



FAMILY MAGAZINE

2026 JUNE





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 have new friends to join

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. .

PABC Prayer Meetings

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'

These were the apostle Paul's words to the church at Philippi. Prayer must be the life-blood of every church. It's how we find out what he would have us do, as individuals, families and as a church fellowship...

At PABC, in addition to our whole church worship on Sunday mornings at 10.30am, we have three different opportunities during each month for members and attendees to meet and pray together:

Every Sunday at 10.00am (before the main worship service at 10.30am).

Every last Tuesday of the month at 9.30am.

Every second Friday of the month: a drop-in, drop-out time from 4.00 – 8.00pm.

This has replaced our 7.00pm online prayer meeting on Zoom over the summer months whilst the evenings are lighter.

This is not to say that we can't also pray in twos or threes, in house groups, over the phone or over the internet at other times!

Pier Avenue Announces the Lord's 'New Thing'!

Michelle's usings



Human beings can often be creatures of habit. We come to worship every Sunday and we tend to sit on the same parts of the same pews. We drink our tea or coffee out of our favourite, familiar cups. We may even have the same conversations with the same people or a similar version of it. Routine is reassuring. We know where we stand. Even when things change, many people will want to establish a new routine.

Members at Pier Avenue have recently been receiving visions and words from God: the overall message being that we are in a time of change, moving from where we are to somewhere closer to God. We have heard God speak to us through words from the prophet Isaiah:

Forget the former things

do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

(Isaiah 43: 18 – 19)

When Isaiah wrote these words to God's people, the Israelites, they were living in exile in the country of their conqueror, Babylon. Living in Babylon was all many of them had ever known. Even the promise of a return to their homeland, in Isaiah 43, felt daunting to these people, particularly as there would be a long and dangerous journey to get there. As Isaiah announces the Lord's 'new thing', many of them felt safer with the enemy they knew.

The Lord's 'New Thing' is exciting, but it's also scary. Here at Pier Avenue Baptist, nearly a year ago, God showed us a bridge of his promises, taking us from the garden of where we were to somewhere far better:

God's holy of holies or his heavenly city. We are now on the bridge itself or even swimming through the water and this is difficult. We are being told to leave some things behind.

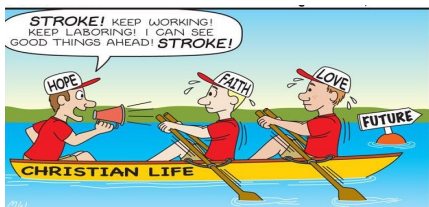
Yet at the beginning of Isaiah, Chapter 43, the Lord had comforted and reassured his people. He was the one who had formed them, he reminds them (Isaiah 43: 1). This is an image of the potter and his clay. But for our creator God to reshape us, we need to make ourselves pliable, mouldable, squidgy in his hands, willing to be changed. We need to think differently: to 'take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ' (2 Corinthians 10: 5); for each of us to say, 'He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God' (Psalm 40: 3). We need to trust God, our redeemer, for our future. God is moving and doing amazing things!

There will be trouble on this journey from one place to something better, on the return home that God has promised to his people. It says in Isaiah 43 that God's people will need to 'pass through the rivers' (Isaiah 43: 2). For the ancient Israelites, waters were places of peril: unpredictable, where unknown monsters lurked. The unknown waters, in a metaphorical sense, are also scary for us. Will we be able to keep swimming through? But God assures these ancient people and us that we will not be harmed. Even fire will not burn us when we pass through it (Isaiah 43: 2). Ultimately, God will get us through this time of difficulty.

God reminded the Israelites that, previously in their history, he had parted the Red Sea, so that they could escape the Egyptians who were pursuing them after they had escaped slavery in Egypt. He tells them that will similarly be freed from Babylonian oppression and again make their escape. Yet, they should now concentrate on their future rather than the past. He encourages them to notice the 'new thing' that he is doing. It would have been easy for us, here at PABC, to miss the 'new thing' that God is doing amongst us. Do we have eyes to see it? Are we paying attention? Or are we distracted? God is speaking. Are we listening? Prayer is the best way of doing this.

God can do the seemingly impossible.

God doesn't require us to have everything sorted; only that we are trust him, follow him, accept his protection as we go through these difficulties. He invites us to boldly approach his throne: step by step, stroke by stroke. He is with us, even when we feel we might drown, even when we feel we might burn.



God is with us, doing his 'new thing' at Pier Avenue Baptist Church. Do we see it?

Michelle

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 THESSALONIANS 1:3 NIV

PABC House Groups Bible Study

There are five PABC house groups which meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month to study and discuss the Bible and their walks with Jesus together. (Two meet in the church building and the other three in people's homes.)

At the end of last year, we decided to follow up the same topics that we look at during our Sunday morning worship in the house group meetings. We held an all house group meeting at the beginning of February and Michelle has been providing the groups with some study questions on the themes since then. In mid-April, we began a series on the prophets in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament): what they had to say to the Israelite people and what they have to say to us today. We have discussed an interesting image that is used by both the prophet Isaiah and the prophet Jeremiah: that of the God as the potter and his people as clay, demonstrating how we should let God mould and shape us. We have looked at Jonah, the reluctant prophet; almost an example of how prophets *shouldn't* behave. We have explored Isaiah, Chapter 43, where God tells his people, in ancient times and now, that he is 'doing a new thing'. *We would love every member and attendee of PABC to join a house group. Please speak to Michelle, Pauline or Karen for details.*

Churches Together in Clacton Good Friday Worship Events 2026

As different churches across Clacton, we had a great time of witness and worship on Good Friday. We met at Christmas Tree Island (opposite McDonald's in the town centre) at 10am to sing hymns together, accompanied by our local Salvation Army band. Then Father Patrick, the lead priest at Our Lady of Light Catholic Church, brought us a short message about what Jesus did for us on the cross. All of us gathered then walked around the town centre, with a giant wooden cross at our head. The roads were closed off for this Walk of Witness, and we were in full view of anyone who happened to be in the town centre at that time, united in our commitment to sharing the good news of Jesus, who died to take away the sins of humanity.

Our walk ended at the Pier Avenue Baptist Church building where everyone was invited in for a worship service. This was led by PABC minister Michelle, and we appreciated a sermon on The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53), given by Pastor David from Elim Pentecostal Church Clacton. The worship was followed by fellowship and hot cross buns for everyone.

Thank you to all who made this special time possible.

Pauline's story

Well here I am back at Preston prison. Very different to a settled Cat B. It is a local prison meaning that men come in from the street and are on remand, so much to and fro to courts which makes life difficult for everyone.

I had hoped to reduce my hours by a day which went well for a month, then the lead chaplain transferred to Garth and I was asked to go back to full time and cover until they found a replacement.



In 2003 I decided to go back to my Baptist roots. And during the following year I felt led to apply for ordination. Very difficult as I had to be covered by an organisation (at present the Anglican Bishop) however after much deliberation, consultation there was a way agreed. Due to my many years training as a Reader and degree and experience

the BU board only required me to attend the Northern Baptist college to take the Baptist History and Principles. In August 2004 I was ordained in Preston prison and be-



came a free church Chaplain. It was a wonderful evening with a full Chapel of inmates and visitors.

The following infor-

mation included before and after my ordination.

Regarding working in a local prison, many things remain similar to Cat B but timeframes different. Every new admission is to be seen in within 24hrs. and there can be up to 20+ men to interview.



Segregation and hospital and those on suicide watch seen daily, also weekly group meetings to be arranged and assessment to decide if any prisoners could come off the watch . Up to 20 again.

Any requests that come via wings and personal requests and that is in addition to Governor meetings, courses, visits to workshops as well as navigating three floors with metal steps.

I would like to say at this point, to people who may feel 'I had a bad childhood but I never turned out like they did. Taking drugs, abusing, stealing, violence'. Everyone reacts to their circumstances differently and I would would like to add that if there were prisons that housed the mentally ill (not those in high) the main prisons would have half its number. I will share some of the backgrounds for you to get a flavour of the people we deal with.

** A young man who keeps offending who, from birth was brought up as a female until he went to school and was eventually recognised as being a man. Social services involved and the more elderly parents said 'unless he lives as a girl we don't want him. We wanted a girl'.

** Man who I had a one to one with cried because he still carried the guilt that he didn't help his sister from being r***** by his father. He could hear her screaming but was locked in a cupboard.

** one made to eat food he didn't like and was sick. He was then made to eat that.

** one who is unlikely to be released as he was arrested for throwing bricks over a motorway bridge. No matter how myself or the social worker spoke to him he just couldn't see what was wrong.

OTHER INCIDENTS and DUTIES

As previously mentioned, Chaplains have cell keys and visit prisoners by request and also to give bad news.

** one fairly new prisoner was very frustrated about his meds. I took him into a glass interview cell on the landing. He had just cause to be angry, but on verbalising this he became explosive. It was a small 8x8 size 'room' and he hit a metal cabinet and dented it. I knew he meant me no harm but may do so accidentally in such a small space.

I pressed the alarm button (in all areas) and within seconds officers began to appear. I held my hand up to stop them entering and flooring him, to allow him to calm down. So long as he was observed, I was happy to give him time. When he calmed down he was escorted to segregation and I went with him.

** Another time I had to tell two brothers their mother had died. I could have brought them to the chapel but, knowing them I decided to tell them in the cell (after warning the officers). I left the cell door wide open. One picked up a chair and threw it through the doorway and kicked off. You have to realise that with many groups of men the mother is the key to EVERYTHING.

Despite that, I managed to negotiate for them being able to attend the funeral. They assured me and the governor they would behave. However, certain intel on the phone was not picked up. At the funeral the family turned nasty and attacked the officers breaking the arm of a female and attacking the driver of the escort van. Sadly this resulted in another prisoner having his permission to attend a funeral next day cancelled.

** we too often had to relay news of deaths to inmates. Some of parents, some of children or partners. (This is often due to the environment from which they came). Then work with plans to allow prisoners to attend the funeral.

** . If a death occurs during the night we have to go with a governor. Very hard to be knocking at a door at 2am in the morning to pass on the news.

** . What minister can say that half an hour before taking a service they have to deal with someone attempting to hang themselves!!!

THERE ARE GOOD TIMES.

** the Governor did enjoy the sketches and plays I tried to put on. Very difficult when prisoners going to court, being transferred, having visits. However, we did manage the history of the plague 'ring a ring o roses' one prisoner took responsibility for sound, another costume by negotiating with the workshops first.

The governors and many visitors/ support workers were invited and it was a brilliant evening and the prisoners taking part were thrilled as many had never been praised for anything before.

** **courses** as conducted at Garth. **Reformative Justice** ones went down well. Especially when victims of crime (even murder) came and told the men how that affected their lives. In some cases prisoners wanted to write to their victims to apologise. This was possible but through probation not directly. We discussed the ripple effect.

The Journey. (Picture on opposite page) where we would work through the journey of their lives with a picture to remember pitfalls, curves in the journey, people etc.

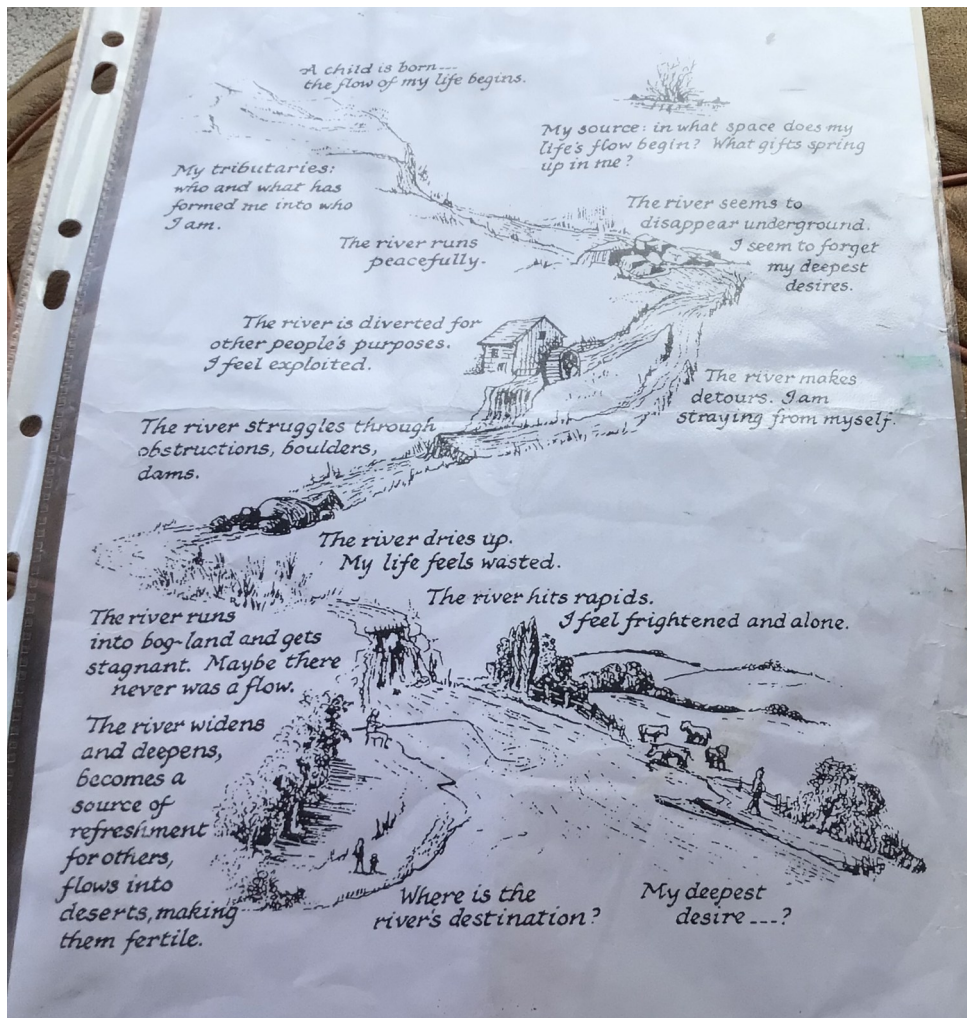
** family meetings where they may have to say goodbye if children being adopted. Or, where some family need could only be sorted by face to face in a Chapel environment.

** . Alpha

** . Drug addiction

** . **Prayed and had a vision.** One man was very distressed and wanted prayer and support. As he was already in his cell it was more appropriate to stay there. As we went through a meditative prayer he saw a waterfall and walked towards it and felt the force of it wash him and sweep away his past..... he began a journey to faith.

** . **Scottish mother.** We had a Scot who was only with us for a few days before release. He asked for time in Chapel and shared how his mother had prayed for him for years and how he had been in the throws of addiction. He had a 16yr old son who he had let down badly. He was off drugs during this last sentence.



We talked and he accepted Jesus into his life. He was due for discharge next day. A week later I had a message to ring a lady. It turned out to be John's mother. In her lovely Scottish accent she shared with me what happened when John arrived home from prison. He told her he had accepted Christ and they sat until the early hours with his son and had wonderful fellowship together.

Next morning she went into his room to find him dead. Yet, on the phone she was happy and praising God because John had found forgiveness before he died and given them joyful hours together. This had meant so much to her.

**** grief counselling.** Many men had had great losses and never had the relevant support afterwards. We would arrange counselling for them.

Thank you for allowing me into your home
 I'd been into prisons many times before.
 But this time was different, I felt so alone.
 Bruised, battered, fragile, angry. Could this be a cure?
 Then my Lord gently spoke Come we'll handle this together.
 Four years is too long to carry this guilt.
 Now is the time to move on forever.
 With Him by my side I knew I could cope.
 He is my strength, my security, my hope.
 It wasn't so bad, in fact it was relieving
 By sharing my feelings I found healing.
 My prayer is for you that you too can move on.
 There is hope, there is a future, there is forgiveness
 There is healing.

should be real reason for the first time
 in my life. I pray to give thanks to the
 Lord all the time now. I feel so grateful
 to be alive enough to say how grateful
 I am for his gift of the earth and life.
 I am for his gift of the earth and life.
 He has over the prison time. One day
 he has over the prison time. One day
 he has over the prison time. One day

20 months ago, none of these
 four mentioned were in my life. I was
 a shattered mess crying about hell and
 now... wow! What a turn around. I
 feel alive, happy, calm, healthier and
 I have what I never thought I would
 ever have "A Future". I literally
 feel reason... how thankful I am.

My sentence date is over for the 20th July 07.
 Please think of me and pray for me. Routine,
 and of course, whatever the outcome I
 shall write and let you know and how
 I feel about it. Oh the other odd
 surprise person that I mentioned earlier
 that came into my life is you. Routine, you're
 a wonderful person and I miss you, we
 can do. Thank you for everything.
 God bless you
 P.S. My Dad mate, Ian wishes
 You both well. Steve x

**. Many times we were asked by prisoners to contact (usually grandmothers) to ask if they would contact them again and were sorry. Sadly, the g'mothers often related how often they had heard this. How the g'son had ripped them off, lied, stolen, abused them and they had just had enough. ☹

I was given the opportunity to have a short time in Thailand. Attached to a church who visited the prisons regularly and had a support network following release (classrooms, overnight accommodation and residences for a period of time). We were taken round many prisons and preached in the open air (with interpreters) Amazing, but another story.

Again I remind you of the verses for my journey. Isaiah 43:19 and Matt 4:19

I hope you have experienced a flavour of what prison life is like for both residents and workers. There are many more things we covered and many more experiences, but not time to share these. I loved the work and the people. I continued work until I was 63 and we decided to retire to Suffolk. Was that the end? What do you think? Where in the Bible does it say you retire?

Reflections of a prison Chaplain.

What do we deal with in a week?

We're asked to be with those we tell about the death of a relative, those who have miscarried, those who are expecting children.... those who are hopeless and those who are experiencing the first twinges of hope, painful as it is.

We get phone calls from officers on the wings: "so-and-so" has had bad news on the phone and is asking to talk to a chaplain. We don't know what has happened they won't tell us."

We get the reception visits and the stories people carry with them, the sparks of paranoia from which, for some reason at some times, we are exempt and the other occasional sparks of something else.

Everywhere we go we are called upon to be with both prisoners and staff as they offer to share their stories and their lives; to go with them into the pits of their experience; into the darkness and to be a light, or a lifeline, or a witness, never a judge.

Someone wanting to share good news, to show me baby photos, a baby scan, a letter, has pursued me along a corridor...

All the time it is to be with people, to respect them in their entirety: their senses, their emotions, their history, their hopes and dreams and in all this the prison system demands that we act with dignity, humanity and professionalism. But what is professionalism in this context? Is it always unprofessional to react with surprise or tears, to be emotionally engaged, to touch? For me to do that would be to be less than a human being. Everything we do demands that we are fully human. In scripture Jesus and his disciples met each person in the way that best suited them. Jesus was so moved by pity that his guts would clench within him. Certainly there is a need that we don't get overwhelmed or over-react. But our tears can give tacit permission that lets someone else grieve,

We hear so much. The officers are curious and ask us: "How do you cope with it - the domestic violence and abuse, the physical and mental abuse, even torture, fears, dreams and nightmares?" It is the wrong question - what keeps us going back into the darkness with all these damaged and searching people?

It is love and hope, and the growing certainty that we are not alone, and nor are the people we are called to be with.

Guess the Bible character.

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Enfold

The numbers coming along to the breakfast have been increasing but also the number of people coming along to the opening devotionals has also increased. For those of you who don't know what Enfold is, let me quickly explain. Enfold happens on a Thursday morning and is a drop in for the homeless and vulnerably housed. We start at 9 with an opening devotional led by Michelle and prayers and then we serve breakfast, chat and spend time with our guests. We also partner with other agencies who come along to offer support and advice.

The opening devotional has been growing from strength to strength and we have looked at Lent and also Ruth. It is a lovely part of Enfold and some of the guests refer to it as their church. We have seen people grow in their faith and some people have even been talking about baptism which is great! We have had one guest enquire about Baptism and also seen a lot more guests attend church on a Sunday morning. This is great to see because whilst it is great to serve alongside our guests and provide practical help, it is great to see them grow spiritually and we pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to work in our guests lives.

As well as the devotional the breakfast has been growing. It has been good to see people get along and we have had regular visit from the hairdressers. We also have had representatives from DWP joining us and that has been great. One of the DWP representatives recently said that they really love coming along and have even been taking part in some jobs such as hoovering and taking the towels home to wash. They say they love coming here on a Thursday and spend the week recommending their clients come along and get the help on offer.

One prayer point is the fact a few of our long standing volunteers have stepped back to take a rest. We really thank and appreciate the effort Dawn, Tony, Julie and June have given and the way they have served has been amazing and made such a difference, we hope to see you back in the future but also that you enjoy the rest! It has left us short on a Thursday morning and we have had Jean join us and Akram has been helping with washing up which is great but we are on the look out for extra volunteers so if you feel this is you then please ask.

We were recently blessed enough to receive a grant to cover food thanks to some good work by Heather and that means that not only were we able to buy some long term items such as beans and milk but we were also able to offer some extra food for our guests to take away with them to help get them through the week which has been very much welcomed by our guests, some of whom have said it lifted a weight of their shoulders.

We have had some really great sessions and celebrated Easter with our guests. We gave each of them a Chocolate bar which had an image of God and a blessing on the outside. They all enjoyed the chocolate but were really touched by the blessing too. Our guests were also invited along to the easter Breakfast and they enjoyed that with some even staying for the service which was great and the first time that has happened. Of course, the service was also great to see 2 Enfold regulars in Bert and Akram be baptised!

I do want to make a mention about our team as they are all superstars and have stepped up whilst we have been so short staffed recently. They have been really flexible and made a huge difference and we are so blessed to have them serve our guests in many different ways. If anyone reading this has some time to spare on a Thursday morning however, we could do with some more support and would love to invite you to see where you could help.

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`

God bless

Del

TINY TREASURES PARENT/CARER BABY AND TODDLER

We were excited to meet our newest arrival Ruby who was born the beginning of March to one of our Toddler families. We are now awaiting the arrival of a brother for one of our other toddlers, Maeva, whose grandparents are Stephen and Nicki Biddall, who many of you will remember was one of our previous ministers.

As we are moving from spring to summer our crafts have reflected this with pictures of summer flowers, blossom on trees, birds and butterflies.

We will end the term with our party when we will say goodbye to some of our toddlers as they start school in September. We wish them well in this new and exciting journey in their lives.

Sylvia Burns



**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



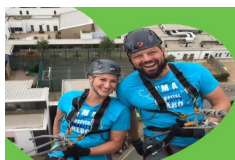
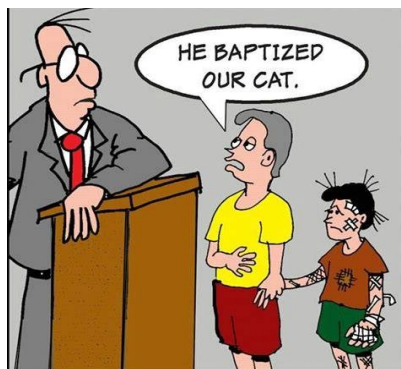
Self-Help
Facilitating you to
help yourself



Resources
Signposting to
relevant services
where necessary



By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God
- ROMANS 5:2 x



Extreme Abseil

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June 2026

Ipswich Hospital Tower

Take on the challenge



An appeal by
**Colchester & Ipswich
Hospitals Charity**



Sponsor our Extreme Abseiler....

**Extreme
Abseil
Rebecca Bann**

Time Garden Appeal

Rebecca is taking part
in the Extreme Abseil
on Saturday 6 June to raise
money to transform patient experience

To make a donation,
scan the QR code below
together we make a difference



Scan to
donate



0800 770 1309
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**Colchester & Ipswich
Hospitals Charity**



Every moment matters. Every donation counts



Help us
create a
Time Garden

**Colchester & Ipswich
Hospitals Charity**

Find out more

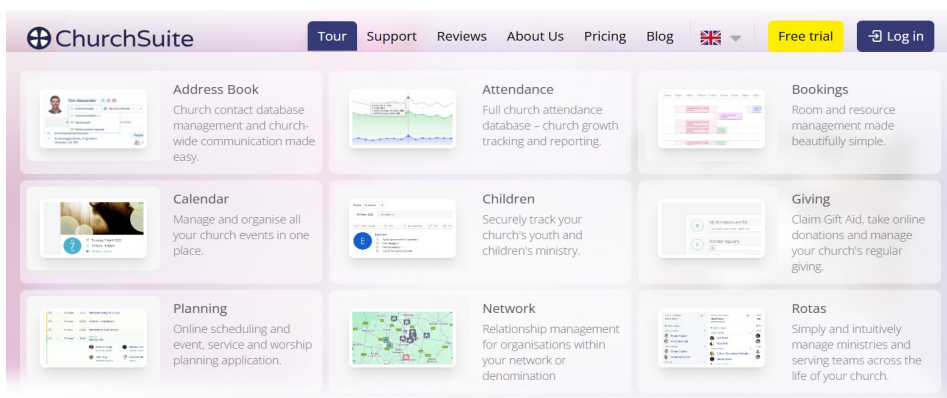


Communications Sub Group

The Comms Sub Group have had one general meeting since the last magazine edition and on Saturday 16th May they had an Open Session for those interested and willing to contribute to a review of two Church administrations programs.

Under review was ChurchSuite and the second was Church Admin.

Both programs offered multiple modules to aid most of the areas of Church administration and both operated in similar ways—the ChurchSuite is a standalone program while the Church Admin is an add-on to our Church Web and sits inside and is a part of our Web.



The ChurchSuite was well received and from the visual look, ease of use and it was potentially first choice but as in all things Computer programs come at a cost and with more than 100 potential people to be registered we had to consider the cost implications.

The Church Admin package will cost £7/month with an

outright purchase option of £150 whereas the Church Suite monthly cost for an equal number of modules would cost £45/month (we could manage with fewer modules for a reduced cost) so the decision was made that we should trial for a 3 month period the cheaper option. Watch out for more information as we progress the trial.

Church Admin Plugin

Simple tools to organise Church life on your website





Afro-Caribbean

Afro-Caribbean Drop-In
Celebrating The Windrush

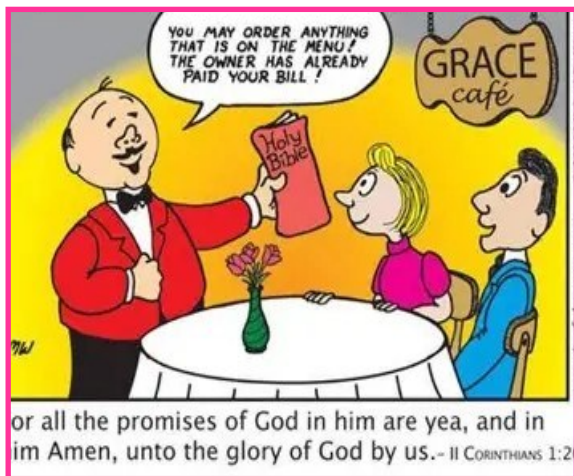
Honouring Our Heritage
Celebrating Our Journey. Building
Our Future.

📅 24th of June
🕒 Time: 5pm – 9pm

Join us for a vibrant community
gathering filled with culture, con-
nection, and celebration.

- 📍 Windrush Legacy
- 📍 Community
- 📍 Culture
- 📍 Connection

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Come connect, share, and
celebrate our Afro-Caribbean
heritage.



FIFA World Cup 2026

I appreciate that for many of you reading this article the thought of over a month of daily football will be a considerable challenge and one that does not exactly thrill you—I'm kind of with you on that but there is another side to consider. What we are, as a church, trying to achieve is to use this event to promote the Gospel and talk about Faith in God. Many top footballers around the world and in the UK are Christians and they are not afraid to speak about it and share how important Christ is in their lives on and off the field.

We have a Web site just for our World Cup activities it's at the link below or scan the QR code to get there. <https://worldcup.pabc.org.uk>



The Web will grow as information is added.

We are planning to have 'Parties' for quite a few of the key games including obviously all of the England events.

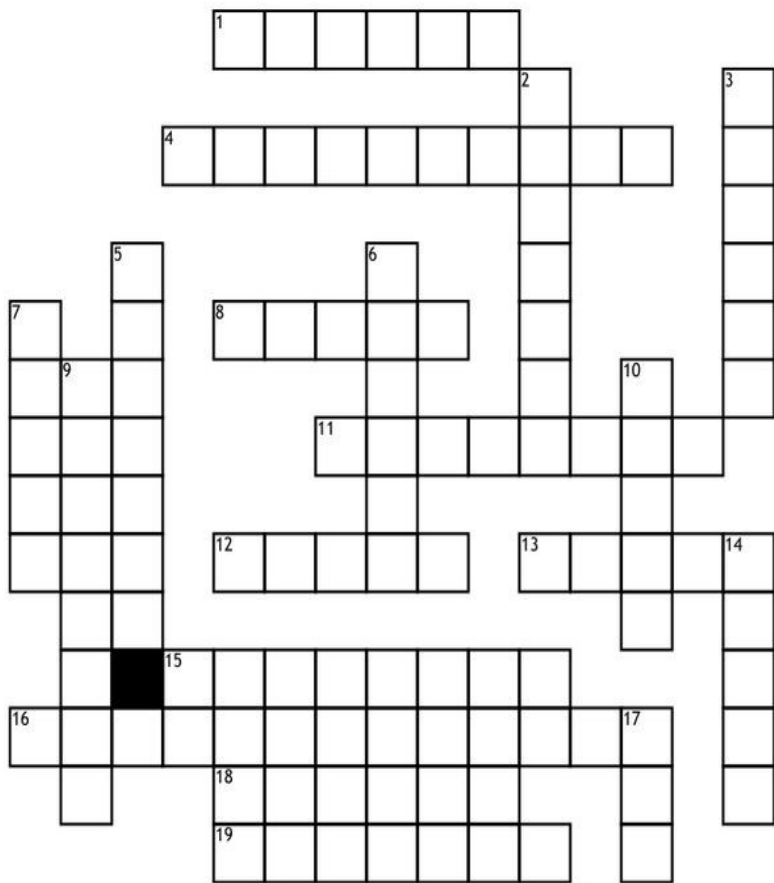
Timing and time differences will make some of the games not doable due to late starts for UK time. I'm particularly sad that my home team of Scotland have kick-off times at 2am so not for church parties.

There is lots of organising needed and the more helpers we get the easier and better our outreach parties will be. Do look out for ways to serve and help, ideas are always welcome. We would like to run at the same time as the Big Screen football event something for those who are not fussed about watching but would come along for a craft or other activity and still have some party fun and food.

Check out our YouTube channel as there are a couple of videos already up and more planned. There is a general information one and one with footballers sharing their faith. The events will be family friendly and open to all so please get excited about joining in.



Women of the Bible Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. The woman who betrayed her husband for silver.
4. The woman whose beauty resulted in adultery and murder.
8. The woman who lost a bottle but found a well.
11. The woman who was a notorious muddress
12. The woman who was seduced by her own brother.
13. The woman infamous for her harlotry.

15. The woman who was lovely but loose.

16. The woman had seven devils.

18. The woman whose jealousy brought judgment.

19. The woman who fell ot with her friend.

Down

2. The woman who possssed a devilish spirit.

3. The woman who wanted more.

5. The woman with beauty and brains but an unwise husband.

6. The woman who was morepractical than spirtual.

7. The woman whos sightseeing had fatal results.

9. The woman wrongly opposed her husband.

10. The woman who tasted the cup of bitterness.

14. Thw woman God took from the dunghill

17. The woman of unique distinction.

Zoom Boys Club



We are now well into the summer term and just a few weeks left till the summer break.

Numbers this term have been more variable with turnouts of anything from 4 to 12 Boys turning up and at times a challenge for games time, it is not unusual for a Summer term.



The highlight this session has been the opportunity to share in a church service and present a short sketch on the story of Jonah and the Big Fish.

This was in a rather unusual setting for church as a full size sailing boat had been brought into the church (with many hands helping) and was the setting for our story from Jonah Chapter 1 where he flees from God and ends up being thrown overboard into the raging sea.

The boys (and some others joining in on the boat adventure) read the scripts really confidently and a very convincing performance considering their ages and the fact that we had little time to rehearse properly.



Our new opportunity to share in a Sunday service will be on Fathers Day so watch out and plan to be there in case you miss something unexpected.

SOME MORE WONDERFUL TALES FROM RICHARD'S TIME AT SEA

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

Let the tale of the 'half-life' of the Chief Engineer continue so to speak.....

On the 4th March 1991, my 38th birthday! my ship the MST DAFI, a Large ocean going Salvage Tug owned by Iran Marine Services caught fire. We were on passage from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to Bandar-Abbas in Iran when, in the early hours of the morning we had a technical failure with one of the main engines resulting in a fire down below causing her to slowly lose electrical power and black out.

I sent a MAYDAY. However, the only ship in the area to respond was a British warship and she could not assist us as we were inside Iranian waters. In fact she steamed away so we had to look to ourselves as we slowly drifted onto the anchorage at Bandar and dropped the pick.

Sadly my crew were not cast in the heroic mould and it took some time to get the Fire-Fighting teams organised, etc. However, we won in the end.

This now ushered in a period of 'wild' camping on the aft deck. We rigged a tarpaulin to provide shade to protect us from the sun. It gets quite hot in Iran with temperatures reaching some 50+C. Fortunately The fire had not reached far into the accommodation block and while there was a lot of smoke-damage we were able to salvage some clean linen from the linen locker and mattresses from the un-used cabins so we had some bedding and something to sleep on. With us being a 'dead' ship we lost all our hotel services, i.e. reefer plant, fresh water system, toilets, air-con, etc. and so we set up camp on deck. We rigged up one of our portable salvage/diesel pumps to fill a 45 gallon drum with fresh water for us to drink, etc. With no reefer we lived like kings until we had to dump all our frozen overboard and live off our dry-stores. Huzza, BBQ every day!

A couple of humorous points. Well they seemed funny at the time:-

Firstly: To contain the fire we battened down all the outside doors as per the manual. This resulted in the air inside expanding with the heat and as I was about to lead my hose party into the accommodation the heat caused the door to explode in my face! As I turned away the flame lick burnt off half my beard.

Fortunately my face was running with sweat as was my cotton boiler suit which protected me.

Secondly: While my Second Engineer and myself were down below fighting the fire the crew had packed their kit and abandoned ship! When we come up they were all sitting in the lifeboat with their suit cases packed including the Second Engineer's kit. For sure it was like reading a 'funny story' in the union magazine and something that happens to others. However, I lost everything but the clothes I was standing up in. Not so funny.

A day-work routine was established: Safety rounds and harbour watches assigned and carried out, cleaning duties of the 'heads' progressed, etc.

The crew being Philippino's, were great fishermen so we had BBQ'd fresh fish every day! (PS: I do not like fish!)

With nothing to do all day time hung heavy on our hands and we played a lot of cards, smoked a lot of cigarettes and lived our day to the movement of the sun. I did English lessons for those who were interested. The flies were really annoying and plagued us all through the day to sunset when they disappeared and woke up again at sunrise around 04:00. Oh how I detested those pesky flies!

I must admit we were all glad when the Owners finally arranged for us to be towed to Abu-Dhabi in the UAE. Once we were alongside the Mission man, AKA Flying Angel Chaplain came down and arranged for us to have a hot meal, (NO fish!!!!!!) showers and a change of clean clothes on a nearby laid-up jack-up rig. There being no facilities ashore for abandoned seaman we carried on camping on board for some five weeks until we paid-off and were sent home.

However, not all was sweetness and light. As I said earlier the DAFI was Owned by an Iranian company and we were paid in USD two months in arrears. The Owners were very reluctant to pay out the crew and after much wrangling I had to resort to getting an Admiralty writ nailed to the mast arresting the ship for non-payment of wages.

A small point: The Owners put us off pay as soon as the DAFI caught fire. A common practise by the Owner in war and peace.

The UAE were very good and applied Islamic Law regarding our out-standing wages where-by you were entitled to the wages you had earned.

Prior to departure you were asked by the UAE Customs if you had been paid out. If not then the UAE Government took up your case and they would not let you leave until you had been paid out.

So now officially I became a DBS – Distressed British Seaman and the British Embassy eventually arranged for my repatriation. The only time that has happened in my 50 years at sea!

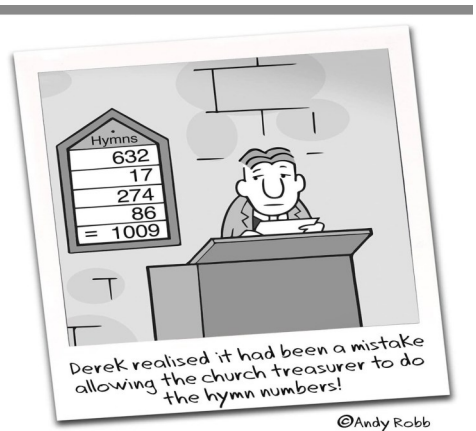
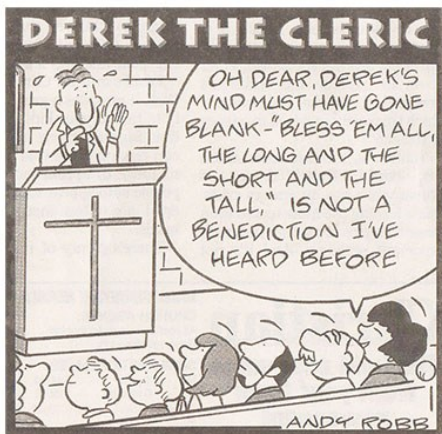
In addition, because I had crossed the bar with the owners so to speak our UAE shipping agent advised me that I was now a 'Persona-non-gratia' with the Iranian authorities and would be arrested should I enter the country again. Nice. Something to bear in mind though.

That did result in a small problem several years later when I worked for an Italian reefer company, Uni-Fruti. We used to run frozen chicken and fruit into the PG, discharging first in Iran and then Sharjah. Because I could not enter Iran the ship had to reverse the schedule calling at Sharjah first port where I paid-off before she steamed over to Iran for final discharge! Needless to say I was taken off that run and the Company did not put me on it again!

Once again God pulled a rabbit out of the hat and brought us safely home.

Praise the Lord

So..... Ek, Do, Kalass, as they say.



CHURCH TREASURERS REPORT

We do give thanks to the vast number of you who make your tithes and donations to PABC. Sacrificial and loyal gifts are not easy when uncertainty and hardship continues as a real threat to so many these days. **THERE IS MUCH MORE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DO TO MAKE YOUR GIFTS GO EVEN FURTHER!**

If you pay any level of tax on your earnings, pensions or investments, please join the 'Gift Aid Scheme' so your donations will be topped up by another 25% from the Inland Revenue!

~ Your gifts can be given with 'Gift Aid' whether you pay just £5 or £500 in tax each year;

~ The Church will never try to recover more than you have actually paid in tax;

~ Your gifts can be regular donations, one-off gifts, or both;

~ You only need to sign up to the 'Gift Aid' Scheme – the Church Treasurer does the rest!

~ And, importantly, your giving remains totally confidential and anonymous except to the Treasurer who has the task of submitting the 'Gift Aid' refund request to HMRC.

Please trust your Church Treasurer who keeps your financial information private and speak in confidence if you would like to know how it works, and if you want to sign up to 'Gift Aid'.

WE WILL SHORTLY RECEIVE £6,496 FROM THE INLAND REVENUE with thanks to all those taxpayers who are in the Scheme. It is a significant sum of money, and costs you nothing! It really is a 'Winner'! 'Gift Aid' is very important in helping to keep the Church's books balanced so allowing the ministry and the work of PABC to keep going.

So how does it help? Well for example, £6,496 equals:-

~ 9 months of our Gas & Electricity budget; or

~ the total of our annual Water and Insurance budgets; or

~ 11 months of our pledged tithing to the work of BMS World Mission and BUGB Home Mission.

BASICALLY, IT IS VITAL EXTRA INCOME THAT COSTS YOU NOTHING AND IS FREE!

If you are a taxpayer, please, please, please sign up without delay!

Thank you.

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer.

giftaid it



Information of the Church Admin program



In the main Comms article you will have seen we are trying out a new Administration software package to help us work smarter and safer.

An important part of our consideration and choice has been the safety of any personal data held. We have a package that is built for churches and is 'Church Appropriate' and 'GDPR' compliant and as secure as is possible.

Access for initial Registration is from the links below from either a computer or a Phone/Tablet. If your email is not already on the system you will get 1st Registration access. If your name is already entered you will be invited to check your information and give permissions for a range of options, 2nd Registration access.

Access our Church Admin Portal via this QR Code

or at <https://pabc.org.uk/church-admin/>



Access the Mobile App for your Phone/Tablet at this QR Code

or <https://ourchurchapp.online/>



Clacton Choral Society Presents...

....Songs from Shows

Saturday 4th July at 3pm

St James' Church, Tower Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 1LE.

This includes extracts from Oliver, Cats, Carousel, Phantom of the Opera, Oklahoma, and many more!

Our summer concert in aid of St James' Church will feature songs from the shows. Tickets are free (this is a fundraising event including a raffle), but tickets must be obtained prior to the event, via the link below:

[What's on - Clacton Choral Society](#)

GIRLS' BRIGADE

Having returned from the Easter break, girls from all sections are completing the badges required for their groups. Explorers are doing Out and About whilst the Juniors are looking at Forgiveness, the Senior girls are discovering more about Emotions and the Brigaders have taken Adventure and just need to complete their Creativity subject for which they are making a banner out of donated material. Four of these young people are now in the process of enrolling onto the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Bronze level.

We have welcomed 2 new members into our Explorer section over the past few weeks which is encouraging. It is good to be making contact with more families as we share the love of Jesus with more girls.

We are now in the process of preparing for our Display and Awards evening which is planned for Tuesday 7th July, when all members will receive the badges they have earned during the year, followed by performing some items they have been practicing. We invite you all to attend this event as we celebrate all that the girls have achieved this year.

Our summer camp is now being organised and although we have not had as many sign up to this as in previous years, a wide range of activities will be offered to all those attending. The Explorers have been invited to join us for two days this year and has always proved popular with these younger girls. They love exploring the outdoors and joining in the activities with the older ones.

We are holding two fund raising events when money raised will go towards our camp, enabling us to subsidise the cost. Please attend these if you are able.

SATURDAY 30th MAY – Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale when we will be serving bacon rolls together with a drink for £3.
SATURDAY 20th JUNE – Quiz Night at 6.30pm with teams of up to 6 people. These can be made up on the night from those who attend. Refreshments will be provided during the evening.

Please continue to pray for our work with girls and young women as they engage with the activities we provide, where they learn new life skills and come under the sound of the gospel. Also for the dedication of the leaders as they prepare and deliver our weekly program.

Gill Stennings

On Resurrection Sunday at Pier Avenue Baptist Church, we were delighted to celebrate the baptisms of Bert and Akram. Bert, a nineteen-year-old from Essex, shared how God had comforted him after the loss of someone close to him and changed his life thereafter. He chose to play the song 'Dusty Bibles', which encouraged us to spend more time reading the Word and less on our phones! Akram, a forty-two year old from Iran, shared how she had grown up in a Muslim family, fearing God, but had then found freedom in following Jesus, who we need not fear.

Akram's Testimony



I was a Muslim before, and since childhood I grew up with fear of God and fear of what would happen if I made mistakes. I always felt a heaviness in my heart, like nothing I did was ever enough. I prayed and tried to be a good person, but I didn't have real peace.

At some point in my life, I felt very alone, both emotionally and because of family problems. I had many questions in my mind that I couldn't find satisfying answers for. One of the biggest questions was: why should I be so afraid? Why should God only be about fear?

Through the internet, friends, and church classes, I slowly started hearing about Jesus Christ. What was very different for me was understanding that God is not just a strict judge, but a loving Father who cares about me.

When I heard that Jesus gave His life for our sins, it really touched my heart. I felt like there is someone who accepts me as I am, not someone who is always judging me.

One day, I prayed very simply and said:
"God, if Jesus is really the right way, please show me."

After that, little by little, I felt a peace in my heart that I had never experienced before.

Now my faith is not based on fear, but on a relationship. I feel that God is close to me, He hears me, and I don't have to prove myself to be loved. That is why I decided to believe in Jesus — because in Him I found love, forgiveness, and peace that I was always looking for.

On this Easter day, I choose to be baptised and follow Jesus.

Bert's Testimony

A few years ago now I lost someone very important to me. The pain I felt after that loss I felt nothing would be able to cure it. One night October 27th 2022 Jesus came to me in a dream and comforted me. That night I knew my faith and belief in Jesus. Since then my belief and love for the Father has grown so much I always know I can pray and that the Father will listen he's helped me through so much. Stress fear anxiety he has seen my failures, successes and mistakes and yet still loves me like I'm his own son.



At first I looked into Catholicism but December 2025 I came to this church at Pier Avenue and knew it was the place for me. I felt comfortable just like how I feel whenever the father would comfort me in the bad times yet now even in good times I can still feel that warmth. The church family here has been so welcoming and so now I decide to declare my faith publicly as a Christian who wants to follow Jesus in my life and continue to worship here as a part of the church family.



This short article is to encourage you to check out our Baptist Mission Organisation BMS World Mission—as Baptists we are the main supporters of the work they do as this is a denominational mission run by Baptists reaching out to the far corners of our World. The BMS Mission Partners we are linked to at PABC are Andrea and Mark Hotchkin who are working in Chad. With limited time back in the UK it is hard for them to visit churches very often and it's a couple of years since they had a visit to our church.

You can find the latest information from them at this link:
<https://bmsworldmission.org/amhotchkin>

While checking out their pages please also explore the other areas of the BMS World Mission Web

I'll set you a challenge, try and find the article on Sunflowers and the 'Sow, Grow & Give' encouragement article in support of a mission outreach.

Don't just read about it, consider getting involved.



FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 6th June – Invited to the Salvation Army Open Day 10.00 -3.00

Friday 12th June - Prayer event

Wednesday 17th June - World cup event

Saturday 20th June - GB Quiz Night

Tuesday 23rd June – World Cup event

Saturday 27th June – PABC taking part in Community Day on the Town Square
World Cup event

Tuesday 30th June- 9.30 a.m. Prayer@Church

Sunday 5th July - 3.45-7.30 p.m. EBA Annual Gathering at Christchurch, Ipswich

Tuesday 7th July - 6.00 p.m. GB Awards and Presentation evening

Friday 10th July - Prayer event

Sunday 12th July – 4.00 p.m. 3 Church meet up with bring and share tea at
Holland Baptist Church

Sunday 19th July – Beach Hut Day

Sunday 26th July – Church members' meeting after morning service

Tuesday 28th July – 9.30 a.m. Prayer@Church

All are invited to **Prayer before Worship**
at 10am every Sunday In the Quiet Room

**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 next issue will
be appreciated as soon as possible please