



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine

June 2017

and

July 2017

No. 184



From the Editor

*Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path. (Psalm 119 v105)*

When reading this verse, I am reminded of the song inspired by it, which includes the following lyrics:

*When I feel afraid,
And think I've lost my way.
Still, you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear
As long as you are near;
Please be near me to the end.*

Sometimes it feels like we're running around in the dark, and yet the only guide we need is Jesus. God's word will light up our way, so we can see where we're going. We may not see the end of the road, but we can see where we need to be to stay on the path.

As we read through the testimonies and tributes in this edition of Grapevine, let's remember to trust in Jesus, to be rooted in God's word so that we can navigate and keep on the right path, knowing that He is right beside us all the way.

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.

Pastor's Page



Not seeing what we have

Many of you will know that I recently spent a few days on Sommarøy, which is an island in northern Norway, way up beyond the Arctic Circle. I was there for the executive meetings of the European Baptist Federation in my role as the Chair of the Mission and Evangelism Commission.

We had 2 full days of meetings and, due to the full agendas, little time was given to enjoy the surroundings. I have to say that this was probably one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to, the scenery was spectacular. We did not see the Northern lights as we had 24 hours of daylight, although we did, though, see a lot of snow.

I got talking to the owner of the hotel we were staying in. This man had been born on the island and grew up there. He was a great man but he told us that he never realised that he had

anything special. 400 people live on the cluster of islands and there is only one church, the Baptist Church.

When he started the hotel in 2001, he could not understand why people would cry when they saw the scenery or be in awe of the Northern lights, after all, he had seen it hundreds of times, since he was a small boy, it is normal isn't it?

He has since learnt that they had something very special, and he has seen his role as a hotel owner, to be a host that helps people to be transformed by the experience of seeing and experiencing the beauty of creation. His neighbours asked him, why do people who visit scream when they jump into the water, and he explains to them it is the letting out of the pressures of the offices that they spend their workday lives in.

Have you got something that you take for granted, something that others would love to have? Is this not a parable of the gospel itself? Could you share that which you have, that is life transforming, with others who are needing the freedom and life it brings?

Ian Bunce
Team Leader



Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving

Audrey Gwendoline Gostling

5th March 1932 to 4th March 2017



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Audrey Gostling, who went to be with her Lord on 4th March 2017.

Audrey was born in Cheltenham although the family moved to Romford in 1939. However, when war was declared Audrey stayed with her Auntie and Uncle on their farm in Somerset and went to the village school and the local Sunday School. She had some lovely friends there and it was here that she realised that our Heavenly Father was watching over her. She also learned to play the piano during this time and continued to use this gift throughout her life.

Audrey was baptised at Romford Baptist Church in February 1952 and joined the church, and became involved by playing the piano for the Girls Brigade, Sunday School, Women's Institute and at Parkside, where she played for the Monday morning services until shortly before her death.

Audrey had a wonderful sense of humour and she used to describe herself as an unclaimed treasure, although this changed when she met Geoffrey

at a badminton club at the YMCA. Geoffrey had already spotted her driving her white Ford Prefect in the area, which she named Lulu. They were married at RBC and celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary in October last year.

Audrey worked at the Bank of England for 21 years, where she oversaw a typing pool, but worked more locally before retiring.

Audrey was a wonderfully caring person, who was always busy helping others, attending the WI, Tuesday Fellowship and other groups. She helped at St Francis Hospice at one time, raising money with friends to support their work, and also collected money for Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

Audrey made a difference in the lives of many others that she encountered, and she always put others first and would alter her plans if asked to take a friend somewhere or to help them in any way. She told her son John never to let anyone know you are busy, since they will then not ask you for help.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Audrey was devoted to her husband Geoffrey and her son John, who she taught the right way to live his life, to help everyone and to keep the faith. She was very pleased to welcome Christelle into the family when she married John, and welcomed the French connection.

More recently Audrey took an interest in cricket and football, joining Geoff in supporting Spurs, and would get up in the early hours to watch the England cricket team when they were playing abroad.

Audrey had many friends, some like Daphne and Don May and Kath and Les Heard, for well over 70 years, but also cared deeply for people of all ages and made a difference in the lives of so many.

I am sure we will all remember her as a kind, generous and joyous Christian lady with an infectious laugh.

Neil Walden

BMS Birthday Scheme

June 2017

4th June Huang
6th Bren McSweeney
19th Sue Townson
19th Colleen Thompson
21st David Thompson
27th Jiela Bitaga



July 2017

1st Daryl Townson
4th Brenda Beaver
8th Gordon Palmer
19th Jackie Brett



Flowers

June 2017

4th Grace Bello
11th Doris Norman
25th Dougan and Fely Bitaga



July 2017

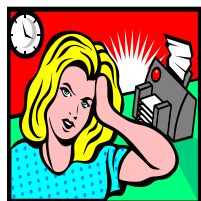
2nd Christine Brown
16th Rebecca Waigwa
23rd Beryl Mather
30th G. Cox



**The deadline for the August 2017/September 2017
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 9th July 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





Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving

Michael Laurence Eastman

23rd October 1933 to 7th March 2017



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Michael Eastman, who went to be with his Lord on 7th March 2017.

Michael has been part of Romford Baptist Church for many decades and touched the lives of many here and in the wider Christian world, so this tribute can only reflect a small part of such a busy life.

Michael was born in Woodford and the family moved to Romford around 1939. He was very close to his younger sister, Pat, and his encouragement had a major influence on her Christian walk and ministry.

Michael's Christian journey began when he was befriended at the Royal Liberty school by Richard Weir, who was a member of RBC, and it was through him and John East (Dave East's brother), that he was introduced to Christianity. He became a Christian at the age of thirteen or fourteen through attending a Crusader group. Michael was involved with Crusaders for some time after that and became part of the

church Youth Group and church.

Michael developed his interest in sport, and especially cricket, at the Royal Liberty school, as well as obtaining four A levels and being Head Boy. He then served in the Royal Artillery during his national service, where he attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Michael continued his studies and was awarded a BD (Bachelor of Divinity) by London University. Michael then became a teacher for several years, and began working for Scripture Union in the late 1950s.

Michael was a fine cricketer who played for Essex Young Amateurs, Essex County 2nd Team, Gidea

Park Cricket Club, The Old Libertians and other teams. He was also a cricket coach and he coached youth teams until he was in his late 70s.



(Continued on page 7)

Michael and Sheila were married on 8th August 1959, and were blessed with two daughters, Claire and Rachel. Michael and Sheila worked together in Youth Work at RBC. I am one amongst many who will always be grateful for the way Michael and Sheila Eastman encouraged and supported generations of young people who grew into the leaders of their own day.

He became Secretary and Development Officer for Frontier Youth Trust in 1967 and worked in this field with disadvantaged or marginalised young people for more than thirty years, and made a clear positive impact on many lives during this time as was made clear during the tributes given at the Thanksgiving service.

Michael also served on many committees involved in Youth Affairs and Urban Affairs, including the YMCA National Board, National Council of Youth Services, Evangelical Alliance Urban Mission Forum. He also taught at various colleges including Spurgeons College, Elim Bible College, St. John's College, Nottingham, and London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.



Michael also had International Assignments in countries including Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa, and USA.

His work was also recognised by the award of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the OBE in the Millennium New Year's Honours in 2000.

The service of Thanksgiving and Celebration for Michael's life was a wonderful tribute to a life lived fully for God, his family, and in caring especially for young people at the margins of society. A large number of people attended from his family and friends, his wide range of contacts in the local and wider Christian church, Frontier Youth Trust, Scripture Union and other Youth Work.

Michael was a truly inspirational man in so many ways, and in addition to his many national and international roles he was a great small group leader who passed on so much knowledge about the Bible and the Christian faith. He will be truly missed by us all as a clever, gentle, kind and modest man, who had a natural style and was a normal man who loved many sports.

Neil Walden

Baptism

Lara Oseni – 16th April 2017



Good morning church, my name is Lara and I have been coming to

Romford Baptist Church for just under a year now.

I grew up in the Church, but growing up in the church is not any kind of guarantee that your walk with God will be easy. I am sure my mum could share some stories about the "challenging" conversations she had with me about going to church.

I spent most of my youth and some of my adult life running from God, refusing to go to church, because for the most part I didn't understand why I was there. Refusing to serve and worship because it wasn't what my friends were doing; and frankly admitting that I went to church was sometimes embarrassing. I refused to accept Jesus back then, because I was scared of letting him down and sometimes I was even angry at Him because things in my life hadn't worked out the way that I had hoped or expected.

However, no matter how far I went

away from God, He was always with me. Even when I thought that I had disappointed Him and upset Him, to the point I thought that I couldn't hear from Him anymore, He was still there guiding my footsteps and bringing me back to Him.

My first Sunday worshipping at RBC just so happened to be a Baptismal service. I was so moved by the young people who were being baptised on that day and I was overcome with emotion. That day I met Vikki, who prayed for me and she reminded me of just how much God loves me. I truly believe that, that Sunday I was led to RBC by God.

I have tried so many times to commit to baptism, but for one reason or another it never seemed to happen for me. At the very last minute I'd get so frightened that I'd back out and I would tell myself and those around me that it just wasn't my time. I realise now that it was Satan keeping me from the will of God and chasing me away from this act of obedience.

I realise now how much God loves me and that He doesn't require me to be

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perfect in order to follow or do His will. I stand here today ready to make a public confession of personal faith and to begin a new life with Jesus my Lord and Saviour. I am excited today to truly follow Jesus and I pray that he gives me the strength as well as the wisdom knowledge and understanding to do His will.

Amen

Lara



Pause to smile

A grandfather was talking to his grandson and said, "When I was your age I went to work at a blacksmith's, and he told me I must toughen myself up and get a lot stronger, if I was to be a Blacksmith". So I started to do some exercises. I stood with my back to the house wall and I got hold of a five pound potato sack, one in each hand, then lifted them sideways till my arms were level with my shoulders and held them there for as long as I could. This was to make myself stronger. I carried on doing this, and then went on to lift ten pound then twenty pound potato sacks. "WOW Grandad" said the lad, "that must have been hard." "It was very hard" said his Grandad, "It was even harder when I started to put potatoes in the sacks."



Hamid Aghaeifar, Ali Amali & Eisa Karimi



Prayer Diary for June 2017

Thurs 8 th Jun	General Election today. Pray for a satisfactory outcome.	BAFFOUR Afua, <i>Michelle & David</i>
Fri 9 th	Pray for those responsible for safeguarding issues at Romford Baptist Church.	BAFFOUR Adu (brother)
Sat 10 th	Eastern Baptist Association Assembly at RBC today. Pray for a challenging day for all.	BALIGAND Prisca-Sarah
Sun 11 th	Pray for Elm Park and Chase Cross Baptist churches seeking pastors. Mike Simpson preaching at Chase Cross.	BALOGUN Ayo
Mon 12 th	"Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through Your eyes."	BALOGUN Olakumle
Tues 13 th	Pray that God will encourage local Baptist ministers lunching together today.	BARNES Gordon & Anne
Wed 14 th	Church Together Bible Study this evening. Thank God for these times of teaching.	BARRETT Simon & Debbie, <i>Joseph & Daisy</i>
Thurs 15 th	Pray for final preparations being made for the Holiday at Home next week.	BEAVER Richard & Brenda
Fri 16 th	"Lord will You be my vision, will You be my guide."	BECKLEY Suzanne & Gary, <i>Thomas & Max</i>
Sat 17 th	Thank God for the joy of Christian marriage. Pray for Debbie and Norman celebrating their wedding at RBC today.	BELLO Grace
Sun 18 th	All Age Worship for Fathers' Day, led by Jan. Vikki is preaching at Elm Park this morning.	BENJAMIN Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke & Sophia</i>
Mon 19 th	Pray for ..?.. a pupil / teacher / governor at a school near you.	BIGGS Fred & Fran- ces
Tues 20 th	Holiday At Home. The Tour of Britain begins today with the theme "From the East to the West there is God".	BISHOP Jon & Asha; <i>Kezia, Caleb & Jonah</i>
Wed 21 st	Continue to pray for the Tour of Britain with a visit of Albert's Band from the Albert Hall. (England)	BITAGA Dougan & Fely, <i>Jiela</i>
Thurs 22 nd	Scottish theme today. Thank God for all the helpers and pray everyone continues to enjoy the activities.	BLANC Nicole, <i>Zach- ary, Jacob & Reuben</i>

Prayer Diary for June 2017

Fri 23 rd	Visit to Perrywood Garden Centre at Tiptree. Pray for safety and fine weather.	BLYTH, Ron & Wilma
Sat 24 th	How is your faith making a difference to your work, social life, etc.?	BRETT Dennis & Brenda
Sun 25 th	We celebrate "Songs of Praise" at 3pm followed by a cream tea.	BRETT Jackie & Rob
Mon 26 th	Pray for Year 6 pupils preparing to go to secondary school by making school visits.	BRETT Kat
Tues 27 th	Remember the Mission Group meeting tonight, praying especially for Andy and Rianna and their plans to go to Moldova in September.	BROWN Chris & Shirley
Wed 28 th	Church Meeting this evening.	BROWN Christine
Thurs 29 th	Pray for Ami touring Bulgaria and Europe this summer.	BROWN Claire, <i>Elliott</i>
Fri 30 th	Pray for those who care for family members: e.g. additional needs children, elderly parents, spouses.	BROWN John & Glynis
Sat 1 st July	Taster Day for the Special Needs Holiday Club.	BUNCE Ian and Vikki
Sun 2 nd	Pray for all those involved in today's worship: stewards, sound/vision, music group, Ian leading and every person present, as we seek God together.	BURGESS Joyce
Mon 3 rd	Pray for the Parent and Toddler Group leaders in the last couple of weeks before the summer break.	BURLAND Elaine (Mrs)
Tues 4 th	Leadership meeting this evening. Pray for each deacon with their varying responsibilities.	BURRAGE Reg
Wed 5 th	Pray for Christians speaking out in the media on controversial issues, e.g. BU. Evangelical Alliance and the Association of Christian Teachers.	BUTLER Pat, <i>Stephen</i>
Thurs 6 th	Pray for the team working in the office, (Ruth, Anthea and volunteers)	CALLENDER Elizabeth
Fri 7 th	Pray for the continuing preparations for the Additional Needs Holiday Club.	CARTER Keith & Anne



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



Inspirations

Card Making

We had a really enjoyable trip out to Crafty Arts in May, when Sarah inspired us with a zig zag card and a dress card, but the next workshop is back at RBC on 8th July from 9.30am - 12.30pm. This will take the form of a Masterclass in Embossing and Glynis will be back with me to help.

If you're not sure what embossing is, think back to your childhood when you used to take bark rubbings. This is the same principle but definitely with less effort! A piece of card is placed in a folder which has an impression moulded into it. The folder is then passed through a die cutting machine and the pattern on the folder makes an impression on the card. The card can then be incorporated into a card design, or you can use it with punches to add interest to punched shapes.



There is just the one workshop on this occasion as this is a Masterclass, but there will be a variety of embossing folders for you to try. If you have a die cutting machine and embossing folders, please bring them along, but if you haven't or you are unable to bring yours, please do not worry.

Everyone is welcome! Even if you are not a regular card maker or you haven't got a die-cutting machine – still come along and make some samples which you can use to make cards and tags in the future.

The £5 fee includes materials and refreshments including homemade cakes!

Sign up for the next Inspirations workshop for a morning packed with fun and friendship! Booking forms can be found on the noticeboards in the Foyer and Willow Hall, or on the Welcome Desk.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Mary Jones's Bible

When a number of us from RBC did the Unlock London walk, one of the churches we visited was Holy Trinity, Clapham. This church was the Bible Society checkpoint for the walk, and it was interesting to read of their connections to William Wilberforce who was instrumental in campaigning for and founding the **Bible Society**. Their displays also told of the faith and determination of Mary Jones who wanted a Bible she could read and understand in her own language. Having read her story when I was a child, I decided to look up more about Mary and her link with the Bible Society.

In 1800 a 15-year-old Welsh girl named Mary Jones heard that, for the first time in her life, the Bible was available in her own language. Determined to possess a Bible of her own, Mary saved money over six long years and trekked 26 long miles through the rugged terrain of north Wales to buy a copy. With the help of Revd Thomas Charles of Bala, who arranged lodgings for Mary and sold her three Bibles for the price of one, Mary Jones' determination was rewarded. Her story – and her unswerving desire to get hold of God's written word – soon became the talk of the churches in the area. (ref: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-us/our-history/>)

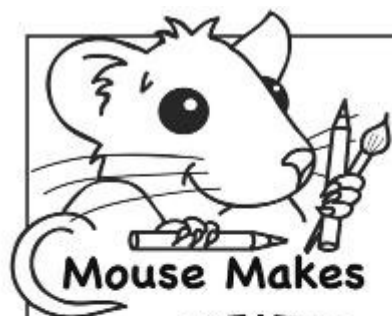
Barbara Gatherum recently gave me a note mentioning the Mary Jones World, which celebrates this story. You can now visit Mary Jones World I Llanycil, Wales. According to their website, **Mary Jones World** is a state of the art visitor and education centre that tells the story of Mary Jones and Thomas Charles, and the impact of the world's bestselling book – on Wales and the world. You can step back in time, follow Mary's journey, and explore what happened next through multi-media and interactive displays, exhibits and activities in their redeveloped Grade 2-listed building. Set on the edge of Lake Bala, with a picnic area, facilities and children's playground, Mary Jones World offers a great time out for children and adults alike.

If you're feeling particularly energetic, you can walk in the footsteps of Mary Jones. There is a guide on the website which will lead you on a 28 mile linear walk through spectacular countryside from Llanfihangel-y-Pennant to Bala.

For more information, visit <http://www.bydmaryjonesworld.org.uk/>

So if you're in Wales, and looking for something interesting to do, why not visit the centre and be inspired in your faith and walk with God.

Cheryl Schulte



"May the *grace* of
the Lord **JESUS** Christ
and the *love* of **GOD**
and the *fellowship* of
the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:13



Can you find all the
names of the Trinity
in this 3 in 1
word search?

GOD - THE FATHER

C	R	E	A	T	O	R
J	O	N	E	L	H	O
E	A	I	L	M	G	N
H	S	A	V	I	O	U
O	J	M	A	G	D	I
V	U	O	N	H	I	G
A	D	F	A	T	H	E
H	G	I	M	Y	K	I
E	T	E	R	N	A	L

GOD - THE SON

M	E	S	S	I	A	H
S	J	M	O	S	T	A
C	E	M	N	V	W	R
H	S	A	V	I	O	U
R	U	N	O	N	R	T
I	S	U	B	E	D	H
S	H	E	P	H	E	R
T	A	L	I	G	H	T
L	O	R	D	O	O	R



LORD • GOD
JEHOVAH • I AM
YAHWEH •
HOLY • ONE
SAVIOUR • KING
ETERNAL
ALMIGHTY
CREATOR • JUDGE
FATHER • ON HIGH



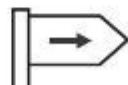
JESUS • CHRIST
SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL
SHEPHERD
LAMB
WAY • SON
DOOR • LIGHT
BREAD • WORD
MESSIAH • VINE

S	P	I	R	I	T	E
W	I	T	N	E	S	S
C	O	M	F	O	R	T
P	T	H	E	L	P	E
O	T	R	U	T	H	A
W	I	S	D	O	M	C
E	B	R	E	A	T	H
R	I	G	U	I	D	E
T	H	O	L	Y	R	D



GOD - THE SPIRIT

HOLY • SPIRIT • COMFORTER • TEACHER • GUIDE
HELPER • TRUTH • POWER • WISDOM • BREATH • ETERNAL



Hiding in one of the puzzles is the word 'TRINITY', can you find it?



March of Witness 14 April 2017





St RICHARD of CHICHESTER

St Richard of Chichester, who lived from 1197 to 1253, is patron saint of the English county of Sussex.

In 1244 Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester but King Henry III wanted someone else as bishop and he ordered that no one should feed or house Richard. So Richard lived with a friend who was a parish priest and visited his entire diocese on foot for two years until the king relented.

Richard is widely remembered today for the prayer he is supposed to have said as he was dying. The prayer was adapted for the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell and it is in this form that most people know it today:

Day by day,
Dear Lord, of thee
three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by Day.

SOUNDS STRANGE

There are still quite a few people called Richard today but some saints' names sound very strange to our modern ears - how many of these names are saint's names and how many of them are something else all together? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Wenceslas
2. Mesrop
3. Blaise
4. Porphyry
5. Waudru
6. Methodius
7. Attracta
8. Sebba
9. Fiacre
10. Budoc



What do you call a man with a map on his head?

Miles.

What do you call a woman with a tortoise on her head?

Shelley.



What do you call a man checking your homework?

Mark.

What do you call a Vicar on a moped?

Rev.

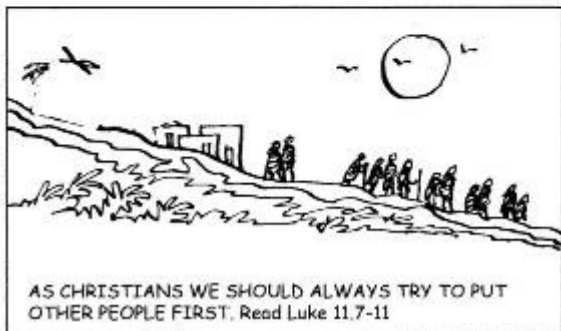
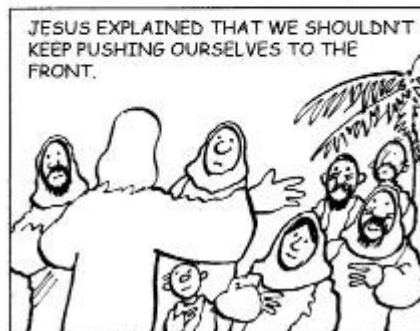
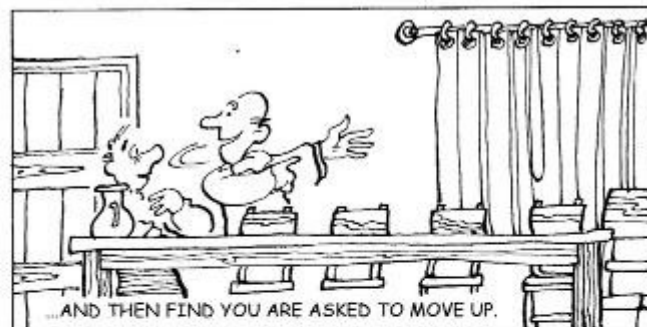
Answer: all of them are saints listed in the Penguin Dictionary of Saints - honestly.



Rev Vikki Bunce thanked the outgoing deacons for their service, and prayed for them. Richard Lauder, Rev. Vikki Bunce, Peter Feinson and Debbie Seymour (Church Secretary)



Rev Vikki Bunce prays for the new Church Secretary Hayley Ayris.





Regular Church Activities



Monday	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	11 am	Kergyma (Coffee Drop-In)
	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+)
Tuesday	10 am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.30 pm	Tuesday Fellowship
	6.15 pm	Energize and Re-Energize (Primary School age)
Wednesday	9.45 am	Parent & Toddlers
	8 pm	Midweek Meeting (Small Groups or central meeting)
Thursday	9.30 am	Focus (alternate Thursdays)
	9.30 am	Small Group (alternating with Focus)
	7.30 pm	RBC Music Team
Friday	10:30 am	Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	12:30 pm	Small Group (Alternate Fridays)
Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service

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



*...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching
a Gospel of Simplicity'...*