



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

FAMILY MAGAZINE

2025 DECEMBER

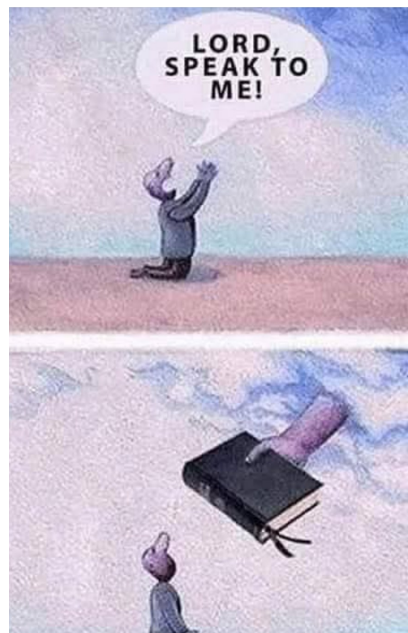
o
come
ALL YE
FAITHFUL
joyful & triumphant
o COME YE, o COME YE
TO BETHLEHEM
COME & BEHOLD HIM
BORN THE KING OF ANGELS
o come
LET US
adore Him



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

**'BEFORE THE SERVICE, SPEAK TO GOD
DURING THE SERVICE, LET GOD SPEAK TO YOU
AFTER THE SERVICE, SPEAK TO EACH OTHER'**

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.





Advent: Watching and Waiting

Do you ever feel like you're waiting for something? For a bus? For your children to be ready? For a doctor's appointment? For an end to trouble? For the world to be put right?

In the Hebrew Bible, what Christians call The Old Testament, we often read about watchmen. These were people who were given the job of looking out, from a high vantage point, over the city all night, making sure all was well, that no enemies were attacking. They had a long shift of watching and waiting until the morning...

Advent is a time of waiting, leading up to our celebration of Christmas. It's a time of anticipation. In our society, it is often a time when children munch through chocolates in advent calendars, in anticipation of big presents on Christmas Day... Sadly, it may also be a time when parents and others anticipate debt, as they struggle with the extra financial burden of buying presents, or the anticipation of dieting after they've over-indulged in festive food ...

For followers of Jesus, however, it should be a time when we anticipate the coming of Jesus. Our love for Jesus should make us feel like the writer of Psalm 130, who sings:

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,

Jesus, who the Hebrew people had been waiting for hundreds of years, was finally born as a baby and this is what we celebrate at Christmas. In Jesus, God took on human flesh and lived amongst ordinary people, experiencing all the struggles of human life.

He is called 'Immanuel', which means 'God with us' (Matthew 1:23). The momentous change that Jesus' birth brought about was that the all-powerful God, who had previously been so unapproachable that his people feared they would die if they got too close was now born from, held and fed by his human mother. As an adult, his human body would experience excruciating pain before he died on the cross. Christian believers know that Jesus was born to die; but, also, that his resurrection would make a way for the redemption of the world.

Over two thousand years later, we are still waiting for that redemption: for Jesus to return and put the world right: to end war, pain and suffering..

Yet, Jesus' birth was the start of the redemption process. One passage that we often refer to during Advent is Isaiah, Chapter 52. Around seven hundred years before Jesus' birth, the prophet anticipates his coming:

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

Listen! Your watchman lift up their voices,
Together they shout for joy [...]

[...] all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

The watchmen are looking out. It's been an incredibly long night. But now the messengers are entering the city to bring the best news: a saviour will be born amongst his people! God is in control and on his throne!

So, however you spend the Advent season – whether you mark the days by eating chocolates, buying gifts, lighting candles, hearing familiar Bible passages or something else – let us look out across our town, across our country, across our world and not give up hope. Let us wait, in joyful anticipation. God is not far away, but close to each of us. The King of Kings is on his way... Redemption has begun ...

Michelle

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON

Dear Father, we thank you for your love and mercy towards us, we thank you for life, for protection and grace over us, as a church we thank you for your presence, thank you for adding to your church, thank you for the word of truth that is made available to us daily.

Father, we approach your throne of mercy for our brothers and sisters at this season of remembering the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, in places where it is dangerous to be a Christian, we remember those in prison, those who have lost loved ones - husband, wife, children, Lord, according to your word in Isaiah 41 verse 10“fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” We pray that these words will be real for their hearts, they will celebrate in safety and secured in you.

We pray for the United Kingdom, that Lord, you will defend the honour of your name, the United Kingdom church will receive fresh fire of the Holy Spirit, we pray spirit of boldness be released on your church, as on the day of Pentecost. We decree and demolish every demonic agenda over United Kingdom, Father let your kingdom come in the UK, let the banner of your name fly high in the United Kingdom.

Our youth, Lord, grant them the desire to stir up the gift of God upon their lives, to arise and be counted for you, we pray for wisdom to disciple them. Bless this season and be the centre at this season in our churches and in our homes. Amen

Bisi Tubi

'IN AND OUT'

A mischievous boy was asked by his mother, "How do you expect to get into heaven?". He thought for a moment and said, "'Well, I shall just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, 'For goodness sake come in or stay out', and then I'll go in".

Christian Crackers by Phil Mason

FARMER'S PRAYER

The pastor asked the farmer man, who was decked out in well-worn bib overalls, to say grace for the meal.

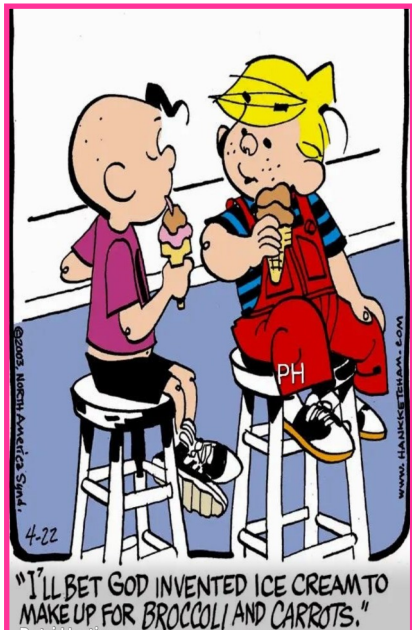
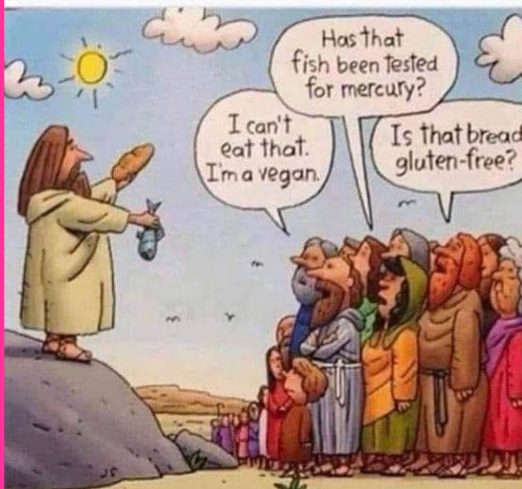
"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer, wondering where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard!" Now, the minister was growing a bit concerned.

After another few seconds, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour." The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable. The pastor was mentally preparing to interject a few words to steer the prayer back on track.

Then the farmer quickly added, "But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake them, you get fluffy, delicious biscuits. I do love me some warm, fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing the ingredients and putting us through the hot oven of life. It will probably be even BETTER than biscuits! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If Jesus tried to feed the 5000 today... 😊





2025 International Sunday Service

Wow! Wow! What an amazing time to reflect the spirit of global fellowship and highlight the beauty of diversity within the body of Christ.

This year, the international Sunday service recorded an impressive turnout, proudly showcasing their national attire and cultural expressions, enriching the experience with colour and authenticity to glorify God's richness in the world

The service began with music from online where the name of the Lord is being praised in different languages and Pier Avenue Baptist Church members recorded a welcoming video to welcome us into the church in their native language, procession of flags representing the nations in attendance, symbolizing global unity. Members reading their write-up in their mother language, followed by intercessory prayers for nations.

Praise and Worship: A dynamic multicultural worship session featured songs in multiple languages, engaging all participants.

Word Ministration: Rev Michelle delivered an inspiring message emphasizing the importance of love, unity, and the Great Commission.

Participants expressed appreciation for the inclusiveness and organization of the service.

Special thanks go to the organizing team, technical team, music team, and everyone who took their time to prepare one food or the other from their national food for us to fellowship together.

The International Sunday Service was a powerful demonstration of faith beyond borders. It reinforced our church mission of spreading the gospel across nations and building a global community of believers united in Christ. Please let us make next year another remarkable one. Thank you all once again for all your contributions to make 2025 international Sunday service a great success.

THE BIRD'S STORY

There was a bird who lived in a desert, very sick, no feathers, nothing to eat and drink, no shelter to live in. One day a dove was passing by, so the sick unhappy bird stopped the dove and inquired "where are you going?" it replied " I am going to heaven".

So the sick bird said "please find out for me, when my suffering will come to an end?" The dove said, "sure, I will." and bid a good bye to the sick bird. The dove reached heaven and shared the message of the sick bird with the angel in charge at the entrance gate.

The angel said, "For the next seven years of its life the bird has to suffer like this, no happiness till then."

The dove said, "When the sick bird hears this he will get disheartened. could you suggest any solution for this."

The Angel replied, "Tell him to recite this verse "Thank you God for everything." The dove on meeting the sick bird again, delivered the message of the angel to it .

After seven days the dove was passing again passing by and saw that bird was very happy, feathers grew on his body, a small plant grew up in the desert area, a small pond of water was also there, the bird was singing and dancing cheerfully. The dove was astonished. The Angel had said that there would be no happiness for the bird for the next seven years. With this question in mind the dove went to visit the angel at heaven's gate.

The dove put forth his query to the Angel. The Angel replied, "yes it is true there was no happiness for the bird for seven years but because the bird was reciting the verse "THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING" in every situation, his life changed.

When the bird fell down on the hot sand it said "THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING"

When it could not fly it said, "THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING"

When it was thirsty and there was no water around, it said, "THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING"

Whatever the situation, the bird kept on repeating, "THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING" and therefore the seven years got dissolved in seven days.

When I heard this story, I felt a tremendous shift in my way of feeling, thinking, accepting and viewing life.

I adopted this verse in my life. WHATEVER the situation I faced I started reciting this verse "THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING". It helped me to shift my view from what i did not have to what i have in my life.

For instance; if my head pains I THANK GOD that the rest of my body is completely fine and healthy and I notice that the headache does not bother me at all.

In the same manner i started using this verse in my relationships (whether family, friends, neighbours, colleagues) finances, social life, business and everything with which I can relate. I shared this story with everyone I came in touch with and it brought a great shift in their behaviour too.

This simple verse really had a deep impact on my life, i started feeling how blessed I am, how happy I am, how good life is.

The purpose of sharing this message is to make all of us aware of how powerful the attitude of gratitude is. It can reshape our lives..Wishing you a day full of gratitude despite the surroundings and circumstances God has your back and it shall be well!

Rev Pauline Bailey -

a fascinating story

I was born in Blackpool at the end of the war. My mother died when I was just 3 though I didn't know this until I was a midwife (aged 22) in the place I was born and we midwives on night duty looked up our records. Sounds odd but there was a step mother around who I

was told was my mother. People did very odd things in my day. Though I had a congenital heart defect I never let it beat me. I liked sports and got around it by doing short burst games. Javelin, discus, long jump and was actually In the net-ball team. It has always been my view that if you want to achieve something never say never. I believe God has used me 'where angels fear to tread' because of this. Never give up.

I never really liked school (though once I left I never stopped studying) - maybe because we moved to Blackburn when I was 10 as dad was a baker and he bought a shop near the mills. Sadly a year later the mills closed and he lost his trade and went bankrupt. We returned to Blackpool, (new school again) which was where my spiritual journey began, aged 12 . Friends of my parents invited me to join them at church with their two children. I became a Christian Age 14 when the 'Sunday school' were talking about having two birthdays. Who wouldn't want two birthdays? I accepted Christ that day.

It was a gospel hall and didn't know anything about the Christian differences - Brethren and other denominations, until I was Baptised at 18 and became involved in a Christian youth group, and was already training as a nurse at Blackpool Victoria. I began as a

cadet and progressed to train for SRN. I worked in theatre for a year when I qualified then applied to train as a midwife SCM at the Withington Maternity hospital in Manchester and continued to attend the Gospel Hall each weekend when I went home.

I went to conferences (would attend during the day and go on night duty that same night. I was part of a Christian choir (don't laugh) and we even sang IN WALES. We ran a gospel outreach in Blackpool (Age 20/21) called The Net.



We did up an old warehouse near the seafront with a fisherman theme with nets hanging from the ceiling and a centre stage. It ran for the summer - I think 3 sessions of an hour long each night. giving 40mins of music, a gospel message of 10mins followed by a break for those who responded to an alter call. I was involved with the mentoring. It was exciting times. It was in the style of the Billy Graham campaigns being run all over the country at the time. This was where I met my husband to be as he was converted on the eve of my 21st birthday.

Following completion of midwifery training I worked nights in the Maternity Hospital (where I was born) in Blackpool. Got married and was accepted for a job with a house, as a District Nurse/midwife in NDN Buckinghamshire - Chalfont St Giles then Flackwell Heath, before moving to Epping. This is when I continued my spiritual journey in the Baptist church at Theydon Bois. I was 14yrs in Epping and had my daughter when I was 30. We left the tied house and bought our own in 1976, semi detached in Epping for £14,500.

I continued work as a Community sister until I applied for a nursing job as a Liaison officer between the hospital and community in Redbridge. It was a new post that was created so very interesting to be the forerunner. During this time I studied for a Diploma in Management studies and applied for a new job. I was accepted as an assistant director of district nursing in Tower Hamlets.

A year later I was approached to manage a Jewish residential home in Loughton to get it back on track as it was threatened with closure. I accepted this as I intended moving back up North following a divorce. Also the drive from Epping to Tower Hamlets in the rush hour was stressful.

I moved to Fulwood in Lancashire in 1988 after 25yrs in the NHS. I had no idea what I would do for the future at this time. On my arrival the vicar from the local Anglican church paid me a visit so I decided to 'give the Anglican church' a go. It turned out to be a charismatic Anglian Church which was very exciting. Martin gave training in the works of the Spirit and we had the Acorn Trust provide a course in 'active listening' This was really helpful for lay Christians to learn these skills.



I remarried and really developed spiritually. The minister was a great advocate for enabling people to develop their potential and support them in seeking God's will for their lives. Something I had not done for a long time as I had felt ok in what I had been doing up to that point, but I became aware that there must be a plan as I was only in my 40s.

Not to be idle, while I waited on God, over the next year I studied C&G teaching course and one for special needs at the local college, though I didn't know what I would do with this at the time. I became involved in the life of St Cuthbert's Church. Was on the PCC and part of the popular prayer cells at the time. This was the catalyst to launch me into the unknown territory of ministry training and eventually working in prison.

PART TWO will follow to share how God can turn your life around and upside down when you let Him have His way.

Dedication Letter – Emilia



Today is a day of gratitude. Before God and the church, we will dedicate our daughter Emilia, recognising that she is a gift from the Lord to us.

We thank God for her life, for every little detail that reveals the Father's care and love.

We pray that Emilia grows up knowing Jesus, loving His Word, and always walking in the light of His love.

As parents, we promise to guide you with faith and teach you the ways of the Lord, so that your life may always be a reflection of God's grace.

May the Lord bless you and keep you all the days of your life.

Daddy Dean and Mommy Kesia

16 de November 2025

Doctor: "You should exercise daily."

Me: "First of all, I walk with the Lord every day!"



My favorite book is this really old one where the author falls so deeply in love with the reader that He dies for them.



Did you know.....?

Mince pies were originally made with minced meat - rabbit, pork, game etc. mixed with spices and fruit. They are thought to have originated as early as the 1200's.

The first reported 'Christmas tree' was in Germany 1539 where it was recorded that Lutheran protestants placed a tree in the Cathedral of Strasbourg.

The Tudors ate a Christmas Pie, made of a pigeon, placed inside a partridge, inside a chicken, inside a goose, inside a turkey, inside a pastry case called a coffin, served with hare and other game birds on the side. Christmas crackers were invented by Thomas Smith in 1846. In 1860 he created the bang! Hats were added in the early 1900's and jokes in the 1930's.

Boxing Day tradition is accepted that the servants of rich families could visit their own families on the day after Christmas, the employers would give each servant a box of gifts, money and food to take to their families.

The Advent calendar, which provides 24 openings, one to be opened each day beginning December 1. The calendar is said to have been created in the 19th century by a Munich housewife who tired of having to repeat when Christmas would come.

A Yule Log was usually a large log, that was big enough to burn throughout the Christmas celebration.

The popular American myth of Santa Claus arrived in England in the 1850s and Father Christmas started to take on Santa Claus's attributes. By the 1880s the new customs had become established, with the nocturnal visitor sometimes being known as Santa Claus and sometimes as Father Christmas.

Christmas songs as we know them were thought to have come from Franciscan monks in the 14th century. The oldest popular carol is thought to be the hymn O come all ye Faithful whose lyrics and music are both known to be of the 18th Century

The next town centre event will be Churches Together in Clacton Carol Singing on 13th December at 2pm. All are invited to join in
This is held on Christmas Tree Island (opposite Lloyds Bank)

A message from our Treasurer



**Raise free funds for charity with
your Christmas shopping online**

**BEFORE YOU DO YOUR ONLINE
SHOPPING STOP and THINK**

'GIVE AS YOU LIVE' ONLINE!

**Hundreds of UK retailers allow
charities to raise funds by simply
linking through this site before you
do your online shopping, and
PABC is registered so
YOU CAN DEFINITELY HELP US!**



Simply go to: <https://www.giveasyoulive.com>

Join up – it's totally free – and select your
chosen charity as 'Pier Avenue Baptist Church'

Remember: always go to the
'Give as you Live' website, login & then link
from there to shop at your chosen retailer

"YOURS FAITHFULLY—To be taken with a 'pinch of salt'

To: Jesus, son of Joseph, Carpenter's Shop, Nazareth.

From: Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem

It is our opinion that the twelve men you have picked to manage your organisation lack the background, educational and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have a team concept.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale.

We feel it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus and Thaddeus have radical leanings and both registered high on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, has a keen business mind and contacts in high places. He is highly motivated and ambitious. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right -hand man.

We wish you every success in your new venture."

Shining Jesus' Light into Clacton on a dark night of the year:

Churches Together in Clacton Light Event

Every year on the 31st October, around the UK, many people dress up as witches, wizards, ghouls or even axe murderers to celebrate Hallowe'en. From pre-Christian origins of people wishing to ward off evil spirits, Hallowe'en in our society has now become a time when people think its fun to dress up in a scary costume and demand sweets from people. Some branches of the Christian church mark All Saints' Day on 1st November and All Souls' Day on 2nd November, as a time to remember and pay respects to those who have passed away. All Christians should take spiritual warfare seriously and many churches therefore want to offer an alternative to this secular, unintentional celebration of dark spirits, rather than condemning people who don't yet know Jesus.

Earlier in the year, I'd been wondering about our church putting on some kind of event as an alternative to Hallowe'en. Around the time, Love Essex, got in touch. Love Essex are part of Transforming Essex, a Christian charity who work to improve our county's reputation and spread the love of Jesus. They were happy to support us with an event. I went on to raise this with Churches Together in Clacton. A few planning meetings later, we were ready to stage our first Light Event! Representatives from Our Lady of Light, St James', Christ Church, The Salvation Army, Elim and Trinity Methodist were involved in some way, as well as us at Pier Avenue. We held a prayer walk on the Friday prior to the event, when around twenty of us walked around the town centre, stopping to pray at different points, for different aspects.

I'm delighted to say that all the goody bags went out and we were able to pray with some passers-by. Best of all, we were a positive presence on the evening, demonstrating that Jesus is the Light of the World and the darkness cannot extinguish it!

At around 3pm on 31st October, we arrived at the car park of Trinity Methodist Church. Two gazebos were set up, with children's activities on each table. We had prepared goody bags with the theme of Jesus the Light of the World. These contained a leaflet about exploring faith and contact details for the local churches, as well as sweets and toys. For the same theme, we had collected many empty glass jars to put battery-operated tea lights in and to be decorated on the outside. At around 4pm, our event started. Small teams went out into the town centre to hand out the goody bags to passing families. Others stayed in the car park and invited families to engage with the activities. Another group stayed at the PABC building to pray and provide hot drinks for the volunteers.

Christmas.

'tis Christmastime again, and, for many, just another date,
for this current aimless quest and mad aspiration of greed,
gluttonous appetites fulfilled, voluminous thirsts solely to sate.
The true meaning of this event to extol God's Heavenly deed,
of His son, born in a stable-saving mankind was his daily quest,
this Holy festive time is an opportunity for 'targets to meet',
a time for debauchery and self gratification at their behest,
and for last years financial efforts to surpass and beat-
selling 'tacky' goods and things not even remotely connected.
Two thousand years gone by, insignificant is the 'meaning real',
smug consciences, briefly to be calmed and feelings resurrected,
but for others, thankfully, the message will again yearly re-seal
their faith, in this eternal birthday that scriptures foretold
of this 'King of Kings' who came down and earthly trials endured
in wondrous stories written and predictions in testaments old,
to keep the true meaning, celebrating the birthday of our Lord.

(I do fully realise that, for some, this is a time when families can
come-together, if not physically, then linked by other media, in a
none religious format, and also for Pagans, this was a period when
the winter equinox was celebrated. Other religions do not even
observe this time which is an important event in the Christian cal-
endar.

Any negative feeling is only directed at those who use this solely
as an excuse to justify excesses.)

Jennifer Kersey-November 2007.



THE PASTOR'S TEETH

A pastor went to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after getting his teeth, he preached for only eight minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 10 minutes. But the following Sunday, he preached nonstop for nearly three hours... until the congregation realized he couldn't quit, and finally helped him sit down. Concerned for his health, they asked, "Are you Okay? What happened?"

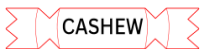
The pastor explained, "Well, the first Sunday with my new teeth, my gums were so sore I couldn't preach longer than 8 minutes. The second Sunday, I felt I could go a little longer to 10 minutes. But, today, I mistakenly put my wife's teeth in, and discovered I couldn't shut up."

Worry, worry, worry

Why worry, worry, worry night and day
When all you have to do is kneel and pray?
Why worry when the power of prayer is yours
To move the mountains and to open doors.
'Knock', said the Master, 'ask and you'll receive'.
His words are clear and plain, but few believe.
The faith is lacking and we are afraid
Of trying out the promises He made.
We strain and struggle, growing tired and old,
The hand that's offered we refuse to hold ...
We go on worrying our lives away
Instead of learning how to try and pray. *Anon*

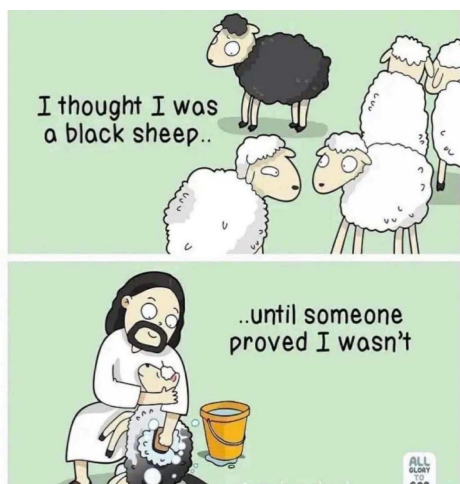
*For surviving the days I thought
I couldn't, I just want to say
thank you LORD. I know,
it was because of YOU ❤️*



DONKEY  DONKEY	HODRIVEME XMAS XMAS XMAS XMAS	S 	EMINEM 
1	2	3	4
	SENFRANKSE	 Sn	FIR HERE HERE HERE
5	6	7	8
 Hurrah 	+ OUTLET		NOE
9	10	11	12
Grrrr + 2.54cms	<i>Jingle</i> → ← <i>Jingle</i> <i>Jingle</i> → END	HORROR Dec 24th	 JACK
13	14	15	16
 CASHEW	EVE EVE EVE HOLLY HOLLY → CAROL	CARIBBEAN OFFSPRING HEY HI HELLO	CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS → CHRISTMAS
17	18	19	20

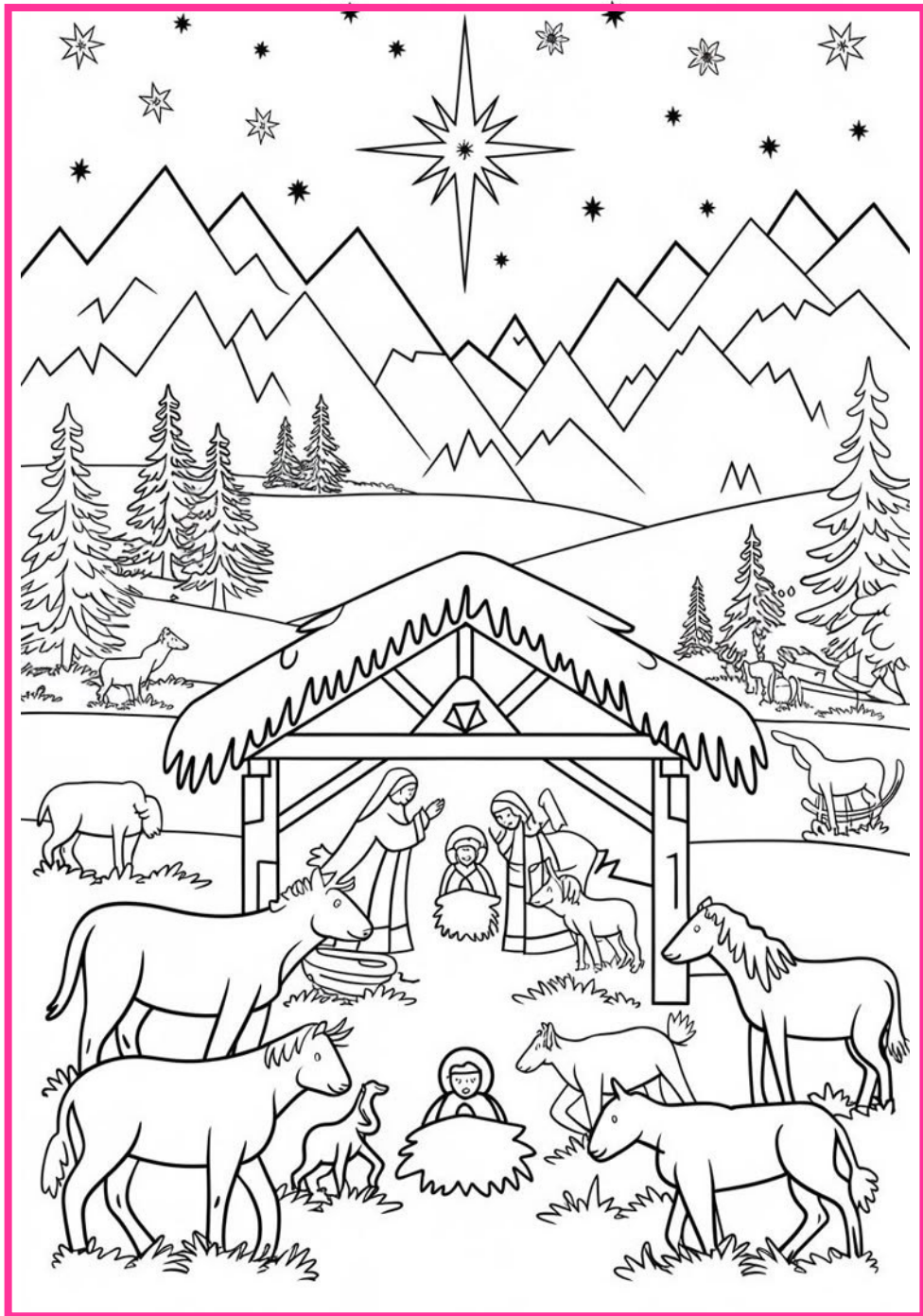
The Birth of JESUS

Hidden
Object



I got friends in high
places! The
FATHER, the **SON**,
and the **HOLY**
SPIRIT!

A PICTURE TO COLOUR IN

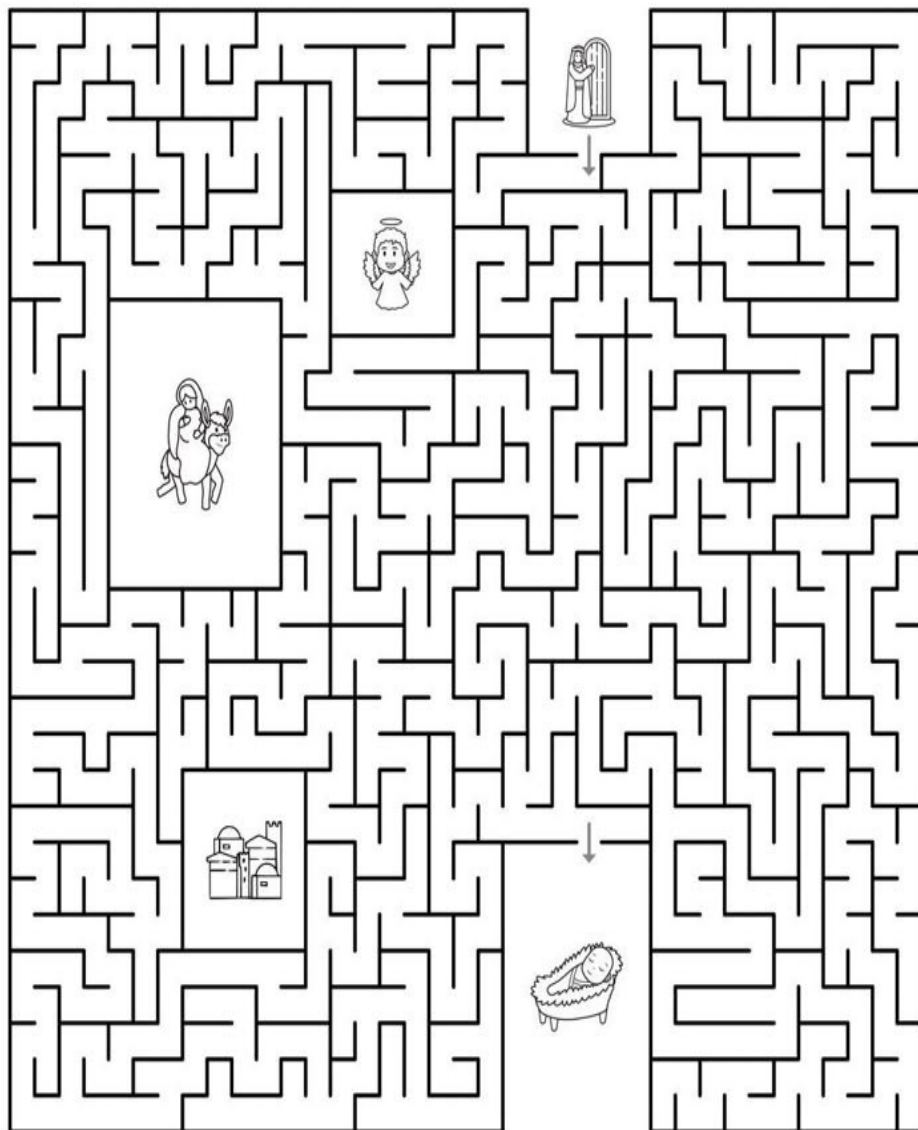




NATIVITY MAZE



FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE



Becky's Hospital Hero Hike



On Saturday 4th October I completed the Hospital Hero Hike for Colchester & Ipswich Hospitals Charity. It was a 21 mile hike which took us from Colchester to Ipswich Hospital. I have worked for the NHS for 8 years, which is a popular place to work for my family. My sister also works at Colchester Hospital and so did my Dad for many years. As well as working here, the Hospital has also provided great care for us as a family over the years. Between us we have had numerous treatments and

support which I am very grateful for. There is often a lot of negative press given to the NHS but I honestly cannot fault it and think we are very lucky to have it. I therefore thought it was time to give something back so I decided to take on the challenge.

The walk started at 9am from Colchester Hospital. We then headed through Ardleigh, Dedham, along the river Stour and up the biggest hill I think I've encountered. We then went through East Bergholt, Bentley, Thorington Hall and then into Ipswich. We then finally finished our route at Ipswich Hospital just before 6pm. It was a challenge towards the end of the walk and our pace definitely got slower as we went on. I am pleased to say I completed it but will look for a different challenge next year.

The charity supports East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust. They help take care of patients and staff at local

hospitals and healthcare centres, providing extras that go above and beyond

what the NHS can provide. Money raised goes towards providing tea and coffee in waiting rooms for patients receiving chemotherapy, providing slippers that keep patients safe from falls, provide hospitals with life saving equipment and cutting edge technology that can transform healthcare.



There are many projects that the charity support including:

Butterfly Appeal – This service helps make sure that no one dies alone. Volunteers will sit quietly by patients bedside in the last days and hours of life. Money raised goes towards funding coordinator roles and providing training to volunteers.

Cancer Wellbeing Fund – This helps keep the Cancer Wellbeing Centres running. It is a space to sit, talk or listen and supports those diagnosed with cancer, undergoing treatment or living beyond cancer.

Staff Wellbeing Fund – This was launched at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Money raised has been used to create calming rest spaces, support mental health first aid training and support families of NHS staff who have lost loved ones.

I managed to raise £600 thanks to your generous donations and the charity as a whole raised £20,500 from the event. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that donated and the money is really going to help make a difference to both patients and staff across the North Essex and East Suffolk.



A few years ago I was asked to speak at a church that I had not been to before. Upon arrival I was met by the President of the Church Board, and he proceeded to take me to a room where I met with the rest of the Board. After introductions, they laid hands on me and prayed that I would share God's Word and that the Spirit would move in the service.

After prayer, the President was telling a story about their pastor. It seemed that he would speak for a long time, so they laid a mint on the pulpit every week. When the mint was dissolved, the pastor would end his message.

When it came time for me to share the Gospel, I walked up to the pulpit and there was a white, round tablet on it. Thinking that they wanted me to keep the message short, much like their pastor.

I popped that white, round tablet in my mouth, thinking to myself that when it was gone, I would say the final prayer.

Time when on as I shared – 20 minutes, 25 minutes, 30 minutes – wondering why the mint had not melted. So, I finished and had the final prayer.

After prayer I took out that white, round tablet and that is when I realized it was a button!

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Since returning at the beginning of September, we have welcomed a few new members although a couple of girls decided not to come back to us.

As we began our autumn term of activities, several girls moved into different sections of the Company, having reached the required ages. Each group has completed the first of their 4 annual badges. Explorers took 'Our Pets' while the Juniors considered 'Stewardship', the Senior girls looked at 'Healthy Living' and our Brigadiers studied 'Climate and Environmental Justice'. The requirement is to complete a minimum of 4 weeks to gain a badge in the given subject.



Girls' Brigade Nationally recently received a grant from a Uniformed Grant Fund to support growth for groups in marginalised areas (for which we are eligible), from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. We were given £60 to go towards organizing a 'Bring a Friend Evening' together with a few items of games equipment. We decided to hold this as a Light Party event on 4th November which fell between Halloween (which we do not celebrate) and Bonfire night. Before half term the girls made an invitation to give to a friend/s which proved very successful as we had an extra 20 attend this event. We had a variety of craft activities including decorating a jam jar in which a tea light was placed. Outside a fire pit was stoked and lit, for all to toast marshmallows to make smores. This was followed with



sparklers to enjoy holding. To conclude the evening, we all sat round the parachute under which had been placed some fairy lights. The tea lights in the jars were lit while we sang - Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining and Shine Jesus Shine (accompanied by Karen and Tony on guitar). A very hectic but successful evening as we saw the children and young people enjoying themselves and above all hearing about Jesus.

Each child/young person was given a party bag to take home. It was encouraging that several parents stayed enabling us to explain to them about Girls Brigade. We are hoping that some of those in attendance will want to join us on a regular basis.

As we head towards Christmas, please pray that all the preparations go well, to include decorating our tree for the church Christmas Tree Festival, our Carol/Nativity service and Christmas Parties. May this be a time to bring the Christmas message to the girls, their families and friends.

We would warmly invite you to our Christmas Quiz Night on 6th December at 6.30pm and the Carol Service on 9th December also starting at 6.30pm.

On behalf of everyone at Girls' Brigade, I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. May you feel God's love surrounding you at this special time.



Communications Sub Group

This sub group has had one meeting since the last edition of the magazine and as always it proved to be interesting, informative and surprisingly actually fun and enjoyable.

On our last session one of the team members who has current mobility issues was able to join in using FaceTime on their phone and it worked surprisingly well so you don't need to be able to attend in person to join in.

The Comms Sub Group covers our Web updating and developments, Streaming of services using YouTube and managing our Streaming Channel, projection of the slides and songs at the weekly church services and other special events, our Facebook and other Social Media platforms that we use, sound and the related PA systems supporting the services and audio into our streaming, this magazine and other publicity areas like our front of church posters and billboards.

We also cover IT and the church needs from Broadband and WiFi, church computers and the programs that run on them.

Recent changes in what Microsoft are offering free to charities has lost us the Business Office 365 main programmes with access now only to Web versions of the main programs. We still retain our OneDrive file storage facilities and lots of other useful add-ons so we are grateful for these remaining free for us to use.

We have purchased a 2021 version of the Office products for the church notebook and this enables us to keep a copy of Publisher as Microsoft are retiring this product in September 2026 and we use this for the church magazine and other documents production and want to continue to do that.

Last year we hosted as part of our church Web an Advent calendar with lots of interesting little surprises by way of funny cartoons and videos but the early publicity was not as good as it should have been so not many actually 'tuned' in.

The link below will take you to the calendar and it will launch on 1st December with a new 'door' available each day and no sneaky peaks at later doors—do try it out and share it with your friends and family.

<https://advent.pabc.org.uk/>

PABC Advent Calendar

Next available in December 2025

TINY TREASURES PARENT/CARER BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We started this half term by making firework pictures to remember 5th November and poppy wreaths to mark Remembrance. We are now making preparations for Christmas and will be busy making tree decorations for the toddlers' tree for the Tree Festival which starts on 29th November.



To help the children know the true meaning of Christmas we plan to do a nativity picture one week. We will end the term with our Christmas Party when I feel sure there will be a special guest who will give each child a present.

Sylvia Burns

THE HOG FARMER'S TALE

A certain hog farmer refused to have anything to do with the church because all he ever saw was a bunch of hypocrites who belonged to it. One day the preacher of the church came to buy a hog from him. After looking over the farmer's entire swine herd, the preacher pointed to a scrawny, sickly, little runt and said, "I want that one."

The farmer protested vigorously, "Why, Preacher, you don't want that one. He's the scrawniest runt I ever saw. Look, here are some fine hogs over here."

"That's all right," said the preacher, "I want that one."

After the purchase was completed, the preacher said, "Now I am going to haul this pig all over the country and tell everyone that this is the kind of hogs you raise!"

"Hey, Preacher, that's not fair," the farmer protested. "I raise fine hogs. An occasional runt doesn't represent my whole stock. The preacher replied, "I am only following your example of condemning a whole church because of the actions of a few of its members,". The farmer got the point!~~~~~

Remember, flawed humans make up the church, not perfect saints. That comes later. If all were perfect, there'd be no need for the Church, the Bible, etc. I know we're supposed to be salt and light, some haven't cured enough and some haven't gotten "lit" yet.

Zoom Boys Club



We are now in the last half term of the year at Zoom Boys Club and in January we will be making the first anniversary of the clubs start.

We continuing to engage with the boys at all levels for a focus on encouraging them in new activities and trying out things for a first time.

Our programme is varied with some faith content each week and very often our whole programme linked to a theme rooted in Bible teaching.

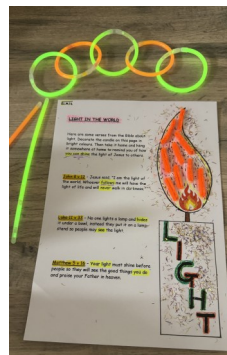
We are happy to have help from any source for crafting or other skills and activities that you think might engage with the boys, speak to a leader if you can help.



We have noticed an increasing acceptance of getting on with activities and completing challenges given, all part of preparation of life.

We are in the run up to Christmas and contributing to the church Christmas Tree Festival which I'm sure will feature in the next edition of the magazine.

Please pray regularly for our group—it helps a lot.



Enfold

We have seen some really good news recently with a couple of our guests moving off the streets and into their own accommodation. We see less of them now but we are so pleased to see them move forward. It is an absolute honour to serve alongside the team every week and our guests really appreciate the team. At Enfold 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 Mark before moving onto Advent 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.

It has in some ways been difficult at Enfold recently as we have seen an increase in the number of people rough sleeping and other agencies in the town such as the Salvation Army and also the police also expressed this was the case at a recent community meeting. It is hard to see this and to see the struggle of some of our guests. However, the generosity of the church in responding to Ian's call regarding homelessness at a recent service has been good to see and thank you to all those who have recently donated warm clothes for our guests. Any socks, gloves or hats (especially men's) would be useful. We have also seen an increase in the number of people wanting to use the showers.

The DWP has recently been joining us weekly and it has been really successful with people managing to get help not only with benefits but also referrals to a foodbank. One of our guests has been extremely vulnerable and has had a successful move on as a result of them being able to meet on a Thursday. The team has grown over the past month with Lorraine and Jean joining us and they have settled in well also must just say how wonderful the team is and they all go that extra mile for our guests.

Sadly, there is still a need for Enfold and I really pray that there comes a time when there is no homeless in the world and everyone can have somewhere safe and secure that they can call home. In the meantime Enfold will always be here to 'love people to Jesus'.

Can you Consider Giving Some Time to Your Church not just for Christmas but All Year Long



Communion Support

Learn to set up the Communion table or wash elements after service. Only required every few months – a meaningful way to serve.

Treasurer Skills

If you have knowledge or are willing to learn aspects of this vital financial work, please pray about this important role.

Enfold Project

Thursday mornings
8:30/9am–11:00am. Extra help needed especially during school holidays. Come along initially to see what we do.

Saturday Coffee Morning

Once a month hospitality

Sunday Morning Coffee

After-service fellowship

Our Church Website has details of these and other opportunities to serve. It's not that difficult to find tasks that would benefit from your support. Just have a think about what events are taking place, on Sundays and throughout the week.

Please enquire 'Is there somewhere I can help?'

The QR code here will take you to the Web page and let us know by emailing info@pabc.org.uk



Parish Nurse Vacancy (Part Time)

Hours per week: 16, but open to discussion

Salary: £18.00 per hour, plus expenses

Location: Based at Pier Avenue Baptist Church, Pier Avenue, Clacton-on-sea, Essex, CO15 1NJ

Closing Date: 19th December 2025

Pier Avenue Baptist Church are passionate about supporting our local community and are looking to employ a **NMC Registered Nurse** in a paid position to lead their new Parish Nursing Service. This innovative service is provided in partnership with Parish Nursing Ministries UK and aims to improve and maintain the wholistic health and wellbeing of local people.

The parish nurse role includes:

- General health education
- Personal health screening, health support and referral
- Advocating for individuals and health more widely
- Acting as health navigator and resource
- Providing spiritual care
- Liaising with other local services
- Supporting the wider health, safety and risk management of the church.

Current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is essential and support for revalidation can be provided.

The person will be required to undertake formal role preparation and to offer spiritual care and Christian prayer when requested (it is therefore a Genuine Occupational Requirement for the applicant to be a Christian).

For an application pack or to talk about the post please contact Rev Michelle Eversden-Thomas by emailing pabcministermichelle@outlook.com

Things you never knew about Henry VIII's Christmas – Taken from Dan Snow's History Hit

1. The yule log was the centrepiece of Tudor Christmas.

Henry VIII liked to spend Christmas at Hampton Court, which was adorned with decorations and greenery, such as holly and ivy. But most important was the yule log – a huge hunk of wood that remained lit throughout all 12 days of Christmas.

2. The Tudors had “Captain Christmas”.

He was, of course, a precursor to Father Christmas. While you might assume most of our Christmas traditions have Victorian origins, the Tudor links are strong. For example, singing carols, the mistletoe and some of the food, such as turkey, mince pies, and brussels sprouts, were all enjoyed during the Tudor period.

3. Their celebrations lasted not one, but 12 days.

Whereas British Christmas celebrations focus on the 25th December (with perhaps a few leftovers on Boxing Day) the Tudors' celebrated all 12 days of Christmas with equal revelry. Advent was a time for fasting, so everyone was ready for parties and feasting by the time Christmas came around. They lasted until Epiphany, on 6th of January.

4. Tudor Christmas meals were served in three courses.

But those courses all contained a mix of sweet and savoury dishes, with no rules as to how you mix and match them. These were shared across the banquet table. Here, you were expected to reach for the dishes facing you, and to eat from your side of the serving bowl. Minced pies were made of ground meat (pork, rabbit or game), fruit and spices.

5. Christmas Day was a religious day.

The 25th was not a major feasting time – that was reserved for Epiphany. For the Tudors, Christmas Day was all about going to church or chapel, listening to services, and sharing with those less fortunate at court. They provided excess so that it could be donated to the poor at the gates or given to people from the surrounding areas who dined at the very bottom end of the hall. These were religious acts of charity – albeit performative ones.



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

PABC Wellness Drop In

Drop In – open to all

Our wellness session welcomes everyone looking to make positive health changes in their lives.

First and third Thursday of the month

at 10:00 -11:30

Located at Pier Avenue Baptist Church
117 Pier Avenue

You may pop in for a quick weigh-in or if you're looking for more, we're happy to see you. You're welcome to simply use our scales and be on your way, or feel free to stay a little longer. We offer a comfortable and supportive environment where you can enjoy a chat with us, we're here to lend a listening ear.



Weigh In

Drop in for a weigh in and a chat



Lifestyle Change

Encouraging lifestyle changes



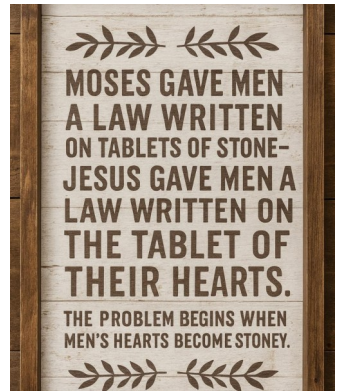
Self-Help

Facilitating you to help yourself



Resources

Signposting to relevant services where necessary



A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?"

A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"



CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

**SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER
10AM TILL 3PM**

FREE ENTRY

**CRAFTS, GIFTS AND FANCY TREATS
MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS**

**PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
117 PIER AVE,
CLACTON-ON-SEA CO15 1NJ**

**CRAFT-
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE**

**CRAFT & CHAT
MEET UP AREA**

**INSIDE AND OUTSIDE STALLS AND DEMONSTRATION SPACES
AVAILABLE TO BOOK MAILTO:3 SHANKLIN@GMAIL.COM**

"COME TO ME, ALL YOU
WHO ARE WEARY
AND I WILL GIVE
YOU REST" DOES
NOT MEAN IT'S
OK TO SLEEP
DURING CHURCH!



1st Clacton Girls' Brigade

Christmas Quiz Night



Saturday 6th Dec 6.30pm

Pier Ave. Baptist Church

(Fellowship Hall)

Tickets - £5.00 per person

Max. 8 people per team

See Girls' Brigade Leaders for Tickets



**Refreshments
will be provided**



Afro-Caribbean



On Wednesday the 29th of October, At AFIUK, Afro-Caribbean drop-in, had the honour of hosting the legendary Lawrence Walker Award and Carcer Awareness/AFIUK @ 10 event. At the Pier Avenue Baptist Church Clacton. Where we celebrate, collaborations and the heroes of our community.

On this day, we were honoured to have the Tendring District Council Councillor, Councillor Bill Davidson, and his wife, Mrs Tracey Davidson, with us.



Our special guest includes Brenda Ellis (Chairwoman of CVSTendring, Lisa Andrews (The Chief Officer of CVSTendring) and Dr (HC), Rachel Walton the Co-Founder of African Families in the UK.



The morning session focused on raising cancer awareness ² and the importance of early diagnosis with health and well-being stall, for community to drop-in and during the evening session, we celebrated AFIUK @ 10.

Victoria and her team want to express their appreciation for those who were able to join us, especially those who visited the health and well-being stall and your support for the vision.





ALL WELCOME

DIVERSITY CHRISTMAS Party

**WED
10TH
DEC
2025**

5PM-9PM

Featuring:
Christmas Music,
Face Painting etc

Pier Avenue, Baptist Church, Co15 1NJ



CVST
BRINGING UNITY TO OUR COMMUNITY
Charitable Company Limited By Guarantee.
Registered in England 5325167, Registered Charity No. 1108177
Tel: 01255 425692 www.cvstdropin.org.uk



AFiUK
AFRICAN FAMILIES IN THE UK (AFiUK) CIC
www.afiuk.org • info@afiuk.org
www.facebook.com/africanfamilies.uk.2015
Registered Company No: 9605591



CHURCH EVENTS

29th November to 3rd January Decorations up and Christmas Tree festival
6th December 6.30 p.m. GB Quiz night
9th December 6.00 p.m.GB Carol Service
10th December AFiUK Christmas party
13th December –Christmas Craft fayre run by
Sandra Adams-Salmon
2.00 p.m. CTIC Carols in the Town
14th December – Memorial afternoon.
21st December – Sunday School Nativity service and Carols by Candlelight
at 6.00 p.m.
25th December - Christmas morning service, 10.00 a.m.
31st December New Year's Eve gathering starting at 8pm Bring and Share

**For those missing Richards wonderful tales of life at sea; a further instalment will
be in the February issue of the magazine**

**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:**

hallhire@pabc.org.uk



Magazine Editor Verity Coulthard 07770558771 or email
magazine@pabc.org.uk. Information to be included in the February issue
will be appreciated as soon as possible please