Our Community Focus this Month - Praying for our Local Area

Each month, our Christ with Others focus encourages us to look beyond ourselves, inviting the love of Jesus into our community and the wider world through prayer.

This month we're praying for South West Youth Ministries (SWYM), a Christian charity that partners with churches across the South West to help children and young people encounter Jesus. Many of our own children and young people were blessed by SPREE, SWYM's annual festival, in June. It was a wonderful weekend of fun, friendship and encountering God, and we're so thankful for the impact it had on their faith.

We're especially excited to be welcoming Zach to Preston Baptist Church in September as our Children and Youth Intern. He will be serving with us for a year as part of SWYM's Be Transformed internship programme. Please pray that Zach will grow in his faith, become more confident in God's calling on his life, and be encouraged as he serves. Please also pray that we, as a church family, will support, encourage and invest in him well throughout the year.

We're also looking forward to welcoming Ollie O'Meakin from SWYM, who will be speaking at our morning service on Sunday 16th August. Please pray for Ollie as he prepares to share, and that God will speak to us through his ministry.

Prayer requests

If you have a specific prayer request, please send them each to 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 Beryl Owen & Novlette Smith.
Please pray for Fred Stapleton, Paul Lomas and their families

People to pray for -

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

PRESTON
Baptist Church

Voice@PBC

August 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, held in the family room which is up the corridor on the right hand side.

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 sermon us on s from home
Visit our website - www.prestonbaptistchurch.com/sermons
Call 01803 560214 Find us on Spotify

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
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 (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	- Worship Prep	- 19.00 - 20.00
Thursdays	- Garden Café	- 09.00 - 13.00
Thursdays	- Food Club	- 10.00 - 12.00
Fridays (Term Time)	- PBC Toddlers & Baby	- 09.30 - 11.00
Sundays	- Morning Service	- 10.30 - 12.00

Craft 22 will not be meeting in August.

Looking Ahead

28th to 3rd August - New Wine Festival
Sunday 30th August - Baptism and Dedication Service
Monday 7th September - Preschool Starts Back
Tuesday 15th September - 7pm - Members Meeting
Thursday 17th September - 7.30pm Commissioning service for Zach Friend at Belmont Exeter
Friday 18th September - 7pm - Quiz Night at PBC

Groups in August

Wednesday 5th and 19th August - Friends Together – 10.00-12.00
Saturday 15th August – Men's Breakfast – 9.00

Guest Speakers

We are very excited and blessed to welcome some guest speakers during August.

2nd August - Alistair and Marion Harper
16th August - Ollie O'Meakin from SWYM
23rd August - Rose Millard

Please pray for each of our guest speakers and we look forward to hearing what God will say to us through them.

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

Small Groups - Growing Together in Community

At Preston Baptist Church, we deeply value community and belonging. Each Sunday we intentionally make space under the heading of "B – Being Church Together" to connect, welcome one another and encourage each other in faith and love.

Small groups are one of the key ways we continue to live this out during the week.

They are a space to meet regularly in smaller groups to pray, learn about God together, and explore questions of faith in a safe and supportive environment. As trust builds, they become places where people can share openly, and where connections grow and deepen over time. In the midst of everyday life, small groups help us slow down, listen well, encourage one another, and grow as disciples of Jesus.

We are thankful for the new people who have joined our church and groups recently. It is a joy to welcome you, and we want to make sure everyone finds a place where they can belong and flourish.

If you would like to join a small group, please do come and speak to us. We would love to help you get connected.

We would also love to talk with anyone who feels that God may be calling them to lead or facilitate a group. Please do come and speak to us so we can talk with you and support you as you explore this further.

If you would like to include information in the September issue of The Voice please send it to Amy by Friday 21st August

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 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

•• Email: 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.

Membership at PBC

At Preston Baptist Church, we often talk about belonging, and church membership is one of the ways we express that belonging more intentionally.

Membership is a voluntary commitment to say: this is my church family, and I want to invest my time, gifts, prayers, and support into the life of the church. It's about shared life, shared responsibility, and shared joy in following Jesus together.

Membership also helps us care well for one another. It gives clarity about commitment, creates space for accountability and encouragement, and strengthens our ability to serve the wider community together.

In many ways, it's a simple but meaningful step of saying, "I'm in."

Anyone interested in membership at PBC please speak to Tina. There's no pressure and no assumption—just a warm invitation to explore what it means and see if it's the right next step for you.

Church Member Discount on Room Hire

Being a member of PBC means so much more than attending on a Sunday—you help us discern God's will together, contribute to the life and ministry of the church, and demonstrate a deep commitment to both our church family and the wider community. We are incredibly thankful for all that you do.

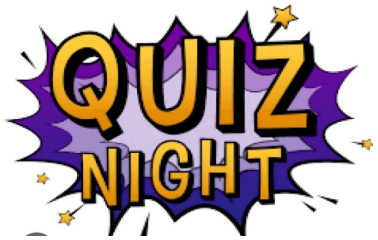
As part of our gratitude for all that you bring to the life of our church, we're pleased to remind you that all church members can hire our church spaces at a 50% discounted rate.

If you'd like to find out more about the spaces available or discuss a booking, please get in touch—we'd be delighted to help.

Thank you for being such an important part of the PBC community.

Christmas Shoeboxes

If anyone has any space in their garage to store some boxes of children's gifts for the shoeboxes, please could you let Julie Matthews know? Julie has a large number of items bought in the sales etc but nowhere to store them as her house has no garage and no loft! She would be very grateful indeed if anyone could allocate a corner to store these boxes of gifts until October. Many thanks.



We're delighted to announce that Simon Cunday will be hosting another Quiz Night

on

Friday 18th September at 7.00pm

Come along for a relaxed evening of laughter, friendly competition and great company. You're welcome to come as part of a team or join one on the night.

We hope to see you there!

Summer Rest and Annual Leave

Summer can be a wonderful opportunity to slow down, create space to breathe and be refreshed. Throughout Scripture, God shows us the importance of Sabbath rest – taking time to pause, be restored and enjoy being in His presence. Whether this comes through a holiday, time with loved ones, a quieter pace of life or simply moments set aside with God, let's pray that this season will bring rest and renewal.

Please pray especially for James, who will be on annual leave from 10th–25th August, spending time with his family. Pray that they will enjoy a peaceful, refreshing break together, creating precious memories and returning rested and encouraged for the season ahead. During this time, if you need pastoral support or have any queries, please contact the church office or a member of the Leadership Team.

Please also pray for Amy, who will be taking annual leave from 3rd–12th August. Please pray that she and her family will enjoy quality time together, find rest and refreshment, and return renewed for the months ahead.

May this season be one in which we all discover something of God's peace, rest and renewal.

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 supporting the families within our church community.

Our young people truly enjoy their sessions, which provide a vital space for them to grow in faith, build friendships, and develop a lifelong relationship with God.

Could you help?

As our ministry continues to grow, we are looking for new friendly faces to join this fantastic team! If you have a heart for children and young people and want to help nurture the next generation, we would love to have you.

Make a Difference: Help children navigate their journey of faith.

Experience the Joy: Discover the fun, energy, and rewards of children and youth ministry.

No Pressure: You don't need to be an expert—just willing to show up and care.

To find out more, please speak to Julie

Leadership Bible Focus

Each month, our church leaders spend time exploring a book of the Bible together. In August, we will be studying the book of 1 Corinthians.

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.

Celebration for Stephen Yates and Helen Baker

at St Matthias, Torquay

By Marion Harper

On 21st July some of us from PBC were privileged to join with other Christians from around the bay to share in celebrating with two of our friends, Stephen Yates and Helen Baker (Alison & David Baker's daughter). You might ask, what were we celebrating? Stephen was being inaugurated as Rector of St Matthias and Helen was Licensed as a Lay Worker.

What a great time of joy it was. There was the official act of inauguration and licensing. A wonderful time of praise and worship. Tributes given by dignitaries and "Revs" from around the bay. A challenging sermon given by the Bishop of Plymouth.

As tradition dictates, you cannot have a celebration without cakes. There certainly was a plentiful supply of them.

There are many memories I will take away from the evening. One of them was the smile that was on Stephen and Helen's faces. They both know that they are in the place where God wants to use them for His work. Do pray for them both as they serve Him in ministry at St Matthias.

Stephen left us with a challenge. It was as follows. "If anyone says to you tomorrow, what did you do last night, don't say you went to church, don't even talk about me, but talk about Jesus". What a challenge!

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Hall Refurbishment Project

We are very blessed to have a number of volunteers who are keen to help update and redecorate our church halls.

This summer, we will be focusing on refreshing the Main Hall to make it an even more welcoming space for both our church family and the wider community. Planned work includes painting, sanding the floor and replacing the curtains with blinds to give the hall a fresh new look.

If you are able to offer any time over the summer holidays, whether that's a day, a few hours, or more, we would love to hear from you. Please speak to Wendy to find out how you can help.

We are incredibly grateful for everyone who is willing to give their time, skills, and energy to this project. Thank you for your support as we continue to care for and improve the spaces God has entrusted to us.

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.

Because We Came

by Bob Baker

During a recent house group meeting, Bob Baker shared his poem "Because We Came" which he composed. We think it's apt for where we are in our church teaching and where the world is right now. Sometimes we can be touched by poetry in a different way to a sermon - like music it can create powerful connections and emotions. We hope you enjoy Bob's poem!

In a world that moves at breakneck speed,
Where everyone posts every deed,
True service doesn't make the trends
It shows up quiet, helps, and bends.

Like checking in when no one asks,
Or carrying someone else's tasks,
Being present, staying late,
Choosing love instead of hate.

Timothy walked that kind of way,
Not chasing fame or higher pay;
He cared for people, heart and soul,
And made compassion his very goal.

Epaphroditus gave his all,
Even when his strength grew small.
He pushed through pressure, stress, and strain,
Not for applause or personal gain.

Today it looks like listening well,
Helping someone out of dark and shell,
Cooking meals, or making space,
Showing kindness face to face.

It's answering calls at 2 a.m.,
Standing strong when life grows dim,
Lifting others when they fall,
Serving without keeping score at all.

Because the greatest lives we live,
Are measured by the love we give.
Not by clicks, posts, wealth or fame,
But who was better because we came.

Be Transformed Update

We are delighted to share that, from September, we will be welcoming a Be Transformed intern to PBC. Zach will be joining our team as a Trainee Children and Youth Worker and some of you may already have met him as he has visited us on several Sunday mornings. It has been wonderful to begin getting to know him, and we are excited for all that this will mean for our children's and youth ministry.

Be Transformed, created by South West Youth Ministries, is a Christian gap year designed to help young people grow into the person and leader God is calling them to be, while serving children and young people across the South West. Through practical ministry experience, training and discipleship, participants deepen their faith, develop lifelong skills, and gain a greater understanding of their calling and purpose.

We are excited not only about the blessing Zach will be to our church, but also about the opportunity to invest in him, to support him as he develops in faith, ministry, and discernment of God's calling on his life.

Please pray for Zach as he prepares to join us in September and for all those who will be supporting him, including his host family. We would also be very grateful to hear from anyone who feels they may be able to support Zach, either as part of the team or by offering help as a host family.

Baptism Service - 30th August

We are delighted to share that we will be holding another baptism service on 30th August.

Baptism is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share together as people take this significant step in their journey of faith. It is always a joy as a church family to witness and support those publicly declaring their commitment to follow Jesus.

If you would like to find out more about baptism, or are considering being baptised yourself, please do speak to us. We would love to talk with you and help you explore what this together.

We look forward with great expectation to celebrating together all that God is doing in people's lives.

Dedication

It was wonderful to share in the dedication of Ren on 19th July, alongside his family and friends. It was a joyful occasion as we gave thanks for Ren's life and prayed God's blessing over him and his family.

Please continue to pray for Ren, his brother Ronnie, his mum Sammy, and his dad Kyle. Pray that they will know God's love, wisdom and guidance as they raise their family, and that Ren will grow to know Jesus for himself.

We also look forward to celebrating the dedication of Roman on 30th August. Please pray for Roman and his family as they prepare for this special day.

Child dedications are a wonderful opportunity for us as a church family to welcome, encourage and support parents as they seek to raise their children in the knowledge and love of God. We look forward to celebrating with Roman's family and extending a warm welcome to their wider family and friends.

The Vine & The Branches

by Isobel Burgess

During one of the storms in January this year, a massive tree was uprooted in my local park, Youngs Park, Goodrington. I felt sad to see this devastation and thought that the tree would now die. However, during the course of the next few weeks, I noticed some fresh leaves appearing on the branches lying on the ground. Amazingly, over time, the tree became full of leaves, as if it had not been uprooted. I then realised that a few roots must still be attached and drawing nutrients from the soil. This was enabling the tree to carry on its normal process of getting new Spring leaves.

This reminded me of the words of Jesus in John 15:5(a). “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.”

We need to remain in Christ and He will remain in us. To remain in Christ means to remain joined to Him spiritually, just as a branch is attached to a vine or tree. We will be like living branches if we remain joined to Christ in this way.

Just as the sap of the vine flows into the branches and gives them life, so will Christ’s Spirit flow into us and give us spiritual life.
The union between Christ and believers is just as close. In themselves, believers have no life, strength, or spiritual power. Their root is in Christ and all there is in the root is for the benefit of the branches.

Let us allow nothing to disrupt our union with Christ. If we remain in Christ, He will remain in us and enable us to bear much fruit.

Suzanne and David - Vow Renewal Celebration

It was a real joy to celebrate with Suzanne and David as they renewed their wedding vows following our service on Sunday 26th July, marking their 40th wedding anniversary.

During the celebration, we enjoyed a wonderful photo slideshow reflecting on their years together, before they shared heartfelt words with one another as they renewed their commitment. It was a privilege to witness such a meaningful occasion and to give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout their marriage.

Leadership Nomination

We're delighted to announce that JP Mentiply was elected to the Leadership Team at our July Members' meeting.

Do join us in welcoming JP to the team – we're excited and expectant to see how God works through JP and encourage you to pray for him as he takes on this new role and responsibility within our PBC family.

Is there someone in our fellowship who you believe has leadership potential? We encourage you to take this to God in prayer and, if you wish to go ahead and nominate that person, please do speak to them first to make sure they're happy to be nominated.

Leadership nominations can be made at any time throughout the year, and nomination forms are available from the office.

Cafe Garden

Do you have any spare Summer or Early Autumn plants?

Liz would love to add them to the garden outside the cafe.

Please speak to Liz or just leave any

donated plants near the small bench.

Thank you.

Love Your Church Week - A Heartfelt Thank You

Love Your Church Week was a wonderful reminder of what makes our church family so special. Throughout the week, people stepped forward with generosity, creativity, and a real sense of shared purpose. Whether you picked up a paintbrush, made a cup of tea, offered a listening ear, tackled a practical job, or simply prayed for the work being done, you helped make our church shine.

The atmosphere was full of warmth and teamwork. It was inspiring to see so many people giving their time and energy to bless our building and one another. Every contribution - big or small - made a difference, and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you for showing such love in action. Thank you for caring for our church. And thank you for being part of a community that continues to grow, serve, and encourage one another. Together, we've strengthened not just our space, but our fellowship.

Let's carry that outward sign of our love for Jesus forward as we continue creating a church where everyone feels welcome, valued, and loved

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.

Community Garden

“Would you like to manage a small plot in our Church's Community Garden? Although it is a difficult year for growing vegetables because of the lack of rain, there is nothing more satisfying that sowing, growing and picking your own fresh vegetables. It would also be good if you would be prepared to help share with watering the garden, and some other maintenance such as strimming and mowing the grass. We have other plot holders and so you would be part of a team, but you would be primarily responsible for your own plot. The Community Garden is a wonderful, quiet, area where people visit to enjoy walking around touching, feeling, and smelling the plants and flowers, or just to sit and enjoy the calmness of the area. For more information please have a chat with either Christine Newman or Debra Barton."

Giving to God’s Work at PBC

At Preston Baptist Church, we believe the greatest gift is giving your life to Jesus. If you’re considering this, please speak to us—we’d love to support you.

If you’re able to give financially, your generosity helps us serve God and our local community here at Preston Baptist Church.

Please prioritise your own financial well-being first. If you’re in unmanageable debt, we kindly ask that you don’t give at this time. Free, confidential Christian debt support is available through the Riviera Life CMA Debt Advice Centre in Torquay. Call: 07895789285. Email: debtadvice@rivieralife.co.uk

We’re also part of Acts 435, connecting donors with those in genuine need. If you need support (up to £200), please speak to us.

Ways to Give

Direct Debit – Please use the bank details on the front of the Voice to set up a direct debit or speak to us if you’d like some help.

Online Giving via Zeffy – A simple way to give where 100% of your gift goes directly to PBC

www.zeffy.com/en-GB/donation-form/giving-to-god-at-pbc

PBC Gift List via Giftwhale – Help meet specific needs in the church by:

- Buying an item and having it delivered to church
- Donating towards an item and we’ll purchase it
- Providing an item you already have

Please remember to reserve any item you choose so we can avoid duplicates.

www.giftwhale.com/lists/MB2YXm

Gift Aid

if you are a UK taxpayer and are able to use Gift Aid, please come and speak to us for a Gift Aid form. This allows us to reclaim tax on your donation, increasing your gift at no extra cost to you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for being part of all that God is doing through our church.