

## Our Community Focus this Month

### Care for the family

This month we are praying for Care for the Family, a national charity supporting families since 1988. Motivated by Christian faith and compassion, they work to strengthen family life and help those facing difficulties. While their work is rooted in the UK, digital resources now allow them to reach a wider audience.

Care for the Family focuses on marriage, parenting and bereavement, offering accessible, evidence-based support for families in all circumstances. They recognise that every family and marriage is unique – from newly married couples to those parenting alone, fostering or adopting, or supporting children with additional needs. Their heart is to help families and relationships thrive, whatever their context.

They also understand that difficult seasons and loss are part of every journey. Through befriending services and specialist support, they walk alongside people when life is tough, especially those experiencing grief, helping them find hope and strength for the future.

This February, they have kindly shared specific requests for prayer, and we invite you to join us in lifting these up. Please pray for their work, their team, and the many families they support this month.

### Prayer requests

If you have a specific prayer request, please send them each to [office@prestonbaptistchurch.com](mailto:office@prestonbaptistchurch.com)

Also, if you would like to be included on our prayer WhatsApp group, please make contact with Tina or James.

Please pray for Gwen and her family, Brian Gray and family and Jack Sudworth and family., Neil Slade and family, the family of Novlette Smith.

Please pray for Fred Stapleton, Paul Lomas, Beryl Owen and their families

### People to pray for -

Simon, Alice, Thea and Vicky	Jean Edwards
Thelma Bickford.	Eli Kirolos
Cherry Sutherland	Margaret Harrison
Audrey White	Ron Godfrey
Matt Webster	Elizabeth Billingham.
Nora Andrews	Daphne and David Lockett
John Stone	Kim Ewins and family
Anne and John Dawson	Phoenix
Cameron	Anne Brown
Ann (Jack and Sylvia 's daughter)	Dot and Roy Bagnall
Tony and Kathy	



# Voice@PBC

## February 2026

### WHO WE ARE?

**We are passionate about being people and a church that live out our faith through - deepening personal relationships with God, by spending time together as a church in worship and fellowship, and looking to share the love of Christ with others outside of Church. Therefore, we start our services with a rhythm that expresses these three important aspects to our faith.**

**P Personal relationship with God**  
**B Being Church together**  
**C Christ with others**

You are welcome to worship with us in our service at 10.30am each Sunday morning. Our children and young people leave the service for their own sessions after the first half hour. An unsupervised parent led creche is available for under 3s, temporarily located in the main hall. Please ask one of the Children's Church team (yellow lanyards) if you are unsure where to go.

We share communion together on the first Sunday of each month.

If you would like to know more about us, please ask one of our stewards for a contact card and we will add you to our distribution list.

### To listen to our sermons from home

Visit our website - [www.prestonbaptistchurch.com/sermons](http://www.prestonbaptistchurch.com/sermons)  
Call 01803 560214.

Please speak to one of the team if there's a way we could help make our services more accessible to you or to help you feel more included.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Rev James Brown – Minister – Tel: 07769 406273  
[james.brown@prestonbaptistchurch.com](mailto:james.brown@prestonbaptistchurch.com)

Church Office Tel: 01803 522541  
Church Wi-Fi - Guest, Password - &John316

### BANK DETAILS

S/C 40-52-40 A/C No 00036454

Designated People for Safeguarding - Susan Gibbons and Terena Cottell - 01803 520712

## Dates and Events

Mondays	- New Life Course	- 19.00 - 20.30
Mondays (Term Time)	- Stretch Class	- 18.00 - 19.15
Tuesdays	- Prayer Meeting	- 10.30 - 12.00
Wednesdays (Term Time)	Mummy & Me	- 09.30 - 11.30
Wednesdays	- Craft 22	- 13.30 - 15.30
Wednesdays	- Worship Prep	- 19.00 - 20.00
Thursdays	- Garden Café	- 09.00 - 13.00
Thursdays	- Food Club	- 10.00 - 12.00
Fridays	- PBC Toddlers & Baby	- 09.30 - 11.00
Sundays	- Morning Service	- 10.30 - 12.00

## Looking Ahead

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February - Celebration of Life Service for Brian Slade - 12pm  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February - Celebration of Life Service for Novlette Smith - 12pm  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February - Church Social Event at Livermead Cliff Hotel - 19.00  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February - Easter Planning Meeting  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February - Geek Factory using whole building  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Fire Marshals Training  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March - Members' Meeting after Church

## Groups in February

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February - Friends Together – 10.00-12.00  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February - Craft Group - 10.00 - 12.00  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Messy Church – 16.00 – 18.00  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Ladies Alive – 19.00-21.00  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Men's Breakfast – 9.00  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – PBC Connect and Chat – 14.00 – 15.30

## Guest Speakers

We are delighted to welcome 2 guest speakers this month. Gareth Hillier from Care for the Family will come to speak to us on Sunday 15th February. Also, Stephen Yates will be bringing a message to us on Sunday 22nd February.

## Working Times

We know it's helpful to know when our team are in the office. Please note the usual working days for Tina and Amy:

Tina, Church Secretary: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Amy, Church Coordinator: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

## Annual Leave

James will be taking a period of leave from 14th to 23rd February. To ensure he, Louise and the boys are able to enjoy this time together, please direct any urgent pastoral matters to Tina or another member of the Leadership Team and urgent church business to the Church Office (01803 522541 or [office@prestonbaptistchurch.com](mailto:office@prestonbaptistchurch.com)) rather than contacting him directly.

## Safety Team

At Preston Baptist Church, every person in our church family is extremely valuable, as is the wonderful building we meet in — a space that allows us to welcome and serve our wider community.

Because of this, safety is extremely important to us. We are looking to put together a small team of volunteers to help us think through safety matters, carry out and review risk assessments, and support good practice across our activities and events.

If you have an interest in helping in this area, or would simply like to find out more, please speak to Tina or Amy. Your support would help us care well for both the people and the building of Preston Baptist Church.

**If you would like to include information in the March issue of The Voice please send it to Amy by Friday 20th February**

## Supporting Each Other to Grow in Faith

We are so blessed to have welcomed more people into our church family recently, and we care deeply about everyone to being supported in their faith journey in a way that works best for them. At Preston Baptist Church, every person is valued, and we're committed to helping one another grow in faith, understanding and connection.

There are a number of resources available to support this journey. New Wine Online offers a rich library of worship and teaching from past summer conferences, which you can access using the details below:

◆◆ [https://new-wine.online/sign\\_in](https://new-wine.online/sign_in)

◆◆ Email: [office@prestonbaptistchurch.com](mailto:office@prestonbaptistchurch.com)

◆◆ Password: John@316

The Bible Project provides excellent free videos, podcasts and resources to help us see the Bible as one unified story pointing to Jesus. You can find them here:

◆◆ Website: <https://bibleproject.com>

◆◆ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jointhebibleproject>

We also have copies of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren available for anyone who would find this helpful.

We recognise that everyone's circumstances and schedules are different, and there are a number of ways we can support one another. House Groups are small groups that meet regularly in homes to build friendships, pray together, and explore the Bible in a relaxed and supportive setting. They are a great way to grow in faith and feel connected within the church.

We can also arrange pastoral support or set up a WhatsApp group for those who would find ongoing connection, prayer and encouragement helpful. Please do speak to us if any of these would be useful for you, or if you have another idea that might better support your journey — we would love to hear from you.

## Leave Us a Review!

One of the best ways people find out about Preston Baptist Church is through personal stories and experiences. When someone searches for us online, your kind words can make all the difference — helping others see what a welcoming and caring church family we are.

If you've experienced a warm welcome, uplifting worship, or felt God's presence here, we'd love for you to share that! A short review on Google or Facebook helps others know what to expect when they come through our doors — and it's a simple but powerful way to invite more people into our community.

Here's how you can help:

### Google Review

Go to Google Maps and search for *Preston Baptist Church*, then click "Write a Review"



### Facebook Review

Visit our Facebook page and leave a recommendation or comment about your experience



Your words can encourage someone to take that first step — to visit, to reconnect, or to find faith. Thank you for helping us share God's love and welcome with our wider community!

## Prayer

We are looking to explore new ways in which we can pray together as a church. We are passionate about prayer surrounding everything we do and everything flowing from prayer. Therefore, if there is a way you would like to be involved in prayer at our church, please let us know. Some ideas we have thought of are - a zoom prayer meeting, a prayer walk, committing to pray for the children and families in preschool etc. Please speak to Tina if you would like to support in any way.

## Church Via Zoom

We are aware that getting to church can be a challenge, particularly for some of our older members. We would like to offer a potential solution to this issue which would enable you to remain involved in church life.

We would like to assist you in joining us for Sunday morning worship, the Tuesday prayer meeting or other meetings with the help of Zoom.

In order to help you connect with church in this way, we would like to arrange for a church member to visit you at home to show you how to use Zoom. Their visit will coincide with either the Sunday morning worship or other meeting you wish to be involved with. They will ensure that you are able to hear what's being said and can provide lyrics to songs in large print or any other items that would help you be involved.

If this sounds like something you would like to explore, please contact James, Amy or any member of the leadership team who will gladly discuss with you how best to help you.

## Church Social Event

We are so grateful for all the hard work and dedication across our church community over the past year, and we love having everyone as part of our family.

To celebrate and spend time together outside of church, we are holding social events. The first event was held on 30th January, and we're looking forward to the second event on Friday 6th February at 7pm at Livermead Cliff Hotel.

Everyone is warmly invited to come along, enjoy each others company, build friendships, and have fun together. We hope to see you there!

## Novlette Smith - Celebration of Life

A service to remember and celebrate the life of Novlette will be held at Living Water Church on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm. Everyone is warmly welcomed to attend.

## Sermons at Home

We know how important it is for everyone to be able to hear the messages we receive at Preston Baptist Church. We have been working on different ways to make it accessible for anyone who isn't able to come on a Sunday morning. Our sermon is already available on our website at [www.prestonbaptistchurch.com/sermons](http://www.prestonbaptistchurch.com/sermons).

We are pleased to say that you can also listen to a sermon over the phone! To do this, please call 01803 560214 which will go straight to the sermon recording. The latest message will be uploaded each Wednesday.

**Call 01803 560214**

## to listen to Sunday's sermon

As this is a completely new way that we are trialling, please do let us know if you experience any problems.

This will be charged at the rate of a normal call.



## Connections Process

### Connecting Together: A New Way to Care

At the heart of our church is a simple desire: to love God and love each other. Over the last few months, we've been working on a new Connections Process to ensure that everyone can feel supported, especially when there is a need.

In the past, we used the Pastoral Care Team (PCT) system where a few people looked after a specific list of people. While that served us well, we are moving toward a more inclusive approach especially as we continue to grow based on Romans 12:5: "We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

### ***How It Works***

We are encouraging a simple two-step process:

**Spot and Support:** We believe everyone is a "puzzle piece" with a unique role. If you notice someone is missing, feeling low, or needs prayer, we encourage you to reach out and support them.

**Refer with Consent:** If a need feels too big for you to handle alone, or you don't have the capacity to help at that moment, please ask the person if they would be happy for you to pass on their name and information about their need to our Connections Team.

You can reach the connections team by speaking to Marion, Geraldine, Tina or James, or emailing [connections@prestonbaptistchurch.com](mailto:connections@prestonbaptistchurch.com)

The Connections Team meets weekly to pray and coordinate practical help. This might include sending a card or making a phone call, offering a lift to church or a home visit.

## Extension Works

Work is now underway on the extension and renovation of the rear foyer leading to the Doidge Hall, and it has been encouraging to see this long-anticipated project taking shape. To allow the work to progress safely, internal access from the foyer has been temporarily closed, with access to the Doidge Hall now via the main hall and kitchen.

Over the past two weeks, the focus has been on digging the new foundations within the foyer. This has been a particularly noisy and disruptive stage, and we would value your prayers for all those affected, especially Pre-School staff and children during the working day.

Several other areas of church life have also been affected, such as the car park with reduced parking due to the need for contractors' vehicles and skips. We have also had a burst water pipe during the excavations from an old pipe buried in the concrete under the foyer! Despite all the challenges we are facing, the contractors tell me that all is going well and they are making expected progress. Praise God!

We are so grateful to everyone at PBC for their understanding and positivity during this important work. Please do continue to pray for every aspect of the work and for everyone involved and affected. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Julie Matthews.

### *A Special Thank you to our Preschool*

A particular mention must go to our Preschool. Despite the challenges of the building works, they have adapted to ensure the children continue to thrive.

We have been working closely together, and it has been such a joy to see them using different rooms across the church. It has brought a beautiful new energy to our hallways! There is something truly special about hearing the sounds of babies playing and children's laughter echoing through the building. We've even had the delight of hosting ballet classes here in the church!

## **New Wine Festival 2026**

We're excited to be going to New Wine Festival as a church again this summer, from 28th July to 2nd August. It's a wonderful opportunity for worship, teaching, and community — and we'd love for you to join us!

For ticket costs and options, please see the New Wine website: <https://www.new-wine.org/festival/new-wine-festival-2026/>. There are also bursaries available, considered individually, so let us know if you'd like us to explore this for you.

If cost is an issue, another great option is to be part of the team at the festival. There are lots of ways to serve — from helping in cafes, children's teams, welcome teams, or supporting a venue — and the ticket for being on team is just £35.

If you are interested in going, please speak to Louise.

## **Dishwasher**

After nearly 30 years of faithful service, our trusty dishwasher finally decided to call it a day right before our recent Messy Church event! While a local engineer was able to get it running just in time, the verdict was clear: the machine is on its "last legs." Interestingly, the engineer pointed out that running our old model is the energy equivalent of boiling two kettles constantly for several hours!

In a wonderful act of generosity, Susan and the Preschool Trustees have offered to purchase a replacement dishwasher for the church. The only cost to the church will be the minor installation fees,

A huge thank you to Susan and the Preschool team for this incredibly kind and practical gift to the church!

## **A Huge Thank You to Our Children & Youth Team!**

We want to take a moment to celebrate and express our deepest gratitude to our incredible Children and Youth Team!

These amazing leaders faithfully dedicate their time, energy, and love to support the children and families within our church community. They play a vital role in nurturing our young people, helping them grow in their understanding of faith, and encouraging them to develop a lifelong relationship with God.

### **Farewell and Thanks to Liz**

We send a special word of thanks to Liz, who has been a wonderful member of this team. Liz has served faithfully and has been a true blessing to the children and leaders alike. We wish her all the very best and thank her for her dedication.

### **Could You Be Our Next Leader?**

As we continue to grow and look ahead, we are actively seeking new leaders to join our fantastic Children and Youth Team.

If you have a heart for our children and young people and feel called to help them continue their journey of faith, please consider becoming part of this rewarding ministry.

This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference and discover the fun and joy of serving our next generation.

To find out more, or to arrange a time to visit a session and see the wonderful activities that take place, please speak directly to Julie.

## **Leadership Bible Focus**

Each month, our church leaders spend time exploring a book of the Bible together. In February, we will be studying the book of Zechariah.

You are very welcome to read along with the leadership team and we would love for you to share with us anything that God speaks to you as you reflect on this book.

### **Teams at Preston Baptist Church**

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteers at Preston Baptist Church—you make such a difference, and we are so grateful for all that you do! Your time, energy, and dedication bless our church and community in countless ways.

We are currently re-empowering all our teams, working together to clarify each team's vision, exploring what we hope to achieve and putting in place processes to help every team run smoothly. This is an exciting time of growth and development, and your input and involvement are invaluable.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more, please speak to Tina or Amy. Everyone has a gift and a place at PBC, and we would love to help you discover where you can serve and make a difference.

### **Staying Connected with WhatsApp**

WhatsApp is such an important way for us at Preston Baptist Church to keep in touch, share encouragement, and support one another. It helps us stay connected as a church family, celebrate together, and offer practical help when it's needed.

We will shortly be sharing a WhatsApp Policy to help us to use it well. It encourages us to be mindful about what we say, respect each others time, and communicate in a way that is positive, supportive, and inclusive.

Thank you for helping us keep our WhatsApp groups a safe and encouraging space for everyone! including some updated electrical wiring to ensure the area is safe and ready for the new tech.

### **Welcoming Back the Geek Factory!**

We are delighted to welcome Geek Factory back to Preston Baptist Church from Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th February. Organized by South West Youth Ministries, this residential camp is a wonderful opportunity for young people to explore the Christian faith through their favourite hobbies—from gaming and technology to creative “geeky” fun. It's a vibrant, welcoming space where they can be themselves, build friendships, and grow in their journey with God.

To support the camp and ensure the highest standards of safeguarding for the young residents, the church building will be for their sole use during these three days. We are so pleased to see our facilities used to inspire the next generation, and we ask for your prayers for both the leaders and the young people attending!

### **Brian Slade - Celebration of Life**

We will be holding a Celebration of Life service for Brian Slade at Preston Baptist Church on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 12pm. All are welcome to join us as we remember and give thanks for Brian's life

### **Fire Marshals**

Wendy is building a team of Fire Marshals to help ensure that, in the event of a fire, we can evacuate the building safely and quickly.

If you would like to take part in the training, please speak to Wendy — and remember, we never have too many people on the team! Once the training has taken place, we will arrange a fire drill to test our current procedures and make sure everyone is kept safe. We will notify the whole church in advance of when this will take place.

# New Life Course

An encouraging and safe space to listen or question

**Session 1 - Is there a God? - 19<sup>th</sup> January**

**Session 2 - Who is God - I am - 26<sup>th</sup> January**

**Session 3 - Who is God - Jesus - 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

**Social/Reflection Session - 9<sup>th</sup> February**

**Week Off /No Session - Half Term - 16<sup>th</sup> February**

**Session 4 - Who is God - Holy Spirit - 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Session 5 - Faith - A Relationship with Jesus - 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**Session 6 - Church - 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**Session 7 - Baptism - 16<sup>th</sup> March**

*New life with Jesus*

**Mondays**

**7pm - 8.30pm**

**Preston Baptist Church**

## **A Wonderful Start to the New Life Course**

We are delighted to share that our third New Life course began on 19th January, with a wonderful sense of encouragement. It was a true blessing to welcome 26 people to our first session—a mix of those new to faith and those simply curious to learn more in a relaxed, friendly environment.

It is heartening to see God moving within our community at Preston Baptist Church. We are so grateful for the opportunity to provide a safe space where we can explore the big questions of life and faith together.

### *How You Can Support Us*

As the course continues on Monday evenings, we would value your prayerful support for the weeks ahead:

**For Participants:** Please pray that hearts will be open and receptive, and that God would protect everyone's time, allowing them to attend each week without distraction.

**For Spiritual Growth:** Pray that this time together would truly deepen their faith and understanding.

**For James:** Please pray for James as he leads the course. Ask that God would give him the right words and wisdom to speak into the unique lives and situations of those attending.

Thank you for your continued prayers and for being such a supportive church family.