Our Community Focus this Month
Hope Now

Each month, our Christ with Others focus allows us to look outward, inviting the love of Jesus into our community and the world.

This month, we turn our hearts toward Hope Now, a Christian charity bringing the light and hope of Jesus to vulnerable people, primarily in Ukraine, Moldova, and Sri Lanka.

Their ministry spans healthcare, orphan and family care, prison ministry, education, evangelism, and support for the elderly—often described through the word HOPE. Through medical outreach and practical support, loving care for orphans and foster families, prison ministry, and vital help for the isolated elderly, they bring a hands-and-feet expression of the Gospel. In places facing great hardship, they remind the broken-hearted that they are known and loved by God.

We invite you to pray daily for protection over their teams on the ground and for continued breakthrough across the nations they serve. To learn more about their current projects, visit hopenow.org.uk. Let's support them with high expectations for all that God is doing!

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

June 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	- Craft 22	- 13.30 - 15.00
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

Monday 8th June - New Life Course begins
Sunday 14th June - SPREE fundraiser
Friday 19th June - Preschool Summer Fair
26th to 28th June - SPREE festival
20th to 26th July - Love Your Church Week

Groups in June

Wednesday 3rd and 17th June - Friends Together - 10.00-12.00
Wednesday 10th June - Craft Group - 10.00 - 12.00
Friday 12th June - Messy Church - 16.00 - 18.00
Wednesday 17th June - Book Club - 19.00 - 21.00
Saturday 20th June – Men's Breakfast – 9.00
Thursday 25th June - PBC Connect and Chat - 14.00 - 15.30

In Loving Memory of Peter Lawrence

We share the news that Peter Lawrence died on 7th May 2026.

We give thanks for Peter's life and for all that he meant to his family, friends, and our church community. As they grieve his loss and commend him into God's loving care, please hold Peter's family in your prayers, asking that they may know the comfort, peace, and strength of God in the days ahead.

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 July issue of The Voice please send it to Amy by Friday 21st June

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.

SPREE Fundraiser - Sunday 14th June

We are delighted to be taking our young people to Spree SW, a Christian youth festival for 8–17 year olds, which is a real highlight of their year and a wonderful opportunity for them to grow in faith, friendship and fun.

To help support this, we are holding a fundraising event on Sunday 14th June, afterthe church service. Everyone is warmly invited to stay and join us for fun games and activities for all ages, along with stalls selling items made by our young people. This will be a great opportunity to encourage and support our youth as they prepare for SPREE.

You can also give via bank transfer or through our new online giving platform Zeffy (details can be found in the Giving to God's Work at PBC section of this newsletter).

Thank you for supporting our young people.

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.

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.

Love Your Church Week

Monday 20th to Sunday 26th July

It is important to us that everyone in our church and wider community feels completely welcomed and comfortable here. Every year, we set aside time to pool our skills, energy, and gifts to invest in this space.

This year, Love Your Church Week will run from Monday 20th to Sunday 26th July.

As we enjoy our new extension, we'd love to give the halls a fresh look with painting and new blinds. There will also be work happening elsewhere in the building, including cleaning, gardening, and clearing.

Whether you can spare a short time or a longer stretch, you'll be very welcome. It's always encouraging to serve together and see what we can do as a church family.

As we look ahead to our 100th anniversary in 2027, this is a great moment to prepare our spaces for all that's still to come. We look forward to seeing you there!

Suzanne and David - Vow Renewal Celebration

We are delighted that on Sunday 26th July, Suzanne and David will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows after the service.

This will be a joyful and meaningful moment, and everyone is warmly invited to stay and share in the celebration with them as we give thanks for their commitment and faithfulness over the years.

We look forward to marking this special occasion together as a church family.

We're excited to be going to New Wine Festival 2026 as a church again this summer, from 28th July to 2nd August, and we would love for you to join us.

New Wine runs an annual summer festival that brings together thousands of people from churches across the UK for a week of worship, Bible teaching, prayer and community. The festival is designed for all ages and stages of faith, with dedicated programmes for children and young people, seminars and venues for adults, times of celebration worship, and space to encounter God together. Many people describe it as a week that refreshes their faith, strengthens friendships and creates lasting memories as a church family.

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

If cost is an issue, another great option is to be part of the team at the festival. There are many ways to serve, including helping in cafés, children's teams, welcome teams or supporting venues, and the ticket for being on team is just £35.

We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to those who have already offered to financially support people from our church to attend. Your generosity has already enabled some who thought they would not be able to go to book their place, which is such an encouragement and a real blessing to our church family.

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

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.

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.

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.

Listen Again - Now on Spotify!

We're delighted to share another way to stay connected with the teaching and life of PBC: our sermons are now available on Spotify.

For those who already use Spotify, this offers a simple and convenient way to listen to sermons—whether you're catching up on a Sunday message you missed, revisiting something that particularly spoke to you, or sharing a sermon easily with friends and family. Making our sermons available on Spotify also helps us reach beyond our church walls, allowing more people in our wider community—and even further afield—to hear the good news of Jesus.

At the same time, we know that not everyone uses Spotify or feels comfortable with newer technology, and we want to reassure you that this is simply an additional option, not a replacement for existing ways of accessing sermons.

You can still listen by calling 01803 560214 and sermons will continue to be available on our website, so there are several ways to access them in the way that works best for you.

As we introduce new ways to connect, our hope is always to make church life more accessible, while ensuring everyone feels included and supported. If you'd like help accessing sermons online or using any of these options, please do ask—someone would be very happy to help.

Leadership Bible Focus

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

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.

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.

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.

New Life Course Begins

We're pleased to share that our New Life Course will begin on 8th June.

This is a safe and encouraging space to listen, ask questions, and explore faith together. We are blessed to be sharing meals together kindly donated by Mary and Samuel at Ho Mei Chinese Takeaway.

We are looking forward to seeing how God continues to move through the course and in the conversations that are taking place. Please do continue to invite anyone you feel may benefit from being part of this space. Everyone is very welcome!

We would also value your prayers—please pray for all those attending, that their hearts may remain open to all that God wants to say to them. Please pray too for James, as he continues to prepare and lead the course.

We look forward with expectation to all that God will do.

Church Social Event - 26th July

To bring Love Your Church Week to a close, we are looking forward to gathering for a church BBQ after the service on Sunday 26th July.

This will be a relaxed and enjoyable time to say thank you for all the time, energy, and care so many of you give in serving our church and wider community.

It will be a great opportunity to connect with one another, share food, and enjoy each other's company as a church family.

We would be very grateful to anyone who is able to help in making this event possible—whether with preparation, setting up, serving, or clearing away.

We hope you will join us for this special time of celebration and fellowship.

Introducing Our WhatsApp Community

We're excited to be launching a new WhatsApp Community to help keep us better connected as a church.

This will be a simple way to receive key updates, hear about upcoming events and stay in touch with what's happening across church life — all in one place.

There will be an announcements space for important updates, along with optional groups you can choose to join depending on your interests or involvement.

Your choice matters: joining the Community is completely optional. If you choose to join, your name and phone number may be visible to group admins and, in some cases, other members within the groups. You are free to leave at any time.

If you have any questions or would like help getting set up, please do get in touch.

Scan this code to join:

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.

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.

SPREE Prayer Evening - Tuesday 2nd June

New this year, we are warmly invited to come together to pray for the upcoming SPREE Festival and to join in supporting and fuelling the incredible ministry of SWYM.

We will be gathering online on Tuesday 2nd June from 7.00–8.30pm for an evening of prayer, encouragement, and connection. This is a wonderful opportunity to lift up all that God is doing through SWYM's vital work with young people.

To receive the Zoom link for the evening, please make sure to register in advance. You can sign up directly by clicking here: https://form.jotform.com/252813888199071.

We would love to see as many of you there as possible to help fuel this ministry in prayer. If you have any questions or would like more information, please speak to Dave Matthews.

Bon Voyage Neil!

As many of you will already be aware, Neil Slade will soon be relocating to the Philippines to be with his wife Lani.

I'm sure you'll all want to join the Leaders in saying "We will miss you, Neil!"

Thank you so much for your many years of service here at PBC, volunteering in many areas, including the Food Club, playing in the Worship Team, being on the Welcome Team – you are a faithful servant and a much loved member of the PBC church family.

May this new chapter in your life, as you move countries and continents, be full of happiness and blessings. And may you know the abiding peace that only Jesus can bring.

You go with the love and very best wishes of your church family, and we look forward to hearing all about life in the Philippines!

God bless you Neil

Preschool Summer Fair

Friday 19th June at 3.30pm

Our Preschool are excited to be holding their Summer Fair on Thursday 19th June at 3.30pm.

They would be delighted to welcome people from across the church community to come along, support the team, and celebrate the incredible work they do with children and families.

It promises to be a lovely afternoon of fun and connection, and a great opportunity to show our appreciation for all that happens through the Preschool.

We hope to see you there!

Christian Youth Festival

26th to 28th June

We are delighted to share that we will be going to Spree SW again this year. Spree is a fantastic Christian youth festival for young people aged 8–17, held at Westpoint Exeter from 26th to 28th June.

Our young people look forward to this weekend every year, and it has become a real highlight in the church calendar. With multiple venues and tailored programmes for different age groups, Spree SW provides an exciting and welcoming space where young people can build strong friendships and explore the Christian faith together. Alongside times of worship and inspiring teaching, there are plenty of onsite activities, giving everyone the chance to have fun, try something new and create lasting memories.

We would really value your prayers for the young people as they prepare to go and for the leaders who will be going with them. Please pray for their safety, deepened friendships and meaningful encounters with God throughout the weekend.

We will be sharing information soon about our Spree fundraiser and ways that you can support if you feel able. Thank you for continuing to encourage and invest in our young people – it makes such a difference.

If your child or young person would like to go, please speak to Julie for more information.

The New Extension Update From Julie

We are delighted to share that our new extension is finally finished! If you haven't been up the corridor to have a look we would encourage you to do so to fully appreciate the space created and the wonderful quality of the workmanship.

The extension was only made possible because of the Torbay Council grant that Preschool applied for and were granted, so that they could increase their numbers. The whole project has been a great example of Preschool and church working together to achieve a shared goal. We now have a wonderful new space for the youth to use on Sundays instead of the lounge, and no doubt it will get plenty of other use in the future.

The project has taken 18 months since the grant was awarded and we faced many hurdles along the way, from appointing the right contractor, design issues, fire safety requirements and then the various building problems that were encountered along the way. Throughout it all God has been so incredibly faithful, guiding us in our decisions and enabling all the problems to be resolved.

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all the Preschool staff and children who lived through the work! At times the noise of drilling foundations made the office shake; power cuts meant that computer work was lost and children's toilet trips took a lot longer with the diverted route! Preschool have also paid for the beautiful new patio that leads into the extension, for which we are extremely grateful.

We would also like to acknowledge the fantastic work done by the contractor, MW Benney, who really did go the extra mile to ensure the extension was all we hoped it would be. A lot of unexpected problems were addressed with no additional costs to the church or Preschool.

Praise God indeed for blessing us with this wonderful space, and may He be glorified through all that happens in there.

Members' Meeting and AGM

It was a blessing to gather together for our recent AGM and Members' Meeting, taking time to discern God's will for Preston Baptist Church together.

As part of the meeting, we reflected on all that has been achieved over the last year and gave thanks for the many people and teams who have served both the church and local community so faithfully. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that God has been doing through people's gifts, time and commitment.

We also discussed future projects and plans for our building, as we continue to care for and develop the spaces God has entrusted to us.

An important part of the meeting was our growing focus on Connections. As we begin to establish our new connections process, we were encouraged to play our part in ensuring that both we and those around us remain connected to Christ, Church, and Community. Each of us has a role to play in noticing, welcoming and looking out for one another.

James also shared about the exciting new season of life and growth that Preston Baptist Church is entering as we look ahead to our centenary in 2027.

He spoke about the importance of People—connecting our existing church family with the many new faces joining us—and Process—building a stronger structure to support church life, including new digital communication updates and a more supportive volunteer onboarding system. The hope is to move away from a model where a small minority carries much of the responsibility and instead to equip and enable everyone to find a valued place to serve.

James also shared his desire for future meetings to be simpler and more collaborative, creating space for every voice as we continue to seek God's direction together.

We are grateful for all that God has done, and full of expectation for all that lies ahead.

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.

Church Secretary Update

We are delighted to share that Tina Ansell-Baker has been voted by church members to continue as our Church Secretary for another year.

We are so grateful for Tina’s faithful service to both our church and the wider community. She is such a blessing and we deeply appreciate all that she gives in serving Preston Baptist Church.

Please do pray for Tina as she continues in this role, asking that God would strengthen, encourage, and guide her as she serves our church family.

Thank you!

We are so thankful for what this development means for the preschool, the church and the wider community. It is a real sign of God’s provision and care for us.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who has contributed to making this possible. Special recognition must go to Julie and Susan, who have worked tirelessly throughout—from securing the funding through to overseeing the building work and ensuring the space is finished to such a high standard.

We are deeply grateful, and we look forward to seeing this space used and enjoyed for many years to come.

BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 2026

UNITED IN MISSION – GATHERING & SHARING

This year's Baptist Assembly was held in Harrogate, at the Harrogate Convention Centre from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May. It was my first time attending the annual gathering and I was excited to spend time with members of the wider church in a beautiful part of the world.

Harrogate is a lovely place, full of wonderful architecture. Roy and I particularly enjoyed seeing so many roads lined with beautiful trees.

The theme for this year's assembly was "United in Mission - Gathering & Sharing" with an emphasis on "everyone everywhere" having a role to play in outreach and mission.

The three day programme was divided into seven different streams:

Discovering Ministry aimed at those considering or curious about a calling to Ministry
Safeguarding Training
Support Services – Building God's kingdom brick by brick
Everyone Everywhere
Fresh streams – equipping you to be prophetic
BMS World Mission
Joint Public Issues Team

To recap every session I attended would take up far too many pages of this already bumper issue of the Voice – so I'll concentrate on two which I particularly enjoyed.

Fresh Streams – this session gave advice on the gift of prophecy, available to every Spirit filled believer in Jesus. We were encouraged to form small groups and seek God for a bible verse or word for each of the other folk in our groups. I was grouped with two others: Jo, a Newly Recognised Minister and Colin, a retired Minister, currently Church Secretary for the church he had served in for 20 years. It was a blessing and a very uplifting experience to have two such experienced and godly people prophecy. We were all reminded that New Testament prophecy was given for three reasons: To encourage, to strengthen and to comfort the church. We were also challenged to let our words do these three things (encourage, strengthen, and comfort) for a month and see what a difference it would make. I must admit that struck a chord with me!

Talk on the Call to Ministry by Reverend Dr Helen Paynter from Bristol Baptist College – I'd previously enjoyed a talk by Helen at a Stepping Up event and was not disappointed this time. Helen's talk began with a photo of a toilet and a plunger(!) making the point that Ministry can often feel like constantly having to fix things. However, we're all part of something stunning – the church of Jesus Christ – and ministry is a glorious and sacred task. To be a Minister is to seek to express to others what is inexpressible – in fact this is the mission we are all called to but for some, they've been set aside to dedicate their working lives to sharing Jesus, speaking the truth, in love, in a confused world. Helen reminded us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for individuals -they were given for the Church and to build it up. She spoke on the need for us all to not just rely on "head knowledge" about Jesus. If we're to worship Him well, we must first love and understand Him.

I left the Assembly feeling tired (it's a LONG drive to Harrogate from Devon) but also very blessed. I believe next year's Assembly will be in Harrogate again. Do think and pray about attending – I certainly hope to go.

Every blessing Tina

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.