Our Community Focus this Month - Children and Young People

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 especially for our children and young people as they begin new school years, with some also starting at new schools.

Let's pray that this season will be filled with excitement rather than nerves, and that they will know a deep sense of peace as they navigate new routines, classrooms and experiences. May they make new friends, deepen existing friendships and discover opportunities to learn and grow.

Above all, let's pray that our children and young people will continue to grow into the people God is calling them to be, discovering their gifts, developing their confidence and growing in faith.

May they know that God walks with them every step of the way.

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

September 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 from 28th September	- 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 6th September - JP Mentiply welcomed into Leadership Team
Monday 7th September - Preschool Starts Back
Tuesday 15th September - 19.00 - Members Meeting
Thursday 17th September - 19.30 Commissioning service for Zach Friend at Belmont Exeter
Sunday 20th September - Commissioning Service for Zach at PBC
Monday 21st September - Zach (Be Transformed Intern) starts at PBC
Sunday 27th September - Harvest Service
Sunday 27th September - Zach Commissioning Service at PBC
Monday 28th September - New Life Course Begins
Friday 2nd October - Quiz Night - 19.00

Groups in September

Wednesday 9th September - Craft Group - 10.00 - 12.00
Friday 11th September - Messy Church - 16.00 - 18.00
Wednesday 16th September - Friends Together - 10.00 -12.00
Saturday 19th September – Men's Breakfast - 9.00
Thursday 24th September - PBC Connect and Chat - 14.30 -15.30

Guest Speakers

On Sunday 20th September, we are blessed to welcome Richard Barton to speak to us. Please pray for Richard and we look forward to hearing what God will say through him.

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 October issue of The Voice please send it to Amy by Friday 19th September

Welcome to Zach Friend!

Be Transformed Intern

We are so excited to say that Zach will be starting at PBC during the week of 21st September! We are delighted to welcome him to our church family and to support him as he grows in faith, develops his skills and discovers God's calling for his life.

Zach will be joining us as a Trainee Children and Youth Worker through Be Transformed, a Christian gap year programme created by South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). The programme combines practical ministry experience, training and discipleship, helping young people grow as leaders while serving children and young people across the South West.

Before joining us, Zach will begin his month with induction and training with SWYM, including time at Lee Abbey. Please pray for him during this important time of preparation, as well as in the weeks leading up to his arrival at PBC and throughout his time with us.

There will also be two particular opportunities to celebrate and pray for Zach as he begins this new chapter:

- Thursday 17th September, 7.30pm – SWYM Commissioning Service at Belmont Chapel, Exeter
- Sunday 20th September – Commissioning Service at PBC

Please join us in praying for Zach, his host family and everyone who will be supporting and encouraging him during his year with us. We are looking forward to all that God will do through Zach's time at PBC and the ways we can journey alongside him.

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

Join the Next Course on 28th September!

Whether you're new to Christianity, looking for a fresh perspective on your faith or simply curious, you are very welcome at the New Life Course. This will be the fifth time we've run the course at Preston Baptist Church and it has been a real blessing to everyone who has taken part, offering a safe and welcoming space to explore faith together.

The next course begins on Monday 28th September at 7pm. If you would like to join us, please speak to Tina or Amy in the Church Office to sign up or email office@prestonbaptistchurch.com.

Please join us in praying for this next New Life Course — that hearts will be open and receptive and that God will prepare the way and draw along those He is calling to attend.

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

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.

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 September, we will be studying the book of James.

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!

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.

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.

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!

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.

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."

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.

We are looking forward to celebrating more baptisms at the end of November. If you are thinking about being baptised, or would simply like to find out more about it, please come and speak to us or send us an email. We would love to support you as you explore what this step of faith might mean for you.

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