

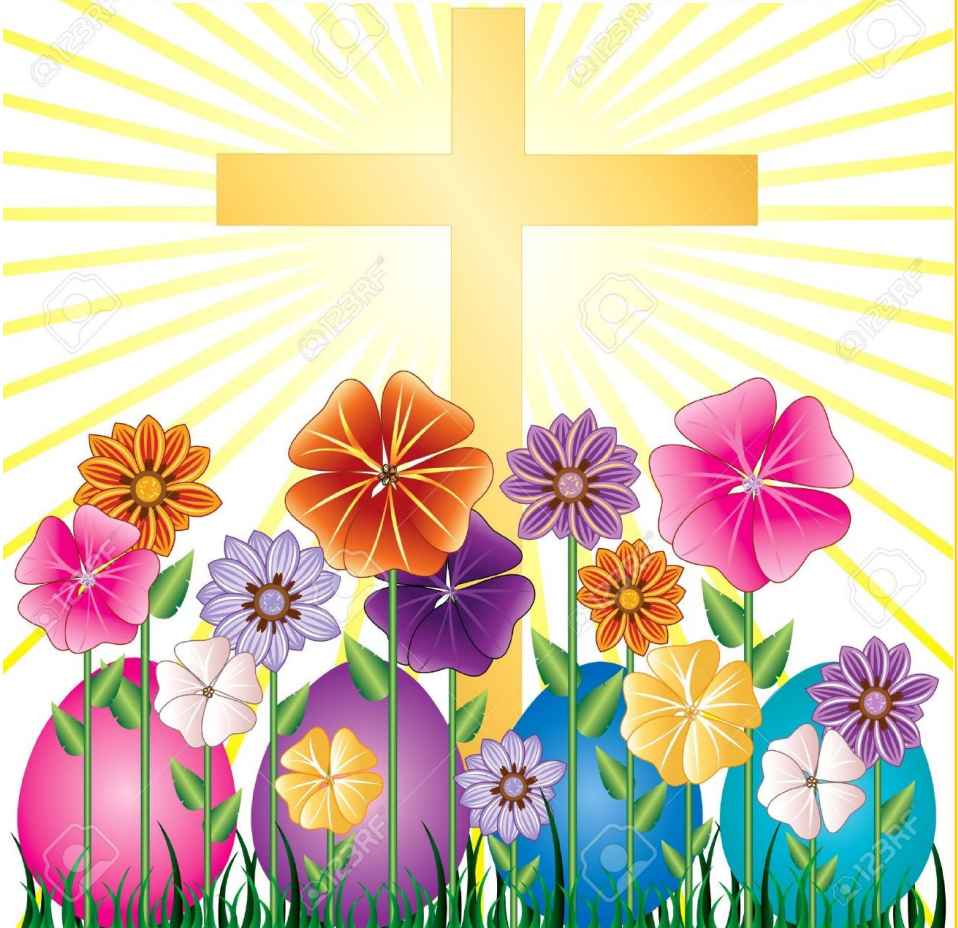


Pier Avenue
Baptist Church

FAMILY MAGAZINE

2025 APRIL

REJOICE IN THE MIRACLE OF
EASTER!

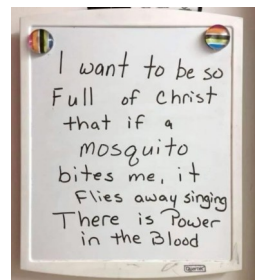
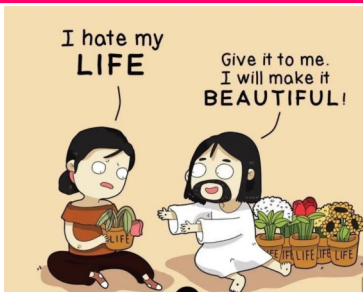




If this is your first time at Pier Avenue Baptist Church or even your second or third visit, we are so glad that you are here. Someone should come to chat to you but if, amongst all the rushing about, they don't, then please say hello to one of the people with a card hanging around their necks. It is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

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11 25-26)

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





The Transforming Spirit of Jesus

We are about to celebrate the glorious ending of the Easter story ...

As we read John 20: 19 – 23, we are with the male disciples, as they meet in a locked room. After seeing what the Jewish leaders did to Jesus, they are scared for themselves. Peter and John have seen that Jesus' tomb is empty and Mary has told them that she met the risen lord; but the reality of this has not yet hit them.

Suddenly Jesus is in the room with his friends. 'Peace be with you', he greets them. This is so much more than just saying 'Good evening'. The Hebrew word for peace, *shalom*, signifies a wholeness, total wellbeing and the presence of the Lord. The disciples see the wounds on Jesus' body, which prove that he is their leader, their friend who was crucified.

Jesus continues, 'As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.' Jesus had a mission in the world to provide access to his heavenly father by granting salvation. Now he is passing this mission on to those he has taught. Their urgent task will now be to tell people of the difference his crucifixion and resurrection has made; of the faith in Jesus that leads to our sins being forgiven. There will be those who accept Jesus and receive forgiveness and, sadly, those who do not accept him and so do not receive forgiveness.

The disciples, however, will not be unsupported in their mission. During his last meal with them, Jesus had said that he would be leaving them, but that they would have a new friend to accompany them. This advocate, comforter, encourager or counsellor is the Holy Spirit, the way in which God makes his presence felt for those who believe in him. Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit to those who followed him during his earthly life, he gives it to them after his resurrection and it will be poured out in full on the day of Pentecost when even people from other countries, outside the disciples' dwelling, are affected by it and hear about the resurrection in their own native language.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Resurrected Jesus transforms everything! Our three-in-one God is Father, Son and Spirit. The Spirit gives us peace, joy, strength and guidance in our everyday lives.

People outside the church can sometimes view Christians as a kind of nice, Sunday morning club; fine if you like that kind of thing; harmless, ineffectual. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ has transformed everything. The church is not a history society.

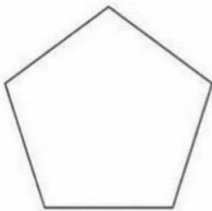
We read ancient texts, but they have *power, life and relevance for today*. We are not following rules for the sake of rules. God wants us to have the best life possible, not just after bodily death, but during our life in this world. Following his teaching and his nudges day by day gives us the opportunity to live that better life now and not to engage in a dead-end chase to nothingness.

That better life is also available to others who have not yet discovered it. Everybody hurts. Everybody sins. Everybody needs Jesus. It's the urgent task of every follower of Jesus to tell people our own stories of how he has made our difference to our lives and to ask them what they think about God. We need to speak out!

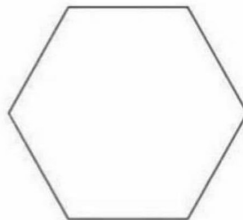
Perhaps we're afraid of what God may ask us to do and of how we will manage it. He may mess with our human plans! But he will not leave us unsupported. The Holy Spirit is available to give us the guidance and the strength that we all need. We can also rest in the presence of God and experience joy and calm.

Jesus is now standing amongst us, offering us shalom. 'Peace be with you!', he says. 'As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.' He breathes on us and declares, 'Receive the Holy Spirit: the transforming spirit of my resurrection. Let it guide and empower you as you follow me and join in with my mission in the world'.

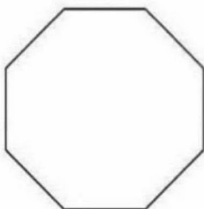
Michelle



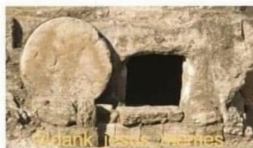
Pentagon



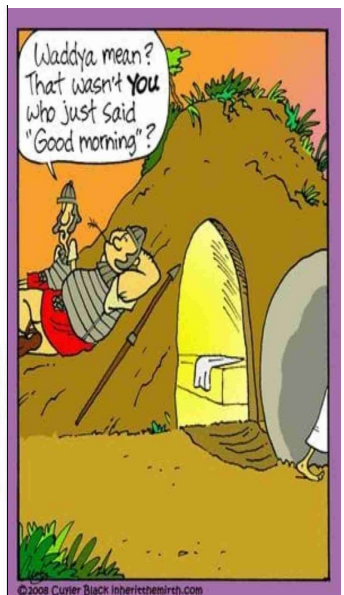
Hexagon



Octagon



Heisgon



ELAINE HOADLEY - A VERY SPECIAL LADY

For those who don't know the family connection Sylvia is my mum, Emma is my sister, Lee is my brother, Sophie and Joshua are my niece and nephew and Margaret is my step-nana. There has always been confusion about who my family is and how we are related. I have lived in Clacton all my life and enjoyed growing up here with the beach on my doorstep. I attended St Osyth Road Infant School, Alton Junior School and Colbayns High School. I have had a range of jobs since leaving school and spent the last 17 years working full time in HR for a local factory. From my first day at the factory I really found out how small Clacton is as nearly everyone knows everyone.



I started my Church journey by attending St John's Church in Great Clacton with my mum, Emma and Lee when I was about 9 years old. At the age of 10 I found Girls' Brigade through my friends at school and started going regularly. 35 years later I am still part of Girls' Brigade as a Leader. I have achieved so much within my time at Girls' Brigade. I have completed my Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, performed at the Royal Albert Hall twice, attended a Remembrance Parade Service in London and served as a Leader for over 20 years. GB has been a massive part of my life and I have seen so many girls grow up in GB from young girls to young ladies. I stopped attending St John's Church as I got to an age where it became a choice on whether to go or not. After some time I decided to attend Pier Avenue Baptist Church and have been attending this church for about the last 25 years. I have made some good lifelong friends, seen many people come & go, dear friends pass away and friends baptised. At the start of my Pier Avenue journey I only went to Girls' Brigade and Sunday Services. As time went on I suddenly found myself helping within the Church. It started with making sandwiches for the local Soup Run, then stewarding, making teas & coffees and before long helping at Coffee Mornings. I started attending a House group and before I knew it I had written my testimony and made the decision to be baptised. Little did I know that my time within the church was going to become even more involved. After being voted in to be a Church member the Election of Deacons soon came around. I was being asked left, right and centre about if I would agree to be nominated to become a Deacon. How could I say 'No' as it felt an honour even just to be asked & then elected. I am referred to as a 'working behind the scenes' kind of Deacon. To be honest if I wasn't a Deacon I would still do a lot of what I am doing now as I am proud of our Church and thrive to make it a welcoming Church. I can be at the Church most days doing different things and it is even joked that the tower is my flat as I spend so much time at the Church. It gives me great pleasure and joy to serve and I know all my hard work is appreciated. To see how much our Church has grown over the last few years is amazing and I am pleased to have been a part of that. Like Girls' Brigade the Church plays a massive part in my life and I would be lost without it.

NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

A couple of weeks ago in Sunday school we learnt that it is not good to be boastful, and we studied the story of David and Goliath.

Goliath was boasting that he was the biggest and the best and no one could beat him. In the photos it shows how some of the young people chose to build David and Goliath models in duplo and others chose to draw and decorate a paper figure of Goliath which we hung up on the door frame, then the young people sat on the floor and threw soft balls at the figure to destroy it



To eat a whole cake would be to commit the sin of gluttony. But to eat a whole pie is okay, as the sin of pi is zero.



The following conversation was overheard at a party attended by high society people:
 "My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander the Great," said one lady. She then turned to a second lady and said, "And how far does your family go back?"
 "I don't know," was the reply. "All of our records were lost in the Flood."

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

Over the years I have seen a lot of changes, the building of Friendship lounge, removal of the choir stalls, fabrication of the ministry area, the music group stand, all carried out by ship's staff. And of course the Welcome hall complex by shore-side.

SOME MORE WONDERFUL TALES FROM RICHARD'S TIME AT SEA

Well here we are again with another instalment of the half-life-of the Chief Engineer. You know, us sailor men are a funny lot and have some strange rituals, and over the years I have witnessed some of these ranging from not sailing on Friday 13th to 'Crossing-the-Line'. These little quirks are very much alive and well so to speak albeit mostly on UK registered ships. Eg. I have been on ships where we have been alongside, engines running, lines singled-up, the crew at stations, and we're cocked-and-locked and ready to rock baby, as soon as the clock hits 00:01 hours of course.

However, the Editor has asked me to write about the one that nearly everybody has heard of; the infamous Crossing-the-Line ceremony.

On board ship, 'crossing-the-line' is to cross the equatorial line from one hemisphere to the other. All the sailors who have previously crossed the equatorial line are called Trusty Shellbacks and must initiate those sailors known as 'Slimy Pollywogs' who are crossing for the first time.

King Neptune and his court boards the ship via the hawse pipe and walk down the deck escorted by the Captain to his throne. This gives the crew the opportunity to let their imagination run riot and some truly amazing costumes combined with impressive designs of civil engineering to support it all.

The ceremony itself is a chaotic mix of bizarre rituals and punishments, all carried out in a number of fetching costumes; that

of King Neptune doing much to enhance his natural dignity, while Queen Amphitrite's tasteful selection of apparel for the occasion has made many a poor sailorman's heart beat a little faster, as she is quite curvy. (Hello sailor!). The Queen usually wears an outfit comprising of various items of ladies underwear, the required garments most often to be found in a bale of cleaning rags. Ladies stand-by your underwear as it has been known for the crew to raid the laundry when pressed,



King Neptune passes judgement

(Dame Dolly eat your heart out).

For sailors crossing the equator, the line, for the first time, the tradition and rituals remain an important rite of passage. This involves King Neptune and his court issuing certificates of merit to those who have served their shipmates well. The Slimy Pollywogs are then brought before the court, one by one by the Policemen who reads out their crimes committed. Usually bizarre things like this:-

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

Always winning at card bingo.

Failing to find a bucket of steam when required.

Avoiding kissing the gunners daughter.

Always letting his wind blow from

at.



The Barber at work

A funny:- Boy speaking; Granddad, I've been two years before the mast. Granddad replies. Rubbish son. The mast has always been there. Boom, Boom.

There then follows a real hooly of an all ranks party to celebrate the Slimy Pollywogs transition to Shellbacks.

NOTE: A user warning: NO ONE, repeat NO ONE, regardless of rank, position or sex gets out of being dunked. A bit like a baptism in some ways but considerably more messy. Often a Shellback takes part to look after the initiate if they are very nervous especially passengers or Ladies.

To finish I have included a poem written by our Purser which I feel conveys the ethos of Crossing the Line:-

TICK TOCK

(Crossing the zero meridian)

So here we are it seems,
Neither here nor there, so where?
At the zero hour,

Where turbulent time stands still.
Where the raging wind doth blow,
And troubled waters flow.
Greeted by phosphorous horses as white as snow,
A trek southerly we go.
STOP!

Lets pause a while, lets rest our weary stride,
No ego, no pride, just time on our side.
Reflect...the past...the future...the now...
At the line,
Where there is no time,
No curve, no bend
Guarded by a lone feathered friend

Where are we now...
Neither here nor there, so where?
Neither east, nor west
God alone knows best!

Lyne Buckley,
Purser Accountant,
RMS St.Helena

Time: 08:10 hrs Sunday, 17th November 2013,
Position: Latitude: 38 06S/Longitude: 00 00

So until the next time folks; Stand-by Fore and Aft. Yes folks, there will be more. Oh no, git 'im orff I hear you cry!

Safe seas and a fair wind to all my readers.

A big thank you to Richard for these fascinating tales and I am now looking forward to more wonderful tales from Richard in the next magazine

A message from our Treasurer

Hello again everyone!

There is a long piece from me in the Annual Report which will come out in April or May time, so I won't take up too much of your time in this Newsletter.

There are some things you can do that may help you in your gifting, which then allows our Fellowship to fulfill God's work in and around PABC. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me in confidence if you want to know more. I may often seem busy on a Sunday, but as we have lately been reminded, God's call on our time really doesn't stop on Sunday mornings and that is the same for the Treasurer. So do please call me in the week if you would like to do so. My number is 07496858083.

If you are a TAX PAYER, however little or much tax you may pay, we can reclaim some or all of your tax back from the Inland Revenue provided you have signed up to the Gift Aid Scheme. We will never request more than the tax you have paid, so you will remain in control. Please ask me if you would like a form to join this Scheme;

Please consider making your gifts and donations by STANDING ORDER directly into the Church's bank account. Your giving doesn't get forgotten if you are unwell, or on holiday, or if you can't be at Church, or if you simply don't have any cash indoors to grab as you leave home on Sunday mornings! A Standing Order can be set up via online banking, but if we can also give you a Standing Order form if you'd prefer which is simply forwarded to your bank.

Be assured, with a Standing Order YOU remain in control of your giving so you can increase, decrease or cancel it at any time as long as you tell your Bank.

Have you considered leaving a BEQUEST or LEGACY to PABC in your Will? You might decide to donate a percentage of your estate or you can state it as a set sum of your choosing. Either way, your generosity after you have been called Home will help PABC to further God's work and purposes in this place. If you decide to make a bequest or legacy in your Will, it will help to know that Pier Avenue Baptist Church is a Registered Charity No. 1135764.

Do ask me for a Gift Aid form or Standing Order form if these will help you in your giving.

If you wish to pay your gifts and donations directly into the bank the information you will need is:-

Bank: Lloyds plc

Account Name: Pier Avenue Baptist Church

Account type: Business

Bank Sort Code: 30-96-26

Bank Account Number: 80144668



Thank you for all that you do to advance the Kingdom of God in the place to which He has set us.

2 Corinthians 9 v6-8

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever.'

So, I was in the car today and saw someone with the license plate "X0DUS3 5", so I thought it was like Exodus 3:5 and I looked it up, and do you know what it said?

"Do not come any closer."

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



PAGES FROM THE PAST

'The Messenger' – Easter 1984

"Once more spring is officially here and Easter looms large. For Christians it is the greatest of the annual festivals, a time to remember that we have so much to thank God for. May yours be a truly joyful and thankful Easter.

This also happens to be an anniversary for myself – one year since I was baptised. On that day within twenty minutes of leaving the water, I was asked if I would be prepared to take up the work of the newsletter. Harold Magaw – the Church Secretary at the time - didn't waste a moment to rope me in!

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have so willingly contributed to it and made my task a relatively easy one. At the time I was so afraid that I would never be able to fill its pages ... now I seem unable to fit everything in.

It has been a marvellous year for me and I am so pleased that this weekend I will be able to re-live my own baptismal experience by witnessing that of three of our sisters in Christ. May God richly bless them. *Heather Baines, Editor."*

Wait long enough, and some things come around again ...

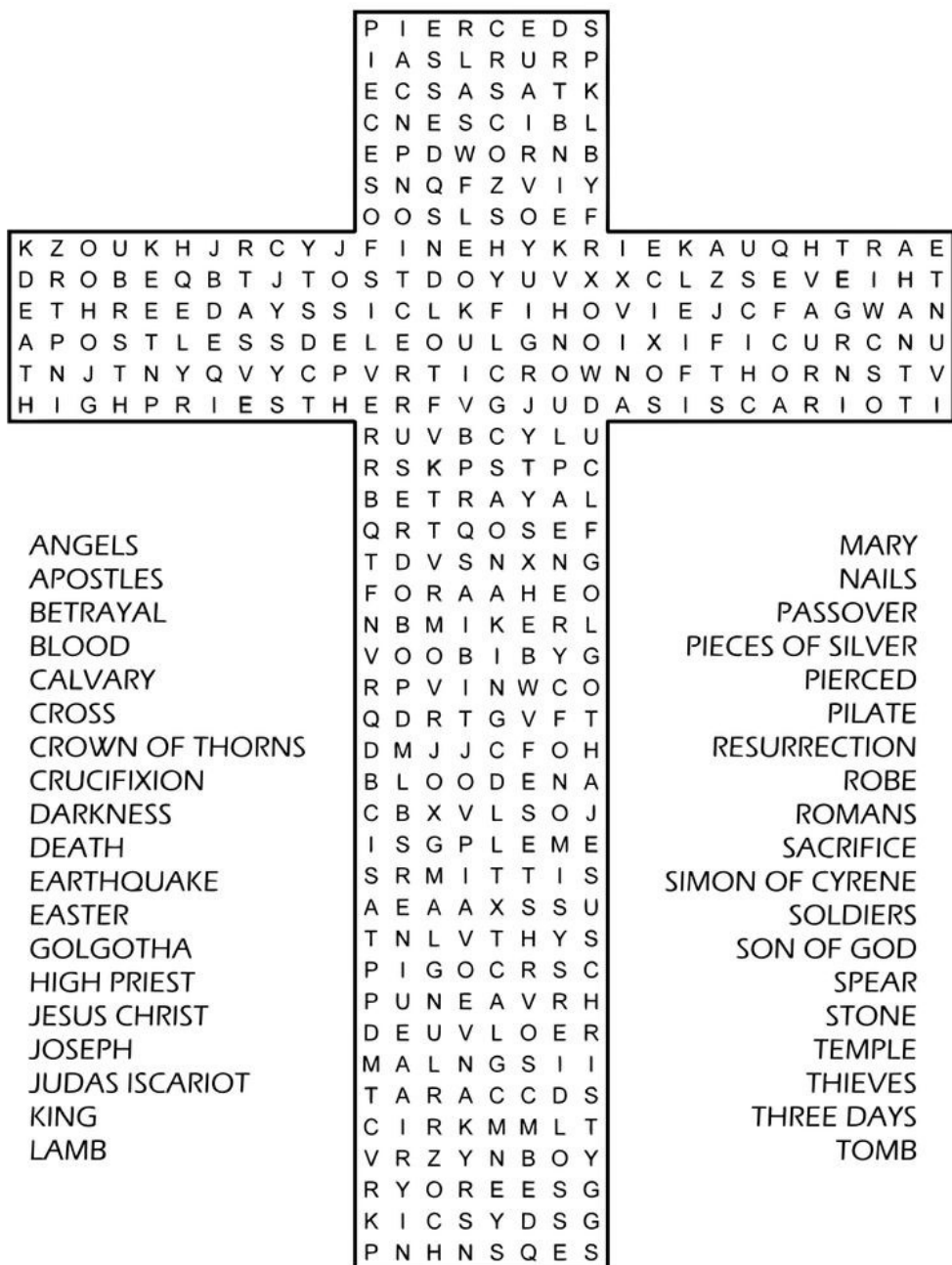
'The Messenger' – November 1997

Recently we were a little surprised to receive an applause form from the fellowship of the church after the early results of our work on the sound system. For this expression of appreciation, we are most grateful. Gratitude is surely a basic necessity for a Christian life. However, the Lord works through people, and we must all praise Him for making it possible for us to purchase the equipment necessary to hear His word clearly.

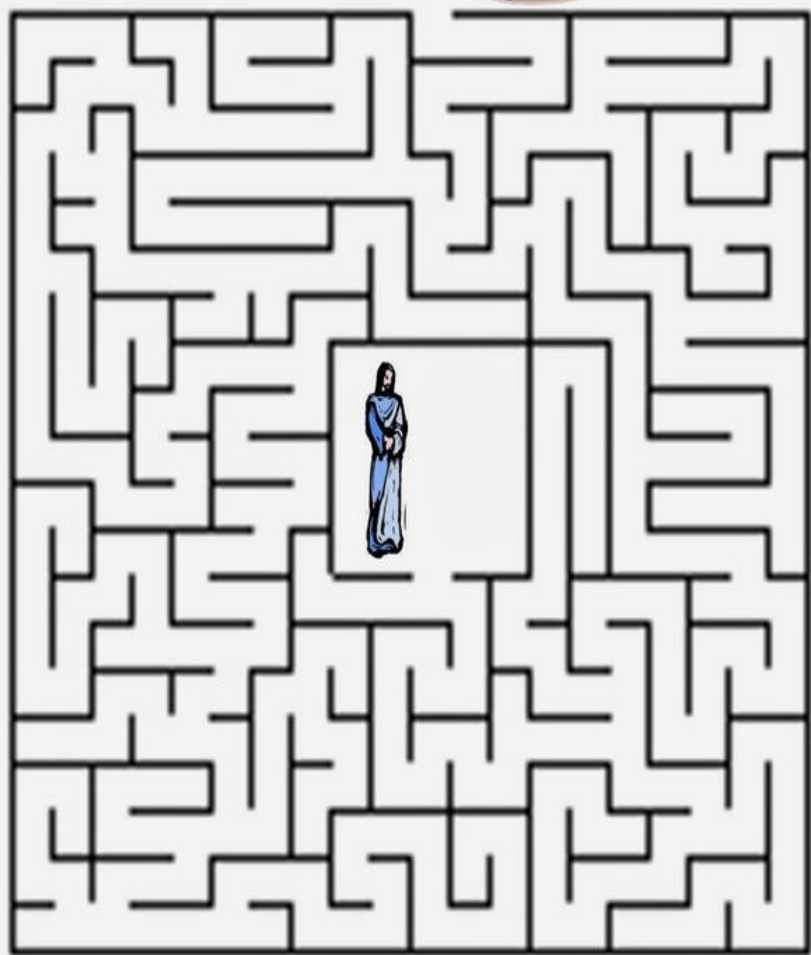
Great improvements have taken place at Pier Avenue Baptist Church in the past five or six years, and we feel that the timely provision of funds, the wise stewardship of the church officers, and the general attitude of the willing workers, is an indication of our Lord's approval and encouragement. God bless you all. *Jimmie & Joyce West."*

Most people wear WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) bracelets, but i rock my JPWNHGHITSITFP (Jesus Probably Would Not Have Gotten Himself Into This Situation In The First Place) bracelet.

EASTER WORD SEARCH



PALM SUNDAY MAZE



Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!

1 = green

3 = blue

5 = pink

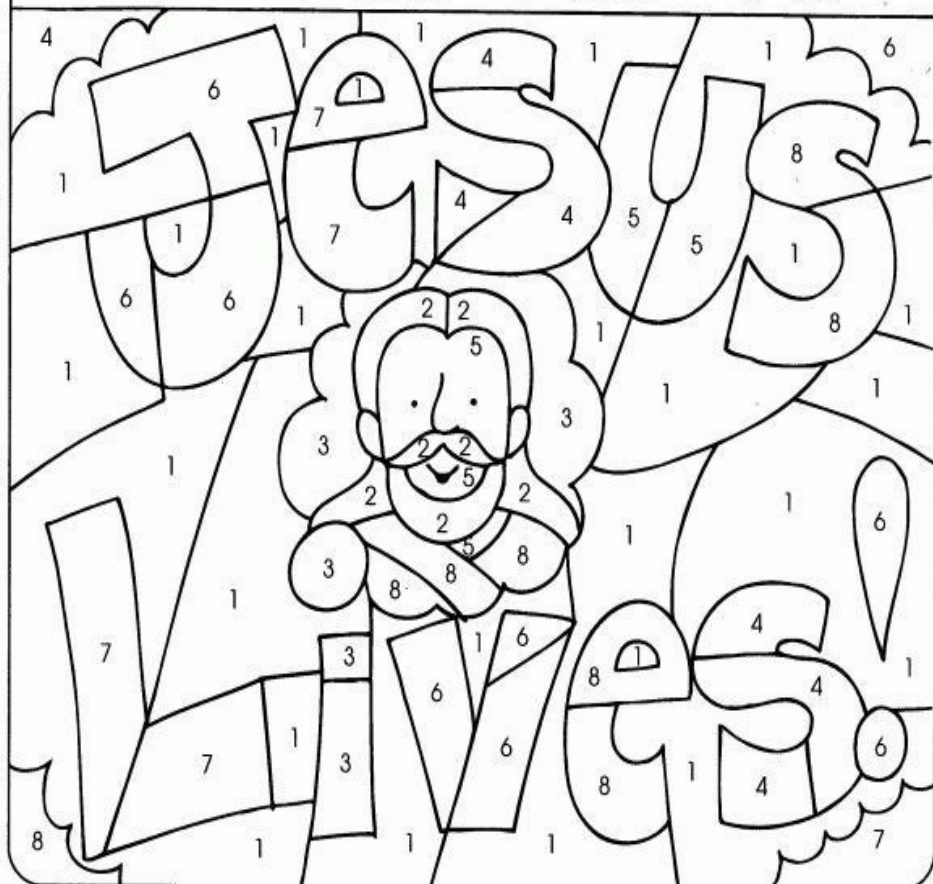
7 = purple

2 = brown

4 = orange

6 = yellow

8 = red



Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES
 CROWN
 LAMB
 PRAYER
 RESURRECTION
 SON

CHURCH
 FAITH
 MARY
 REDEMPTION
 RISEN
 SUNDAY

CROSS
 JESUS
 MIRACLE
 REJOICE
 SAVIOR
 TOMB



TINY TREASURES PARENT/CARER BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

We have had on average about fifteen little ones and their families attending each week. The children have enjoyed a range of activities this last half term including icing biscuits, making food for the birds to link in with the annual Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB. We also made sheep and decorated snowflakes with glitter and ended the half term by making a Valentine's card using different heart stickers to decorate the card.

This next half term there are plans for the little ones to experiment with paint using along with the normal brushes, sponges, vegetables as well as finger and hand printing. We will end the term by making a Mother's Day card and an Easter craft.

Sylvia Burns

CHRIS BROOKS RETIRES

Chris Brooks has spent the last 20 or so years maintaining the church and is a expert in all sorts of repairs. Now at age 88 he has stepped down for the regular involvement in repairs but will still turn his had to some odd jobs as and when he is able to.



The Maintenance Team held a small 'thankyou' tea party in February to mark the occasion. Thank you Chris for all you have done .



Enfold

Enfold runs on a Thursday morning with an average of around 30 guests. We have had a good few months since the New Year. We start each session with Michelle looking at a Bible passage, a short discussion on what it means for our lives and then a short prayer session. We are looking at introducing a prayer request and testimony element to this session. This term we have been looking at Genesis. It has been good and the guests are really opening up. Some of them are even discussing baptism.

We then share a meal and time together and we have representatives from the council, Open road who provide support for those coming off addictive drugs and Peabody who offer help with housing, attend. Every so often we also have hairdressers attend and then everyone helps to pack away at the end. It has been a period of adjustment as Amanda has sadly moved on but we do wish her all the best in her future and pray that God blesses her as much as she has blessed the team and guests.



MORE TEA VICAR ?

However we are seeing more guests attend on a Sunday and to other Bible discussions through the week. We hope to see this continue in the future and we will be encouraging our guests to join church based activities to break down those barriers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all church members who donated gifts at Christmas time



A teacher asked her students to draw a picture of their favourite Old Testament story. Moving around the class she saw many beautiful and moving drawings. Then she came to Johnny (why is it always Johnny?) and saw his picture of a man driving an old car.

"It's a lovely picture Johnny, but what is the story?"

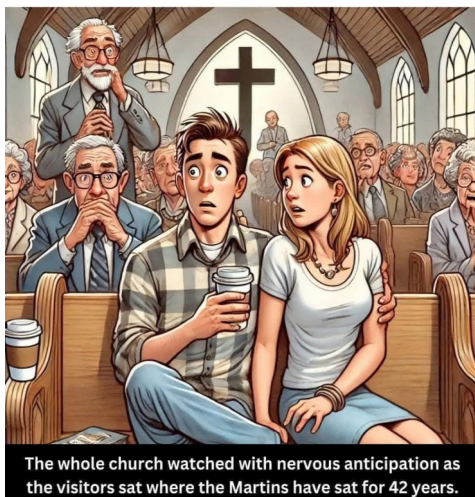
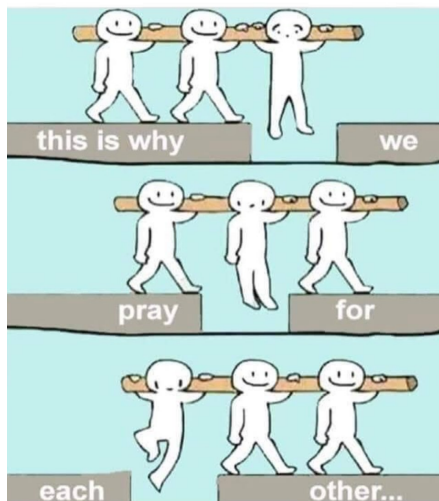
It's simple, Miss, "Doesn't it say in the Bible that God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden!"

People in the Bible struggled with the same challenges we face today.

Here we see Samson trying to give his cat a pill...



A preacher concludes his service by saying, "Next Sunday I am going to preach on the subject of liars. And in preparation for my discourse, I would like you all to read the 17th chapter of Mark." The following Sunday, the preacher says, "Now, all of you who have done as I requested and read the 17th chapter of Mark, please raise your hands." Nearly every hand in the congregation goes up. The preacher continues, "You are the people I want to talk to. There is no 17th chapter of Mark."



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

Pontius Pilate: "Joseph I really don't understand. You're one of the richest men in the region, and you've spent a small fortune on a new tomb for you and your family and you want to give it to this man Jesus?"

Joseph: "It's just for the weekend"

PABC Boys Club—now named 'Zoom'

Our Boys Club continues to grow slowly and surely and we are really pleased with the response from both boys and leaders and helpers to run the club. We have around 8 to 10 boys most nights. Our programme is varied and designed to both entertain and challenge.

We have a name for our club and one of the boys designed a badge or logo for the club. We meet on Thursdays between 6pm and 7.30pm in term time



Important Information

We have First Aid Boxes placed around the church halls and as a Charitable organisation we have legal requirements to keep the contents 'in date' - failure to do this can mean we fail audits. The boxes were all replaced in December 2024 and on the first audit in March we were surprised to find plasters that expired in 2021. We believe some kind person had placed these in the boxes thinking that was helpful and adding to the plasters stock. If you want to donate items can you please hand them then to someone on the Maintenance Team who will check and place them where most needed.



A Bite size history of Lent

- **Establishment of Lent:** Lent, a 40-day fasting period, was established by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, aligning its start with the calculation of Easter's date. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox.
- **Setting the Start Date:** The start date for Lent was officially set in AD 601 by Pope Gregory, who designated Ash Wednesday as the beginning, allowing for 40 days of fasting, excluding Sundays. '40 days'* is mentioned several times in the bible. God sends rain on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights when Noah and his entourage go into the ark (Genesis 7:4). Moses sits atop Mount Sinai receiving instructions from God for 40 days (Exodus 24:18). Elijah "walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb" when he flees Jezebel's wrath (1 Kings 19:8). The 40 days of Lent, however, are primarily identified with the time Jesus spent in the desert fasting, praying, and being tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1–11)
- **Symbolism of Ashes:** The practice of marking foreheads with ashes has biblical roots, symbolizing mourning and repentance, as seen in various Old Testament references. This tradition also includes historical practices from the early church. As for where the ashes come from, they are made from burning the blessed palms from the Palm Sunday celebration the year prior, which commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem the week of his death.

Lent Today: Modern observance of Lent emphasizes prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, with Ash Wednesday services being popular among various Christian denominations. This period leads up to Easter, which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus. Ashes and fasting, both drawing on several biblical traditions, create a season of penitence and expectation as Easter approaches.

Taken and adapted from www.museumofthebible.org

Thank you Mel

GIRLS' BRIGADE

The year began well with all our girls returning and we have welcomed two new members to join in with our weekly activities. Each section has been working for their badges with Explorers taking 'Our Toys' which included bringing in their favourite cuddly toy, the Juniors have been looking at the topic of 'Co-operation' while the Senior girls explored the subject of 'Entertaining' and our Brigaders studied 'Adventure' which saw them improving their map reading skills.

We would like to thank all those who donated used postage stamps to raise funds for Girls' Brigade England and Wales. They have now been posted off to our HQ in Derbyshire.

The highlight of this term must have been our pancake evening when we had an amazing attendance. We made around 100 pancakes which were enjoyed with a variety of fillings and together with a cake stall we were able to raise £200 which was split between ourselves and the church. A huge thank you to all who supported us.

We are holding our usual sleepover over the Mother's Day weekend when the girls will go bowling followed by making gifts to give out at the service on Sunday. The girls have been practicing a song and writing prayers which they are looking forward to bringing to the time of worship.

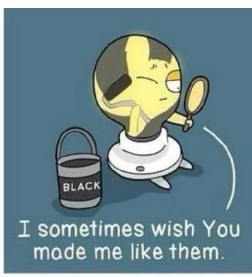
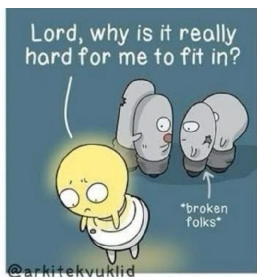
Our summer camp is in the process of being organised when we shall be returning to Thorrington Scout Camp Site. We pray that a good number of our young people will be able to attend to enjoy a wide range of activities that are being planned.

We are pleased to announce that Emily Lawson has received her invitation to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party which is held to celebrate those who have recently achieved their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Please continue to pray for our work and witness amongst the girls and young women with whom we have contact each week.

DEATH WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT...

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know ..."
"You don't know? You're a Christian Man, and don't know what's on the other side?"
The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."



In a church one Sunday, they celebrated Communion. During the "children's sermon", the minister was talking about Communion and what it is all about. "The Bible talks of Holy Communion being a 'joyful feast'. What does that mean? Well, 'joyful' means happy, right? And a feast is a meal. So a 'joyful feast' is a happy meal. And what are the three things we need for a happy meal?" A boy blurted out, "Hamburger, fries, and a regular soft drink?"

Ash Wednesday

Lent 2025 March 5th – April 17th

This year our combined bible study group (every 3 months) fell on Ash Wednesday. All group leaders attending gave a precis of the studies undertaken and a flavour of each group's 'character.'



Michelle led the evening and facilitated exploration into Lent; the general traditions, biblical relevance to, our personal thoughts.

We learned that although not a biblical event, Lent does mark a 40-day period leading up to Easter representing Jesus' 40 days and nights in the wilderness prior to his ministry beginning. In the Bible, the number "40" frequently appears, often representing a period of testing, preparation, or spiritual significance.

Lent is a time for personal reflection of our spiritual lives. The abstaining of a 'luxury' item/pastime or fasting, the addition of extra prayer, self-reflection and giving discussed among the group, with personal preferences and experiences shared.

At the end of the evening Michelle invited us to be anointed and explained that the anointing oil is mixed with burned palm leaves to provide the ash.

It was good to be together with the other bible study groups and a very interesting thought-provoking evening.

Thank you Mel for this report

Afro-Caribbean Drop-in session.

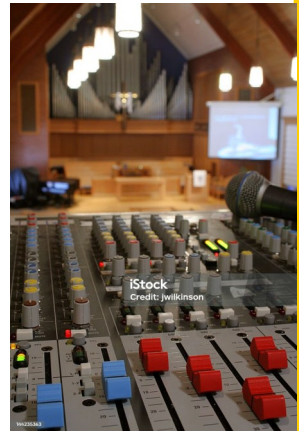
This group meets on a Wednesday from 5 to 7pm
In the Welcome Centre

The town that came together by [Amy Boyington](#)

Can you imagine living in a place where everyone but you spoke the same language? Such was life for Muaharrem, a deaf man in Istanbul who uses sign language to communicate. Muaharrem spent every day communicating with people in his town the best he could. He may have gotten by, but was never able to truly live. Until one day, when a Samsung ad created a new world for him that he never thought possible. As Muaharrem's sister, Ozlem, walked him through his neighbourhood, he suddenly realized that everyone he encountered not only understood his language but was able to use it with him. Samsung had contracted the locals to learn sign language as a promotion for its new technology for the hard of hearing but ended up giving Muaharrem the best gift he could have gotten: the gift of communication.

Church Services Audio and Projection

Over the last three or four months we have been making significant changes in the components that contribute to our church services in the areas of sound and visuals and the streaming on YouTube. Not everything has run as smoothly as we would have liked but that's the nature of IT and Tech bits—not everything works the way you would expect and often even after several live trials to prove reliability it still can catch us out—but it is improving. We have moved away from a high end complex computer controlled sound desk to a more traditional analogue desk as it is easier to manage and control.



Please bear with us as we conclude these changes.



We will miss seeing Lorraine at the kitchen sink as she has moved to Colchester. We are delighted that she will be continuing with Girls' Brigade. Wishing you every happiness in your new home Lorraine. You will be missed in church.



Easter

Sunday 13th April – 10.30am - Palm Sunday Service

**Thursday 17th April – 7.30pm – Maundy Service –
Friendship Lounge**

**Friday 18th 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 19th April - 9.30am-12.00pm
Easter Coffee Morning & Children's Easter
Activities**

**Sunday 20th April – 10.30am - Easter Sunday
Family Service & Communion**



Events

Dates for your diary

13th April - Palm Sunday morning service to be led by 'Chosen People Ministries'

17th April - Maundy Thursday event – 7.30 p.m.

18th April - Good Friday Walk of witness at 10.00 in the Town Square, followed by CTIC joint service here at PABC at 11.00 p.m. led by Michelle with other church leaders contributing.

We will provide refreshments including Hot Cross Buns

19th April - Easter Saturday – Special Coffee Morning with Easter activities

20th April - Easter Sunday – Easter Breakfast by GB. (You will need to sign up for this nearer the time)

10.30 Easter Morning All age service

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

Please speak to Ian D or Karen for further

details, or email:

hallhire@pabc.org.uk

Lord, please never let go
of my hand, because
without You, I am nothing.

Amen



Magazine Editor Verity Coulthard 07770558771 or email

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