



# Romford Baptist Church

# Grapevine



**Family Magazine**

April 2017

and

May 2017

**No. 183**

# From the Editor

So many bad stories make the headlines these days. Yet, those are not the only stories to be told. When we interact with people, it is heartening to hear and share good news too – how following Jesus makes a difference in our lives. God is indeed great and worthy of praise. Psalm 145 says:

*<sup>3</sup> Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.*

*<sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.<sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty - and I will meditate on your wonderful works. <sup>6</sup> They tell of the power of your awesome works - and I will proclaim your great deeds.<sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

In this edition of Grapevine we have a number of testimonies and tributes. Their stories are varied, with many experiences, however the one common thread throughout is their faith in Jesus, and how following Him has changed and guided them. We praise God that He has worked in their lives and ours, and pray that we will continue to encourage each other in our walks with God and proclaim His great deeds.

**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.



# *From the Secretary*

Dear Friends,

This will be the last time I write the Grapevine 'page 3' as my term on the diaconate and as church secretary will have ended by the time you read this. As most of you know, this isn't the only change in my life that'll be taking place in the near future! In June, I'm marrying Norman Tharby, a previous minister of RBC, and moving to Stowmarket in Suffolk and joining with my new church family where Norman is minister - Whitehouse Baptist Church in Ipswich.



I thought I'd use this opportunity to praise God for all that He has been to me through RBC over more than 50 years. I think back to moving to Romford in the early 60s (my parents actually chose to move here because of RBC!); to childhood and teenage years in Sunday School, Youth Groups and Girls' Brigade; to my conversion, baptism and coming into church membership as a teenager and then serving God in many different ways over the years. Over those years, I've been privileged to have served alongside many godly people and to have been taught, disciplined, guided and loved by so many people and friends - many of whom have now gone home to be with the Lord. I have benefitted from the

faithful preaching of the ministers and I thank God for each one. My Small Group has been a great part of my life for a long time and we've shared many high and low points and I thank them for their love and support. RBC is an amazing church to be a part of and I thank each one of you for being my church family.

I'm so happy to be marrying Norman and am very excited to move forward into another chapter of my life and to see how God will lead and use us in our marriage.

I want to testify to God's faithfulness and love which is beyond measure. His timing and plans for us are perfect and worth waiting for! It's going to be very exciting to watch how God will continue to lead and work among his people here in Romford and us in Suffolk. Next to me, as I type this, is the RBC calendar with the words of Jeremiah 29: 11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God bless you all and be assured of my prayers in and for the future!

*With love,*

*Debbie Seymour*

(Please don't forget you are **all** invited to our wedding here at RBC on 17<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm!)





## **Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving**

**Beryl Wells**

15<sup>th</sup> November 1937 to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Beryl Wells who went to be with her Lord on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Beryl was born and grew up in Barking and trusted Jesus and then followed the Lord throughout her life.

A significant situation early in her life overshadowed her life when her best friend was bombed in the war on her way out of St Margaret's church, Barking. This traumatic loss shaped Beryl and how she related to people in later life.

Her spiritual walk following her trust in Jesus involved serving in the church in several ways. She and her husband, Paul, hosted a Small Group in their home at RBC, Paul was a deacon and Beryl was a Sunday School teacher, and she regularly helped with washing the communion cups.

Beryl's working life comprised a number of secretarial-based roles, starting with a stockbrokers in the West End of London, followed by Ford, and Hawk Tiling company in Gidea Park. Beryl later became an NHS Medical Secretary and a Legal Secretary.

Beryl had many interests and in her

younger days was a county level sprinter and Javelin thrower, and she was also a very good singer. She maintained a deep interest in all TV sports and followed various sports from darts to motor racing, Wimbledon and snooker. Beryl was also a keen supporter of the Queen and the Monarchy.

Beryl's husband, Paul, was a Post Office Engineer/BT Engineer and later Facilities Manager at YMCA, but sadly died at the young age of sixty in 1997. From this time onwards Beryl was totally devoted to her family and took a great interest in the progress of her grandchildren and in the Pyrenean mountain dogs which her son Andrew bred. Beryl also visited Andrew and Yuping while they were living in Singapore for a while, but wasn't keen on flying

She retained a lifelong interest in money matters, finance and economics and kept in touch with many people from her past workplaces.

Beryl will be greatly missed by her family and friends, but she is now reunited with her beloved husband Paul in heaven.

## Baptism

### Kezia Bishop - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Hello everyone, my name is Kezia Bishop, I am 13 years old and currently I am at Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls, in year 8.



Getting baptised is something that has always been at the back of my mind, I was always just too self-conscious to speak up. I have realised now that nothing should ever stop anyone from creating that amazing friendship with God. Before I started truly believing and putting my trust in Christ, I was a very shy and timid girl and was always influenced by what others thought of me and never what I thought of myself or even what God thought of me. Since I have put my life in His hands I have realised the only person that I care about is God and what He thinks of me. I know for certain that I am loved

by Him always. I have chosen to get baptised now because I feel I am ready. I have had a few problems at school over the past couple of months and I feel God has guided me in making some big choices.

My parents, two little brothers and I are all moving up to Leicester in the summer and I know that is going to be a really big life-changing difference but I truly believe that God has a plan for each and every one of us! I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in this church who has helped me settle in and made this church a very special one. I would like to thank Sandra, Ian and Jan for everything. I will

never forget this church.

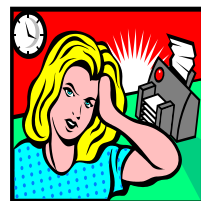


**The deadline for the June 2017/July 2017 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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)**





## **Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving**

**Ida Hotten**

30<sup>th</sup> December 1927 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Ida Hotten, who went to be with her Lord on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

Ida lived her entire life within five miles of Romford and did not leave England until she was in her mid forties.

She was a traditional wife and mother and devoted herself to her husband and children and was quiet, undemonstrative, loyal and determined.

Ida supported her children and grandchildren through many of life's challenging situations and was unfailing in her love, time and attention.

Ida found faith in her later years and was baptized at RBC on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1980 by Rev. Norman Wright. Her baptismal certificate quoted the text "The Lord is near, have no anxiety but in everything make your requests known to God in prayer", and she sought to live by those words.

Ida worked in Heathside Care Home for a number of years and demon-

strated her caring and loving attitude to life in this environment too.

In mid-life her horizons opened as she travelled with members of the church to the Holy Land and then to Norway and Austria. She was sustained during difficult times by friendships built through the church.

Ida also travelled extensively with her the children and grandchildren, visiting countries such as Portugal, Cyprus, Italy and Tunisia, but these travels were often eventful with delays and troubles. She bore these difficulties with fortitude and this characteristic remained with her when ill health and infirmity blighted her later life.

Ida spent her last few years as a resident of Parkside and was well cared for as her health declined.

Ida will be missed by family and friends but is now with her Lord and Saviour in heaven.

*Neil Walden*





## BMS Birthday Scheme

### April 2017

10<sup>th</sup> Jim Hooper  
25<sup>th</sup> Kathy Metcalfe  
25<sup>th</sup> Beryl Dunnings  
27<sup>th</sup> Richard Knight



### May 2017

6<sup>th</sup> Neil Walden  
8<sup>th</sup> Betty Davey  
23<sup>rd</sup> Elizabeth Callender  
28<sup>th</sup> Margaret Powell  
30<sup>th</sup> Abigail Howson



## Flowers

### April 2017

16<sup>th</sup> Ian & Vikki Bunce  
23<sup>rd</sup> Irene & Colin Turner



### May 2017

7<sup>th</sup> Beryl Mather  
14<sup>th</sup> Wendy Mott  
21<sup>st</sup> Iris, Hayley, Girls' Brigade  
28<sup>th</sup> Michael & Beverly & McKenzie



## Sofia Mission Team



Samuel, Caroline, Jackie, Sarah, Prisca, Sam and JJ

## Easter Symbols

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and lambs in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?



One of the oldest Spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in Spring, fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.

The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit, because there are more rabbits around than hares!

The lamb represents Jesus and links His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

# Baptism

## Caroline Ebunoluwa Majekodunmi – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Hello, my name is Caroline Ebunoluwa Majekodunmi and I am 12 years old.

From as far back as I can remember (my whole life actually) I have been raised in the



Christian way of life. This, I am very thankful for. I was dedicated to God as a baby in Frampton Park Baptist church and then moved to RBC when I was really little - about 10 years ago!

Although, I was raised in a Christian family with "serious daily morning devotion and time of worship", my parents have always made it clear to me that being a Christian is having an individual personal relationship with Christ. In other words, I have to make up my mind to become a committed Christian.

I started attending the Sunday School at RBC, and enjoyed the teachings. I

graduated from Foglight to Searchlight and then Path light and also attended Energise on Tuesday evenings. Increasingly, I became more aware of how wonderful and loving Christ is to us his children. As I continue to grow in my understanding of who I am and how I can apply my faith to my person, my desire to know more of Christ grew even more - which enabled me to grasp how loving Jesus really is.

At about 8 years, after hearing a sermon given by Pete Timothy (about the love of Christ), I decided to give my life to Christ when I got home. I told my parents, they were so excited. We prayed together and since then I have quietly aspired to walk the Christian journey. I must confess - it has been sometimes hard, but most times very enjoyable.

For the past 2 years, I endeavoured to be a committed Christian. I have been blessed with a family who make the Christian faith everything, and I enjoyed the gathering of the home Small Group - who share the word of God simply - helping the young ones in the group understand the scripture and creating an atmosphere where we de-

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sire the word of God. All of this has really helped me in my journey with Christ.

Last year, we went away for the Youth weekend, I had so much fun and experienced the love of Christ in a new way. I became encouraged seeing young adults helping and sharing thoughts and prayers with each other, this is totally different to what is usually the case with friends in school. The teaching at the weekend away was also (for me) very powerful. I left the weekend away event with a set mind that it is now time for me to stand for Christ and in so doing, I have to take the next step - which is - to publicly declare my commitment to Christ from this moment on. Again, I got home, told my mum, she was so very very happy that I have reached this decision. I trust and pray that the Lord will enable me to remain steadfast in fixing my eyes upon Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith.



## **Baptism** **Najib Zeki - 2<sup>nd</sup> February** **2017**

Hello, I'm Najib. In the past, I did not care for any religion, I was only interested in studying and working. Then two events happened to me, the first was that I lost a friend and the second was that I lost my family and did not find them. God hears me and has given me patience since then and I'm trying to get closer to God and He now lives with me in my heart. I knew it was closer to everything.



### **CAP Money Course**

starts at RBC

@ 4 - 5:45pm on the  
7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Contact:

Alison 01708 700 167



## **Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving**

**Rose Alexandra Chaplin**

1<sup>st</sup> December 1925 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Rose Chaplin, who went to be with her Lord on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Rose was born in the East End of London on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1925, daughter to Harry and Rose Philpot, and grew up with two brothers, Ted and Den. Her childhood years in the East End were hard due to overcrowding and family poverty, but they were fun times nonetheless. However, she left school at the age of fourteen due to the start of World War 2 to work full time in Cavaliers, a Tailors making uniforms for the servicemen.

When the bombing started in London, Mum's family moved to Collier Row and Rose started work on aircraft instrumentation for the war effort, this is where she met the Chaplin sisters who invited her to a family party. Here she met Len, on leave from the Air Force and they married in Collier Row on 29th July 1950.

Rose was a wonderful wife to Len and a marvellous Mum to Valerie and Stephen, and she was someone who always had time for and cared about

others, would always see the best in people, and was rational and always positive.

Len was a panel beater, repairing cars at Gates of Woodford, while Rose assembled fastening straps at home for the Lovable Bra factory on Harold Hill, and later secured a job as Returns Manager with the same company.

Rose was always on the move, rushing here and there to make ends meet, and was a great cook who always ensured that there was a cooked meal on the table each evening. Desserts were Rose's favourite, long with "After eight" mints.

However, tough times began when Len suffered a stroke in his forties and Rose became a driving force in his rehabilitation. Rose also had several major operations but together they came through and were both soon back working full time.

Through all these experiences they encouraged their children to work hard and participate in a variety of activities, including Brownies & Cubs,

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swimming, fishing, cooking, sewing and walking with family in the local forests.

Rose was baptised at Romford Baptist Church in the late 1970s, after which she worked as a volunteer serving tea and biscuits to the residents of Heathside and Parkside Residential homes. Len later joined her in this area of service.

They continued to enjoy their holidays, visiting Italy on twelve occasions, and especially enjoyed Venice

Their daughter Val lived in Holland with her family and Rose even learned Dutch so that she could talk to her grandchildren.

Len sadly died on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1986 from cancer, and Rose though devastated, remained strong and became employed at Heathside. Rose remained a busy person but always had time to listen to, or help friends and neighbours and was devoted to her children and grandchildren. She often visited Holland as well as going to Israel with the Church, and took up driving again after 20 odd years.

In her mid-seventies, Rose developed early signs of Dementia and typically fought that too and continued to

travel to Holland despite the signs of its onset worrying her.

Rose moved into Parkside in March 2005, no longer able to live at home and was made very welcome, surrounded by friends and old colleagues. She maintained a sense of humour throughout and when asked if she was alright would always reply "yes, all down one side". She enjoyed, and was always winning, the general knowledge quizzes there in the early days and was known for her singing and knew all the words to the War-time songs.

Dementia and Parkinson's took their toll but Rose could not have been in a better place and the family are extremely grateful to all the staff and management of Parkside Residential Home, for the caring loving way they looked after her for the almost 12 years she has been there

Rose will be missed greatly by her family and friends, but she has moved on to a better place and is reunited with her beloved Len, and together again they will enjoy eternal happiness with their Lord.

*Neil Walden*

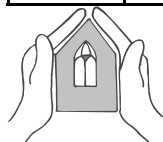
*(Based on the family tribute delivered at the Thanksgiving Service)*

## Prayer Diary for April 2017

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Continue to remember the group in Sofia – Ian is leading training for the ministers today.	ROMAIN Steve
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ian is preaching in Sofia. Thank God for our links with this church.	STANNARD Char- lotte
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HOLY WEEK</b> We focus on special prayer times. Please join in when you can <b>4pm today</b> .	STANNARD John & Christine ; <i>Rachel</i>
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	Local Baptist ministers meeting today. <b>8pm prayer today.</b>	STANNARD Matt & Heather
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6.15am prayer this morning.</b>	STEPHENSON Nadine
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Special Maundy Thursday meal this evening.	STEWART John
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> We join the witness with the central Romford churches.	SWINDALE Ben & Becki, <i>Hannah</i>
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pray that each of us will experience new blessings as we celebrate the resurrection tomorrow.	TEAGER Reg
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER DAY</b> – He is risen! Pray and join us as we worship together.	TERRY Karen & <i>Robyn</i>
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY</b> Pray for families to be able to share time together today.	THOMAS Pauline , <i>Saul &amp; Daniel</i>
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for each doctor at your surgery and any consultants you may know.	THOMAS-REID Carmen
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	Remember our young people facing important exams this term and making choices for their future.	THOMPSON David & Colleen
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	A new series for Small Groups starts this term. Pray for the leaders and hosts.	TIDBURY George & Lauren , & <i>Rosanna</i>
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thank God for and pray for Ruth working in the church office.	TIDBURY Pat
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pray for Christian students and the opportunities to build relationships with many from different countries.	TIMOTHY Kathy
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ian leads worship today. Pray for the newcomers' lunch.	TIMOTHY Neil
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Christians who visit schools to represent the church, especially Graceworks (trustees meet today)	TOWNSON Patricia

## Prayer Diary for April 2017

Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for those struggling to be true to their Christian faith in their schools or workplaces.	TRAYANOVA, Vaska & <i>Nicholas</i>
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Planning takes place today for the EBA assembly on 10 <sup>th</sup> June at RBC – save the date.	TREWEEK, Dave & Kim & <i>Freya</i>
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ian goes to Tromso for the European Baptist Federation.	TUCKER Marion
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for your neighbours and those who live opposite to you.	TUCKER Andrew
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for those in Parliament making important decisions.	TUNDE B J
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for the freedom we have to worship Him. May we never take it for granted.	TUNDE Samuel & Lara ; <i>JJ and KJ</i>
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY</b> Pray for those who lead our young people.	TURNER Colin & Irene
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Leadership team meeting this evening.	TYLER, Joyce
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pray for your Small Group as we come together for Bible study tonight.	URSACHE Victoria , <i>Flavius &amp; Anastasia</i> CATARAGA, Silvia (Victoria's Mother)
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for people experiencing bullying and harassment in their daily lives.	VAN DER MERWE Hendrik & Karen & <i>Maria</i>
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Energise family / camping trip to Lam-bourne End tonight.	VEARES Fay & Brian
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Vikki speaking at "Prospects" service this afternoon for those with special needs and their carers.	VILJOEN David & Carla
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ian leading both services of worship today. Pray for those recently bereaved.	WAIGWA Francis & Rebecca ; <i>Joe, Sylvia</i> <i>and Vicky</i>



If you have any items for inclusion in the May 2017  
Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.





## **Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving**

**Caroline Maud Speight**

7<sup>th</sup> February 1951 to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Carol Speight, who went to be with her Lord on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

Carol's story is one of Christian faith and perseverance triumphing over adversity, since Carol grew up with learning difficulties, and by the time she had a family comprising two children, Peter and Laura, she was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. She was increasingly unable to care for herself and the children were looked after by their father.

Carol loved her family dearly – her children and her two grandsons, and she was very proud of them all, even though the physical distance between them meant that she did not see them much.

Carol had a flat in a notorious part of Harold Hill for several years and this did not help her health. Her mental health issues meant that she became a regular patient at Warley Psychiatric Hospital, and the prescribed medication reduced her ability to care for herself. Despite being well supported by church members, she was in a very dark place for many years.

Around 2003 Carol met Michael Grey when he started to come along to the Sunday services at Harold Hill Baptist Church, and they both gave their lives to the Lord and were baptised. A platonic companionship developed between them, but Michael's physical health declined due to a lung disease and he became increasingly house-bound. They helped each other as Carol would get shopping for him and he would encourage her to look after herself.

Around this time a flat became available for Carol near Collier Row, and this positive new development helped her to take more interest in her life and in other people. She was given the help of a carer, who helped Carol in many practical ways and went the extra mile in helping her. Carol would almost daily walk the mile to the nearest bus and come over to spend the day with Michael.

Carol came to RBC with Michael when Harold Hill Baptist Church closed, and the Lord began a restoration in her life that was marked by her increased wellbeing spiritually, mentally and physically. She was helped in this proc-

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ess by the dedication of a group of friends at RBC. She no longer had in-patient visits to Warley and reduced visits from the psychiatric nurse. Carol was able to take more care of herself personally and slowly reduced her smoking.

Sadly, in 2013 Michael Grey died, but Carol still blossomed in every way; however a decline in physical health made life more difficult for her. Her carer, Clare, and others helped Carol to move to Painsbrook Court last spring into a beautiful first floor flat overlooking the landscaped gardens. Carol was very happy there and with continued support from Clare and the staff she was never alone and yet had her independence.

We will truly miss Carol and her example of simple childlike trust and faith in Christ Jesus overcoming adversity. She always looked to help others and was never heard to complain, had a ready smile and positive attitude.

Carol is now at peace with her Heavenly Father and we give thanks for her life.

*Neil Walden*

*(Based on the tribute delivered at the Thanksgiving Service by Gillian Littleboy)*

## **Brazil in October - 2016.**

I had an early Christmas present last October - A good friend sent me a return ticket to Brazil. The best part was my time in Belo Horizonte (where I lived and worked for many years). First there was a wedding to attend. Welbert, who at the age of eleven was in my Sunday school class, and came to faith at a Brigade camp. Now a Pastor, he always said he hoped I could be there for his and Juliana's special day. After this event, there was an amazing reunion organized by a group of " my youngsters", who were part of Brigade. I was told that I would be taken to meet some mutual friends, this turned out to be a church packed full of people who used to be part of Brigade, which unfortunately is no longer active. However, at that meeting, various ones spoke of how Brigade was fundamental in helping them to be whom they are now, and are determined to re-launch the work of Brigade. It was a special blessing to see these now adults who came to know the Lord as children, continue in faith and are growing in their relationship with Jesus.

God willing, I look forward to returning to Brazil to help with the restart. Could you please pray for God's enabling for this venture.

Annette Dennis

# Baptism

## Susan Heard - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017



Good morning everyone, my name is Debra and this is Susan Heard, Susan has a learning difficulty which means she struggles with reading and has asked if I would read her testimony for her, which of course I am thrilled to do.

These are Susan's words:- I am 54 years old and I have lived in the Upminster and Romford area all of my life.

My Dad, Rodney, and my mum, Barbara, brought me up along with my sister, Marion and my brother, John. John is now married to Lynda, they both have children and I am thrilled to be an aunt to Asha, Leo and Luca.

We grew up in Upminster, where I attended church and Girls Brigade regularly. Sadly, when I was 10 my mum and dad separated, my brother and

sister stayed with my dad but I chose to be with my mum. Unfortunately very quickly it became apparent that my mum could not look after me, so when I was 11 I was placed into a children's home.

I spent time in two children's home, my memories of these times are very happy ones and I liked being in the homes. I looked on my carers as Aunties and Uncles and I have kept in touch all this time with my social worker called Catrina, she and her husband Ian always send me a Christmas card.

After leaving the children's home I went and lived in a hostel, and I began work as a domestic in a care home called Grange Farm. I worked there for 18 years.

I have been coming to RBC for five years now and attended the Special Needs Alpha Course. I also attend the special needs group on a Friday morning where we are taught about the bible and a Christian life.

I also enjoy going to Causeway Prospects at St Peter's and have done so

*(Continued on page 17)*

for many years.

I have a partner, Peter, and we have been together for 13 years and we are engaged. I have many friends, a very close one being Tim, who couldn't be here today unfortunately as he has to work.

I enjoy coming to RBC because both myself and Peter are made to feel so welcome, people have been very kind and supportive to us.

Recently when a man called Ron who had been like a father to me passed away, I was supported by Liz Harvey. She kindly took me to his funeral, it was a very generous act of kindness by her to make sure I didn't miss it and I remember it to this day. And I thank her for that.

Also Lin Cuthbert, Liz and Mary Ashman have helped me with numerous things from clearing out my flat to taking me to doctors' appointments, all

these kind things make coming to RBC very special for me.

There are a few reasons that I wish to be baptised this morning, one being that it tells you to in the Bible, another being that Jesus makes me feel better about myself and one other thing is that I was inspired too by Sally's recent baptism.

When things get difficult or tough I know I can pray to Jesus and he will be with me ...

I know he is with me this morning as I get baptised .....

Thank you



## Baptism Samuel Sosina – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

My name is Samuel Sosina. I spent a good part of my life ignoring and running away from God.

Growing up as a teenager I'd attend church, go to Sunday school, learn and

*(Continued on page 18)*



*(Continued from page 17)*

memorise the Lord's Prayer, attend youth alpha courses and I'd spend most of Friday nights at a Christian youth group hearing the word of God. As I grew older I'd eventually leave this and follow what was supposedly cool and turn away from God.

I would stop going to church altogether and find more gratification in alcohol, drugs, lust, materialism, gambling and many other things that would corrupt my mind and affect my behaviour. During this time I became very aggressive. I was filled with a lot of anger, jealousy, hate and had the worst temper that would often lead to fighting, bad mouthing and being very destructive and disruptive towards my class peers, friends and my own family.

It was out of foolishness that I'd put my own desires above anything else. I had no love whatsoever and would eventually just stop caring.

At around age 20 I would come back to God in prayer through difficulties at university. Even though my faith would ebb and flow during these time something had changed in me as I dipped into my Bible from time to time. I began to feel convicted.

Sometime after I experienced a health scare which left me fearing for my life, I would sit in the hospital thinking if my

time on earth was to come an end sooner rather than later. I recall just dropping down to my knees in prayer and simply asking for help and healing. I always thank God till this day because I came out of this situation unharmed, stronger, and with a new belief.

This belief would lead me to RBC 3 years ago, where The floodgates would open for me and I would come to realise the goodness and grace of God. My heart would soften with each service and I'd come to fully accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and saviour.

Looking back, perhaps I was like the young lost son described in Luke 15. I had sinned against God. It was my own personal needs that would lead me to trouble and corruption but would prepare me to hear and receive the message of the gospel again. And I thank the Lord that He never stopped loving me when I ran away.

Today I'm getting baptised because I want to completely commit my life to Jesus Christ for now and forever.

My name's Samuel Sosina and Jesus is my hope!

Thank you



**Baptism**  
**Hamid Aghaeifar**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

Behold, no punishment in the world and the hereafter is greater than being away from the Lord, and there is no fruit in life than a Christ-oriented life, a kind of life that we perish to Christ through our own environment.



Blessed are those who feel their need of God because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The reason for my faith in Christ is to be rescued from eternal punishment and shelter in eternal life.

Oh Lord, I know that I have sinned and deserve punishment but I know that Jesus Christ was punished for me so that I can be forgiven by having faith in him. I repent my sins and only trust in you for my salvation. Amen



**Baptism**  
**Ali Amali**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

In Iran something happened to me that made me go out of the religion of Islam and stop believing in prophets.



A circumstance happened in my life when I met a friend and he spoke to me about Jesus. He talked about Jesus and his statements about Jesus made me research more about Jesus. This made me to begin to have faith in Jesus and be born again.

I accept that I am sinful and I deserve punishment from God for the sins and bad deeds. But God's love is so massive that He took all my sins and was crucified because of my sins.

Jesus atoned my sins with his innocent blood. And I, a sinful person, am responsible for his death.

I'm so thankful that he loved me so much that he was crucified for the sake of me.

What kindness is bigger than this that he showed his love through a real action of how much he loved me.

Amen



# Baptism

## Eisa Karimi - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

Hi and many thanks to the Light of the world, Jesus, who enlightened us with his words.



For many years, I was looking for the true God who is gracious, merciful and loving. I tried different ways to find such a God and I communicated with Him. After expostulating with myself and my previous religion, eventually I could replace my meaningless past life with a new life. I feel very pleased and I am lucky that I met Jesus. Every day, I learn new things through the Holy Spirit. I thank God for bestowing me a huge grace to my life and giving me a new life.

Yes, I am fascinated by Jesus's kindness and I am amazed that he accepted me irrespective of my weaknesses and mistakes that I made.

Christ gave the best direction and goal

to my life.

O God, I confess that I am sinful and disobeyed your rules. I thank you for sending Jesus Christ, the only child of yours, to go on the cross and be tortured and killed for the sins and mistakes we make, and resurrecting him after three days. I want to follow you and have Jesus as my Saviour and boss.

Please send your Holy Spirit to me to show me the right way and help me to love you and help other human beings.

Amen



## **Gone fishing**

A wife returning from a fishing trip with her husband was telling her troubles to a neighbour. "I did everything all wrong again today," she said. "I talked too

loud, I used the wrong bait, I reeled in too soon, and - I caught more fish than he did."





## Food Bank

We have been running our Food Bank outlet at Romford Baptist Church for almost 2 years, as part of the Collier Row Food bank network in coordination with The Trussel Trust. There are 3 food distribution centres in this network; ourselves on a Monday, St. Edwards in the Marketplace on a Wednesday and Church of the Ascension on a Friday. St Michael's church also helps with storage and managing the food stuffs. RBC now honour at least 4 food parcels a week, many of our clients being single young men. People get given a Food Bank voucher and come to us to get the food. Obviously is it mostly tinned stuff but we are now trying to include toiletries and other necessities. Most of our food comes through Tesco but an increasing amount comes from our church and even strangers who hear about our food bank and want to donate. This is a big operation which was up until recently coordinated by Jan Stainer from The Church of the Good Shepherd. She was responsible for approaching churches and organisations to be part of this network. There are many organisations throughout Havering who now know about Food

Bank and can offer vouchers to folk they feel are in need. Jan Stainer would often come down to RBC on a Monday to offer words of encouragement and her encyclopaedic knowledge of Havering, and the places where we could signpost our clients in need of help was amazing! Unfortunately her job contract was not renewed this year due to lack of funding and she will no longer be on hand to assist us... but we will manage. Jan held a farewell tea where we met other volunteers from our network, which was very interesting.

Jan will be greatly missed but hopefully we should meet with her in her new capacities working with the Street Pastors and Hope for Havering.

Please remember the Food bank in your prayers, especially our team of volunteers at RBC.

*Clarissa Harris*



# UNLOCK

## LONDON WALK 34

### BALA, BATTERSEA AND CLAPHAM

#### SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2017 9AM TO 5PM

Michael asked Colin and I to be the organisers of the Unlock London Walk this year.

**What is Unlock London?** Walking around an area of London (roughly 8 miles) visiting different denomination churches.

**Why do we do it?** To see how God is working in many interesting and fascinating ways through His people.

**How many people do the walking?** As many as 70 all-age groups.

**Do we travel with our own group?** Yes we usually travel from Gidea Park Station but not this year due to rail-works. Meeting point to be arranged.

**Do we need to take a packed lunch?** Advisable but in many of the

churches food, drink and toilet facilities are provided.

**Do we meet up with the other groups?** Yes as we bump into each other as we walk around in a circular direction.

**How do we know we have visited all the churches?** Our pamphlet is rubber stamped at each church

**Where is the location this year?** Around Battersea and Clapham area.

**Is it a fun day?** Most certainly it is!

Look up "Unlock London 2017" in the search engine to find more information.

*Kindest regards,  
Susan and Colin Young*



## Regular Church Activities

<b>Monday</b>	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	11 am	Kergyama (Coffee Drop-In)
	12:50 pm	Parent & Toddlers
	6.45 pm	'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group - first Monday in the month, except 8 <sup>th</sup> May.)
	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.



*One of my churchwardens is a stickler for 'Health and Safety'...*