather Baines came to present the badges (which had been pinned onto their badge bags) to members from all 4 sections of the Company. These included the subjects covered and Company attendance badges. Many girls also received Church attendance badges if they regularly go to a Sunday school/service. The leaders were also recognised for their

continued loyal service. Various items were then performed by the girls, with the story of Joseph, team games and a line dance.



Our last evening saw the girls enjoying a sandcastle competition, egg throwing and games on the beach with a few refreshments provided. Unfortunately, it was extremely windy which prevented us from doing certain activities. However, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the girls. The evening concluded with thinking about Jesus' story of the two house builders.



We are now in the process of making the final arrangements for our summer camp, which will again see a few of our Junior, Senior and Brigader members taking part in a variety of activities at Thorrington Scout Camp site. Several Explorer girls will join us on the Wednesday to experience a day at camp. Please pray that the girls will enjoy the week, stay safe and above all learn more of God's love for them.

Finally, we were thrilled to hear that one of our Juniors was recently Baptised at the church she attends in Walton. We praise God that this young girl has accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour and pray that she will be blessed as she continues to serve him.



Emily Lawson attended a garden party with Adrienne, her Mum, at Buckingham Palace on 12th May as a result of achieving her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The following is her report of this prestigious event.

"Our entry time was 2pm, where we entered at the back of the garden and took our time to admire the flowers as we leisurely walked towards the Palace. We visited the water tent, which was an essential part of the day, as it was a scorcher.

"They had lawn activities, such as ring toss and bean bag throw, plus many others. At 2.45pm we entered the tea tent for a cup of tea and a cup cake, I had a spiced carrot cupcake, mum had a vanilla cupcake and we were also presented with a D of E reusable cup, which we drank our tea from.

"There were 3 guest speakers located around the garden, where they spoke about their own life experiences. Between the speakers there were two military bands, who took turns in playing for the near 5,000 guests that were in attendance.

"Then at 4.15pm the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, gave his speech and proceeded to walk around with the guests. However, at this time we could see a storm rolling over the Palace and the consistent rumble of thunder ended our day quite quickly. And if you really want to know how long it took us to get home, well that's a whole different story."



BOOKS OF the Bible

Scavenger Hunt

Use your Bible to find the answers. First person or group to get them all correct wins!

Find...

Answers

1. The longest book of the Bible
2. Two books named after women
3. The book after Micah
4. The last book of the Old Testament
5. The shortest book by word count
6. The book before Ezra
7. A book with 2nd in the title
8. The last word in the Bible
9. The last book of the Gospels
10. The tenth book of the New Testament
11. Write 1 John 4:19 verse
12. The shortest Bible verse
13. The longest chapter in the Bible
14. A book that starts with the letter "E"
15. A book that ends with the letter "H"
16. The book that has 3 words in its title
17. The 56th book of the Bible
18. The 25th book of the Bible
19. The book with 2 G's in its title
20. The book that mentions Noah
21. The 2 books that detail David's life
22. The book named after a Queen

Guess the Bible character.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

SUMMER

The Sun on your skin,
The warmth to surround
Eating outside
And the summer sound

Children laugh.
The birds call
We sit outside
Till the Sun's fall

A book, a drink,
Ice creams, sun hat,
Time to unwind
While comfortably sat.

Watch the tide
As it ebbs and flows
Breathe in salt air.
As a breeze gently blows.

Take in the seasons
As they arrive,
God's beautiful pattern
Living and alive.

Dawn

Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph — a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3 (NLT)

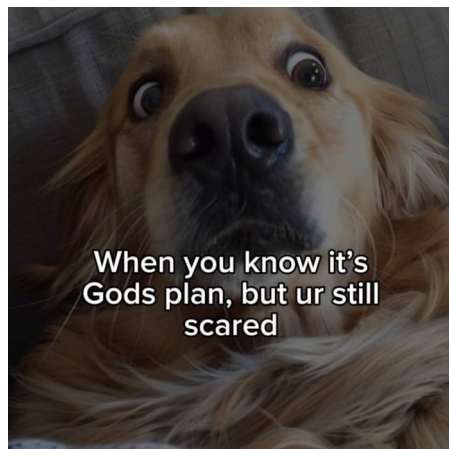
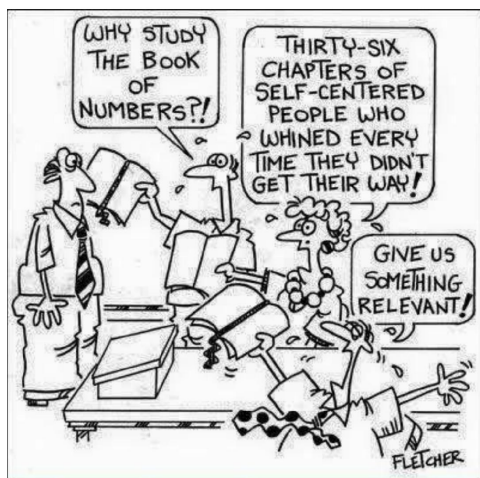
Based on Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (NIV)



Genesis 37

H O N B O S I L V E R D D R C
R O P G L A O T M F K M B A W
W H G I D C Y M L R A O X A T
J O S E P H G B D D C T C L S
P O P Z Z D W H N A S C H D T
I Q E N M R A A J N M A F E U
P B R G S G L W E M E N L F R
C O R S Y N R R M E R A O O F
B R N O A P D A B O C A C D D
M J B L T L T O Z P H N K S Y
L O H D I H R D G E A B S K R
O B W H J F E E O S N P H I F
V C C K T T H R N O T A D L T
E Q S Q A U H O S T S M L L X
D O O H Z E S B D J Y H A Z O

LAND	MERCHANTS	LOVED	JOSEPH	CANAAN
HATED	GRAZE	OLD	BORN	ROBE
SONS	JACOB	BROTHERS	SILVER	CHILDREN
EGYPT	KILL	FLOCKS	FATHER	SOLD



A relaxing picture for colouring



TINY TREASURES PARENT/CARER BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

The youngsters and their parents/carers have enjoyed a wide range of activities this term including decorating biscuits, making pictures of hopping bunnies, using tissue paper and glue to make flower and blossom on a tree pictures, as well as making a special card for Fathers' Day.

The term ended up with a Teddy Bears' Picnic where the children decorated crowns, hunted for bears in the church, sang songs and listened to the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Sadly, we said good-bye to some of our toddlers as they move on to nursery or school in September. We wish them all well.



We will be holding our annual picnic on Monday 18th August at 10.30 am at the Play Park on the greensward opposite Trafalgar Road for past and present members of Tiny Treasures. This is a lovely opportunity to catch up with some of our past families.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT THE BEACH HUT



The children played games and made sandcastles. They made sand hand prints and played with the parachute despite the wind and had a fantastic time. By the time

other members of the congregation could join them after church, it had started to rain so that part couldn't happen unfortunately.



Zoom Boys Club

Our weekly club for boys has now been running for 6 months and we have completed 2 terms. It has been a fun experience for all and lots of lessons learnt along the way – never a dull moment and lots of fun.



We started small with just 4 to 6 boys attending, grew to 14 names on the register with 11 or 12 attending most weeks then in the summer term lost one or two and ended up with between 5 and 8 most weeks.

We have plenty of room for more and delayed a recruitment drive till after the summer when we hope to reach out to schools around our area to grow our numbers. We have a good team of leaders and helpers with 4 of the leaders sharing the programme each week – the once-a-month preparation and programme responsibility is helping avoid burnout.



Some of the leaders involved early on have had to withdraw due to changes in work schedules and so we are a little light on support on Thursday evenings but for now have just enough – to meet the expected growth we will need more especially if we divide our weekly programme into two age streams to better meet the needs of the wide age range attending.

Most involved have found it quite challenging work – a boys group is much more difficult and demanding than a girl's group – but do not make that a reason not to help – despite the challenges it is also rewarding and the lads attending are nice.

Speak to Michelle or Ian to find out more and to explore where you can help – part time options will always be available. The older lads have embarked on a computer course led by Robert and they have enjoyed it so far.

A final challenge is to men within the wider church family (or male friends of church family) – we have mainly ladies now helping and leading and the boys can really benefit from some male input and involvement and role models so gents please be seeking out how you can be part of this great work.



Enfold

`Thank you for making me feel so welcome when I come to the church on Thursdays, I really feel God is with me when i go` ` Enfold is like church to me`. These are just two comments we have received in recent weeks at Enfold and it has been really good to see how our guests are progressing with their faith. We are also seeing God answer prayers which is brilliant especially as a lot of our guests (and team) have been facing some really difficult circumstances recently. We have been studying the story of Abraham and are currently looking at David which has prompted some interesting discussion. We are also trying to be more intentional in sharing good news and asking for prayer which people have been shy to do in rest of the group but privately have been very open in doing both.

For those of you who don't know what Enfold is, we are a church run group which starts at 9am on a Thursday morning and finishes around 11. We are open to all but especially the homeless and vulnerably housed and we start off each session with a reflection from the Bible, we then have breakfast together and various agencies such as Peabody and the NHS are on hand



to offer advice. We also have clothes that people can take and usually some items of food people can take away with them too. One of the most important things though is we try to have a team member responsible for going to each of our guests and chatting to them and building that relationship and opportunity to talk about what God has and could do for them.

I also must just say how wonderful the team is and they all go that extra mile for our guests.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER !!

A REPORT ON EASTER ACTIVITIES AT PABC

What a great Easter we had.

Maundy Thursday we washed each other hands and served each other food

Good Friday was a joint service with CTIC in the town and then back at our church

Saturday was Easter church for kids

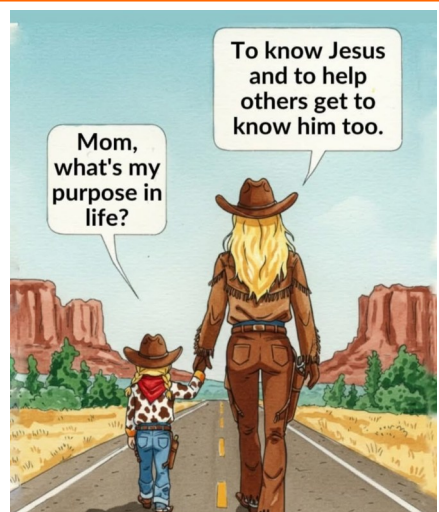
Easter Sunday Family Service and

Coffee morning with activities in the

started with breakfast followed by a Communion

Thank you to Michelle who led Maundy Thursday event, Good Friday Church Service and Easter Sunday Service.

Thank you to everyone who helped, took part and came to the Services, Coffee Morning and Breakfast. We have been spoilt with all the food we have enjoyed together



Baptist Church social

On Sunday 13th in the afternoon, the Baptist churches in Thorpe and Pier Avenue met with Holland Baptist church in their church hall for our regular social.

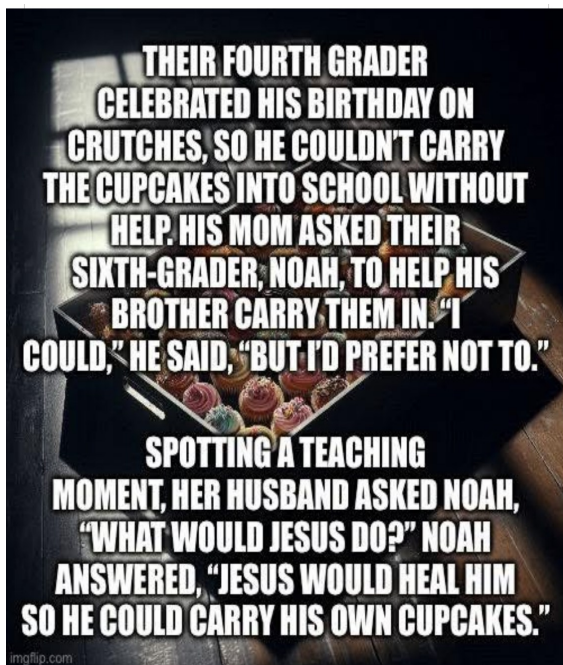
This is a regular event and is held in one of the 3 churches with one of the others providing the entertainment/activity and a

shared meal.

We had an amazing buffet provided by all (as usual) and a bible quiz. We had fun and it was really nice to have this regular opportunity for fun, friendship and food!

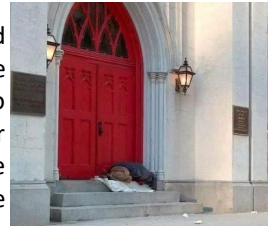
Watch out for the details of our next meeting.

MEL



NEVER AT PIER AVENUE !!

A pastor transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor on that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only 3 people said hello to him, most looked the other way. He asked people for change to buy food because he was hungry. Not one gave him anything.



He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was told by the ushers that he would need to get up and go sit in the back of the church. He said hello to people as they walked in but was greeted with cold stares and dirty looks from people looking down on him and judging him. He sat in the back of the church and listened to the church announcements for the week. He listened as new visitors were welcomed into the church that morning but no one acknowledged that he was new. He watched people around him continue to look his way with stares that said you are not welcome here. Then the elders of the church went to the podium to make the announcement. They said they were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce you to our new Pastor." The congregation stood up and looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle.

That's when all the clapping stopped and the church was silent. With all eyes on him, he walked up to the altar and reached for the microphone. He stood there for a moment and then recited so elegantly, a verse from the bible. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'" Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.'

After he recited this, he introduced himself as their new pastor and told the congregation what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and bow their heads in shame. "Today I see a gathering of people here but I do not see a church of Jesus. The world has enough people that look the other way. What the world needs is disciples of Jesus that can follow this teachings and live as he did. When will YOU decide to become disciples?"

He then dismissed service until the following Sunday as his sermon had been given.

SOME MORE WONDERFUL TALES FROM RICHARD'S TIME AT SEA

Peace, and may the joy of the Lord be with you.

As requested here we are again with another instalment in the half-life of the Chief Engineer. This time my thoughts turn to what happens when the weather turns bandit on us poor sailormen.

When you look out to sea, what do you see? Maybe gentle waves breaking on the shore with a soft hiss as they retreat from the shore-line, dragging the shingle back out to sea? Or maybe a flat calm with a chocolate box sunset mirrored across its surface like the one below?

Peace, all is well

Or maybe it is a bit rough with the waves rolling up to the sea wall to dissipate in a welter of dirty grey/brown water. Or maybe more violent still as per the pictures that follow.



Just another day in the office

Most of the time the weather is quite acceptable, often just a moderate swell to make you pitch and roll just to remind you that you are at sea as we steam along easy across a tropical blue sea; the quiet hiss of the bow-wave can quickly turn bandit on us and, when the mask slips you will see the face of a killer. A killer which has as much compassion as we show to a fly when we casually swot it and life becomes very challenging especially if you get caught by a Tropical Revolving Storm, AKA a cyclone, hurricane, monsoon or typhoon with winds reaching +112mph, depending which bit of sea you are on in the world at the time. For sure it can quite ruin your day so to speak. Every time we leave port we are examined by Father Neptune as thoroughly or as lightly as he sees fit and each year the sea continues to reap the harvest of experienced hands who just got careless....



In my 50 years at sea I have weathered many storms but I thought I would tell you about this one in particular which quite ruined our day

Prior to this storm we had spent a several days alongside in SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA loading deep water underwater telephone cable for the southern US to EUROPE link. Incidentally, quite the most expensive cargo I have ever carried!

We sailed on the Monday evening and steamed slap bang into a cyclone the following morning, Janet's birthday. There was no warning a Tropical Revolving Storm was coming although the weather had been slowly deteriorating through the evening/early morning. Had we known there was a TRS lurking about we could have maybe dodged round it or safer still, stayed alongside. However..... Tuesday morning saw us steaming into a dark gunmetal grey sunrise with spray rattling against the bridge windows like musket balls; the bridge window wipers struggling to keep them clear. As the day progressed we blundered deeper into it like a blind man until it burst over us in the early hours of the morning and for four days we were pounded by wind and waves.

It can be hard to imagine what it was like during those four days and three nights. The well ordered ranks of grey beards caped with cold, white foam marching out of the gloom to hurl themselves against the bow surging across the foc'sl with rank after rank marching in to replace those already spent; the bow lifting, water pouring out of the freeing ports before plunging like a prancing pony into the next wave, the hull flexing and creaking with us wondering if the ship would break up as she flexed. A very real worry with the age of the vessel and in those conditions we would not be able to take to the boats! Fact slap; every week, somewhere in the world, a ship 'disappears' with the loss of all hands due to suspected hull failure or crew negligence.

However, we sailed on through the storm into the 'eye-of-the storm' a calm area in the centre of the storm out the other side at reduced main engine RPM which gave us a few hours respite for in the 'eye' the wind drops away nothing. However, it was not really safe to go out on deck to assess the damage as we were continually swept by high seas but we had to ascertain any damage, especially hull integrity. So out on deck m'boys with a life-jacket and a safety harness clipped to the hand rails. There was no wind although the seas continued to run high washing over us. However it gave us the chance to box-off the accommodation and get something hot to eat. Gradually the weather abated as we steamed out of it .

During the storm we were rolling through 60 degrees and sometimes in excess of that for our clinometers only registered to 30 degrees, and my Engine Room was off the scale at times! In addition I was thrown across the engine room several times it was so bad. A very long couple of nights for us down below. We were rolling so much the main engine fuel filters had to be cleaned every 15 minutes because of years of accumulated sludge in the bunker tanks getting stirred up and blocking the filters. In addition there was water leaking into the auxiliary fuel system through the damaged tank vents which had to be continually drained off. It was very exciting out on deck as well, all hands on deck!



The lower blocks on both our cranes, each 50 ton capacity lift so a hefty piece of kit and, rather quite big..., broke loose and had to be secured, welding gas bottles broke free, 200 litre oil drums burst their lashings and split, spilling oil over the deck turning the deck into a skating rink and the Emergency Generator Room flooded when we were pooped by some very bad seas in quick succession losing all our emergency and essential/safety services as the switchboard tripped, ie. shut down. Our reserve fresh water tank was contaminated with sea water, the vent heads having been ripped off by the seas. A real disaster night and lucky none of us were lost overboard or injured. I got chased round the deck a couple of times by a rogue 200 litre oil drum and was washed off my feet several times while lashing loose gear down on deck and getting covered in battery acid when the emergency genny room flooded. Fortunately it was very diluted with all the sea water! However it did make the old skin tingle a bit and I had quite a few bruises to show for our action packed night.

The accommodation was a disaster area when I came up for a clean boiler suit with the main deck alleyway was awash with sea water which had leaked around the W/T door seals. My cabin was pretty good for I always kept it well secured for ready for sea. Just the papers from my desk and my books went flying. What a way to celebrate Janet's birthday!

However, we were in very serious situation as unbeknown to me; we had sea water in the generator fuel tanks which meant we could not run the aux diesel gen-sets. Earlier in the evening I had thought about changing over from the shaft-gen to the aux gen-sets just in case, but I could not get them to parallel so I couldn't change them over. Despite my best shot something prevented me and I believe it was God in His own inimitable way preparing us for the days ahead as He knew we were going to have water contamination in our generator fuel tanks. The tank vents had been ripped off on deck were later found to be rotten causing the vents to fail allowing sea water to flood the tanks and contaminate the fuel. Mind you they were beautifully painted so you could not see the true condition. One hears about these things happening and I have often wondered how it could happen, but now I know. We were pooped several times in quick succession and the aft freeing ports could not shed the water fast enough so the deck was filled to the height of the bulwark so putting the vents under water and flooding the aux fuel system! The fuel tanks for the main engine work in a different way and we could handle the water ingress. I spent the fourth day running welding cables to the emergency switchboard and get our essential services back up and running. In the evening the weather started to moderate. As we slowly steamed out of the eye of the storm the plant settled down so we could get some sleep, mind you we were still rolling badly and I slept on the deck of the Machinery Control Room in my boiler suit wrapped up in a blanket just in case.....

This is such an exciting and fascinating story that the second half is being saved to be published in the October magazine.



From the bottom of my heart and from my mum, I want to say a big thank you to everyone for your financial and prayer support towards my Lourdes Pilgrimage trip to France.

I had a very wonderful time helping the sweet elderly ladies and gentlemen whom I was privileged to support for the 2025 pilgrimage journey. We were warmly welcomed and well looked after by our leaders and everyone. Even though I was bitten by mosquitoes.

Can't believe that could happen, lol. It was a long journey but full of adventures and experience from England to France on the coach and on the boat

I thank God for taking me there and bringing me and the other volunteers back safely to England today at around 11 am. Once again, thank you all, and God bless you.

Jason Oyekunle

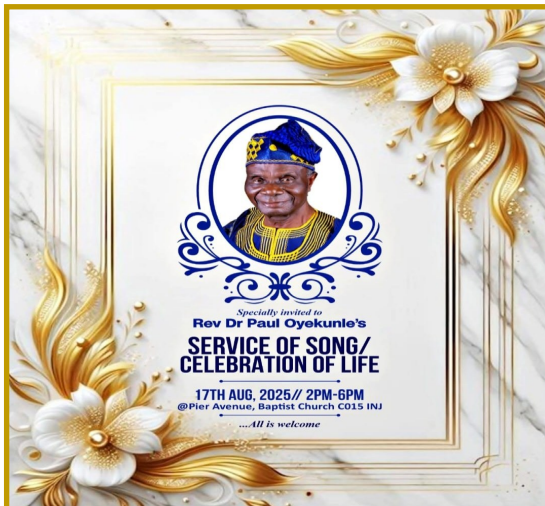


Afro-Caribbean Group



This year, African Families in the UK celebrated their 10 years of community engagement and impacting lives and bridging the gap in the Colchester and Tendring area. It was a great celebration and giving of awards to other organisations that have worked with us to make our work a success in the community. The occasion was graced by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, who cut the celebration cake made by Victoria.

Afro-Caribbean Drop-in group volunteers were also recognised for their amazing work in Clacton through their engagement with the community at Pier Avenue Baptist Church for the past 2 years. This coming October, we will be celebrating the Black History Month. Please stay tuned for further announcements.



AITHAN'S DEDICATION

On a beautiful and spirit-filled Sunday, our church family came together to witness a truly special moment—the dedication of little Aithan. It was a day filled with love, faith, and the presence of God, as the entire congregation joined in celebrating the life and future of this precious child.

The dedication service was presided over with grace and wisdom by Michelle, whose heartfelt words reminded us all of the importance of raising children in the knowledge and love of God. Her leadership set a tone of reverence and joy, helping us all reflect on the blessing that children bring into our lives.

Adding to the day's beauty, Alvin and Precious shared a touching poem that moved many to tears. Their words echoed the hopes and prayers we hold for Aithan—that he would grow to walk in God's purpose, shielded by love and guided by grace. Their performance reminded us of the power of spoken word to uplift and inspire.

As Aithan was taken around the church—an act symbolizing his introduction and welcome into the faith community—Joy had a special musical request. The stirring worship song "Goodness of God" by CeCe Winans filled the sanctuary, its powerful lyrics and melody bringing an atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving. It was a sacred moment as the congregation joined in worship, covering Aithan's journey with prayer and blessing.

The day was more than a ceremony—it was a testimony of God's faithfulness, a reminder of our shared responsibility as a church family, and a joyful celebration of new beginnings.

We give thanks for Aithan's life, for the family and friends who surround him, and for a church community that will walk beside him as he grows. May God's goodness continue to shine over his path, all the days of his life—work



CHURCH EVENTS

During August Sunday School has a break. There will be activities for the children to do, during the services.

August 11th - 15th - GB away at Camp

Sunday 17th August, 2.00 p.m.

Celebration of life of Victoria's father - all are invited

Tuesday 19th August 11.00 a.m. Funeral of Brian Clough at PABC

14th September 3.00 p.m. Church members meeting

21st September will be Harvest Festival Parade service and Harvest Lunch

Advance notice for October 12th International Sunday

At the church meeting on Sunday 20 July Brennda Kelly was welcomed into church membership and Pauline Bailey became a church Elder

**Hiring the halls at PABC
for anyone within the
congregation will now
be £10 per hour.**

**Please speak to Ian D
or Karen for further
details, or email:**

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magazine@pabc.org.uk. Information to be included in the October issue will
be appreciated as soon as possible please