



Pier Avenue Baptist Church

FAMILY MAGAZINE
2024 AUTUMN

Absence makes the heart grow fonder ?

Our church magazine has not been around for quite a while. Heather and Karen have, from time to time, issued a newsletter which has been very helpful and informative but we are now looking to establish the magazine on a regular basis with more content.

If you are able to assist with the production of our new magazine by collecting relevant information of what has happened recently, what is happening now or what is planned for the future in a group you are involved with please let us know, in either note form or as a "ready for publication" report that would be really helpful and ensure the future of our magazine.

There is also a need for help with the production side and getting the magazine physically produced.

If you can help in any way please get in touch and speak to our editor Verity (contact details on the back page footer) or Ian (Smith) or send an email to our new email address

magazine@pabc.org.uk.

We would like our magazine to have:

User **G**enerated **C**ontent which could be anything from simple text, images, reviews and anything you think is worth sharing widely.



"Its from our church... we've been called up for active duty."

SUMMER IS ALMOST

OVER but this Autumn there are some exciting thing starting in our church. Inside you will find information on what is on and when.

Some regular events re-commence and some new ones launch for the first time including the series "Christianity Explored".

**Every day is a
"thank you God"
day.**

Michelle's Musings



Don't Let the Thief Steal Your Joy

Christians often talk about a 'spiritual attack', which is probably rather baffling to those who haven't yet found faith in Jesus. Christians believe that there is a spiritual battle continually going on between the God of good and the devil of evil. The apostle Paul reminds us of this in Ephesians 6: 12, when he writes:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

This doesn't mean that we wish to denounce everything as evil; but it does serve us, in our walk with the Lord, to take it seriously and be aware of its dangers.

Even for those of us who are committed followers of Jesus, we may not always realise that we are being attacked. It may just begin, for example, with us working too hard or expressing disagreement with someone and, before we know it, we are miserable or angry and this sometimes provokes negative feelings in those around us. Turning to God's word and teaching can help to remedy these kind of situations. He commands us to take a Sabbath day to rest, so that we don't burn out from overwork. (Exodus 20: 8 – 11) He instructs us, 'Do not let the sun go down on our anger' if we argue with someone. (Ephesians 4: 26)

[Jesus](#) uses the image of the shepherd caring for a flock of sheep to show the difference between God's care for his people and the devil's attack on them: *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10: 9 - 10)*

Jesus is 'the good shepherd', caring tenderly for his followers. The devil is compared to a thief who will try and steal us away or a wolf who will scare and divide us. Jesus himself was tempted by the devil just before he started his earthly ministry. His triumph over Satan did not mean that it wasn't a struggle for him.

Cont'd

It makes sense that the devil, the enemy of all that is good for us, would try to steal from us, leaving us at best distracted and at worse despairing.

The world that we live in has not yet been cleansed of sorrow and suffering. But if we can become aware of what the hymn, 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' aptly calls 'the needless pain we bear', by turning to Jesus when we are tempted by thoughts and feelings that are bringing us down.

Don't let the thief steal your joy!

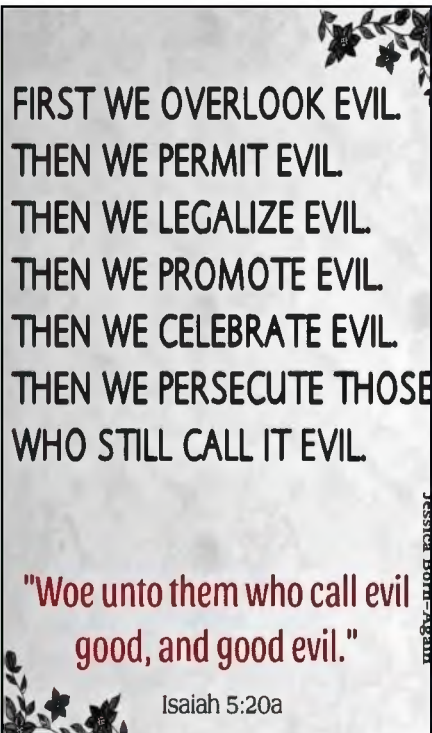
At PABC

A prayer group is held once a month on the last Tuesday morning of the month starting at 9.30am in the church quiet room. All are welcome and there is no restriction on time you stay, 10 minutes or an hour, whatever suits you. It would be lovely for enough people to join the group that a larger room will be needed.

BIBLE STUDY HOUSE GROUPS

take place regularly and some are in peoples homes. If you would like to join one of these groups then please ask Karen.

A QUOTE FROM BILLY GRAHAM



OUR WEBSITE IS CHANGING

Since the beginning of the digital age our website has been located at Www.pieravenuebaptistchurch.org.uk and a real pain for people to type in when first searching.

Our website is due a re-vamp and re-launch and to coincide with this we are moving the website to

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

which is much easier to work with and when searching it is not always necessary to type the https: so even shorter.

Along with the new domain (website) name will come a new set of email

addresses. The most notable will be the general enquiry address of **info@pabc.org.uk**

The current website will be replaced with a new website as it is developed in stages and it should be launched by the end of October. It will start smallish and grow into something that, hopefully, will be useful to those who take a look and encouraging enough to keep them coming back.

We are short on skills in website development and would appreciate so help.

Ian Smith

WHO IS WHO ?

MINISTER

Michelle Eversden-Thomas

DEACONS

Heather Baines

Karen Rai

Rev Pauline Bailey

Ian Smith

Ian Day

David Baines

Tony Meloy

Elaine Hoadley

Richard Geddes

WORSHIP GROUP

Piano is played by Tracey Pope

Guitars and vocals Karen Rai and Tony Meloy

Vocals Dawn Meloy and Joy Akhibi

POWERPOINT AND LIVE STREAM & SOUND DESK

Heather Baines

Matthew Day

Rosanna Day

Ian Day

Chris Hawkins

Parish Nurse is Amanda Day

Church cleaning is carried out by Lorraine Adams

Garden is cared for by Georgina Sherry

Hall Hire is looked after by Ian Day

Facebook is maintained by Elaine Hoadley

Plus all the lovely people who

greet us when we come into

church and also those who provide

tea and biscuits afterwards.

All part of a great team

A Message from our Treasurer

We do give thanks to the vast number of you who make your tithes and donations to PABC. Such sacrificial and loyal gifts are not easy when uncertainty and hardship is an all too real threat to so many of us.

There are several different things you can do to make your gifts go further and I will touch on them in coming issues. This time I would just tell you how important it is to 'Gift Aid' your donations if you pay any level of tax to the Inland Revenue. It doesn't matter if you pay £5 or £500 in tax each year; it can come from one-off gifts or regular donations, and whether the tax you pay is on account of earnings, bank interest, inheritance or capital gains. YOU have the amazing opportunity to allow PABC to claim as much of your tax back as possible, with the Government adding 25p to every £1 you donate under the scheme. Please be assured, we will never claim more than you have paid, and we do this by letter at the end of the financial year. Please me in confidence if you would like a private conversation about how it works, and if you would like to complete a 'Gift Aid' form.

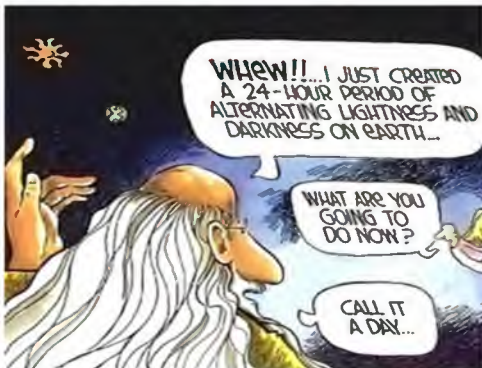
We have just received £13,641 from all our Gift Aided giving in the 2023-24 Financial Year which has boosted our giving and cost us absolutely nothing! It really is a 'Winner'! 'Gift Aid' has been tremendously important in helping to keep the ministry and the work of PABC going in these difficult times – please join up if you are a tax-payer.

Thank you.

Heather Baines, Church Treasurer.



giftaid it



**Mom getting
kids ready
for
church**

**Mom at
church**



1ST CLACTON GIRLS' BRIGADE

On 12th August we took a group of 12 young people, aged 9 to 13 years of age, to Thorrington Scout Camp Site for a variety of activities. Six Leaders attended for the duration of the camp, with a further two joining us at various times. Upon arrival they were shown to their dormitories where they chose the bunk bed they would be sleeping in. We then took a group photo before taking the girls around the site in two teams for them to find something for each letter of the alphabet, to be mounted on a collage.



Our afternoon activity was Pedal Karts where they enjoyed racing around a track, having mastered the art of steering, pedal control and applying the breaks. This was followed by a craft session. On Tuesday our site activities were Kayaking, which was a first for many, and it was good to see them gaining confidence in the water, and in the afternoon they attempted Slack Lining. This was all about balance to see how far they could reach along a kind of elasticated band, one slightly higher than the other. They showed great determination as they tried to beat their last attempt. They also made pizzas for their lunch.

On Wednesday we were joined by an additional 8 girls, 6 Explorers and 2 Juniors, who embarked on the Adventure Run which is a type of assault course. It was good to see the older girls helping the younger ones on this activity with one being as young as 4 years old. This began to become quite competitive as some wanted to be timed to complete the course. They all then went inside to enjoy being creative, followed by moving back outside to have sausages cooked on an open fire and toasting marshmallows. They then played with the parachute and entered into playing team games. They finally went back into the hall to paint a design on a square of material to be made into a patchwork banner. Our day visitors then departed having had an amazing time. The activities on Thursday were Sling Shots, Boulderling and 3D Maze which again became quite competitive and our final day on



Friday was another go on the Adventure Run.



Each evening our campers played games outside, including kick rounders and hide and seek in the wooded areas, and sat round a camp fire which proved very popular.

Our meals consisted of:- Breakfast - Cereal, toast, sausages, bacon, eggs, beans, spaghetti, pancakes. Lunch - Wraps with various fillings, crisps, yogurt, fruit Evening Meal - Roast with roast potatoes, stuffing, Yorkshire puddings and vegetables Pasta bake with garlic bread or French sticks, Burgers or sausages with smiley faces Chicken Nuggets with chips, beans, spaghetti.

Supper - Crackers, cheese, sausages rolls, cake, biscuits. Drinks and snacks were available during the day.

Our daily devotions followed the 'Olympics' theme focussing on 'Races' such as - Sprint; Middle Distance; Marathon; Relay.

We related these to our own particular life races and how we deal with situations when they arise - when we meet hurdles or have to work as part of a team (relay). Each day had a memory verse which was placed within each of the 5 Olympic rings, and prayers were written taking a different theme each day;- Family; Friends; Our Community; Our World; Ourselves.

Above all we pray that each girl who attended this years' camp will have learnt something new and were able to learn something more of the love of Jesus in their lives as they continue along their faith journey.

Gill Stennings CAPTAIN



**1st Clacton on Sea
Girls' Brigade**

Table Top Sale

**Saturday 5th October
From 9.30am**



At Pier Avenue Baptist Church

**Help us reach our challenge of
raising £100.00**



Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins
or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY AT PABC

What a wonderful, colourful and joyful Sunday we had arranged by Victoria and Michelle. The idea started some two to three years ago for an International Sunday as we had so many countries represented in our church with people coming from Napal, Iran, 4 areas of Nigeria, Ghana, Greece, Israel, Scotland and, of course, England. The service included contributions from varies counties and a walk around the church with folk in national



dress and waving flags all added to the joy of the occasion. After the service a meal was served to over 80 people with food being contributed from various countries which meant that some of us were careful about anything too spicy but all was well and that had been taken into consideration.

A big thank you to all who too part and this is now to become an annual event at our church.

Victoria Oyekunle



The devil has two major tricks with people.

One is, "You're so good you don't need to be saved."

The other is, "You're so bad you can't be saved."

And, he's a liar on both counts.





This is a short intro to this course where there is an opportunity to **Explore** just as it says 'on the tin'.

As you read this the course will have started but you are encouraged to think about joining this course or book a place on the next course.

Christianity Explored is a relaxed and informal way of sharing the best news you can ever hear, and gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life.

Over seven sessions, you will read Mark's Gospel to find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ.

The structure of each session is simply a short Bible study, a talk that may be based on the course material and may use the series films and most importantly an opportunity for you to join in with some discussion based on the talk.

The opportunity to ask questions is key to getting the most out of the sessions.

You will find the groups very welcoming and the sharing is in a very relaxed way with everyone given the space they need.



If God exists, why is there suffering?



How can I trust what the Bible says is true?



Isn't following Jesus all about following rules?

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

Dear God:

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made on Tuesday. That was cool.

Dear God:

Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't You just keep the ones You have?

Dear God:

Maybe Cain and Abel would not have killed each other so much if they had their own rooms. That's what My Mom did for me and my brother.

OUR LONGEST SERVING MEMBERS

Brian and June Clough have been attending Pier Avenue Baptist Church almost all their lives and at 90 and 84 that is a very long time. Brian went to St Osyth Road school and then on to Clacton County High school and June attended Pathfields. Brian joined the Boys' Brigade at 12 and stayed a member until he was 18 when he was called up to National Service which time he spent in the RAF based in Germany. June had a cousin who was a Sunday School teacher at Pier Avenue and she served in the Girls' Brigade for a number of years.

Brian worked for British Gas for 40 years firstly based at the Town Hall and then moving to a building in Station Road undertaking clerical work. June worked at a local factory, Suswins, which some may remember. There was no doubt that Brian and June would meet as they lived next door to each other in Wargrave Road.

Brian was baptised after leaving the RAF and June shortly followed. They were married at Pier Avenue by the Rev David Lewis when June was 18 and Brian 24. They have been blessed by two daughters Lynn, born in 1960 and Zoe, born in 1961. Lynn now lives in Berkshire with her three sons and one daughter and Zoe has stayed close by and has one son and one daughter.

Both Brian and June have served at PABC, Brian as a Boys' Brigade Officer which included taking the boys to camp, plus he was involved with Christian Endeavour and the building work in the church but most importantly was a Deacon for 30 years also serving as the church Treasurer for 20 years. They also had involvement in the singing group over the years and also looked after the church gardens when it was grass on either side of the church. Away from church Brian and June enjoyed cruising looking an extremely handsome couple in the photographs around their home.



PABC is blessed to have such true and faithful servants.

Community Activities

Tiny Treasures is our group for babies & toddlers and their family members. It is held every Monday during term time between 9.30am – 11.30am in the Fellowship Hall.

The Enfold Project, which began in 2012, is now well established and serves breakfast to approximately 30 homeless & vulnerably housed people each week. The Enfold project is staffed by a team of volunteers from our church and others. Job Club volunteers also attend to offer help and guidance to our visitors, as well as 'Peabody', who deal with housing and benefit issues. Our Parish Nurse (Amanda Day) runs this Enfold group along with a team of volunteers, mostly from PABC. It is held on Thursdays, between 9.30am to 11.00am in the Welcome Centre. The Shed Project is an extension of Enfold. At the back of our church is a Shed. Not for storage of whatever you find in sheds but a Community Shed open to everyone. It's a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. It's about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and, of course, a lot of fun.

We run Coffee Morning every Saturday between 9.30am to 12.00pm in the Friendship Lounge and outside when weather permits. They serve hot and cold drinks, as well as toast and an assortment of home-made cakes. Please speak to Karen Rai if you are able to join the voluntary team in serving, or willing to provide cake.

We also run a Winter Warm Hub and a Social Hub for the rest of the year, serving our community, where a wide mix of local people attend. We offer a safe and warm environment, with free refreshments, which provides social interactivity for those who are lonely or vulnerable. This is held in the Friendship Lounge on Wednesdays, 12.00pm to 1.30pm. Please ask Amanda Day for further information.

2023 was the third year PABC hosted a Christmas Tree Festival. We invite various clubs / groups / organisations from within the church, the community and those who hire halls during the year to decorate a tree, with narrative which tells others what they do.

HAVE YOU SPOTTED IT ? Somewhere in the magazine is a deliberate typing mistake. Answer in the next edition. (only the actual typing error will count, all others found will not be eligible)

A CHAT WITH IRIS

Iris Firth is a lovely 84 year old lady who settled at Pier Avenue Baptist Church in 1984 having done the rounds to see which Clacton church to join. Iris was born in North London and went to Burghley Road School in Fufnell Park. Iris had to miss some of her primary education due to health issues but did well at her senior school and when leaving worked at a Stockbrokers in Finsbury Circus.



Following a move to Finsbury Park Baptist Church Iris made friends which included Sid who attended another church and was part of the Boys' Brigade. When Iris was baptised Sid then came forward to be attend classes and then to be baptised too.

There followed a very happy marriage which took place in Tollington Park Baptist Church, a marriage which lasted 62 years until December last year. Iris was teaching in Sunday School and Sid was attending a church down the road. Iris had been attending church since three years old and then at 15 was teaching Sunday School. Next year Iris will be celebrating being a Christian for 70 years.

Iris has been blessed with two children, Christine, who lives in Chelmsford and Alan, living in Dedham and now 4 grandchildren the youngest of whom is off to Reading University soon and another lives in Norway.

In 1969 Iris and her husband felt that God was calling them to move to the coast, despite Sid not having a job to go to, and settled in Walton on the Naze in Hall Lane with a Baptist Church close by on the corner of the road where they were involved in a youth club for five years. They then moved to Page Road in Clacton where they lived for 25 years and Sid, an engineer, found work in Harwich where there was transport laid on daily from Clacton to the factory, Vacumatic, and back.

Then followed a move to Alton Park Road where Iris still lives. In 1984 they joined Pier Avenue Baptist Church where Iris was the President of the Homemakers group for 20 years who met fortnightly and enjoyed visiting speakers and visits to interesting places

Since losing Sid, Iris has appreciated all the wonderful support she has received and now feels closer to God now than she has ever been. Unable to do any physical jobs, Iris's ministry is now praying and her favourite hymn is "Lord of the Years".

We finished our chat with Iris saying **"CHRIST IS MY LIFE"**

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE STREET PASTORS ?

A report from Ian Smith

Over the years (10+) we were well used and certainly in the early years we were out once a week with at least a team—normally Saturday. Over time the night scene in Clacton fluctuated but the trend was for nights being quieter with less activity and interaction. Before Covid arrived we were fewer in number and only doing a Saturday a month mostly because we had lost a lot of the team. Post-covid we started back on the same monthly outing but we were even fewer so finding a night when three could turn out was hard. There was now only one proper night club in town so not many moving about and little trouble or people in need. Year back we took the decision that the need had generally gone and it was time to cease on the basis of need by the community. We were going to have a closing service to mark the occasion but that hasn't materialised.



SIX LITTLE STORIES

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH.

2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.
That's TRUST.

3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up.
That's HOPE.

4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.
That's CONFIDENCE.

5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.
That's LOVE.

6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old. I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'
That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.

When I was a child I thought nap time was punishment...Now it's like a mini vacation.

PIER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH WORSHIP



The Worship Group has been together for 30 plus years. Most have lived in Clacton for many years and Karen, Dawn and Tony joined PABC in the 1990's, Tony started playing having picked up his sisters Woolworth's guitar and Tracey learned to play the piano from when she was around 9 years old and stopped lessons around 16 years old. Karen, who joined PABC some 37 years ago learned to play the guitar from the age of 12 Joy joined PABC in April 2023 when she moved to Clacton and just recently became a member of the Worship Group. Dawn and Tony are married with Dawn moving to Clacton from Arlesford when they married. All have work outside of the church with Tony being an entertainer in residential homes and along with Joy also has written and performed his own songs.

Favourite songs include How Great Thou Art, Cornerstone and My Lighthouse and others say that they enjoy any worship song. All members express the joy and peace they get from singing and that it strengthens their relationship with God and say that it is their way to worship,

Songs for Sundays are chosen sometimes by the speaker/Minister, sometimes by the group and at other times Karen will ask for ideas for songs on a particular subject.

When asked about a particular season that is enjoyed more than any other, all but one member said all seasons with one picking Christmas as a favourite time.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT PABC

15th September	Church Members Meeting at 4pm
22nd September	Harvest festival and lunch
29th September	Sunday School Presentation
6th October	Visit of Andrea and Mark Hotchkins Baptist World Mission Link Missionaries
20th October	3 Church meet up with Holland and Thorpe followed by Bring and Share tea at Thorpe Baptist Church starting at 4pm
17th November	Church Members meeting (time to be arranged)
30th November	Christmas Tree festival starts—until 28th December
10th December	Girls' Brigade Carol Service at 6.30pm
22nd December	Carols by Candlelight 6pm
25th December	Christmas Morning Service at 10am

Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When little Johnny received his plate, he started eating straight away.

"Jonny, wait until we've said our prayer," his mother reminded him.

"I don't have to." – the little boy replied.

"Of course you do." – his mother insisted. "We say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Johnny explained, "but this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook."

An old man told his grandson,
"My son, there is a battle between
two wolves inside us all."

"One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed,
resentment, inferiority, lies and ego.
The other is Good. It is joy, peace,
love, hope, humility, kindness,
empathy and truth."

The boy thought about it,
and asked,
"Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied,
"The one you feed."



Magazine Editor Verity Coulthard Email magazine@pabc.org.uk.

Information to be included in the Christmas issue will be appreciated as soon as possible please