



Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

FAMILY MAGAZINE

2026 APRIL



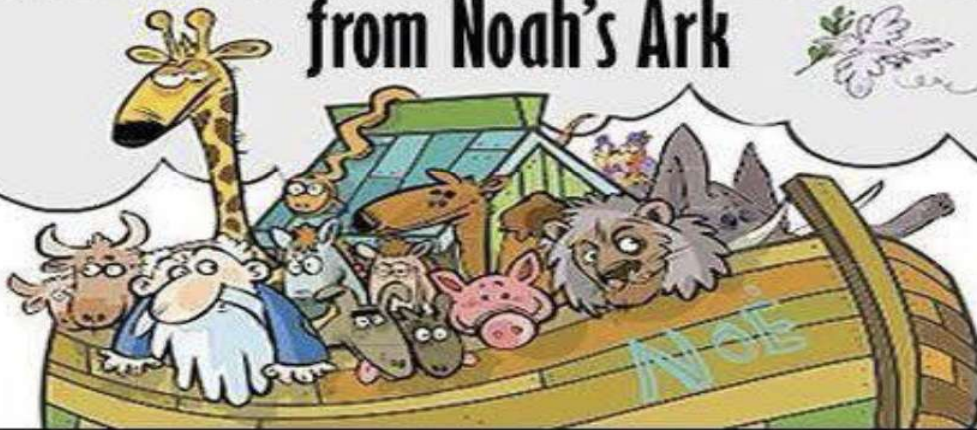


If this is your first time at Pier Avenue Baptist Church or even your second or third visit, we are so glad that you are here. Someone should come to chat to you but if, amongst all the rushing about, they don't, then please say hello to one of the people with a card hanging around their necks. It is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

On Good Friday, the world saw the Son of God crucified. His followers mourned. Hope seemed lost. But on the third day, Jesus rose, and everything changed

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. .

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark



- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're really old, someone may ask you to do some thing really big.
- 5 Don't listen to the critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs
- 9 When you're stressed, float a while
- 10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
- 11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting...

Michelle's usings



An Expensive Gift

Unlike some women, I'm not that into presents. Perhaps it's because, when I was growing up, my family gave fairly modest presents to one another. In my opinion, a small thoughtful gift is better than lots of items or something extravagant and expensive. My son will often buy me a pack of nice pens and I'm happy with that.

In Mark's account of the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection, we read about an unnamed woman who gave Jesus a very expensive gift whilst he was eating a meal at the home of Simon the Leper (Mark 14: 3 – 9). I say a gift, but it was more how she treated him. She broke open a jar of very expensive perfume and poured it over Jesus' head.

Why did she do this? This episode is often called something like 'Jesus Anointed at Bethany'. In Jesus' time on earth, pouring oil over a person's head could be polite, respectful behaviour. But in the case of this woman, she is preparing Jesus for his burial. A strange thing to do at a party you might think! Pouring perfume, at this time, was a way of honouring a person who had died and this woman somehow knows that Jesus is close to the end of his earthly life. Anointing was when somebody had oil put on his head to mark him out as a king. Christians know that Jesus is the King of Kings. It seems that this woman had a sense of this too.

The woman was criticised by some of the other guests for wasting an expensive product. The perfume is worth a year's wages and could have been sold and the money given to the poor, they cried. I'd previously thought that they had a point, actually...

However, Jesus rebuked them. He knew the true value of this woman's attention to him. The poor would always be there, he said; but he wouldn't be. At first glance, it seems as if he is dismissing the plight of the poor, which seems at odds with his previous declaration that he had 'come to bring good news to the poor'. Yet what he is actually pointing out is the distinction between different priorities. The Old Testament includes numerous instructions from God for his people to show generosity and care towards poor people. Yet this is not to come before loving God as number one.

Here in Clacton we live in an area where many people are in need. There is no doubt in my mind that God wants us to not only give to them and support them, but to be with them, showing friendship. Nevertheless, as Easter approaches, we should be reminded more than ever that our top focus, as followers of Jesus, should be on God and everything else flows from that. The Lord doesn't want us to be so busy helping others that we spend too little time exclusively in his presence, hearing what he has to say to us, about our own lives and the lives of those around us.

The woman who is famous for anointing Jesus and yet is not named can teach us a lot in her Christ-like behaviour. As she presented her expensive gift, she humbled herself and behaved as a servant. This woman gave sacrificially of her resources; but recognised that Jesus, by his coming death on the cross, was about to give the most precious, priceless gift of all. This woman gave, but she also received Jesus into her heart and kept him there. Can we do the same?

Wishing you a blessed Easter.

Michelle

GIRLS' BRIGADE

During this last term the girls in all sections have achieved another badge with Explorers taking Our Feelings, Juniors thinking about Compassion, Seniors discussed Money Matters while the Brigader section displayed their culinary skills in Domestic Goddess. Each girl completing at least 4 weeks in their subject were presented with a certificate which they take home for their parents to see. They will receive all their badges at our Awards Evening later in the year.

Over the last few weeks, we have welcomed 3 new members into our Explorer section - with one family travelling from Great Bentley to attend each week. Another has recently moved to Clacton from Chelmsford where she used to attend a Girls' Brigade group. We hope these new arrivals will settle with us and quickly make new friends.

Our pancake evening was very well attended, where parents and friends enjoyed the freshly made pancakes with a wide variety of fillings. Our cake stall also proved extremely popular with guests purchasing a selection of homemade goodies. We made a profit of £150 which was divided between the Church and ourselves. A big thank you to all who supported us at this annual event.

Our leaders have now completed part 2 of the 'Life to the Full' training which predominantly covers safeguarding. This involved attending a 2 hour zoom session delivered by our Headquarters staff, which highlighted the points covered in the online part 1 modules. This training has to be completed every 3 years.

Over the Mothering Sunday weekend we held a sleepover when we took the girls for a game of bowling followed by making Mothers' Day gifts to be given out at the Sunday service. They also played games and had a devotional time.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - We are holding another quiz night on Saturday 20th June which we invite you to attend. You may come as a group or by yourself when you can join with others to make up a team.

Please pray for our summer camp that girls will attend this event at Thorrington Scout Camp Site for a week of exciting activities. Many often find they have other commitments over the summer holidays.

Thank you for your continued support, whether through prayer, financially or attending our special events. This helps us to share God's love with children and young people that come into our care each week.

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

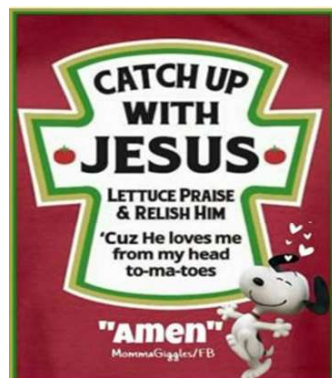
“Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.”

“Now, Joey, is that really what the teacher taught you?” his mother asked

“Well, no, Mum, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it

During Sunday School, the teacher asked, “Why do we say ‘Amen’ at the end of prayers?”

Little Jacob raised his hand and said, “Because it’s like hitting ‘Send’ so God gets the message.”





Children's Easter Activities

Saturday 4th April

From 9.30am in the Church

Easter Craft & Easter Egg Hunt

(Easter Hunt at 10.30am)

Coffee Morning

will be on serving

Tea, Coffee, Squash, Hot Chocolate, Toast,
Tea cakes & Homemade cakes

Hi everyone. I come this time with the worldly 'keys of the kingdom' – prison. I will share my prison work in two parts, first in Garth Cat B prison 800 prisoners built in 1988. Second part in Preston prison. A local remand prison which houses 700 prisoners built in 1790. Both prisons were still using the key system through every gate rather than electronic. Chaplains are one of the few people other than officers who carry cell keys and special department keys. A Chaplain has to be allowed access to all areas of the prison.



I am only able to give you just a glimpse of how it was being in a prison environment full time. Very noisy, very demanding and always needing to be alert and careful. Having a balance of both being tough yet caring. I hope my sharing enables you to see deeper than just my words.

My first post as a chaplain in prison was very different from Preston where I had been teaching. Being Cat B and quite a modern prison the environment was more settled as prisoners are serving long-term sentences. It was a slower pace and gave chaplains the opportunity to work through courses with prisoners as they were settled and had a regular routine, and weren't forever going to court or having visits like a remand prison.

A chaplain by law in Cat B has to see face to face - every day new prisoner admitted in the previous week. Due to a low turnover this was usually about 5-10 prisoners.

To visit every prisoner in segregation daily, including a review with a governor monthly as prisoners only allowed to be segregated a maximum length of time except for certain circumstances.

Every prisoner on suicide watch. Also everyone in the hospital wing.

In order to tick key performances targets for the governor we ran courses including drug abuse with the social worker. Restorative Justice and Alpha courses. We conducted Christian services at special times and a Communion service every Sunday. I worked alongside Catholic chaplain (a nun) Catholic monks and also an Imam. A Buddhist visited weekly and led meditation and we called in leaders of other faiths as required.

We supervised visits by prison visitors and Christian visitors who help lead a service and singing once a week in an evening.

We arranged marriages as appropriate, with the presence of a registrar.

Also special visits for those who needed to have a family meeting.

Chaplains also visited the workshops which consisted of Art,



Brickwork, Woodwork where they made large wooden rocking horses, internal doors and metal work where large and small metal trees, gothic bed ends and base and garden items where produced. However, sadly over time these were stopped and production lines of Plastic cups and plates, electrical extension leads and machining prison clothing were produced instead. This was to provide more revenue. I would sometimes go along during visiting times if a prisoner wanted me to meet their relatives.

There were a few times when life wasn't so routine and required us to use our skills and wisdom and just to be available.

One call for wisdom was when a young man who had been given a life sentence had been transferred from a YOI to an adult prison. A big move. He was very frightened and upset. Normally, we avoid touching prisoners, especially when alone in a cell. On this occasion I felt it right to give him a hug and would have been prepared to answer to anyone who may question this decision. He settled down and there was never any comeback from him (thinking my action had been anything other than caring as a one off). He needed that on that day.

Another incident was with a chapel orderly. Myself and a social worker felt that he was potentially dangerous. He came over as subservient, always a 'yes' man on the wings as well as the chapel. This led to him often being very autonomous and pushing boundaries. One day he was to return to his cell, but was resistant to do so (I'm withholding reason). I could have just let it be, but he was daily becoming subtly more resistant which could become a problem. Therefore I insisted he returned to his cell and he just flipped. He lost his temper and became abusive. This was all contained and he was returned to his cell. The wing officers were shocked, but the social worker and I had seen this coming. Sometimes you go with your gut feeling and stay alert.

A major incident was the hostage taking of a female member of staff by a prisoner. She was imprisoned in a store room with him for 3 days. Her husband was an officer in another prison. I cannot go into all details of how prisons handle these situations. A negotiator is called in. During training we were told that no matter what is going on with prisoner and hostage during these situations, life is more important. Safe outcome means the hostage is freed alive. Myself and one other chaplain took turns to ensure that one of us was in the prison 24/7 during the whole incident to support staff and to be their for prisoners as well. The particular wing was isolated at the time. The siege was over on Christmas morning. Chaplains involved in debriefing and subsequent days for staff to work through any residual issues they may have. Relevant organisation counselling is also offered.

Good things happen as well. I managed to get an inter prison phone call and interceded between a husband and wife. I 'bribed' the man to come to chapel, and he became a Christian. I found out several years later that he was working at a retreat centre following release and his whole family had become Christians and we're all being baptised the day I had a message on the Preston Chaplaincy phone.



Pauline Bailey

Dear Pauline

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the service on Sunday, ALL- so what a surprise to have "Gus" singing a selection of songs for us, speaking to him AFTER was a great joy for me, it really made my day. I ALL- so hope you have a good day on Thursday for your Ordination.

Yours Sincerely

Craig Peel

Occasionally a prisoner gets a crush on you. This is usually contained ok, but one has to be careful. I received many letters of thanks from prisoner and family which was encouraging

You was perfect, pure and sweet,
And you was also, the, only one
in this world,
whom I really loved to meet.
I would like you to know, that
Your beauty, is beyond compare.
You are my hope and inspiration.
Also loving, tender and fair.
These words I write for you,
only Pauline,
Means more than my mere
thoughts can say.
I love to be near you, always,
for ever and a day,
You are a river which flows in me,
with utter and complete harmony.
Your love, flows just like a mountain stream,
for ever pure and free,
which will always last, for now and eternity,
Pauline, you are a miracle, and I adore you so much.
(CPTO) Happy Valentines day Pauline from [redacted]

Well, space run out again. Next time. I transfer back to Preston where life is manic and demands varied. See you then God bless and please pray for chaplains everywhere.

Enfold

Enfold has had an exciting but busy few months. 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 Phillippians (Paul's letter of joy - according to Michelle) and Lent. 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! 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 enjoy Michelle's devotions and will sometimes try to get there early to listen as Michelle explains things so well. Sadly from the end of March we won't have any representatives from Peabody as there is a lot of staffing issues there and so they can't get lots of people to attend. It will be a pity as they have always been a useful part of what we do.

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 since Christmas and one of the most popular was our Shrove Tuesday celebration where we had pancakes with various toppings and every guest received a poster which highlighted the easter services and were invited along. We also have given invitations to the easter breakfast and a number have signed up for this. They have also been invited to the service afterwards and the baptisms especially as one of the newer members of the team (Bert) is being 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`

Del

Every once in a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There was many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind. These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken. These lambs are called "bummer lambs." Unless the Shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the Shepherd does? He takes that rejected little one into His home, hand-feeds it and keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to His chest so the bummer can hear His heartbeat.

Once the lamb is strong enough, the Shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock. But that sheep never forgets how the Shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him. When the Shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to Him first? That is right, the bummer sheep. He knows His voice intimately.

It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the One who loves it and has experienced that love one on one. So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heartbeat.

I am a bummer lamb adopted and loved by The Good Shepherd!! Hallelujah!!

Easter Word Search

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ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB

MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION
 ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB

TINY TREASURES PARENT/CARER BABY AND TODDLER

Firstly we praise and thank the Lord for the safe arrival of a new baby girl born early March to one of our toddler families.

We started the New Year with the little ones making snowmen. For Mothering Sunday they made and decorated salt dough bears for their mums and attached the following verse

"I'm a little friendship bear made with love to show I care.

Hoping all good things will come your way and keep you happy day after day."

We will end the term making an Easter craft to help remind our families of the true meaning of Easter .

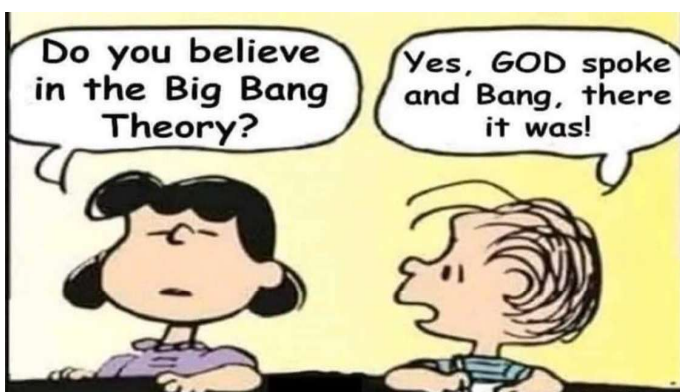
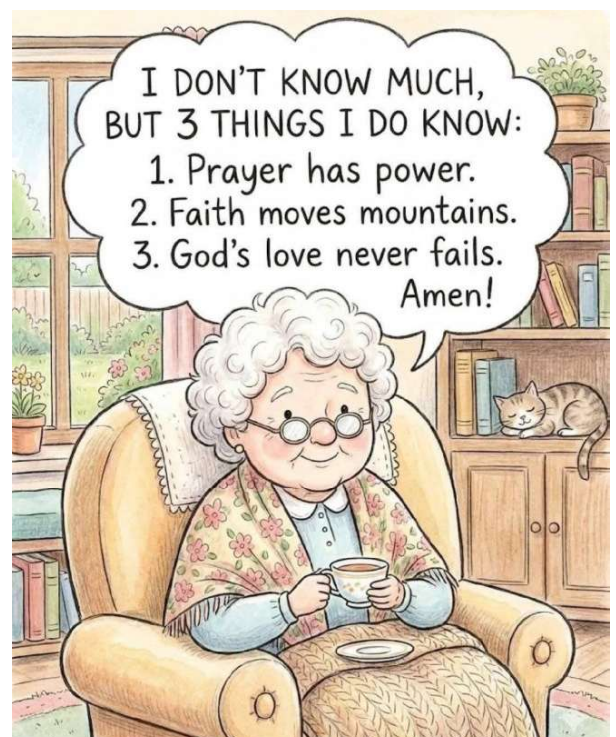
Sylvia Burns



Kid: I didn't know Jesus put eggs on people in the Bible...

Mom: What are you talking about?

Kid: Well, in Matthew 11:29 Jesus said "Take my yoke upon you..."



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:-

The hot sun slowly rises out of the deep blue indigo sky, before the eastern sky explodes in rich colours of orange, yellow and silver protecting us from further attack for the marauding helicopter gun-ship is a beast of the night and rarely comes out to play in the day.

The wounded are made ready to CASEVAC ashore by helo; a Bell-Huey helicopter of Vietnam war fame with its distinctive Whump, Whump, Whump rotor beat filling the air as the wounded are loaded on. The dead are given some dignity before being bagged-up ready for landing ashore in Dubai. War brings out the worst and the best in people and it was amazing to see the tenderness the Revolutionary Guards, AKA Kermit's, showed towards them. After all these were the hard men of the revolution who took no prisoners.

Grim faced and smoke blackened, my boys gather, sweat streaking their faces, a slap on the back here, a punch on the shoulder there, as we share a cigarette and a joke, talking through the nights events. I ask the Greek Master for some tubs of ice-cream and a couple of cases of beer. Our tradition to the ending of another SALVOP's. However, he refuses volubly with much waving of arms so I stare him down and order the Bosun to broach the ship's stores and 'rescue' the ice-cream, fags and beer anyway. Illegal of course, but all part of the 'theatre' that was my life and scant reward for a job well done. We share the soft ice-cream, spooning it out with our deck knives, washing it down with bottles of flat, tepid water or better still, a beer and sometimes even a tot of whisky if Johnny-the-Greek is feeling generous. But not today. We rig the tow and hand the casualty over to the next tug to be towed south clear of the war-zone while we return to YORKIE, our job is done. The boys grinning now, as we overhaul and stow our gear, looking forward to breakfast and a hot shower as taut nerves relax – until the next time.

From July 1986 up to the ceasefire in August 1988, I took part in some 120 war related salvage and fire-fighting operations. Always on the front line running with the convoys. Not everyone could take the strain and some cracked under the relentless pressure with up to six to seven air-raids a day, to be sent home at their own expense. Sacrificed on the high altar of profit by an unsympathetic owner. After all, we weren't in any danger were we, just doing our jobs weren't we, in a war not of our making and ignored by all unless a profit could be turned. Cynical? Guilty as charged!

Obviously, the above can only be a kaleidoscopic montage of disconnected snapshots of a life and a time I could write so much about.

However, God put me into that war where I lived a larger than life existence for a reason. However, it was because **I KNEW** that God had promised to protect me and always be by my side that I could do my job. In addition He even gave me YORKIE, the tug I had served on in the FALKLANDS some six years previously and was an old friend.

Some of God's promises:-

Psalms 91:7, A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand but it will not come near you.

Psalms 27:1, The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.

Psalms 23:4, Even if I go through the deepest darkness I will not be afraid Lord for you are with me, your rod and staff protect me.

Isaiah 43:2, When you pass through the deep waters, I will be with you; Your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through the fire you will not be burnt.

The promises in God's word gave me the confidence to do my job and while I never abused them, my decisions were made with due consideration to the circumstances surrounding me at the time and through me, He brought my crew, and perchance others, safely home to their loved ones. Praise God for His faithfulness, for we happy few, we band of brothers are living proof of His promises to me.

I have made fellowships-

Untold of happy lovers in old songs,

For love is not the binding of fair lips...

But wound with war's hard wire whose stakes are strong..... Wilfred Owen

Unfortunately, not so for all of my comrades. 22 of our men did not come home along with some 160 tanker men; condemned to patrol the waters of the northern Persian Gulf between Khark Island and Ras-al-Moutaf until the Master of Masters holds judgement and the sea gives up its dead.

Memories, memories as fresh today as they were then. Some happy, some sad and some best forgotten, but all bring tears to my eyes. For nearly 20 years after the cease-fire there were too many memories that I did not want to remember; always there, lurking in the corners of my mind, waiting for the silence of the night to live again and haunt me in my dreams. Memories of ships burning and stick figures silhouetted against the flames; men dying in the night, some torn asunder, some fried alive in burning oil or overcome by fume and flame, and some because I did not have the skill to save them. And always voices, voices pleading, crying, screaming for help that I could not always give, voices that I never want to hear again. I will never forget those sights and sounds, and yes, the wrong decisions that I made, decisions which cost men their lives, for as long as I live; and always lurking in the dark recesses of my mind the slithering worm of guilt waiting for the silence of the night to live again and haunt me in my dreams.

Guilt for surviving when others perished, why him and not me? A poignant reminder that, 'there but for the grace of God go I'. However, the peace of God finally overcame and these days I sleep easy although I can never forget and even now the worm of guilt can slither and twist in the middle of the night as I remember comrades lost. Insha'allah.

When it was all over and life returned to 'normal' I remember what Lt. J. Lawrence, Scots Guards said after the battle for Tumbledown, FI 1982 – 'Isn't this fun! Not the casualties, but to actually do what you have been trained to do for all those years.

The Anniversary, 20th August 2013

25 years today,
And still I cannot speak,
Of comrades lost,
Who scream, and die again,
In that dark place,
Deep within my mind..... (@)RMG

Sorry, a bit maudlin and perchance I have shared too much. A bit too much Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon in my literary diet me thinks.

A brave man is not ashamed of his tears. They are not a sign of weakness – they mean a big heart. Noah the Navigator of Mataura Island
'Nuff said.

AA) FYI the official narrative stops when I took YORKIE up north.

BB) One-oh-five: Code word for an in-coming air-raid.

CC) I always wore a clean white, but used boiler suit for my initial boarding to project calm and authority. After all, if you had just been missiled Always neat, never beat.

DD) Reliefs. This was eventually solved. Simple really. One of our Company vessels would come north to an invisible line in the sea with the stores and reliefs who would then change-over the crews. The reliefs heading north to KI while the relieved went south to Sharjah and home.

EE) A treasured memory: The safety and trading certificates on YORKIE expired in August of that summer and we had to return to Sharjah in the UAE to be surveyed by Lloyds and the certificates re-validated etc. We had been out just under a year with no shore-leave. The only time we left YORKIE was to board a casualty and fight a fire or go on one of our Company tugs. Everything else was done on the 'run' so to speak: ie: underway and made fast to another company vessel. Once we were alongside and made fast my 'boys' collected their shore-passes and subs and exited stage right at high

speed to Dubai to sink a few beers, etc. They were so desperate to get ashore they did not bother to get showered up or get changed.

The Third Engineer was duty that night and he and myself were the only ones left on board. My 3/E was desperate to get ashore with his shipmates so I knocked him off and covered his watch which meant I was the only one left on board so I had YORKIE to myself.

There was a video I had wanted to watch, Out of Africa, but had never had the time to watch it. There was no food left out in the fridge and the stores were locked, the Cook having taken the store-room keys with him when he went ashore. However, I found a packet of TUC biscuits, made a cup of tea and settled down to watch the movie. I had not been watching it for long when the Mess-room door burst open and our Cook and my Fitter literally fell into the Mess. The Cook clutching a Kentucky Fried Chicken meal and my fitter, a six pack of beer, all because the Boss had not had his dinner. I felt very humble. However, I will leave you to imagine what a KFC meal was like after a 30 mile taxi ride across the desert! Of course, I had to eat it and we three happy warriors repaired to the Cook's cabin to drink the beer and his pay-off bottle of brandy while he rustled up some noodles and we discussed cock-fighting amongst other things! (Of course I am an expert at that!!!!)

In closing I want to pay tribute to my wife, Janet. A very special Lady who kept the home fires burning up until I came home after the Cease-fire in August 1988. Originally I was to have only served one month. However, as I said earlier God changed that and I ended up doing seven months before, coming home for a brief leave during which our youngest son, Ralph, was born, before I returned to duty for a further twelve months until the ceasefire in August 1988 effectively made me redundant.

Through it all, Janet was the stalwart wife, never knowing if I was safe or not, waiting for my letters and running the home. Being a parent to our four children, all under the age of eight, one of whom had Leukaemia. Then one day her 'bomb-happy' husband rocks up and she had to deal with him on top of everything else. Yes, quite a special Lady is my Janet, pure gold and truly a very, very special blessing from God. I could not have done it without her. 'Nuff said.

In memory of Roger Hall
Still on patrol 26/09/1987

Safe seas and a fair wind. Richard G.

Thank you Richard, how relevant for what is happening today

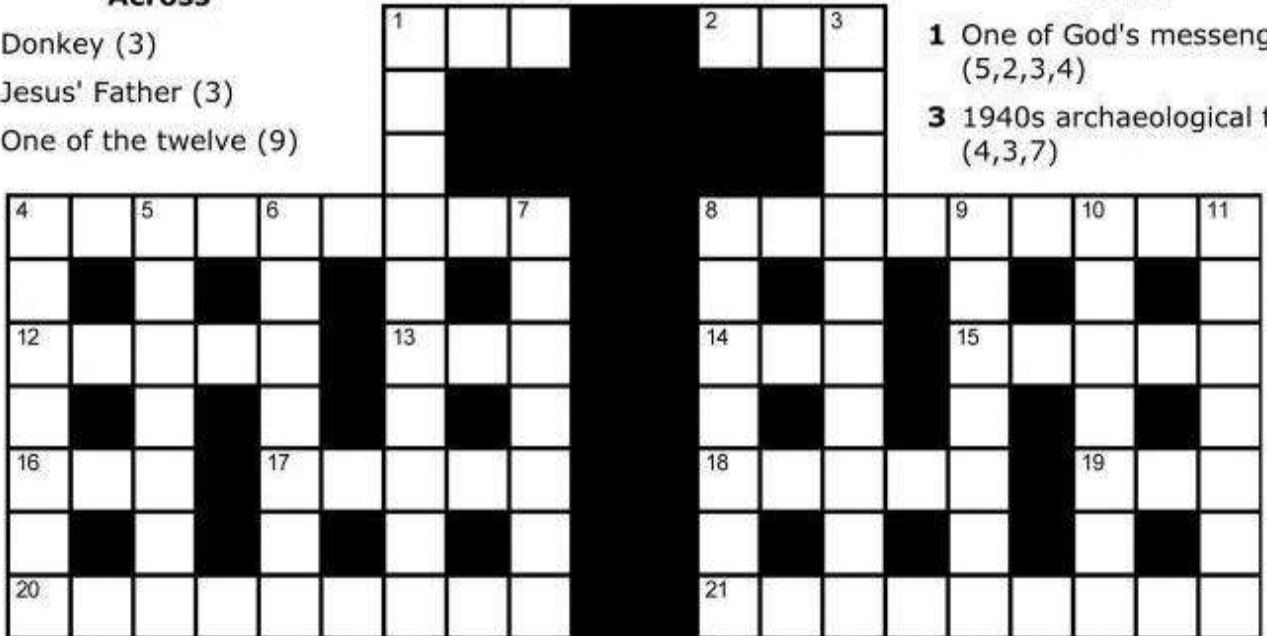
Bible Crossword X

Across

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

Down

- 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)



**Pier Avenue Baptist Church,
Clacton**

gave

£ 155.00

to support Christian development work
through Operation Agri in 2025.

With thanks from all the projects around
the world supported by your giving.



Operation Agri ● Registered CIO charity no 1189098 in England and Wales

www.operationagri.org.uk

Correspondence address: Freepost, OPERATION AGRI (no stamp or postcode needed)

Bank account for donations: Name **Operation Agri**, Sort Code **80-22-60**, Account **20935768**



Easter Breakfast



Sunday
5th April

**Serving at 8.30am in
The Welcome Centre**

£5.00 per person

**Please add your name
to the list at the back of
the Church**

**Cereal, Tea, Coffee, Juice,
Toast,
Bacon, Egg, Sausages
& Baked Beans**

Zoom Boys Club



Zoom Boys Club celebrated their first year in January and looking back over the year I'd proved to be a very exciting year and the continuing support but both boys and leaders has encouraged us to continue into year 2 and beyond.

We are grateful for your prayer support as that has been a key part of getting us to where we are. We have a regular core of 8 to 10 boys with occasionally as many as 12 in an evening. We have a total of 15 named contacts over the year though some have moved out of the area and a couple have gone on to other interests.

The leaders and helpers have created a very varied offering to keep the boys interested ranging come computing and electronics to building and controlling robot cars. Crafts have become increasingly popular and our occasional table games evenings are always fun events.



We have challenged boys with trying new activities and sports like table tennis. Ball games have been limited to encourage them to engage with activities they don't normally try.

We are happy with the group of boys we have but have plenty room for more so if you have contact with families with boys in the age range 4 to 11/12 then please let them know about our club on Thursday evenings and encourage them to come along and try it out and even better bring them along yourself.



Communications Sub Group

Another opportunity to share Comms related information with you all.

Its been a busy 1st Quarter of the year in lots of church areas and Comms has suffered a bit due to limited time—we expect to pick up a Sub Group meeting after Easter and have a Saturday morning session to look at IT options for Church Admin.

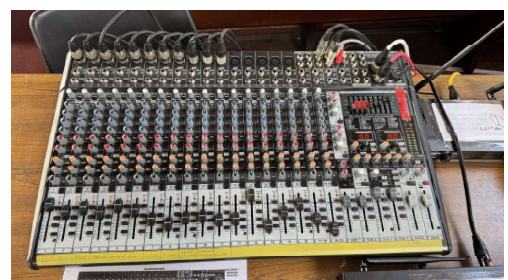
I feel the need for this edition to share a very big concern regarding our Tech needs as part of the Sunday Service each week.

We can all appreciate how much work goes into the preparations for Sunday Worship. As we look at and participate in the service there are areas we can see visually and work out that a fair bit of effort has gone into getting all of this together—songs, music and band practices during the week and an hour before the service starts is just one of many service areas.

A few of the service areas are to a greater degree unseen (or mostly unseen). In the service we see the PowerPoint slides on the screen with song words and other relevant images. Behind these appearing on the screen there is several hours of preparation (some weeks perhaps a bit less) in creating the slide list—this last Sunday there were about 90 slides that made up the whole presentation. During the service someone has to move the slides on at the right time (more or less) and this is another ministry each Sunday.

Hidden round the corner beside the projection position is a cupboard that holds the set up for our YouTube streaming channel. This ministry needs a person to create the service schedule during the week (or earlier) with details of the service ready for the live stream, a person to operate the streaming desk and control the camera and bring in other screens like the projection screen when needed and to move the camera to set position (just punch a number on a key pad) or move the camera to other positions to capture the live images as Michelle runs around the church some Sundays.

Finally we have the sound desk operator who manages the mix of all of the microphones around the church and provides an audio feed to the hearing Loop, the Creche and an audio feed for the YouTube stream. #



We urgently need to recruit for all of these key ministries if we are to be able to maintain what is needed. You will automatically feel its not an area you could handle but all the current people were there once.

For very good reasons we are shortly going to be losing two key members of the weekly Tech team—young Matthew Day will be heading away to Uni after the summer and is currently a key person in getting out YouTube stream out each Sunday.

My plea is for you to be open to checking out exactly what is involved—it might seem daunting on first looking but when broken down into a number of little stages and actions none of the tasks are actually that difficult. You might need to concentrate on the task and in doing that clearly are not able to join in the Sunday Worship in the same way you can when sitting in a pew with no responsibilities.

That is also a reason why we need more members each week as we really have to get to the point where those helping have one or two Sundays a month free of responsibilities, or every other month, rotation of duties are a must.

We are looking for about 20 people from our Church family to respond to the call to explore these three options and see how you might serve with the appropriate training and help and a time of shadowing those already undertaking these tasks. That's a big ask but if achieved would give everyone plenty time off. In responding you will not be pressured into taking on a role, just a commitment to try it out and have some fun learning how these things come together on a Sunday. In the end if you really feel it would be too stressful for you that is absolutely fine and at a bonus will be that your better informed in how to pray for the Tech Team.

We will probably run a few trial session to let people see what goes on and explore and try out and will make sure there is one for you at a time that works for you.

Please see Ian Smith to discuss this further and register your willingness to 'give it a go' by sending an email to it@pabc.org.uk.

Do pray about this, don't say 'NO' say I'll 'give it a go' and be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Ian Smith

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**

Afro-Caribbean

AFiUK Afro-Caribbean Drop-in proudly celebrated International Mother Language Day .



It was a vibrant and inspiring evening highlighting the richness of linguistic and cultural diversity within our community.

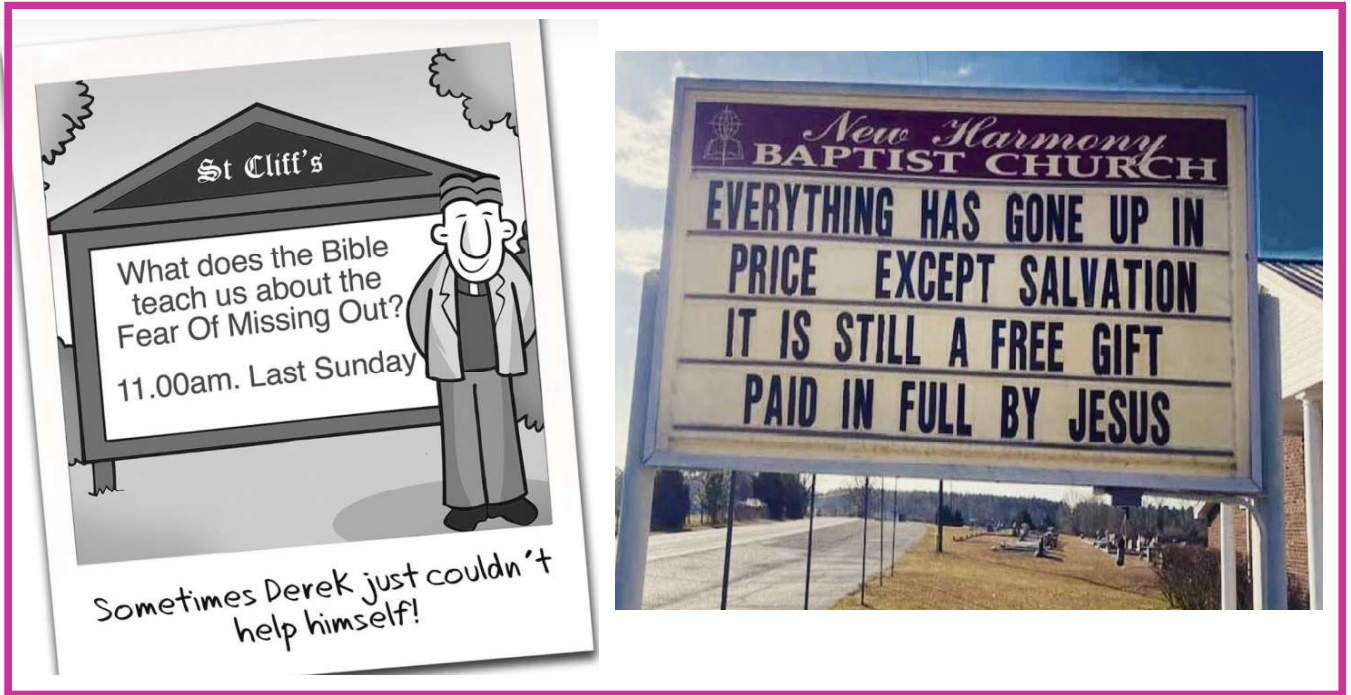
We were honoured to welcome ****Lisa Andrews****, Chief Executive of CVST, alongside Lera from CVST and Ethel & Finance from Social Care Magnet House, who joined us in promoting awareness of the importance of preserving and celebrating our mother languages.

This year, we were thrilled to host over 80 participants representing 10 different nations and a wide range of languages — a true reflection of the diversity within our community.



Thank you to those who joined us from Pier Avenue Baptist Church members to celebrate this amazing event.





ZOOM (online) PRAYER MEETINGS

The next online Zoom Prayer meetings

Will take place on

10th April and 7th May

at 7pm

Please ask Michelle or Karen

For details of these

All are invited to

Prayer before Worship

at 10am every Sunday

In the Quiet Room



Easter

Sunday 29th March – 10.30am - Palm Sunday Service

**Thursday 2nd April – 7.30pm – Maundy Service –
Atrium**

**Friday 3rd April - 10.00am – CTIC Good Friday
Service & Walk of Witness in the Town Square
Followed by 11.00am – CTIC Good Friday Church
Service at **Pier Ave Baptist Church**
Tea, Coffee and Hot Cross Buns will be served
after the service**

**Saturday 4th April - 9.30am-12.00pm
Easter Coffee Morning & Children's Easter
Activities**

**Sunday 5th April – 10.30am - Easter Sunday Family
Service & Communion**



Prayer@church on 28th April at 9.30.
May Prayer@church is 26th May at 9.30
Church members' meeting and AGM
after the service on 31st May
June GB Quiz evening is Sat 20th June
Prayer@church is 30th June at 9.30



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