Our Community Focus this Month - Torbay Street Pastors

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 will be praying for Torbay Street Pastors, one of the ministries and organisations we support as a church. Street Pastors are trained volunteers who patrol in small teams on Saturday nights in Torquay and Newton Abbot, offering practical help, care and support to those they meet. In Torquay, the Safe Place Van provides a base where volunteers can offer first aid, water, flip flops and other support, as well as having a defibrillator available.

The team works closely with door staff, the police, NHS and the council, and can be called upon to help in all sorts of situations – from helping someone charge their phone so they can get home safely, to calling an ambulance for someone who is injured.

Please pray for the Street Pastors as they serve – for their safety, wisdom, energy and compassion. Pray for those they meet, that through practical help, kindness and care, people would experience something of the love of Jesus. Pray too for their relationships with the other organisations they work alongside and for God to continue to use their ministry to bring hope and care to our community.

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 the family of Jack and Sylvia Sudworth, 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
Dot and Roy Bagnall
Tony and Kathy
Jean Edwards
Eli Kirollos
Margaret Harrison
Ron Godfrey
Elizabeth Billingham.
Daphne and David Lockett
Kim Ewins and family
Phoenix
Anne Brown
Dave Barnett

PRESTON
Baptist Church

Voice@PBC

October 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 sermons 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	- 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 - 15.00
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

Looking Ahead

Sunday 4th October - Dedication Service
Friday 9th October - Celebration of Life Service for Jack Sudworth - 14.00
Sunday 11th October - Communion Service
Sunday 1st November - Shoebox Packing Party
Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Sunday
Saturday 7th November - Church Social - TBC
Sunday 29th November - Members Meeting - After Church Service

Groups in October

Wednesday 7th & 21st October - Friends Together - 10.00 -12.00
Wednesday 14th October - Craft Group - 10.00 - 12.00
Wednesday 14th October - Book Club - 19.00 - 21.00
Saturday 17th October – Men's Breakfast - 9.00

All Age Service

On Sunday 18th October, we will be sharing together in an all-age service led by the Children's Church Team. It's always such a blessing to come together as one church family, with all ages worshipping together.

Jack Sudworth

Jack passed away on Monday 21st September.
We give thanks for his life and ask that you hold his family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.
His Celebration of Life service will be held at Preston Baptist Church on Friday 9th October at 2pm.

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 November issue of The Voice please send it to Amy by Friday 18th October

Zach has started!

We're so excited to share that Zach, our Be Transformed trainee, has now started at PBC! Be Transformed is a Christian gap year programme run by South West Youth Ministries (SWYM), combining practical ministry experience, training and discipleship. It's an opportunity to develop skills, grow in faith and explore calling and purpose.

His first day was 22nd September and he has spent his first couple of weeks getting to know the many different things that happen here and meeting people across our church family.

A huge thank you to everyone who has welcomed Zach, introduced themselves and shown him around. It has already been such a valuable experience having another voice on the team, bringing his experience from other churches and a young person's perspective.

We're sly!o excited to support Zach as he develops and grows, and as together we listen to what God is saying to him and to us as a church.

If you see Zach around church, please come and say hello, get to know him and help him feel right at home as part of our church family!

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.

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.

New Wine Online

It was such a blessing to hear from some of those who recently attended the New Wine Festival and to hear what God was saying to them during their time there. The talks spoke to each of us in different ways, offering encouragement, challenge and fresh perspectives on our faith.

As a church, we have subscribed to New Wine Online, so you can listen to the talks. They can also be a great resource for House Groups, providing an opportunity to watch a talk together and discuss what stood out to you and how God might be speaking to you.

You can access talks from the New Wine Festival, as well as other New Wineevents, by visiting: -

new-wine.online/sign_in

The login details are: - Email: office@prestonbaptistchurch.com

Password: John@316

New Life Course has started

Our latest New Life Course has now started and we're so excited to see what God will do over the coming weeks.

Please pray for everyone who is coming — that God would open their hearts, meet them where they are and speak to them through each evening together. Please pray that God will make a straight path for them each week, removing anything that might prevent them from coming and drawing those God is calling to be there.

Please keep the New Life Course in your prayers throughout these next few weeks.

New Life Course Meals

It has been such a blessing to have Cheng San Hah and JingYi Ma (Samuel and Mary) at Ho Mei provide the food for our previous New Life Courses. We're so grateful for the care and generosity they have shown us.

For this New Life Course, we'll be providing the meals ourselves as a church family. If you would be able to cook a meal for around 25 people for one (or more!) of the sessions, we'd love to hear from you.

We'd also like to offer a vegetarian option where possible. If you can help, please speak to Tina.

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

Whose Hands It's In

This beautiful and thought-provoking poem was read at Zach's commissioning service and we wanted to share it with you all. Its simple but powerful message reminds us of what God can do when we place what we have in His hands.

A basketball in my hands is worth about $19.
A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about $33 million.
It depends on whose hands it's in…

A baseball in my hands is worth about $6.
A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth $19 million.
It depends on whose hands it's in…

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.
A tennis racket in Pete Sampras' hands is a Wimbledon Championship.
It depends on whose hands it's in…

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.
A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.
It depends on whose hands it's in…

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.
A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.
It depends on whose hands it's in…

Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.
Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.
It depends on whose hands they're in…

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.
Nails in Christ Jesus' hands will produce salvation for the entire world.
It depends on whose hands they're in…

As you see now it depends whose hands it's in.

So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams, your families, and your relationships in God's Hands.

Because, it depends on whose hands they're in.

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

Thank you to our Toilet Team!

We are so grateful to Vic, who has been using his skills to maintain and carry out repairs on our church building. He has been able to get to the bottom of some issues around the building and we are already seeing the improvements from the work he has done.

To help free Vic up to focus on this work, Tina has been organising a team of volunteers to help with keeping our toilets clean and ready for everyone who uses the building.

Thank you so much to everyone who has already joined the team and is giving their time. It's a simple but really important way of helping care for our building, making it a welcoming and pleasant place for everyone.

TAG Conference

27th to 29th November

TAG Conference is a weekend organised by SWYM for young people aged 15–19 to get together with others from across the South West, spend time in God's presence, grow in their faith and be encouraged and equipped to live out their faith in everyday life. It takes place at Lee Abbey in North Devon and includes worship, teaching, activities and plenty of time to have fun and get to know others.

We'd love to see some of our young people get involved in TAG this year. If you're aged 15–19 and would be interested in going, please speak to us.

We're also looking for adults who would be willing to go along and support our young people.

We're sure it will be a real blessing for both the young people and for those who go with them. It's a great opportunity to grow in faith together, build relationships and encourage one another.

Please speak to Amy if you would like more information

Save the Date!

It's so important to have opportunities to spend time together as a church family – to have fun, enjoy one another's company and simply socialise.

We're so grateful for everyone who is part of our church family. Whether you serve, volunteer, encourage, pray, help behind the scenes or share in the life of the church in other ways, you are a blessing to us and we're so glad you're part of the church family. We'd love to have an opportunity to celebrate that together and to say a special thank you to all those who give their time and energy to serve.

We're planning a church family social at the church on Saturday 7th November. More details will follow, but for now, please save the date if you can. We'd love to spend some time together!

Giving to God's Work at PBC

We believe the greatest gift is giving your life to Jesus. If you're considering this, we'd love to support you.

If you're able to give financially, thank you. Please prioritise your own financial wellbeing and don't give if you're in unmanageable debt. Free, confidential Christian debt support is available from Riviera Life CMA Debt Advice Centre: 07895 789285 | debtadvice@rivieralife.co.uk

We're also part of Acts 435, helping people in genuine need with practical support of up to £200. If you need help, please speak to us.

Ways to give

- Direct Debit: Use the bank details on the front of The Voice.
- Online: Give securely via Zeffy: www.zeffy.com/en-GB/donation-form/giving-to-god-at-pbc
- Gift List: Help provide specific items through Giftwhale: www.giftwhale.com/lists/MB2YXm
- Gift Aid: If you're a UK taxpayer, speak to us about completing a Gift Aid declaration.

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

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.

Our New Screen

Unfortunately, the screen at the front of church stopped working during July, which could have caused a real challenge for our Sunday services.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped organise a replacement, remove the broken screen and fit the new one so quickly. We're so grateful for the time, effort and practical skills that went into getting everything sorted with minimal disruption.

Thank you for helping our services continue to run smoothly!

Change of date - Members Meeting

Due to our two baptism services in November, we've changed the date of our next Members Meeting.

It will now be on **Sunday 29th November – after the morning service.**

This will be a great opportunity for us to come together as a church family and prayerfully discern God's will for Preston Baptist Church.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Zach's Commissioning

On Thursday 17th September, a group of us from Preston Baptist Church had the joy of travelling to SWYM's commissioning service for Zach at Belmont Chapel in Exeter, as he begins his year as a Be Transformed intern.

It was a wonderful evening. We began by worshipping together and then celebrated with those who were graduating, whether from the internship or from their degree courses. There was such a lovely atmosphere among the young people who had already spent two weeks together on their SWYM induction and then time together at Lee Abbey. There was plenty of joy, excitement, laughter and those special in-jokes that come when people have shared a new experience together!

It was a real privilege to share in this moment with Zach and the other young adults as they begin a new chapter. It was also encouraging to see the faith, enthusiasm and commitment of so many young people who are stepping forward to serve God and discover where God is leading them.

During the service, a powerful poem called "In Whose Hands?" was read. We have included the poem in this edition of The Voice for you to read and reflect on for yourself.

As Zach begins this year, please continue to pray for him, for the SWYM team and for all the young people who are taking this step of faith. What a privilege it is for us as a church family to be part of their journey.

Leadership Bible Focus

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

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.

Growing Together

What an exciting season it is to be part of Preston Baptist Church! As God grows our church and opens new opportunities to serve our community, your generosity helps make it possible.

As a Baptist church, we are funded primarily through the generosity of our church family, so every gift makes a difference. At the moment, we have three specific projects we'd love you to join us in supporting:

Having Zach's Back – £12,000

Supporting the training and other expenses for Zach, our Be Transformed trainee. We're so excited to have Zach with us and he is already such a blessing to our church!

On Fire for Jesus – £10,000

Helping us install a new fire alarm system, keeping our building safe for everyone who uses it.

Spend a Penny – £5,000

Helping us update our toilets to create a comfortable, welcoming space for our church family and the wider community.

You can support any of these projects by scanning the QR code below, bank transfer using the details in The Voice (please include a reference so we can allocate your gift as you would like), cash in the collection, or by speaking to the church office.

Thank you for being part of all that God is doing here. We're excited to see where God leads us next!

Two Baptism Services in November

We're so excited to share that we'll be holding TWO baptism services in November!

Sunday 15th November – at Preston Seafront
Sunday 22nd November – at the church

Please pray for everyone who is considering baptism, and for all those who will be taking this wonderful step of faith.

If you're thinking about being baptised, or would simply like to find out more, please come and speak to us or send us an email. We'd love to support you as you explore what this step of faith might mean for you.

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.

Restored by Still Waters

By Tina

I'd been up early to take my son to work, and on the way back into Paignton I grabbed a coffee and felt a quiet nudge to spend a few moments with God by the sea. The town was just waking, the air calm, and the Bay stretched out before me in perfect stillness. As I sat there, Psalm 23 came to mind - especially the words "He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul."

Right in front of me were those still waters, shimmering gently as the sun rose over the horizon. And I found myself asking, "How often has my soul needed to be restored recently?" More times than I'd like to admit. Yet every single time, without fail, Jesus has done exactly that - drawing me back to Himself and whispering peace into my heart.

Sometimes that peace has come through God's creation: rolling hills glowing in morning light, the sparkle of the sea, or the quiet strength of lush, green trees. Sometimes it has arrived through the kind, loving words of a friend - encouragement, wisdom, or even a Bible verse printed on a pen. And many times, it has come through the simple, joy-filled hug of my granddaughter, whose love lifts my spirit in ways only God could orchestrate.

God is so faithful. He sees us. He knows when our souls need reviving. And He meets us with His peace in ways both gentle and profound.

So may I encourage you - on the days when life feels heavy, when your soul is unsettled or weary - to pause. Let God speak to you through His creation, through the people He's placed around you, or through the quiet blessing of a hug. These are His gifts to restore your soul and lead you back to the true source of peace: Jesus.

With love
Tina xxx

A Huge Thank You!

It has been wonderful to read Wendy's article about the Main Hall and to hear how God has been at work throughout the project. What a joy to hear how people have come together, generously volunteering their time, skills and energy to make such a difference.

The hall looks fantastic — so fresh, bright and new! We really appreciate everyone who has played a part and all the hard work that has gone into making this happen.

It has been lovely to see how, through a practical project like decorating the hall, God has been speaking, encouraging and reminding us of the strength and generosity of our church family.

And a special thank you to Wendy for organising the whole project and seeing it through from start to finish.

We are so grateful to everyone who has given their time and talents. What a blessing!

Baptisms and Dedication Sunday 30th August

What an incredible service we shared on Sunday 30th August!

We celebrated the dedication of little Roman, alongside his mum Georgia, dad Tommy, and many of their family and friends. We prayed together for Roman and his family and ask that you keep their family in your prayers as he grows.

We also shared together in the baptisms of Bill, Sue and Emmanuel. It was incredibly special to hear each of them share their testimony and the different ways God has been at work in their lives.

Sue spoke about learning to let go of her worries and trust Jesus, discovering a faith that has brought her peace and a lighter heart. Bill shared how, after years of searching and questioning, he picked up the Bible for the first time and discovered the love of Jesus, finding hope, purpose, forgiveness and peace in Him. Emmanuel shared about choosing to give his life to Jesus and learning to trust God through the storms of life, knowing that God is with him whatever lies ahead. Emmanuel also blessed us by playing and singing So Will I. It was a beautiful and moving part of the service.

Those who were able then headed down to Preston Sands for the baptisms. Despite the warning of thunderstorms, the sun shone for us! Seeing Bill and Sue baptised together while supporting one another was wonderful, as was seeing the love surrounding Emmanuel as he took this step of faith at a young age. Please continue to pray for Bill, Sue and Emmanuel as they continue their faith journeys and as God continues to work through each of their lives.

A special thank you to James and Leanne, who took photos and videos throughout the day and made sure those unable to come to the beach could watch the baptisms from church — perhaps even giving them the best view by getting into the sea with those being baptised! We look forward to sharing these photos and videos with you very soon.

The Decorating of the Main Hall 2026

When James first mentioned the decorating of the main hall, I did wonder how it would happen! Such a massive task. Then quickly realised that to get the job done we did not have much time! Due to pre-school and school holidays, the only time to get such a large project complete was the summer holidays.

With such a large task ahead, it is easy to become overwhelmed and negative. But as we know the Bible tells us 'Do not fret'.
Philippians 4:6
*Do not fret or have anxiety about anything but in **every** circumstance, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your wants known to God.*
“So here I am Lord, yet again, giving You all my wants and problems”

Over the years, I have definitely got better at leaving things with God. I've had a lot of practice and know He always comes through. He also makes better decisions and results than I do.

With a small number of volunteers, God provided the perfect people for this task.

Andy Collis, Kevin Hooks and Mike Jeffs have all been totally amazing They have worked tirelessly, done everything wonderfully and have never moaned (well not to me). All a massive blessing.

Jo Collis, Richard Baker and Dave Matthews got busy helping with all they could. Even helping to lift a huge heavy screen which David Baker has fitted into the back wall. He has made a fabulous job of it and should last the next 100 years. Thank you David. Another massive blessing.

Charlie turned up one day and did a few hours of sanding down. Another massive blessing.

God is so good to us.

One day I had to remove the metal name plaques that are around the hall. They looked like they had not been cleaned for 100 years — so I took them home. As I was cleaning the plaques, it eventually came clear to me that the plaques were copper and not brass (which I had presumed they would be). The next day in my Bible reading, copper came up again! This made me very inquisitive!

So I began researching about copper in the Bible. I learnt copper is mentioned 140 times. It is frequently translated as bronze or brass and symbolises divine judgement, testing of fire and enduring strength.

I like to think the people that began our church chose copper on purpose over brass. Their foresight to build what we now call The Main Hall, leaving space on the plot of land to build a second church is just amazing. They did not have oceans of money, but what they did have was enduring strength and enormous faith and courage to step out with God.

I am personally thrilled with the new hall and I hope you all are too. For me it is so much cleaner and brighter, and a great example of what we are capable of as a church.

May our faith be like those who began our church story - courageous, strong and humble.

A huge thank you to all those that have managed to find time to come and help — A true blessing to us all.

May God bless us all massively as we approach our 100 year celebrations.

Lots of love to you all.
Wendy x