

Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



From the Editor

There's so much bad news about these days, that it's refreshing to read a good-news story. In this week's news, four British women have become the first all-female team and the first team of four to row across the Pacific Ocean. This 8,000-mile journey, aboard their pink boat, Doris, took the Coxless Crew nine months to complete. A lot of rowing and a very wide ocean! Since reading about their accomplishment, I've had the song 'Wide, wide as the ocean' going around in my head.

*Wide, wide as the ocean, high as the Heaven
above;*

*Deep, deep as the deepest sea is my
Saviour's love.*

*I, though so unworthy,
still am a child of His care;*

*For His Word teaches me that His love
reaches me everywhere.*

And, 1 Chronicles 16:31-32 says:

³¹ *Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be
glad;*

*let them say among the nations,
"The Lord reigns!"*

³² *Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;
let the fields be jubilant, and everything in
them!*

So, no matter what is going on in the world right now, let's remember that we have the good news – our God reigns, and our Saviour's love is unlimited.

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

A couple of years ago in our previous church we realised that a number of people found the month of February quite difficult for a variety of reasons –



perhaps because it still seemed to be a long time until warmer days arrived, for others there was the aftermath of Christmas still to be paid for and things looked a little bleak, whilst some people struggled with the snow and ice that so often beset us at this time of year (I'm currently writing this with blue skies and sun outside).

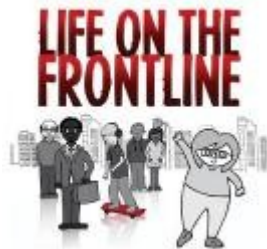


When the power station at Didcot was still working, I could occasionally walk to work in the morning during the winter where there was

'snow' on one side of the road and nothing on the other as a result of the heat being pumped out of the chimneys, condensing in the cold air and falling as 'snow'. This particular February the church decided to undertake a new initiative that we entitled 'Brighten up February' where we tried a number of activities such as inviting friends around for a meal, surprised colleagues with cakes or other delectables, visited someone we knew who was lonely or found new ways of engaging with our neighbours. Each week we would hear what we had been doing and how lives were touched by such simple gestures.

Undergirding all that we did was the theme of 'love' which dominates so much of the first half of February running up to (St) Val-

entine's Day, but clearly the message that we were taking was not that promoted in the commercialised society of today, but the opportunity to talk about God's love for us and those we came into contact with through 'Brighten up February'. This initiative echoes that expressed through the 'Life on the Frontline' material that the small groups were studying last year.



For those of us who journeyed through the labyrinth last October during the 'Breaking the chains' weekend, we had the opportunity to express messages to God at the beginning and end of the journey. The following two sentences encapsulate a number of the comments that were written which expressed similar sentiments, and perhaps we can use them to motivate us to encourage those we meet over the next few days and weeks and 'Brighten up' their lives with the message that God loves them and He's just waiting for an opportunity to share in their lives too:

Our God is great! However much we may love Him we can never out-love God and we need to share His love with so many others. Please help us to find time to stop and allow God's love to overwhelm us so that, we in turn, may be alight with His love in our everyday lives. Amen.

Revd Vikki Bunce
(Team Minister
Church and Community Life)

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Thank you to all who have contributed to the health work of BMS across the world through the Birthday Scheme. Your gifts for the year 2015 amounted to £1173 (excluding gift aid), which will go towards helping some of the most needy people to have a better quality of life. Your gifts, however large or small, are greatly appreciated.

Please consider whether this is something that you could do, and see Christine Brown for details.

With best wishes for the New Year
Christine

February 2016

Birthdays February 2016

12th David East
16th Sheila Cross
25th Cameron Townson
26th Margaret Coles
28th Megan Walden



Birthdays March 2016

5th Audrey Gostling
7th Don May
14th Rosemary Loveard
18th Keith Carter
30th Laura Salter
31st Ruth Henson



HYMN TITLES

All the following hymn titles have some words missing – can you fill in the blanks. All the hymns are from Mission Praise and the answers are below:

1. While ____ watched
2. Lead us, ____ ____, lead us.
3. Away in a ____
4. Forty days and ____
5. Hark! The ____ sing
6. ____ has broken
7. ____ night, ____ night
8. There is a ____ far away
9. We plough the ____ and scatter
10. Amazing ____



Flowers

February 2016

7th McKenzie family
14th Iris Knight
28th Dougan and Fely



March 2016

13th Temi
20th Arthur and Mavis Poultney
27th David and JJ Majekodunmi

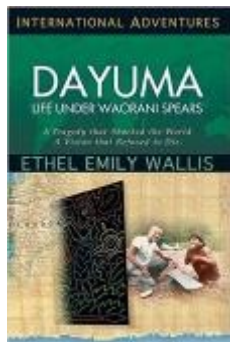


Answer to Hymn Titles

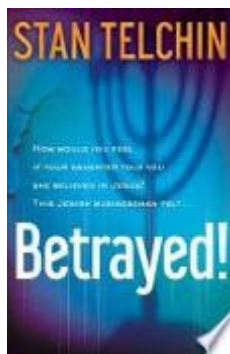
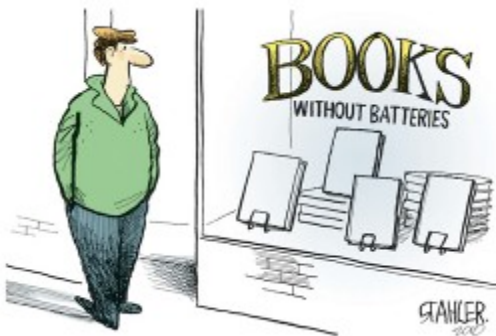
1. While shepherds watched 2. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us 3. Away in a manger 4. Forty days and forty nights 5. Hark, the herald angels sing 6. Morning has broken 7. Silent night, holy night 8. There is a green hill far away 9. We plough the fields and scatter 10. Amazing Grace.

From the Bookstall:

Thank you for your help and custom during the past year, and we look forward to you buying many more books this year! The following are a few titles for your consideration.



Dayuma - Life under Waorani spears - The unforgettable story of one girl's odyssey and her eventual encounter with Christ, which changed her life.

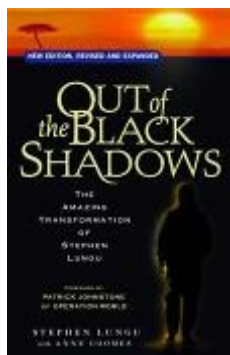


I Dared To Call Him Father - The fascinating true story of a prominent Muslim woman who wanted to know how she could give herself completely to God.



Betrayed! - How can you be Jewish and believe in Jesus?.

God Of The Big Bang - The "Big Bang" what does this mean for those who believe in God as Creator?



Out Of The Black Shadows - To survive, he slept under bridges, was part of an urban gang. Instead of throwing bombs at a church event, he stayed to listen what followed was more amazing than fiction.

Huge thanks go to the team of volunteers who are based at the job centre, next door to the church, for the ways they helped with preparing resources and other jobs just before Christmas.

Ruth Kirby, Fraud Investigator for the Fraud and Error Service, Department for Work and Pensions, contacted Ian and Vikki earlier in the autumn to ask if there were any jobs their team could help us with as part of their monthly team building activities.

The team of 10 arrived on 15 December and, after spending some time in a

monthly team meeting, they began the mammoth task of sorting the Christmas cards. After a well-earned break, they returned to the church to pack the bags for the Christingle service, prepared the resources and put up the tree for the 'Remember at Christmas' service, as well as willingly undertaking the task of repairing some of our church Bibles and sharpening the welcome area crayons. Laughter and a buzz of conversation accompanied all the activities and the speed and efficiency with which they undertook all the tasks was accomplished at a cracking pace. Thanks to them all.

Vikki Bunce



Sick



During a church service my young niece had to go outside, as she did not feel well. She returned a few minutes later and admitted:

'I have been a little sick. But it

doesn't matter, there's a box at the door marked 'for the sick'

Political leaders

"Don't worry about your son, he is set to become a great politician," the teacher said. The parents were delighted and asked how she could tell. "Well, he can say more things that sound well and mean nothing at all than anyone else in the class."



HYMNS

When you come to church you hear hymns. Hymns are songs of praise to God. Some are very old and some, like the ones you may sing at school, are new.

Have you ever wondered who wrote the hymns we sing? For example, one hymn writer was Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Londonderry. She wrote a book called 'Hymns for Little Children' which was dedicated to her godchildren. The book was published in 1848 and contained hymns that we know well today; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'.

It is said that she wrote the last hymn because of the view from the Bishop's palace. The house looked out over the city walls to the green hills in the distance. So the words we sing today come from the view that Mrs Alexander had from her window.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day – 9th February

It's odd, really, that confessing one's sins to God should ever have involved making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day, and is followed by Ash Wednesday, and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an egg, mix it with milk and flour – and out of that gooey mess, to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days more and more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes - to the risk of having made nothing BUT a mess of the kitchen.

In many parishes they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.



Prayer Diary for February 2016

Sun 7 th Feb	Ask God to speak to you through His word today, and every day, to transform you more and more into His likeness	Laraine & Derek Ereku & family
Mon 8 th	Thank God for Parent & Toddlers, and pray for the work of the dedicated leaders, as they come alongside families.	Oluwole & Ona Ewe- oya, Timi & Tumininu
Tues 9 th	Remember the needlework group this morning and Tuesday Fellowship this afternoon.	Ola & Esther Faleti, & family
Wed 10 th	New series of small groups. Foodbanks – a sign that the world is not as God intended it to be.	Peter & Gill Feinson
Thur 11 th	Pray for Focus meeting this morning.	Graham Feinson
Fri 12 th	Pray especially for the work at RBC among those with special needs – the Parent & Toddler group, and adult small group meeting this morning.	Ken & Linda Flack
Sat 13 th	Pray for the RIEES youth club in conjunction with Frances Bardsley Academy most Saturday afternoons.	Karen Freeman & family
Sun 14 th	Pray for the central Romford churches, especially Salem, with Claudiu Nitisor as lay pastor	Barbara Gatherum
Mon 15 th	Remember the special work on Mondays in the Foyer, with the Foodbank and free tea / coffee	Bert & Rita Gearing
Tues 16 th	Mission action group meets tonight. Pray for young people on BMS Action Teams	Dana Gherasim
Wed 17 th	Small groups: Foodbanks – a sign that we have a vision of a world that is better	Marjorie Gill
Thur 18 th	Pray for politicians, with all the complex debates and decisions that have to be made.	Rob Gilliland & Lizzy Haskett-Smith
Fri 19 th	Pray that genuine asylum seekers will find compassion and help.	Peter & Helen Goldsmith
Sat 20 th	As debates in Parliament take place, may we as Christians do our part to make our views known	Geoffrey & Audrey Gostling
Sun 21 st	All-age worship. Remember especially all our young people	Margaret Griffiths
Mon 22 nd	EBA ministers conference at High Leigh. Pray especially for Ian and Vikki who will be there.	Ian & Sue Hall
Tues 23 rd	Pray that the conference will be an encouragement to all who attend	Barry & Stephanie Hanley & Claire

Prayer Diary for February 2016

Wed 24 th	Small groups: Foodbanks – a sign of deeper questions we need to ask.	Chris Hanley
Thur 25 th	Remember Thursday morning small group, using the same study material	John & Sue Harding
Fri 26 th	Think of the buildings around the church, and pray for those who work there. Job Centre, Police Station, Courts, Town Hall, ASDA etc.	Clarissa Harris
Sat 27 th	Thank God for Queen's Hospital. Encourage those who work there, especially Matthew Hopkins, the chief executive, and the chaplains.	John Harrison
Sun 28 th	As we come together for worship, may we all be encouraged and challenged for our own specific role in God's work.	Liz Harvey
Mon 29 th	Help us to share our faith in natural ways, every day, with those we rub shoulders with.	Joyce Henniker
Tues 1 st Mar	Thank God especially for the ministers and deacons, praying for wisdom for RBC as a family	Ruth Henson
Wed 2 nd	Small groups: Foodbanks are a sign that God's people are called to transform the world	Dorothy & Stephen Henwood
Thur 3 rd	Parkside: pray for the team, encourage them as they remember God's provision and love, and seek to serve Him	Pauline & Kevin Higgins, Lauren & Rachel
Fri 4 th	Praise God for the continued work of Street Pastors, asking God to keep them safe, and encourage them	Emma Hills & family
Sat 5 th	First Aid training takes place at RBC today	Yvonne Hills
Sun 6 th	Remember those away from us, at University or serving in other countries: Teddy and Didi, Ian & Andrea and D & D.	Cynthia Hogben
Mon 7 th	Pray for Streetlight youth group meeting this evening.	Jill Holman



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





Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving

Stanley Robert Knight

4th February 1933 to 21st October 2015



I am sad to report the passing of one of our members, Stan Knight, on 21st October 2015.

Stan was born in a small village in Hampshire, where he played in the woods and

fields, and his love of nature and the countryside would remain strong in him for the rest of his life.

In his early twenties Stan moved up to London for work, where he met Iris at the Magenta Ballroom Dancing School in Forest Gate, and they have been married for 56 years.

Forty years of Stan's working life was spent with Jessups Motors, first at Gants Hill, then Southend and prior to retirement at the Romford Branch where he worked as the Parts department Manager.

Stan regularly took his three children to the woods of Hainault Forest or South Weald Park, where he would show them his love of the countryside, and he could name so many woodland birds just by hearing their call. He has instilled in them a great love of the countryside and they all enjoy visiting RSPB reserves.

Another passion of Stan's was listening to Classical Music and he could name the com-

poser and the piece of music just by hearing it.

Stan was also a man of strong faith, quietly lived out by caring for others – he was not a preachy man, but his life said it all and spoke the truth of the gospel. He became a Christian during a very difficult time and the minister of Chadwell Heath Baptist church, Arthur Coffey, led him to Christ and for many years he served God as a deacon and treasurer of the church. Stan and Iris moved to RBC in 1999.

Janet Walden was leader of the RBC Parent and Toddler groups around that time and asked her Dad, Stan, to help out. A few weeks of help turned into sixteen years of service and his last session was only three weeks before he died. Stan loved the children and the parents and in his later years the work he did there became an incentive for him to overcome several operations so he could get back to his beloved toddler groups.

In 2014 he was diagnosed with a large cancerous tumour in his side, his determination to overcome was amazing to see. He trusted God to help him through and he amazed all those around him including the hospital staff, with his strength of character, sense of humour and determination to get through it all.

Sadly, when he returned for his check-up in July 2015 he was found to have multiple tumours in both lungs and was told that he only had a few months to live.

Stan amazed us all with his positivity and

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

determination, and he trusted God completely and spent more time concerned about the family than himself, and triumphed over a great deal of adversity with good humour and grace.

Stan and the family were really blessed by God and through the support, love and prayers of the church family and it was wonderful that Stan was at peace and said "God knows what's best for us".

We thank God for giving us a wonderful, caring, loving and inspirational father, husband, granddad, brother and friend. We rejoice that his struggles are over and that he is now in heaven with his Saviour and Lord.

Neil Walden

Pause to smile



At a local fête for the blind all the stalls were laid out very carefully, with guide rails to help the blind find their way round to the various stalls. But unfortunately one of the blind ladies

missed the rail and bumped into the home-made cake stall and dislodged a large Dundee cake, which was on a high pedestal at the end of the stall. This caused the cake to fall onto the adjacent stall, which was for best story written in Braille. Fortunately no harm was done, and the cake won first prize for the best short story.

-O-O-O-

The other day I was in Southend and I walked to the end of the longest pier in the world. There I saw a dozen or so



men fishing, their rods resting on the hand-rails round the end of the pier and the fishermen at rest on their seats. None of them was moving; in fact two looked as if they were asleep. But one fellow on the end of the row was pulling up one fish after another. I walked quietly up alongside him and asked him how he was catching so many fish. He replied in a whisper, "The secret is in the bait". "What bait are you using?" I asked. He replied, "Liquorice" and sniggered. "What are you catching?" I asked. He smiled and replied, "Allsorts".

-O-O-O-

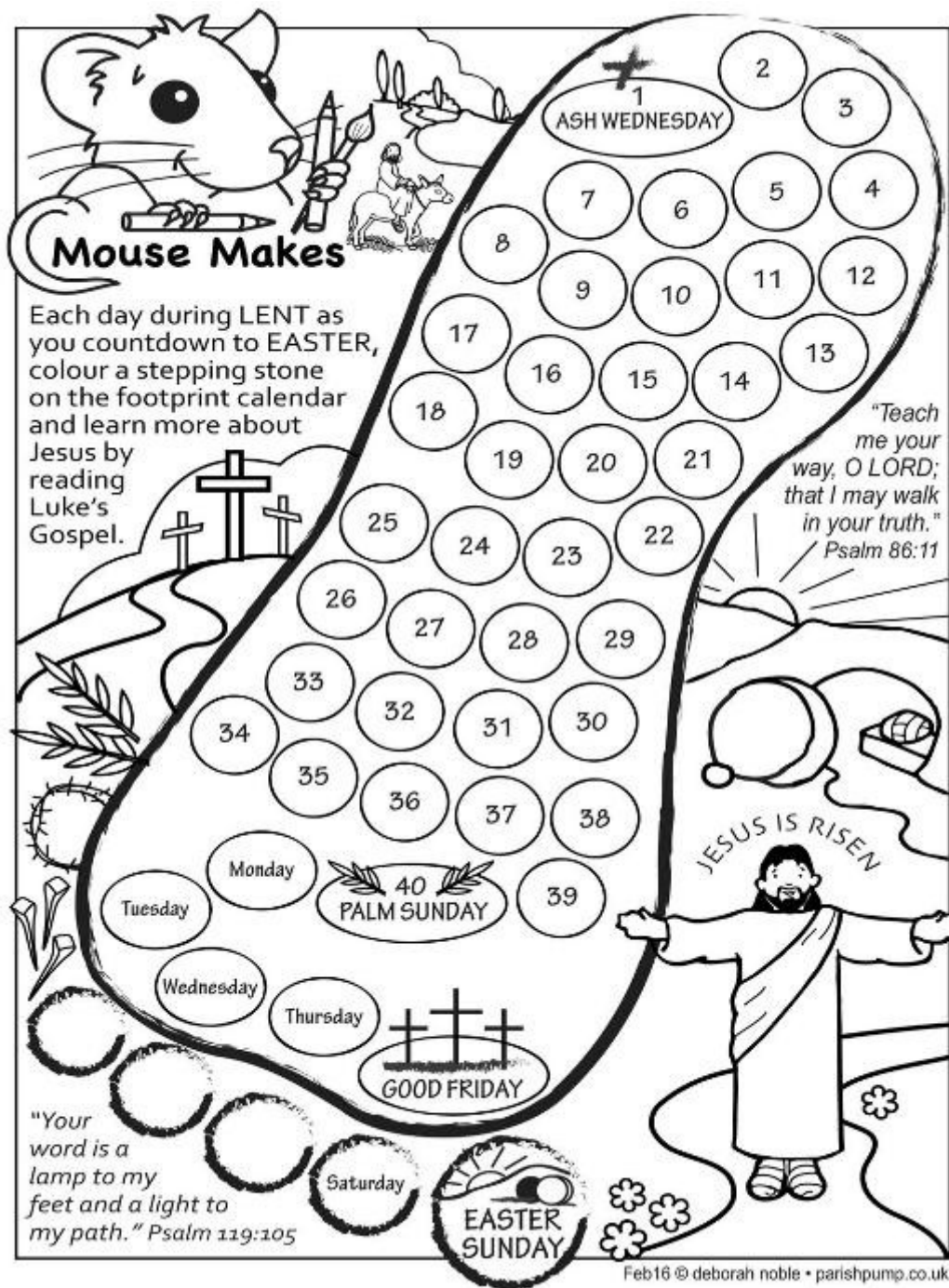


Did you know that you can get brain transplants now? But on the NHS they are only done privately. Second hand men's brains cost £8,000 and second hand women's brains cost £4,000. I asked why the big difference in price and was told "the men's brains don't get as much use as the women's brains."

-O-O-O-

The Church Mouse





Feb16 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Holiday at Home for Older People



The Holiday at Home dates have now been fixed for Tuesday 21 June-Thursday 23 June 2016 based in the church, Friday 24 June will be a day out and the week will culminate with a Sunday afternoon 'Songs of Praise' event followed by a cream tea. The planning group continues to meet and it is hoped that we'll be able to finalise more of the programme by the end of January.

The numbers of attendees will be limited this year as we want to make sure the activities

afternoon will conclude with tea and cakes.

Special guests:

As many of you will know from November's church meeting, we have successfully applied for a BMS Action Team who are currently based in Mizoram, India. Jess Oughton, Elizabeth Starr and Susie Greenhalgh will be joining RBC from Thursday 16-23 June and not only will they be involved in the Holiday at Home, they will also be linking in with a number of church activities. A number of



and practicalities work well, so keep an eye open in Grapevine or through the notice sheet for the timing of when you can book your place. There will be a selection of different things such as line-dancing, craft activities or games to choose from in the morning whilst, after a lovely home-made lunch, there will be different entertainment each afternoon. The

prayer cards are available on the Welcome Desk and I urge you to take one and pray for the Team in advance of their visit and you can also follow their progress by going to their blog... www.actionteamblogs.co.uk

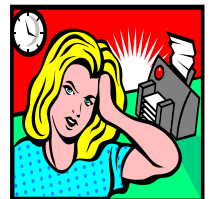
Vikki Bunce

The deadline for the April 2016/May 2016 edition on of the Grapevine is Sunday 13th March 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



Afternoon tea, anyone?

Do you take afternoon tea? Ever wondered where it started? The custom seems to date back to the mid-19th century, and the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna Russell. The Duchess got hungry at about 4pm each day, and complained that she had “that sinking feeling”. As it was still four hours until dinner (at 8pm), she began to have sandwiches or a small cake with some tea. Her friends thought this was marvellous, and the idea spread quickly through (hungry) upper class circles.



Soon, it seems, everyone in England was looking forward to Afternoon Tea, and a great British tradition was born. Though during the last century the sandwiches and cake gave way to biscuits, still we reached for the teapot each afternoon. Not so much any more, it seems. In the last five years, sales of tea have dropped by nearly a quarter, and sales of biscuits have sunk by a tenth. Nowadays we reach for bottled water and fruits, nuts or even cheese. The research was done by retail analysts Mintel.



Children too trusting of online world

The number of children who believe everything they find on Google and social media sites has doubled, according to a recent Ofcom study.



Eight to 15-year-olds may be ‘digital natives’ (children who have grown up with the internet) but they often lack the ‘online nous’ needed when deciding if what they see is true or impartial, Ofcom says. Hence, almost a fifth of 12 to 15 year olds believe that all information returned by a search engine such as Google or Bing must be true, and only a third of them were able to identify paid-for adverts.

The study also found that children turn to YouTube for ‘true and accurate’ information about what is going on in the world. Less than half of the children were aware that advertising is the main source of income for the site, and that therefore video bloggers are often paid to favourably mention products or services.





Regular Church Activities



Monday	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	1 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 (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 - Foyer)
	7.30 pm	RBC Music Team
Friday	10:30 am	Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30 pm	Prayer Meeting - Oak Room
	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.



In a tradition dating back to 1977, the churchwardens re-enacted "Star Wars"