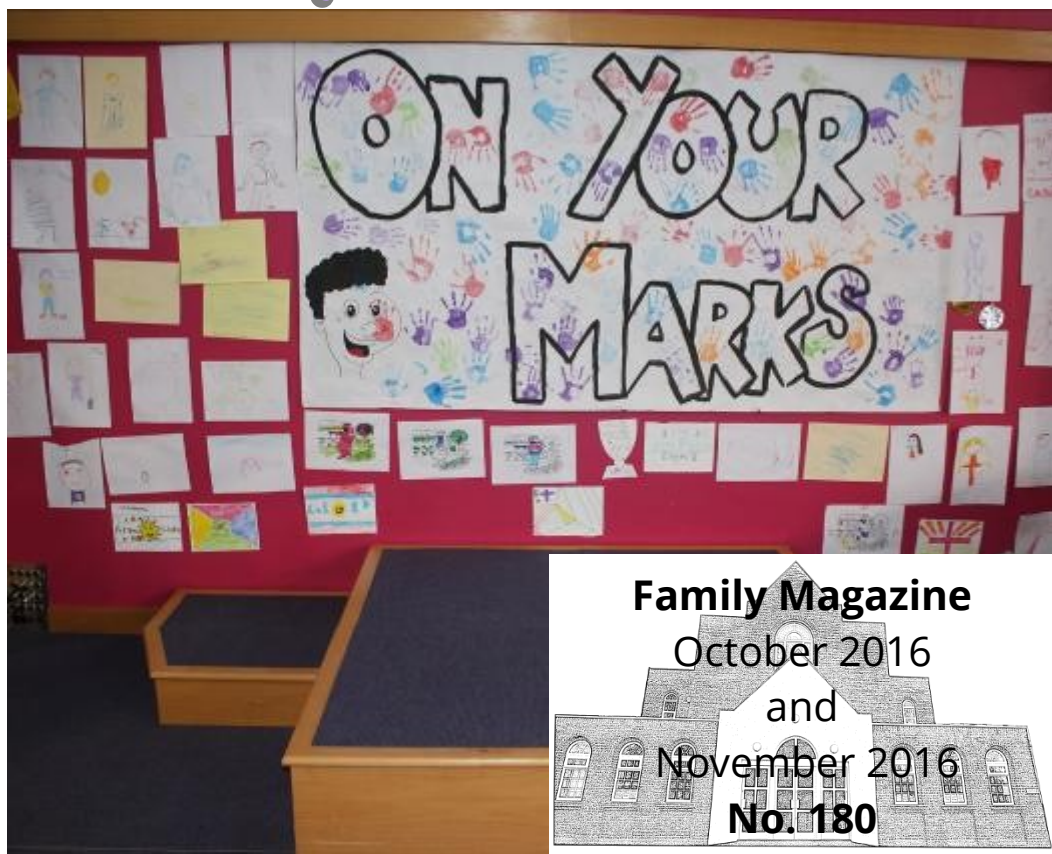




# Romford Baptist Church

# Grapevine



**Family Magazine**

October 2016

and

November 2016

**No. 180**

# From the Editor

When we read or watch the news these days, it is easy to feel like there is no hope left in the world. Everything seems too much to bear, too impossible to even try to help.

Yet we know that in Christ nothing is impossible, and we have a hope because He has given us the victory. Even though we may not feel it, we know it!

As you read the reports and stories in this edition of Grapevine, be encouraged that our God is mighty, and he is there for us, in times of celebration and in times of trouble.

As the encouraging words of the hymn go,

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus'  
blood and righteousness;*

*I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly  
lean on Jesus' name.*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other  
ground is sinking sand,*

1 Corinthians 15:58 tells us, *'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'*

May we take our hope from this sure knowledge. And may we be spurred into action to share His love and hope, knowing that our labour is not in vain.

**Cheryl Schulte**

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Our purpose is to take the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to all, with the goal that they become His loyal disciples.

# *Report of the Mission and Evangelism Division of the EBF (European Baptist Federation)*



Rarely in life does such a conference seem so important? When we started planning a conference in June 2015, little did we know about the urgency of the subject by the time we met a year later. The conference *"Loving the Stranger: Live the Gospel, Share the Gospel, Be the Gospel"* took place in Elstal, Germany, from 31 May to 3 June 2016.

The start of the programme brought the urgency of the tasks to the fore. Throughout the previous 9 months, we had seen pictures on our TV screens from across Europe and beyond of refugees fleeing for security and a better life. What was also becoming clear

at the time of our gathering was the beginning of the political fallout and the rise of hostilities from many countries towards the plight of those on the move.

We began by hearing the testimony of the German Baptists as to the issues faced across Germany and the way in which many of the Baptist Churches were responding. Early in our time together we visited some Baptist Church projects where churches were reaching out with good news to those in need and we also visited a refugee camp. Our keynote speaker was Juliet Kilpin from the UK who has been working within the 'Jungle', as it is known, at Calais.

The conference was attended by over 50 people from some 22 nations. Stories were heard from most of these nations, each with their unique perspectives, yet together they were common themes and issues.

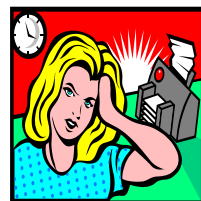
*(Continued on page 4)*

**The deadline for the December 2016/January 2017 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Please give any items to Cheryl Schulte, put them in the tray on the Welcome Desk or email them to

Cheryl at:

**[grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk](mailto:grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk)**



*(Continued from page 3)*

Many outcomes and lessons from the conference were agreed and these are listed below. It was noted that this conference would not have been able to take place without the support of many of the sponsors that enabled delegates to attend from some of the countries most affected, and so we extend our thanks to them.

As we listened, prayed and reflected together our conclusions were:

### **Blessing**

While the media and politicians are describing the movement of people as a crisis, as the conference moved on we started to call it a Refugee Blessing. As we heard stories of what God was doing through these events and the way it was affecting churches and communities, and also the fact that the Gospel was being spread through the events, we could only describe it as a blessing.

### **Every refugee has a name**

At a time when political leaders have described the refugees as a swarm, as if they were vermin, we noted that every person in the throng had a name and was known and loved by God. Many of the conference members talked of getting to know individuals and seeing the humanity behind the pictures. As we met, we were aware of many losing their lives trying to cross

the sea and recounted that each one is a child of God. Our mission is in the conference title - the call of the needy is that humanity is found behind the media and political noise.

### **Act quickly**

As Christians and as churches we are not always light on our feet, yet we saw how the crisis was not an issue we can return to in 6 months but one that needs to be addressed now. As Baptists we are best placed to be able to respond, providing the needs, yet all too often we get stuck in our own structures that we miss the moment. Sometimes, like Jesus in Luke 8:45, we need to allow the needs before us to distract us, even when we are rushing towards our own missions or other aims.

### **Listen and respond appropriately**

So often we respond with our easy answers and quick fixes and the danger of acting quickly is that we act wrongly. We need to listen deeply to the stories and testimonies of the refugee and respond to the needs appropriately. In doing this, we also allow them their dignity and enable human flourishing again. Whilst we give the basic human needs of shelter, food and security, we also need to give time, a safe space and care. Too many refugees have become a "problem to be sorted" rather than a human to be welcomed.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **Crisis care and a new normal**

Past historical events have often had relatively short crises before becoming a project of rebuilding. The conference felt that, looking at the future and the instability in many places, the responses we are making are likely to become the new normal. That is, for the foreseeable future there will continue to be considerable needs. Whilst the issue has largely disappeared from the media and has been replaced by the dangerous ISIS situation, refugees are still in need and God calls on us to respond.

## **See God**

As we visited the refugee camp and talked with local churches showing love, we were struck how God appeared in so many places. The church was showing God's love, but so are many others, people of faith and no faith who are showing deep kindness and care to those in need. It is hard to enter a refugee camp without seeing the God-like attributes of those who want to make a difference for good. Jesus is in every refugee camp, not just through us.

## **Remember history**

This is not the first time in European history that there has been such a movement of people. Whilst we learn the lessons of the past, we also need to see that this is a new movement, for

new reasons. We celebrate those who risked their all in world wars to rescue people. We can learn from these people what it is to allow ourselves to become involved.

## **Rescue, Restoration, Integration**

It is important to go beyond the basic to go deeper with people. Whilst it is vital to rescue people, it is for the long haul that we need to be involved. Churches are often good at the crisis but do not see it through. We need to find ways to help restoration and to find ways to integrate people into our communities as equals and partners in the gospel.

## **More Muslims coming to Christ today than in the whole of history**

During the conference, story after story was told of refugees becoming believers. God is doing something amazing through this crisis. Some refugees have also returned home and begun churches in places where the gospel was not heard. God can do more than all we can imagine.

Some other outcomes that we identified to be worked on are that:

We need to create strategic prayer partnerships to pray for the work of the Baptists involved in refugee work. Grassroot networks need to be encouraged and empowered to get on with the job.

(Continued from page 5)

Re-evangelisation of Europe has begun through this blessing. We need to get involved with what God is doing.

Storytelling, the story of what is really happening, needs to be told and not filtered through the media.

We need to humbly receive the gift that God is giving to us, and where required, allow it to change us and His church.

Whilst it is always easier to reshape someone into your image or ask them to become like us, the call of the gospel is going to a better place together.

After all this, and the struggle in three days to try to understand what is happening, and looking at how the church is responding, we were left asking what is our place in this movement? With all that is said above about the outcomes of the conference and our shared time together, we still have that ongoing question: What is God saying to us through all of this? We believe we all have so much more to learn and there is so much more to get involved in.



Thank you for your partnership.

## **BMS Birthday Scheme**

### **Birthdays October 2016**

10<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Schulte  
22<sup>nd</sup> Rhiannon Townson  
23<sup>rd</sup> Michael Eastman  
29<sup>th</sup> Tim Howson  
31<sup>st</sup> Rebecca Kendrick-White



### **Birthdays November 2016**

14<sup>th</sup> Fred Biggs



## **Flowers**

### **October 2016**

9<sup>th</sup> Muriel Warner  
16<sup>th</sup> Jim and Iris Hooper  
23<sup>rd</sup> Lin and William Cuthbert



### **November 2016**

13<sup>th</sup> Temi  
20<sup>th</sup> Dougan and Fely Bitaga  
27<sup>th</sup> Colin and Irene Turner



## Grateful Thanks

Dear friends,

As many of you are aware, I have been unwell during the last 18 months. As a consequence, I developed extensive infections of my knee and large areas of ulcerated skin involving my right leg, which failed to respond to several antibiotics. I suffered some days of confusion or complete lack of memory. Following three periods of hospitalisation during Easter and the middle of June to the end of July this year I was advised to undergo two operations, in order to deal with life-threatening, spreading septicaemia, the last involving amputation of much of my leg. Since then I have gradually recovered much of my earlier state of health, for which I thank God for His many blessings and love bestowed throughout this difficult time.

I wish to thank those who have upheld me by their prayers both singly and corporately in various meetings, through the spoken word, the written word and the many cards I received. I

have been strongly aware of the loving support, encouragement and advice encompassed by the Church family at RBC., as well as by other friends and family. I would thank those spending their time during hospital visitations to me and also those freely offering lifts to take Sue home after long days of tiredness. I would particularly wish to thank the loving support shown by Sue: what a rich blessing God has provided to us from the time since we met and married! No man could want for greater love and happiness from his wife! However, her health has also caused me much concern, but we have prayed to the Lord that we might live for Him during whatever time remains to us.

What a wonderful God we have, who has blessed us in so many ways. May we all continue to trust in His Truths and Promises, following our Lord's commission - Mark 16 (AMP.). <sup>15</sup>*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation".*

*Brain Sharp*

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## 100 at Last!

At last I have achieved my goal of giving 100 pints of blood, even though it took me 50 years to do so. The reception was held at the Hilton Hotel in London. Fred came as my guest. It would be great if more people donate, only 7% of the population donate. *Frances Biggs*





# Inspirations

card making

The next session of Inspirations will be on Saturday 15th October 2016 from 10:00am – 3:00pm in the Willow Hall. This is our long session, and as summer draws to a close and we start to enjoy the beautiful autumn colours, we hope you will feel inspired and ready to create a beautiful card for a special occasion. Glynis and I will be there to help. Just sign up for the next Inspirations workshop for a day packed with fun and friendship!

The £10 fee includes materials and morning refreshments (homemade cakes!), just bring your lunch!

There are 2 choices of class this time, so please book as soon as possible to ensure your first choice.

Everyone is welcome! Even if you are not a regular card maker – just come along for some 'me' time and let the creative juices flow – you could be surprised!

## **Celebration Bottle - Pauline:**

Pauline will be introducing you to 3 Dimensional card crafting and showing you how to make and decorate a celebration bottle card and presentation box or bag for that special occasion. Colours can be customised for a specific celebration on request: just indicate your choice when booking. You can bring a



photo or any other embellishments, if you wish, to personalise the bottle, or you can use the selection available in class. This is a stunning card that will definitely stand out from the rest to mark that special occasion. Please book early to secure your choice of colour.

## **Decorative Screen Card - Glynis:**

A lovely feminine card that could be for any occasion. Quite easy to make with just 3 folds, a decorative top edge and a punched base. Stamping, matting and layering make the panels, then stamping, colouring and punching creates the flowers and butterflies, though you could have other decorative embellishments. The reverse has a space for your main sentiment, plus more decorative panels. It will fold flat to fit into an envelope.



To register for this workshop, please complete the booking form available in the foyer of the church or on the notice board in the Willow Hall. Please book by Sunday 2nd October 2016. (Cheques payable to "RBC Inspirations" please).

If you would like more information about Inspirations, please ring Pauline on 07742 707790 or leave a message with the church office (01708 743382) and we will call you back.

*Pauline Yates*



# My walk with God has been a whirlwind.

I was brought up in a loving and supportive family but there was no spiritual or religious influence. I grew up around families and people with similar backgrounds and had no friends that attended church or even believed in God. When I look back, I don't think I ever knew of anyone who had a real relationship with God.

I had a happy childhood but during my teenage years I got lost - those were my dad's words - he said, "Karen, we lost you".

During that time, I lived a destructive lifestyle and enjoyed living my life on the edge, pushing the boundaries in every area of my life, living in this bubble where I thought only of myself and my own needs. I had chaotic relationships, drifted from one job to another and used drink and drugs as a way of escaping the growing pain and inner turmoil that resulted from the choices I was making.

It was around the age of 16 -17 that I started to experience mental health problems. I didn't realise it at the time because I was so entrenched in this life of danger that I thought was exciting and cool. I went through what I can only describe as mental torture up until the age of 27. It was at this time that I believe God intervened and I had a

breakdown and was sectioned. I believe it was a breakthrough - my mind was so broken that I had to reach rock bottom before I could begin to accept the painful truth that I needed help.

I look back and see that it was God's perfect timing, I just so happened to be working for a private medical insurance company at the time and so I received the very best care in a private facility.

I began a journey with many twists and turns - one step forward and 2 steps backwards. When I was 32, I had a daughter, Robyn, she's now 10.

Five years ago I met Angie, one of Robyn's friend's mum. She took me to an Alpha course. I was interested and liked asking her questions about God but it was not the right time for me and I didn't take it on board as a serious option for my way forward in life.

For those five years I tried many ways of healing my mind, I exhausted myself trying to find peace. Nothing worked. Despite gradually putting myself back together, that inner peace I was searching for eluded me. I found myself getting desperate to find a way of being happy and 'normal'.

*(Continued on page 10)*

Then, over the Christmas holidays last year, I met up with Angie and the girls had a playdate at Kidspace. We sat and talked about God for 5 hours. I didn't realise it then but it was soon to be 'my epiphany'.

At the beginning of the year, I came to RBC. It was a very strange experience, I couldn't bring myself to sing and I sat there feeling so conspicuous that I had sweat dripping down my back. But for some reason I came back the following Sunday. From that week and for the next few weeks, I cried through the hymns, the prayers and most of the service. I just couldn't understand what was happening to me. Angie gave me a Bible. I didn't know what to do with it but after a few weeks, I started to read it. I began praying. This was a revelation to me. I used to say to Angie that I felt like I went into a trance when I was praying. She told me I was in God's presence. Well that blew my mind and I became addicted to this strange routine of getting up early before work and spending a while reading the Bible and praying!! It's now my favourite part of the day.

And then on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, I received the breakthrough and God opened the door that I had been knocking on .... this was unbeknown to me at the time but I now know that it was when I received the Holy Spirit.

I went through a 3 week period of literally bouncing off the walls, feeling such love and joy for the whole world that I knew God had entered my life and I was His from that moment on. I know that God met me where I was at, and that he gave me what I needed to escape the world I had become entrenched in. He totally renewed my mind.

Since then, God has shown me so many things. I realise now looking back that everything I went through has been worth it. It will be used to help others who are suffering and I'm so looking forward to the day when God shows me how I can use the experience I've had for the good of other people.

God blessed me by giving me an amazing gift, my daughter, who is gentle, kind and caring, the exact opposite of what I was like - but he gave her to me anyway. I can't wait to see how her life will take shape now that we both know the Lord.

Words will never be able to express how thankful I am to God for what He has done in my life. He set me free. Every day since He came into my life He has taught me a new truth about myself and this world we live in. I want to spend the rest of my life fulfilling His purpose.

*Karen Terry*

*Zohan (26): "I come from Iran. Four years ago, I was forced to flee my family, work and homeland. After a difficult journey, I arrived in Traiskirchen in Austria. The FIA-volunteer there supported me through my asylum application. After receiving asylum, I could move into a small flat in Vienna and with the help of FIA apply for permission for my family to join me. In Autumn of last year, I was finally able to have my wife and daughter back in my arms. At the moment, I regularly attend German courses and I hope to find a job soon"*

Dear Romford Baptist Church,



Summer is finally here and we are taking time to inwardly stop and look grate-

fully back at everything which has been possible over the last few months thanks to your help.

We say 'thank you' from the bottom of our hearts.

In the last few months we have seen how young people find hope again, settle in and master everyday chal-

lenges, both big and small. We constantly face new challenges and at the same time can look back at so many miracles:

- expert support at government and doctors' appointments
- mediation in intercultural conflicts
- successfully bringing families together again
- regular German courses and tutorials
- successful support through the job seeking process

Stories like Zohans show that the effort, the stress and the disappointments of the Refugee and Integration work (FIA) isn't for nothing. With your donation we can make a difference and accompany people through their journey.

Thank you for your support!  
*The FIA Team of Projekt:  
 Gemeinde, Vienna*



## Prayer Diary for October 2016

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Inter-church craft day. More details to follow nearer the time.	BURLAND Elaine
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dedication service this morning. Pray for those who are challenged to join the baptismal class on Wednesday.	BURRAGE Reg
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	Foodbank continues today. Pray for wisdom and compassion for the team.	BUTLER Pat, Stephen
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Baptist ministers monthly meeting. Pray it will be a time of encouragement and fellowship.	CALLENDER Elizabeth
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Baptismal class starts in the Foyer at 7.30pm this evening. Pray the right people will be there.	CARTER Keith & Anne
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Second CAP Job Club continues at RBC today.	CELESTINO Helder
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday morning Small Group meets in the Youth Lounge today. Alpha and "Parenting Teens" courses continue this evening.	CHAPLIN Rose
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership away day today and inspirations card workshop in the Willow Hall.	CHILDS Nicola & Dave; <i>Lorna, Amelia &amp; Felicity</i>
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	All-age worship this morning. Ian is at Chaplin Road leading the Church Anniversary.	CLARKE Aisha
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Streetlight, who have a film night this evening.	CLARKE Alex
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	80 <sup>th</sup> anniversary lunch for the Tuesday Fellowship. Next Step Fostering use our premises today.	CLARKE Ian
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Small Groups meet tonight and baptismal class continues.	COLLINS Les & Therese
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for the National Health Service and pray for those from this church who serve in this way.	COLLINS Sally, AVIS Stephen
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Youth Weekend at St. Mark's, Saffron Walden. Pray for safety, fun and a real sense of God's presence.	COX Gerald
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	"Clean up, clear out" morning. Please come along to help.	COX Nettie

## Prayer Diary for October 2016

Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	May we continue to know and respond to God speaking to us today.	CROSS Sheila
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Half term this week. Pray that those who are involved in education will have a good break.	CROSSDALE Winston, Sibongile Khumbula, <i>Alicia &amp; Eryka</i>
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Havering Mind Support Group who use our premises this evening.	CULL Sheila
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for those away at university and the witness of the Christian Unions.	CURTIS Ken
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Worship Group, that those with music skills will be ready to use them for God.	CUTHBERT William & Lin
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Remember Deb and Doug, Andrea and Ian, Teddi and Didi in the special work to which God has called them.	DALRYMPLE Eunice
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	Light Party for the young people today. Pray that it will be a fun time, but also challenging.	DALY Richard & Sylvia
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Vikki is leading worship this morning, as Ian is at White-house Baptist church anniversary.	DAVEY Betty
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	Remember Parkside, praying for Ian as he leads the usual Monday morning service today.	DELANEY Andrew & Sarah
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Leadership meeting this evening. Thank God for those who serve in this way.	DENNIS Annette
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pray for the members of your Small Group, thanking God for all the leaders.	DOUGHTY Winnie
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Blood Donor Service use our hall today and Youth Alpha starts this evening.	DUNNINGS Beryl
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Special Needs Group meeting this morning, thanking God for all the preparation made by those leading the group.	EAST David & Pat
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Alpha Away Day today. Pray that it will be a time of great blessing.	EASTMAN Michael
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	Remember the other churches in Havering, praying for our joint witness.	EBORN Daniel
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pray that churches will take up a full role in supporting their local schools.	EBORN Michael & Josie; <i>Lily</i>

If you have any items for inclusion in the  
November 2016 Prayer Diary,  
please contact the Church Office.



## Pause to smile

When I was in my secondary school our English master would give us a list of words and tell us to look up the meaning, and write sentences using these words. One list I was given was Amber, Festooned, Infinite, Majestic, Void, Waxing, Wherein and Zenith, I looked up the meanings of the words then went away to think about using them.

Later, when sitting down, I came up with this: I sat and watched the night sky; I gazed at the heavens and watched the waxing moon ride across the zenith of the sky like an amber chariot towards the ebony void of infinite space wherein the belts of Jupiter and Mars hung forever festooned in the majesty among a million stars. And as looked up, I thought to myself, I wish Dad would repair the hole in the roof of our outside toilet.

When I handed this homework in to the teacher he remarked "not bad but next time cut out the comedy". But I never could!

Whilst on a visit to Canada we were told that, it was duck shooting season and would we like fresh duck for supper. We said we would and our host then took us to a friend of his who was a hunter and he took us to a lake where he said we would find lots of duck. He

got us all in his car together with his dog and soon we arrived at the lake. We were told to keep quiet as we approached the lakeside, and the dog lay down and watched. Soon a duck took flight and the hunter raised his gun and fired, hitting the duck who fell into the lake. The hunter turned to the dog and said "fetch" and the dog ignored him, again he yelled at the dog "go fetch". The dog walked to the edge of the lake then ran on tiptoes across the water, picked up the duck and returned it to the hunter. My friend asked the hunter "what's wrong with the dog is he deaf?," "No" replied the hunter "he can't swim".

The Church Mouse



**15<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**Commissioning Service for**  
**Mr Ade Ogunleye**



## New Member

Rev Ian Bunce  
welcomes,  
Ona Eweoya and  
Peace Opoku  
into membership,  
3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016.

## 11 September 2016 Dedication of Jegede Family

Olakunle and Bunmi dedicated themselves to bring up Bamidele Daniel and Dara Priscilla in the way of the Lord.



## 11 September 2016

Induction of our new worship  
leader Ami Oprenova.



## Date for your diary

GRACEWORKS

PROVIDING QUALITY CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOLS WORK IN HAVERING

**Coffee morning** with plenty of cake on  
Saturday **12<sup>th</sup> November 2016** from 10am to 12  
for Graceworks/ Scripture Union in Havering Schools.

Short presentation by the workers plus future thoughts from the trustees.

If you have any connection with a school (teacher, assistant,  
parent.....pupil) please come along.

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## Recycle/reminder



At RBC we currently recycle the following  
**Clean tin foil** - squashed flat- sold at the scrap metal  
merchants. For St Francis Hospice

Romford Recorder **Sure Save vouchers** which appear  
each week. For St Francis Hospice



Used **stamps, postcards and old coins** to go to the  
BU at Didcot.

**Old spectacles** which Uncle Jim takes for Vision Aid



**Plastic milk tops** which are collected for the  
Air Ambulance

**All of these may be left at the Welcome desk**

# The tale of the Prodigal Son



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN  
WHO HAD TWO SONS.

ONE WAS HARD WORKING  
AND CARED FOR HIS FATHER



BUT THE OTHER SON JUST  
DEMANDED MONEY FROM  
HIS DAD



THEN HE LEFT HOME TO WASTE  
HIS WEALTH.

HE HAD MANY FRIENDS...



...UNTIL HIS MONEY RAN OUT



SOON, THE ONLY WAY HE COULD  
SURVIVE WAS BY FEEDING PIGS.



I KNOW, I'LL GO BACK TO  
MY DAD AND SAY SORRY -  
BUT HE'LL BE SO CROSS.



BUT HIS FATHER WAS  
FAR FROM ANGRY - HE  
WAS THRILLED TO SEE  
HIS SON RETURN HOME!



MY SON IS ALIVE!!



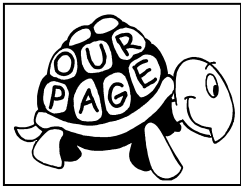
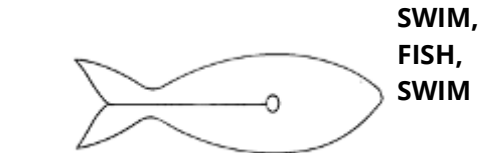
JESUS EXPLAINED - WE HAVE A FATHER  
IN HEAVEN WHO ACHES TO SEE US ALL  
RETURN TO HIM - JUST LIKE THE  
PRODIGAL SON RETURNED TO HIS FATHER.

# St FRANCIS

4<sup>th</sup> October is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. When Francis came to God, people thought he had gone mad and even his own father disowned him. But Francis' simple way of life soon attracted others. He and his companions went out to preach two by two. Unlike the preachers and priests that people were used to, they wore sackcloth and went barefoot. They were different in other ways too; they lived a very simple life and celebrated God's creation.

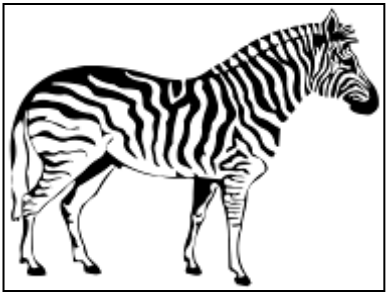
And to Francis all of God's creation was equally important. In one famous story a wolf had been eating people. The town wanted to kill the wolf but Francis talked the wolf into never killing again. And the townspeople made sure that the wolf always had plenty to eat.

Even blindness did not discourage Francis' spirit when he wrote his beautiful 'Canticle of the Sun' praising God through the miracle of His creation. Francis died aged only 45, worn out with years of poverty and wandering.



How do you make a paper fish swim? Cut a fish shape from a sheet of ordinary writing paper. Make it 10-12cm long, and decorate it making sure that the colours won't run when the fish gets wet. In the centre of the fish's body cut a small circle and then a very narrow slit from the tail to the circle.

Now, keeping its surface dry, gently lay the fish on the surface of a bath or large bowl of water and carefully place a few drops of cooking oil into the central hole. The oil will expand through the slit and drive the fish through the water.



**What's black and white and goes round and round?**

A zebra stuck in a revolving door.

**Why did the homeless turtle cross the road?**

To get to the Shell station.



Romford Baptist Church BBQ  
21 August 2016







Romford Baptist Church More BBQ Pictures  
21 August 2016



Pictures supplied by Alex Savine

Harvest Tents  
18 September 2016



## Focus

FOCUS Ladies that lunch, had a most enjoyable day in July, busy eating and chatting, which we are all very good at.

*Many thanks  
Frances x*



## All is Vanity

God has taught me a lesson  
As I came to the edge of despair  
My vanity made me do it  
I decided to colour my hair

My hair to me was important  
And I just couldn't leave it alone  
And I've made it such a disaster  
I'm almost afraid to leave home

I cut it, then I dyed it,  
so what did I want to achieve?  
the answer my friend,  
you will not comprehend  
too stupid to even believe

I counted my worth by the way I look  
I committed a vanity sin  
And vanity: so the Bible says  
Is like trying to "grasp for the wind"

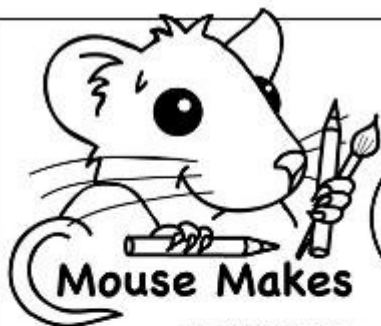
I failed to see what shines in me  
Above all my physical limits  
The beauty that others can really admire  
Is my wonderful beauty in spirit

It's a spirit that really sets me apart  
It's the love of God and a thankful heart  
It shines like a beacon for all to see  
This wonderful gift that God gave to me

So what did I learn through all this sham?

**My God and my friends love just who I  
am**

*Submitted by H. Salisbury  
Printed with permission from  
V.M. Di France*



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

### GOD'S WORD IS...

Look up the bible verse and fill in the blanks.

Your \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ for my  
\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ for my \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm 119:105*

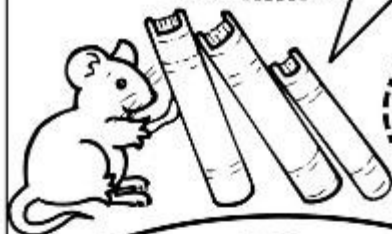


### BLESSING COMES FROM...

Cross out every second letter to read the bible verse.

"BALEEYSYPESDV ADREEM TKHCOUSMED  
WAHROS HPEKAMRS TWHAU WHOURED  
ATNODL OABLEPYW IFTO"

*Lpurkdes 11:28*



### WISDOM COMES FROM...

Change the backwards words to read the right way.

"For the Lord gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge  
and understanding."

*Proverbs 2:6*



Is not my \_\_\_\_\_ like  
\_\_\_\_\_ declares the Lord, and  
like a \_\_\_\_\_ that breaks a  
\_\_\_\_\_ to pieces?

*Jeremiah 23:29*



### UNDERSTANDING COMES FROM...

Change each letter to the letter **after** it in the alphabet.

SGD SDZBGHMF NE XNTQ VNQC  
FHUHR KHFGS RN DUDM SGD  
RHLOKD TMCQDQSZMC

*Orzkl 119:130*





## Regular Church Activities



<b>Monday</b>	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	12:50 pm	Parent & Toddlers
	6.45 pm	'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group) - first Monday in the month,
	7 pm	Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)
<b>Tuesday</b>	10 am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.30 pm	Tuesday Fellowship
	6.15 pm	Energize and Re-Energize (Primary School age)
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.45 am	Parent & Toddlers
	8 pm	Midweek Meeting (Small Groups or central meeting)
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30 am	Focus (alternate Thursdays)
	9.30 am	Small Group (alternating with Focus)
	7.30 pm	RBC Music Team
<b>Friday</b>	10:30 am	Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	12:30 pm	Small Group Alternate Fridays
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>

If you have any regular church activity which you would like to have advertised, please let the editor know.



"It's Mrs Filby with her hard-as-concrete home-made rock cakes for the Harvest Festival. Let's pretend we're not in."