



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

FAMILY MAGAZINE

2025 OCTOBER

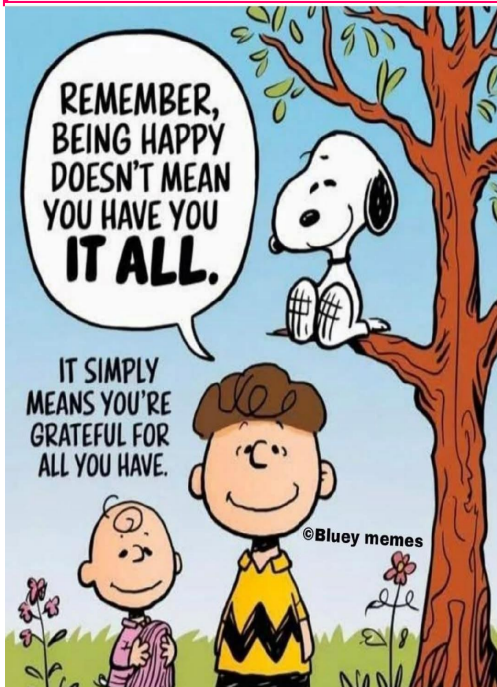




If this is your first time at Pier Avenue Baptist Church or even your second or third visit, we are so glad that you are here. Someone should come to chat to you but if, amongst all the rushing about, they don't, then please say hello to one of the people with a card hanging around their necks. It is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

**" The grass withers and the flowers fall but
the word of our God endures forever
Isaiah 40:8**

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.





Harvest 2025

Coveting The Earth

Christians believe that God created a perfect world and that, one day, we will live in a perfect world again, the place we call 'heaven'. Meanwhile this beautiful world that was made with everything needed for plants, animals and humans to live in, has been messed up.

And humans are responsible for the mess. When God had created our world, he declared that it was 'very good'. Now, it doesn't take much of a look around us to see that a lot of it is 'very bad': there's a hole in the protective ozone layer, ice caps at the poles are melting, across the world people are experiencing extreme weather, animals' habitats are being destroyed, and plastic has been dumped in our oceans. God wants us to say 'Sorry' for the things we do wrong. Therefore, we need to be sorry for how we've damaged the world.

What has led us, as the human race, to this point?

One clue to this comes from the story of Adam and Eve, which is right at the beginning of our Bibles in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:20 – 3:24). The first man and woman created by God live together in a perfect garden. They have everything that they need: food, shelter, the company of each other and, best of all, a close relationship with God himself. He walks with them in the beautiful garden that is their home. They are satisfied. Until that is, the woman, Eve, is told that she could have even more. By eating the forbidden fruit, she could have what God has. She could be like him, knowing good and evil. Once she and Adam reach for more, more than they actually need or is good for them, it all begins to go wrong. They have disobeyed God. They lose their beautiful home and, worse of all, the close relationship they have with God is broken.

When God had created Adam and Eve, he had said that human beings were to be given 'rule' or 'dominion' over the earth and its creatures. Sadly, some Christians have taken that to mean that we can do whatever we like with all the world's resources and exploit our environment and animals at our will. But that's not at all what God meant. He meant that we had been given a responsibility to care for it, to be good stewards of it.

Adam and Eve represent all of humanity in that they want more than they need or that is good for them. When God gives his people his rules for living, which we call the Ten Commandments, he tells them, 'Do not covet', which means don't want what's not yours.

Life is to be enjoyed. But there is harm if we take more than we need to a destructive level. Our coveting, our desire for more and more is destroying the earthly home God gave us ...

We are not entitled to have whatever we want. The world is not intended to be ours for the taking. Psalm 24 tells us clearly, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it'. We don't own it. It's on loan to us from God. We are his managers on earth. Everything we might have: our possessions, our homes, our relationships, our food and drink is all given to us by the God who loves us and lavishes us with his good gifts. How awful if we spoil those gifts, throw them away and demand more and more ...

Harvest is about giving thanks with grateful hearts for all the good things he has given us in this world that he made. Let us ask for what we need; not demand what we want.

Michelle

**DON'T BLAME GOD
FOR YOUR PROBLEMS**



"Most of your problems came from
not listening to him in the first place!"

**Doctor: "You should
exercise daily."**

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



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Through September and October churches of most denominations have a Harvest Festival. The modern harvest festival developed over time, drawing on biblical themes and local traditions.

It is a time to give thanks to God for the food and good things that He provides. It helps Christians to remember that not everyone has as much as they do and challenges them to be generous to others.

In the Bible, harvest represents fruitfulness, a return for service, and the fulfilment of God's promises. It is also a blessing for joyful obedience (Deut 28:1-14).



Our Harvest Festival on 21 September was an all age service with the Girls Brigade members being on parade and the Zoom members also joining in. The boys had been responsible for the decoration of the church which was a wonderful display and was added to by gifts brought up by members of the congregation which will be used by Enfold. Gill Stennings

told us about the activities the girls had enjoyed at camp this year.



Traditional harvest hymns were included in the service which was followed by lunch for those that had booked. A meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by all with wonderful desserts. A big thank you goes to all involved.



BRIAN CLOUGH

Just three days after his 91st birthday, Brian was finally 'Called Home' to be with his Lord, having been unwell for some while. On the 19th August his family, friends and the Church fellowship came together to celebrate Brian's very full and active life. At his 'Celebration of Life' service all those present were reminded that 'idle' was most definitely not a word that could be used to describe Brian! Brian was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to so many, both outside of and within his Church family at PABC. He will be sorely missed by all who loved and knew him. He had been involved in the fellowship of Pier Avenue Baptist Church for many years as a boy and onwards through his teenage years into adulthood. He married June at the Church, later welcoming Lynn and Zoe into their world, and subsequently followed over the years by their grandchildren. Both June and Brian were lovingly dedicated to their family life and their Church life was no exception. Brian was the longest serving member of our Church and during all that time he was exceptionally busy and productive, both within the Fellowship and outside of it. We learnt of the many interesting aspects to his life, of which there were far too many to relate here. If you have not had the opportunity, do consider watching his 'Celebration of Life' service (which was livestreamed to the Church's YouTube channel) and is also available on DVD. A full Church was privileged to join his family in an uplifting and joyous celebration of so much that Brian had achieved in his 91 years. May he now 'Rest in Peace' in the loving arms of his Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom he had served so diligently throughout his life.

"Well done good and faithful servant - Matthew 25 v23"

Poem: The Rose Beyond the Wall

A rose once grew where all could see
Sheltered beside a garden wall.
And, as the days passed swiftly by
It spread its branches straight and tall.

One day, a beam of light shone through
A crevice that had opened wide.
The rose bent gently towards its warmth,
Then passed beyond to the other side.

Now you who deeply feel its loss,
Be comforted—the rose blooms there,
Its beauty even greater now,
Nurtured by God's own loving care.



The Baptisms of Lorraine and Terry in the North Sea, Clacton coast!

On the afternoon of Sunday 28th September, PABC met for worship at an alternative venue: Clacton seafront. We prayed and sang two worship songs (with Karen playing guitar) before Del and I braved the waves, along with PABC newcomers Lorraine Markham and Terry Seago, to baptise them into their new lives with Jesus...

Lorraine and Terry had both (separately) come to faith in their homes and then felt drawn to PABC as the church for them. In Lorraine's case, a strong gust of wind propelled her through our doors as she was walking down Pier Avenue one day! Lorraine had then attended Sunday worship with us, sitting quietly at the back for a couple of months, before emailing me after God had prompted her about baptism. Terry had not worshipped in any church, but emailed me after he too was prompted to be baptised. Pauline and I then met with Lorraine and Terry for baptism classes and Bible study in the lead up to their special day.

Lorraine and Terry gave their testimonies at morning worship on the day of their baptisms. Their stories both told of how God had transformed their lives from agoraphobia and depression to new lives in him. It reminded me of what Jesus says in John's Gospel:

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace in him. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Lorraine, always having had a fear of water, believed that God was challenging her to be baptised in the sea and Terry was happy to join her in this obedience to our Lord.



Being in a public place, it was also a great witness to people walking along the seafront. At a time when PABC is endeavouring to have more outreach into the local community, what I think were PABC's first baptisms outside the church building came at a good time and the water still had some summer warmth in it! Thank you to everyone involved in this fantastic occasion. I was still buzzing with delight into the evening. God be praised!

Terry's testimony

Good morning, I should probably start by introducing myself. I'm Terry. Unfortunately I don't have an exciting tale. Like many I was programmed to work to the bone to succeed. And for a long time I played the game. I worked 30 hours a day 9 days a week with the objective of a better future. But as we all know, no one can serve 2 masters. Having a young family and trying to conquer the world still left me empty. Eventually the game played me and I shattered under the pressure. Once broken I was discarded. I fell into the darkest of places. Only the light of love has brought me back and kept me here. The love of my wife and children and the love of God. I could never find god no matter how hard I tried. Christ found me when the devil told me I had lost everything. Christ saved me when I thought that there was no way out. I did end my old life when Christ picked me up, and now I'm honoured to be invited to join your flock. Our lord has shown me I am the



only one that sees my shame and guilt because he forgave me long ago, lifting me from my depression. My brother Jesus sits beside me when I feel isolated



or the world is getting too much and my mind starts spinning, healing me from my PTSD. God whispers in my ear and says "trust in me" when I'm plagued with fear, freeing me from my anxiety and agoraphobia. My path to here has been long and winding only because I relied in my own understand, but now the Lord has spoken to me, in the shower of all places, and forgiven me of my

old life of naivety, and let me be reborn in his name. Only confirming that in spite of my own thoughts and feelings, I am more than enough for him. I am as he made me and the path I am on is the story he has written. I still have a way to go, but with God, my family, and now this wonderful church, I know my future will be blessed. May the Lord smile upon us and bless you all.

.Lorraine's testimony

About 7yrs ago I was nothing like I am today, I was sad, depressed, unhappy, filled with anxiety and panic attacks and so full of trauma which I had carried with me since early childhood. I had grown up in care and foster homes and didn't know who I was or even why I was even here, I had gone through neglect, prejudice and every kind of abuse and it was hard growing up not feeling like I belonged in this world, I felt alone and abandoned and this followed me pretty much throughout my life.

I carried this huge weight around with me from my childhood into my adulthood, my mental health wasn't good. I went through more traumatic events during my adulthood and it eventually got to the stage where I just didn't want to be here anymore, I had already had one failed suicide event at the age of just 16.

I eventually started to self sabotage with food and alcohol and that became my comfort blanket, I ballooned to 20stone in weight and was drinking daily just to numb my pain. I stopped socialising, I didn't trust people I stopped leaving the house and answering the phone due to anxiety and panic attacks, I was slowly killing myself then late one night while I was scrolling on social media I came across a spiritual group where two ladies were talking in tongues/soul language, I had no idea what was being said but I heard this one lady speaking her soul dialect and something touched me so deep in my heart and soul, I felt something shift inside me but I didn't know what it was, the next day it was like a lightbulb in my head had been turned on and all these thoughts just came flooding in, I remember thinking I don't want to die yet I really don't want to die and I just knew I was here for a reason but had no idea what that reason was, and from that day I was getting shown snippets of things like puzzle pieces that would heal and change my life, I completely changed my diet going from a meat eater to 100% vegan, next came the alcohol and everything bad I had been putting into my body had to go,



it was like some unseen force telling me no no no you don't need that anymore you need to heal, I just had this strength and determination from somewhere and feelings of total Love and compassion for all suffering and this was the start of my spiritual awakening.

I've had to learn compassion and forgiveness for all the people that ever hurt me but the hardest thing for me was learning to like and love myself,

The more I started to transform the more I was losing people around me friends and family just fell by the wayside and I became a bit of a hermit because nobody could understand what was happening to me, I didn't even know myself but all this trauma was coming up for release and I spent more and more time just being alone and crying tears I didn't even know I had in me I started to walk down to the ocean about 3 or 4 times a day as my then marriage started to deteriorate rapidly and I would just talk to Jesus I'd have lengthy conversations with him asking him to show me the way forward to help me and show me what to do and what path to take. God kept telling me to have faith & trust and the bigger picture would eventually be shown to me

I've never been one for reading the bible or going to church. I do remember looking into the ocean one time and briefly thinking wouldn't it be funny if I was to be baptised in the sea, but the thought quickly went and I just thought no no way would that ever happen, for one I don't like the cold 2 I don't like being wet and cold and 3 I can't swim and I have always had a fear of water so it was ridiculous for that to be even crossing my mind, so on this particular day I was walking down Pier Avenue opposite the church on the opposite side of the road minding my own business and a gust of wind literally blew me across the road right outside the church, a blustery day a few months ago



I had no idea why I had stopped right facing the entrance to the church, next thing I knew I was being asked in and before I knew it I was sitting at the back and I felt at peace I felt like I actually belonged here and I went home afterwards and thought what just happened there why and how did I land myself in a church but I had this notion that I was where I must of needed to be, 3 or 4 weeks later and I was still coming into church. baptism came into my mind and this time I was like ooohhh ok I think God's calling me to be baptised, now I've been wanting to build my connection with God and always kind of felt like something was missing that would help me to feel closer and help build that connection and it just now seems like the icing on the cake after the journey I've been on for the past 7yrs my healing and transformation journey it just seems like the perfect way to bridge that gap and let God know that I'm here and I have heard him, I totally surrender to him he knows my journey and he's guided me through, he knows my fear of the water and he wants me to do it and I'm here to do it, so God showed up for me in lots of subtle ways and I am excited to see what he has in store for me next on this journey..

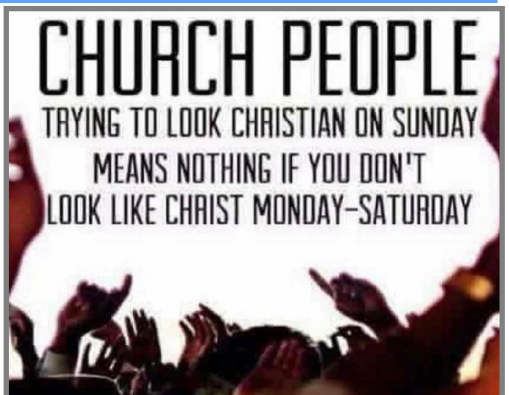


WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO EAT RIGHT



BUT YOU GO TO A BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH PEOPLE
TRYING TO LOOK CHRISTIAN ON SUNDAY
MEANS NOTHING IF YOU DON'T
LOOK LIKE CHRIST MONDAY-SATURDAY



Interesting Bible Facts

- First Printed Bible: The 1454 Gutenberg Bible (Latin) was the first book printed using a movable metal type printing press. Johannes Gutenberg printed about 180 copies without any major errors. Today, major parts of 48 copies still exist.
- Reading Time:
 - o It takes 70 hours to read the entire Bible aloud at a "pulpit rate."
 - o Reading silently at an average speed of 250-300 words per minute takes about 54 hours.
 - o Speed readers who can read 800 words per minute can finish the Bible in a day.
 - o If you're short on time, read Philemon; it only takes a minute!
- Smallest Bible: The smallest Bible in the world is the New Testament Jerusalem Nano Bible, a chip measuring 4.76 mm. It can only be read with a microscope because each letter is 18 millionths of a meter wide.
- Online Bibles:
 - o In 2014, Bible Gateway had 1.5 billion page views with more than 150 million unique visitors.
 - o The YouVersion Bible App offers over 1,000 translations and has been downloaded more than 150 million times.
 - o The Bible.is App offers the Bible in full or in part in more than 1,600 languages.
- Historical Context:
 - o The Bible was written over 1,500 years, starting around 1,400 B.C.
 - o More than 40 individuals from various backgrounds (prophets, fishermen, kings, philosophers, scholars, poets) contributed to its writing.
 - o These individuals lived in 10 different countries across three continents (Asia, Africa, Europe) and wrote in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek).
 - o The Bible mentions 2,930 different characters from over 1,550 different places.

A very poor woman called a radio station asking for help from God. A non-believer who was listening to that radio program decided to make fun of the woman. He got the woman's address from the radio station & told his secretary to carry a large amount of foodstuff to the woman. However, he gave the following instructions: "When the woman asks who sent the food, tell her that it's from the devil." When the secretary arrived at the woman's house, the poor woman was happy for the help received. She started putting the food packets inside her small house. The secretary then asked her, "Don't you want to know who sent the food?" The woman then replied, "No, I don't care because when God orders, even the devil obeys."



TOWN CENTRE EVENTS



During the summer months the church has had a stall in the town centre on Saturdays with crafts and details about the church. Thanks go to Sylvia, Elaine and Del for running this



JANET AND RICHARD GEDDES ANNIVERSARY

We celebrated our 49th Anniversary on September 11th this year. One to go for our 50th.

Our wedding photo was taken in 1976. We were 23 and 22 years old.

The day started with heavy rain and thankfully stopped by the time we got to the church at just before 11 a.m. My Dad, Rev. Ralph Stephens married us, and all the ladies of the church prepared the meal afterwards. I actually made my wedding dress from white satin with white daisies around the neck and sleeves. It cost altogether £10!



A message from our Treasurer

I recently reported to the Deacons and Church Meetings that there had been no exceptional or large expenditures and in regards income, I wished to sincerely thank all in the Fellowship who so graciously offer their tithes and offerings so regularly. I am hoping these two elements combined, will see us able to reduce the deficit Budget we are working with this year. The 2026 Budgeting process will begin in late October/early November. A draft Budget may be ready to present to the November Church Meeting and the final Budget is likely to be presented to the Church in January.

I am writing this ahead of Pauline's intention to speak a message on giving of our time and resources, but I know her message will remind us of the expectation we will want to play our part in God's work here in Clacton and further afield. He richly blesses us with so much, and we should do our part in return. What we are able to do or to give will never be big enough or generous enough to match the blessings He showers upon us. We can only try to be prayerful, diligent, careful and thoughtful in responding to His call on our time and resources.

Please do consider the following:-

~ we would value hearing from anyone who feels they can **become involved in any aspect of the Treasury work at PABC** (a reasonable level of numeracy and a willingness to be involved really are the only qualifications)

~ it is not too late to make a **Gift in Memory of Brian Clough**, which is being donated to the work of PABC;

~ if you are a **tax payer**, please ask me about **Gift Aid**, which is a valuable addition to your gifts;

~ if you use the offering boxes on Sundays, could your **regular offerings go directly into the bank** instead? (and you can still do both if you wish);

~ **one-off donations** can be made at any time to the Church's page on 'Stewardship' using the QR code.

Please talk to me in confidence with any query and 'Thank you' again for all your prayerful and practical support to the Lord's work at PABC.

Heather Baines, Treasurer.



GIRLS' BRIGADE

Although the summer holidays are designed to be a time of rest, we had our residential event to prepare for. From planning menus and buying food to organizing activities and devotional sessions it was far from a relaxing time.

An added stress this year was to be informed two days before the event, that due to a burst water main at the camp site we may not be able to proceed with this venture. This required numerous phone calls to parents and the worry of what would become of all the food we had just purchased. All we could do was to commit the situation to God and wait patiently for the answer. As always, our prayers were answered and we were given the go ahead to proceed with our camp albeit a day later than originally booked and being provided with bottled water to drink. We were also allowed to continue into the Saturday, thus keeping to our 5 days which avoided any further complications. Praise be to God !!!!

Our 12 young people in attendance this year learned new skills from the onsite activities available - Kayaking, Pedal Karts, Tomahawks, Assault course, Bouldering and 3D Maze. They also undertook a variety of crafts including - framed pebble



pictures, sand art, felt bookmarks, sun-catcher decorations, wooden bunting, wooden 3D butterflies. They decorated a backpack in which they could place all their craft items.

On the Wednesday 5 of our Explorers joined us for a day of activities, when they enjoyed being part of our camp with the older girls. They made pizzas which they ate for their lunch, at-

tempted the assault course, played some outdoor games and made some craft items. I think they must have slept well at home that night.



Each evening we spent time around the campfire and played some outdoor games taking advantage of the many wooded areas. It was also a time to relax at the end of our busy days, while cooking sausages and toasting marshmallows.



Before our evening meal each day we held our devotional time when a seaside theme was followed. Day 1 - Jesus calms the storm when we thought about the storms we face in our lives and how we cope and overcome them. Day 2 - The wise and foolish man when we discussed the right and wrong ways to build our lives. Day 3 - Jesus feeding the 5000, which is when we thought of those in

the world who are hungry or starving and what we may be able to do to help. Day 4 - Catching fish - Exploring how Jesus chose his disciples, most of whom were fishermen, and telling them they would be "catching" people. We asked "who or what do we follow" and "what it means to be a Christian." The final day we summed up all we had learned over the week and how we move forward on our faith journey. Each day a memory verse given as a jigsaw puzzle which they had to piece together.



After a thoroughly enjoyable week we all returned home thankful for being able to spend this time with the young people and praying it will hold memories for a long time to come. We praise God for his goodness to us before and during this event and are reminded of Philipians 4 v 6, Do not worry about anything but in all your prayers ask God for what you need and not forgetting to thank him for his answers.

Gill Stennings

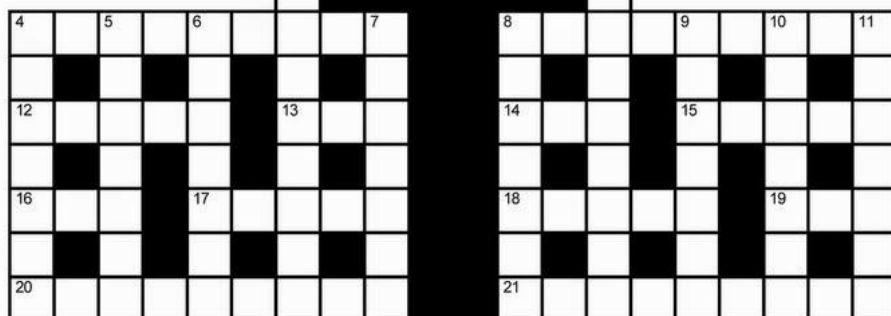
Bible Crossword X

Across

Down

- 1 Donkey (3)
2 Jesus' Father (3)
4 One of the twelve (9)

- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)
3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)



- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)
12 One of David's warriors (5)
13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)
14 New Testament name for Noah (3)
15 Wish harm upon (5)
16 Hole in the ground (3)
17 Adversary (5)
18 Savour (5)
19 First woman (3)
20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)
21 Family of priests (9)
22 Third son of Jacob (4)
23 Hates (8)
26 Assurances (8)
30 Endured pain (8)
31 Return from the dead (4)
32 Intercessor (8)
35 Decorating (8)
39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)
40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)
42 A wise insect (3)
44 Dwelling place of kings (6)
45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)
5 Father of Jonah (7)
6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)
7 Defensive structures (11)
8 Refuges (11)
9 Dirty (7)
10 Devout (7)
11 Pieces of money (7)
24 Used to listen (3)
25 Used to see (3)
26 Positions (5)
27 Made available (7)
28 Snake (7)
29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)
33 Finish (3)
34 Possess (3)
35 King of the Amalekites (4)
36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)
38 Present (4)
41 Unfasten (4)
43 Fish traps (4)

Bible Emoji Quiz

Guess the Biblical Character or Story with the help of these emojis.
The person with most correct answers wins.

1 🧐 🧐 🌳 🍏 🍏 🧠 🧠 🧠

2 😊 🍌 🐟 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷 🍷

3 😊 🇮🇳 🍷 🌊 🔥 🌳

4 🌧️ 🌊 🌍 🇮🇳 🐔

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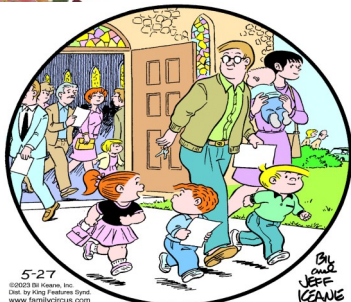
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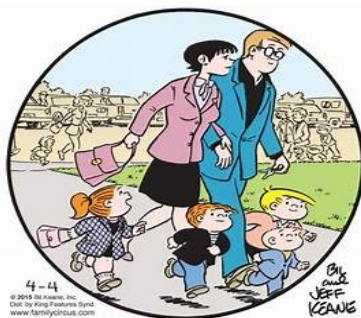
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5-27
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"I like singin' in church.
Everybody sings whether they
know the words or not."

By
JEFF
KEANE



4-4
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"I like it when everyone in church
sings about that Ollie Louya guy."

By
JEFF
KEANE

Books of the Bible

Word Scramble

1. NJOH

2. NAORMS

3. ITTMYOH

4. LMIENOPH

5. ARLOEEIVNT

6. NLASCOSIOS

7. NLISASHNEATSO

8. ASEJM

9. TPEER

10. HERSWBE

11. EPESHSAIN

12. AITNSNROCIIH

13. PPLINIPSIHA

14. TISTU

15. LANAAGTSI

16. RPETE

17. TWMHTEA

18. DJUE

19. NHJO

20. MAJSE

Word Bank

CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS

PETER

JOHN

JUDE

COLOSSIANS

THESSALONIANS

MATTHEW

TIMOTHY

JAMES

PHILEMON

TITUS

EPHESIANS

PHILIPPIANS

REVELATION

JAMES

ROMANS

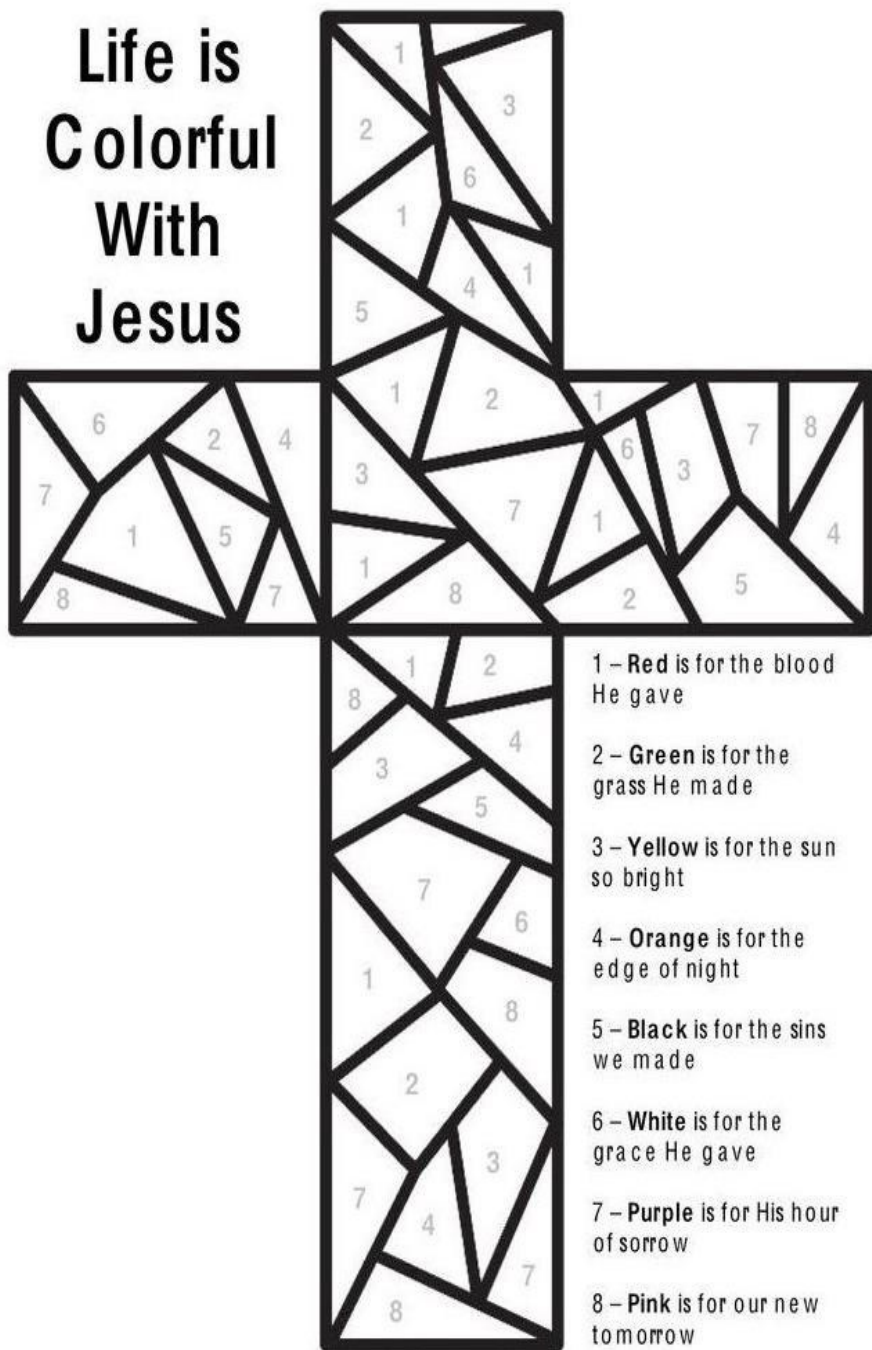
PETER

JOHN

HEBREWS

A relaxing picture for colouring

**Life is
Colorful
With
Jesus**



With thanks to John Cole for this lovely story

Our 14-year-old dog, Abbey, passed away last month. The day after she died, my 4-year-old daughter, Meredith, was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey. She asked if we could write a letter to God so He would know Abbey when she got to heaven. I told her we could, and she told me what to write:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog? She died yesterday and is with you in heaven. I miss her a lot. I'm glad you let her be my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her. She likes to swim and chase balls. I'm sending you a picture of her so you'll know she is my dog. I really miss her.

Love, Meredith

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey and Meredith. We wrote, "To God in Heaven" on the envelope and added our return address. Meredith stuck several stamps on it, saying it would take many stamps to reach heaven. That afternoon, she dropped it in the mailbox at the post office. A few days later, she asked if God had received the letter. I told her I believed He had.

Yesterday, we found a package wrapped in shiny gold paper on our front porch. It was addressed to "Meredith" in handwriting we didn't recognize. Meredith opened it. Inside was a book by Mr. Rogers called *When a Pet Dies*. Taped to the inside cover was the letter we had sent to God, still in its envelope. On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey and Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey got to heaven safely. The picture helped, and I knew right away who she was.

Abbey is not sick anymore. Her spirit is here with me, just like she stays in your heart. She loved being your dog.

Since we don't have pockets in heaven, I can't keep your picture with me, so I'm sending it back in this book for you to keep and remember Abbey.

Thank you for your lovely letter, and thank your mom for helping you write and send it. You have a very special mother. I chose her just for you.

I send you my blessings every day, and I want you to remember that I love you very much.

And by the way, I'm easy to find—I'm wherever there is love.

Love, God

This beautiful story is true.

"Three things in life are most important:

First, be kind.

Second, be kind.

Third, be kind."

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He is brilliant, kind of esoteric and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students, but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair... The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. (Although perfectly acceptable behaviour at a college fellowship, trust me, this had never happened in this church before!)

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill. Now, the deacon is in his eighties, and has silver-grey hair, and wears a three-piece suit. He is a godly man, very elegant, very dignified and very courtly.

He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is thinking that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."



Pamoja is a group who use our hall and they very kindly made a planter for us which has been placed at the front of the church for which we are grateful. Photographs show the presentation



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 little thank you Prayer

Thank you Lord for the seasons
As they swiftly come and go,
For the special days of summer,
And sudden winter snow,
Thank you Lord for the beauty,
Of the distant misty hills,
For the trees in springtime
glory,
And joyful daffodils.

Thank you Lord for those I love
And the love they give to me,
For all I've learned, for all know
And all I hope to be,
Thank you Lord, for all my life,
For the laughter, hope and care,
For all the times when you were
close,
Accept my thank you prayer

Communications Sub Group

The group has now been meeting for just over a year with a few meetings roughly every other month. We are charged with looking at all of the aspects of communications relating to the church and to advise and bring forward ideas and progress on various initiatives and to consider suggestions raised by deacons, members and friends and report back on findings.



Whilst a lot of what we do and get involved with is outreach and communicating the 'Good News' of Jesus and His love for mankind we inevitably have to spend time on more mundane tasks like photocopying and repairs to the copier. We have come off contract for a trial period to try and save funds and the monthly charges normally associated with a contract copier.

I'm going to list just some of the areas and tasks and in so doing hope some will step forward and consider having a go at least one from the list. They will sound technical and as such your first instincts will be to walk away but please be open to what God might want to skill you with as part of your service to Him. Training will be provided and every effort will be made to get you the skills and confidence to serve in new ways. You are never too old for new challenges and new experiences.

Help with our Web both in ideas (open to anyone) and design. Our magazine both in helping with content gathering, printing off and binding about 80 copies every few months.

Projection for Sunday and other event, help with slide preparation and projecting on a Sunday. Don't be tempted to say I can't do that, check it out first, like anything new it is scary for a while but with practice it will get easier. You'll have support as long as is needed. Streaming on YouTube, we need someone to take on responsibility for the Admin of our YouTube channel and set up the stream schedule each week with information about the coming service. Occasionally there are technical issues but these tend to relate to perceived copyright issues and YouTube tend to sort these for us so not a particularly difficult task—training and support will be provided.

There are lots more tasks and these are to be shared more widely in the coming months so watch out and be open to offering to help in some way. **Ian Smith**

When the enemy thought he broke me, but Jesus was like...Nah



"AND I WANT TO THANK OUR TECHNICAL CREW FOR THEIR USUAL TERRIFIC WORK!"



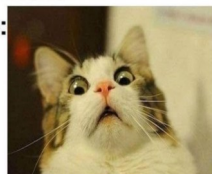
Me: God I didn't sign up for this.

God: Yes you did.

Me: Uh uh.....when?

God: Remember you said, "Lord I'm Yours. Use me?"

Me:



TINY TREASURES PARENT/CARER BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We have returned after the summer break with some of our existing families, whose youngsters are not yet old enough for nursery or school and have welcomed some new ones.

The children have enjoyed several craft activities including free art and decorating biscuits. We then looked to doing some autumn themed activities including leaf printing which in the end ended up more hand printing with one little youngster putting her hands in the paint and ended up going home happily with orange streaks in her hair. The photo shows one little girl and her mum marbling using acorns and conkers an activity both mum and daughter enjoyed. Future activities planned are fruit printing and fire work pictures.



Sylvia Burns

31.10.25 | 4:00PM | FREE ENTRY

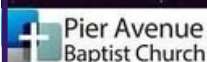
TRINITY METHODIST CAR PARK, PIER AVENUE

COME AND SHINE

LIGHT EVENT

MUSIC; CRAFT; FREE LIGHT BAGS AND FUN

HOSTED BY CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CLACTON AND LOVE ESSEX



Zoom Boys Club



The boys club restarted in September for our 3rd session and the Autumn Term. In the run up to the summer recess we had lost a few of the boys and our numbers this term are down but growing again. We have provided flyers and posters to most of the schools in the area and are hoping that we will see some new boys turning up over the next few weeks.

We are continuing to provide a varied programme of activities and trying to get them to try out new activities and crafts.

If you have any crafting or other skills that you could share with the boys please speak to a leader. We could do with some support in checking in boys at the beginning of the evening and checking out at the end of the evening plus some help in setting out the evening refreshments mid evening. If you can help with any of these please see a leader. All contributions, big, small or occasionally are welcome.

After the Sunday service, Johnny hurriedly approached his parents, his face serious with a request.

"Mom, Dad, I need to talk to the minister right away," he said with urgency.

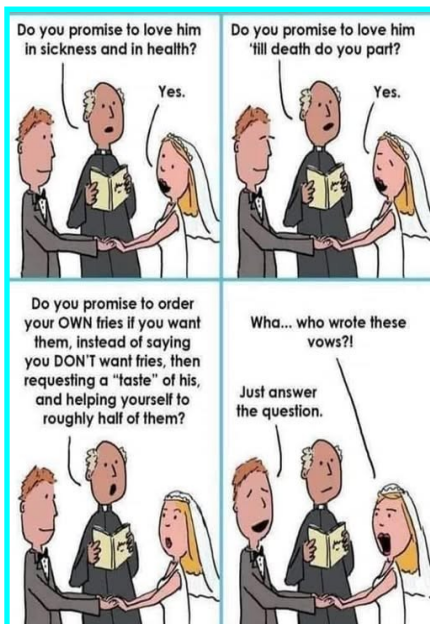
His parents nodded, smiling at his eagerness, and they all made their way to the pastor, who warmly greeted them.

"Pastor," Johnny began, "I heard you say today that our bodies come from the dust."

"That's right, Johnny," the pastor replied. "Our bodies are made from dust, and when we die, they return to it."

Johnny scratched his head thoughtfully before saying, "Well, Pastor, you better come over to our house right away and check under my bed. Because I think there's someone either coming or going!"

The pastor blinked in surprise, then chuckled, realizing Johnny's concern. "I'll be right there, Johnny," he said, trying to contain his laughter. "Let's see what's going on under that bed of yours."



WHEN FAME CAME TO PABC

THANK YOU HEATHER

This Is about the day BBC's 5Live Breakfast broadcast about Homelessness came directly from the Atrium on 31st Jan 2014. Rev Sean Fountain and our then Elder were interviewed during the programme.

The attached is what Heather put on FB at the time. "My boss Lindy gave me a late start at work so I could be there:-" and Here is my text of the day before and on the day:- 30 Jan 2014 (day before):-

"Sorry so late in telling you all ... Tune in to Nicky Campbell's Breakfast Show on BBC Radio 5Live tomorrow morning (Friday 31st) which is coming from The Welcome Centre at Pier Ave Baptist Church where the work of our Enfold Project is to be featured throughout the live broadcast. Enfold is currently open one morning a week to the homeless and vulnerable where a hot breakfast and shower are available. While there they can also access many other services from the town's social and welfare providers such as nurse, Job Club, CAB, Night Shelter, etc etc. Tune in to the radio if you can, catch it live on the internet, and if you miss it maybe try to see if its on iPlayer."
31 Jan 2014 (during broadcast)





"It's early!! Am drinking coffee, chatting to friends, and relaxing in the atrium @ PABC's Welcome Centre as Nicky Campbell broadcasts his Breakfast Show live right in front of us. We are encouraged to keep chatting and enjoy each other's company

as the broadcasts goes out. They want the background chat so it is clear we are not in a studio. Trouble is you tend to go silent when he starts talking simply because you want to hear what he has to say!"

31 Jan 2014 (after broadcast)

"The production team also got a bit more ambient noise than they bargained for when a group of people walked in asking how to find their way to another part of our buildings that they were hiring!

After it was over, I had the privilege of chatting to Nicky Campbell at the kerbside in Pier Avenue as he waited for his taxi to arrive.

An unpretentious and genuinely lovely man."



Enfold

.....AND NEWS FROM
THE PRESENT

'The happiness is infectious from the staff`The helpers will always do extra stuff for you` I like church people` and `it now feels like a community`

These are just some of the comments from our guests on a recent survey we undertook. These words are very appropriate as the team at Enfold always go the extra mile to help our guests and help them to experience God's love. 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 David and are currently starting to look at Mark 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 9 on a Thursday morning and finishes around 11. We are open to all but especially the homeless and vulnerably housed and we start of 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. (**Breaking news:** Not even the team know this yet but we are going to have a DWP representative join us soon and also someone from SIGNPOST to help point our guests. This has come around from a recent visit from CVST who said they were blown away with such a valuable group` and want to do all they can to help strengthen the resource) 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. It was lovely to see so many of our guests not only attend the recent Harvest lunch and talk about how lovely it was but also to see half a dozen at the Harvest service itself. We really are seeing our guest's faith blossom.

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

We have had a very special birthday this September and on 25th September we held our 15th birthday party. Around 50 people gathered and this included old guests and volunteers and the current team as well. Julie made some more of her fantastic cakes and Ian Bingley spent a long time with his mum, preparing the food. It was also good to have a local hairdresser to transform the appearances of our guests. One of our guests also made a fruit salad and one guest came early to help with the decorations so it was a team effort. Everyone had a great time and commented on it. One of the guests who has never engaged in the Christian side of Enfold came and was very keen to pray around a family situation she is facing. She was very nervous about doing so but it is lovely that she wanted to pray. Everything was contained in one room and a lot of the team were able to sit and interact with the guests as they are an important part of Enfold and we wanted them to enjoy the event as well as our guests.





Looking into the past of Enfold has been really interesting and I was surprised to learn the BBC Nicky Campbell actually presented a show here at Enfold in 2014. They were looking to highlight deprivation in coastal towns and Enfold was picked to broadcast from. (see this article in Baptist times - https://www.baptisttimes.co.uk/Articles/390004/BBC_5Live_to.aspx). It has



been great to hear how God has been faithful over the past 15 years and to see how He has been working. 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'.

A pastor had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc.

The kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke.

The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighbourhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to your keeping," and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?"

She replied, "You won't believe this," and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it." She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

SOME MORE WONDERFUL TALES FROM RICHARD'S TIME AT SEA

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

A continuation of Richard's fascinating memories of rough seas

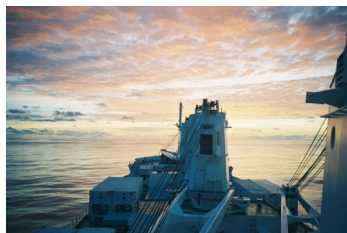
I spent the fourth day running welding cables to the emergency switchboard and get our essential services back up and running. In the evening the weather started to moderate. As we slowly steamed out of the eye of the storm the plant settled down so we could get some sleep, mind you we were still rolling badly and I slept on the deck of the Machinery Control Room in my boiler suit wrapped up in a blanket just in case.....

After the cyclone we counted the cost of the storm damage, wrote reports and took photographs for the insurance and owners. The fore and aft decks looked like a scrap yard with damaged tank vents, etc. Sadly the Company was more concerned about our slow speed and inconvenience to the charterers than the condition of the vessel.

They would not believe it was as bad as reported until I FaX'd them a four page damage report, complete with photos. That made them sit up and take notice. Four days of storm damage resulted in two weeks of running repairs. That evening the ship blacked-out. The shaft-gen breaker just tripped for some reason. I am glad that God did not allow it to happen on the Monday or Tuesday night for we would have foundered for sure. God was working overtime on those three days I can tell you for if anything had happened to the main engine we would have lost power and sunk for sure. There but for the grace of God went I. (Literarily.)



Fact slap: Six ships were reported lost that night with the loss of all hands and I thank God that he held us safely in the palm of his mighty right hand for those few days.



Thanks to God we survived and I have to say that in my 50 years at sea I think that those four days were up there with the worst I have ever experienced. He certainly is a wonderful and merciful God that's for sure. The description in Psalm 107: 23-30 is very graphic and describes what happened perfectly.

Psalm 107::23-30

[23] Some sailed over the oceans in ships, earning their living on the seas.

[24] They saw what the Lord can do, His wonderful acts on the seas;

[25] He commanded and a mighty wind began to blow and stirred up the waves.

[26] The ships were lifted high in the air and plunged down into the depths, in such danger the men lost their courage;

[27] they stumbled and staggered like drunken men – all their skill was useless.

[28] Then in their trouble they called to the Lord and He saved them from their distress.

[29] He calmed the raging storm, and the waves became quiet.

[30] They were glad because of the calm and He brought them safe to the port they wanted.

Ralph Hodgson summed up those days admirably when he wrote thus:

When stately ships are twirled and spun,
Like whipping toys and help there's none,
And mighty ships ten thousand ton,
Go down like lumps of lead.

My boys did some good work during the cyclone going above and beyond so to speak. I sometimes think that Christian folk at home would not think I was much of a Christian if they saw me in 'crisis management mode' as they call it ashore, 'in the poo' if you are at sea. However I am not paid to be liked but to do a job of work, keep the ship running and sometimes save our necks.

We arrived on the anchorage at PANAMA after a passage of 14 days and dropped the hook. Once it was down the Canal Authorities boarded the vessel to ascertain if we were fit to transit the Canal. As expected we failed due to the storm damage so we stayed at anchor until the required repairs were completed.

The Company Electrician came out with the agent as well to confirm the damage and ordered four new electric motors. Two for the forward anchor windlasses and two for the aft mooring winches, all of which had been damaged beyond repair by the seas. Fortunately, the cranes were alright despite having the motor room access doors facing for'd into the seas.

Yes bad weather is not much fun and I would say that the novelty of being bounced around the place like a rubber ball wears off after a couple of hours as it affects every aspect of your life. Think about trying to have shower. You are standing still while the shower jet is moving from side to side. Even going to the toilet becomes an epic, think about it! In the galley all the pots are secured with fiddles to keep them on the galley range. Likewise the mess rooms. Soup is not a popular dish and is the cause of many an accident!

To sum up.....

There is nothing more enticing, disenchanting and enslaving, than the life at sea. At the best of times the sea is a dangerous, comfortless calling, demanding ten to twelve hours a day, seven days a week for up to eight months at a time, and understood only by those who endure it.

An old Arab proverb to finish with:-

The weariness of a camel's journey is halved if two of them cross the desert together.

'Nuff said.

RICHARD GEDDES

The church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people serve everyone else who is relaxing.



Photo by Matthew Barra from Pexels

No, the church is a battleship where it's "all hands on deck" and everyone serves the mission.



Afro-Caribbean

Celebrating 2 Years

This year has been a remarkable one for AFIUK celebration 10 years, also Afro-Caribbean drop-in. We proudly clocked 2nd year on April 2025, marking two years of growth, connection, and cultural celebration.

In addition to strengthening our community through events, collaborations, and outreach, we are thrilled to be hosting the 2025 Lawrence Walker Award and Cancer Awareness Event on the 29th of October and Black History Month event on the 15th of October 2025. This recognition is not only an honour but also a reflection of the dedication, passion, and hard work of everyone involved in our journey. We would like to invite everyone to join us for these events.

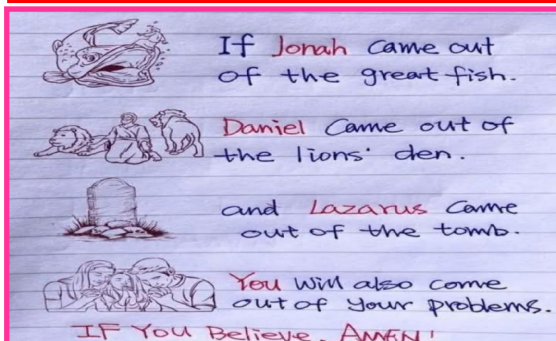
As we look ahead, we remain committed to creating more opportunities to uplift Afro-Caribbean voices, showcase our rich heritage, and inspire future generations.

International Sunday Service.

It is another time of the year to celebrate God in our mother language for His love over us.

Date: Sunday the 12th of October 2025

Please let's wear our heritage clothing and come with our regional food style for us to dine together.



THE ARMOUR OF GOD

spiritual warfare
@forallis through him

Helmet of Salvation

It protects our minds from doubts about our status in Christ and gives us security in eternal life.

Breastplate of Righteousness

Righteousness protects the spiritual heart and soul to live morally with God's standards through Jesus Christ.

Belt of Truth

It represents integrity to the truth of God's word. It holds everything together and prepares the believer for action.

Sword of the Spirit

The Word of God defends against spiritual attacks and proclaims truth. It is used for defence and offence.

Shield of Faith

Faith acts as a shield against the doubts, fears, and temptations sent by the enemy.

Shoes of Gospel of Peace

The gospel of peace prepares Christians to be ready to share the message of peace through Christ.



A pastor was giving a children's sermon on the importance of living a good Christian life. He asked the kids, "If I sold my house and my car, gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

The children all shouted, "No!"

The pastor smiled. "What if I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and helped the poor—would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the kids shouted, "No!"

The pastor, feeling encouraged, asked, "Then what do I have to do to get into heaven?"

A little boy in the front row jumped up and shouted, "You gotta be dead first!"

CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday October 12th - International Sunday - Service will have an International flavour. Please bring food from you country to share a lunch together at the end of the service.

Sunday 2nd November - 4.00 p.m. Three Church meet up with Holland and Thorpe at PABC with a bring and share tea following.

Sunday 16th November GB Enrolment and Parade service
After the service about 12.30 p.m. - Church member's meeting (note new time)

Saturday 6th December - GB Quiz night

Saturday 13th December 2.00 p.m. Churches Together in Clacton - Carol singing in the Town

Saturday 21st December 10.30 a.m. Sunday School service
6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Thursday 25th December 10.00 a.m. Christmas Morning service

**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

**I told God I was
overwhelmed.
He said,
'Then stop trying
to do *my* job.'**



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