



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



From the Editor

Everything seems to be changing. On a daily (sometimes, hourly!) basis, we hear or read news reports about people lying, changing their minds, speaking but not acting, and not keeping promises. It is so easy to focus on these negative aspects of human failings. Yet we can also read the Good News – where we are reminded to fix our eyes on Jesus, and to trust in Him.

*“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”
(Numbers 23:19)*

Quite a contrast!

As you read through the testimonies and reports within this edition of Grapevine, pray that God will continue changing us to be more like Him, so that others will see we are different and want to know more about God who makes all the difference.

Isn't it great to see how the unchanging God is changing lives – and isn't it great to know that we too can be part of that change!

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

Brokenness



We are seemingly living in a more and more broken world, full of broken promises, broken dreams, broken relationships and a broken political system.

Meanwhile, inside the security of the church walls, we have as a church been working at refocusing and reshaping our church and our way of being. But why?

The picture that this article is around is from the Interact training seminary in Orebro, Sweden. It shows a picture of a window that the college

students spent three years looking at whilst studying for their future work as church leaders or missionaries. The window, through the jagged walls, depicts Jesus smashing through the wall of the college into the world beyond. The students are regularly told that their only reason for being there is to be a part of Jesus breaking through into the world.

As a church, we could so easily be consumed by buildings, structures or projects that we forget the reason we are here is to be part of taking Jesus out, beyond the walls, to this broken world.



To see people finding hope and peace, new life and forgiveness because of what Jesus has done on the cross.

So let us keep focused and keep the main thing the main thing. Making Jesus known, and in doing so, knowing Jesus more.

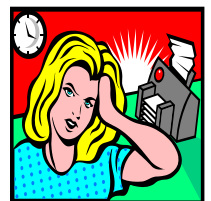
*Ian Bunce
Team Leader*

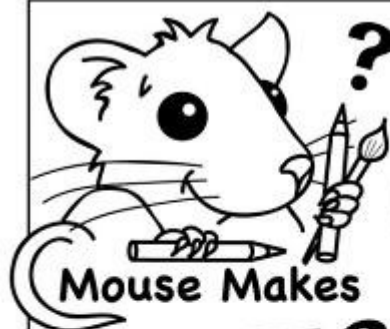


The deadline for the October/November 2016 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 18th September 2016

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





WHO AM I?

The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name.

J _ _ _ _ S

- Mary's first child
Luke 1:30-31
- Hannah's son
1 Samuel 1:20

W _ _ _ L

- He wrote the third Gospel
- Followed Elijah
2 Kings 2:15

A _ _ _ M

- The first man
Genesis 2:20
- Baby in a basket
Exodus 2:1-10

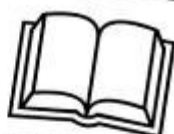
_ _ _ _ S

- A wise king
1 Kings 4:29
- He built an ark
Genesis 6: 13-14

H _ _ _ _

- Wrote the 28th book of the Bible

A



WHICH BOOK IN THE BIBLE...

- ... is the **first**?
- ... is the **last**?
- ... has the **most** chapters?
- ... is the **last** in the Old Testament?

How many books are there in in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the whole Bible?



BENJAMIN HARAN
ISAAC MOSES
AARON JOSEPH
GAD SHEM
JAPHETH JAMES
JACOB ASHER
JOHN ESAU
CAIN ISHMAEL
PETER ABEL
ABRAHAM ANDREW

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Bible there are: 31,173 verses, 1,189 chapters, 773,692 words.

The longest word is in Isaiah 8:1

The longest verse is Esther 8:9

The Bible was originally written

in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek



Can you find **JESUS** and all the Apostles in the word search?



ANDREW
JOHN • JAMES
THOMAS • MATTHEW
• SIMON • THADDEUS
BARTHOLOMEW • PETER
PHILIP • JAMES • JUDAS

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

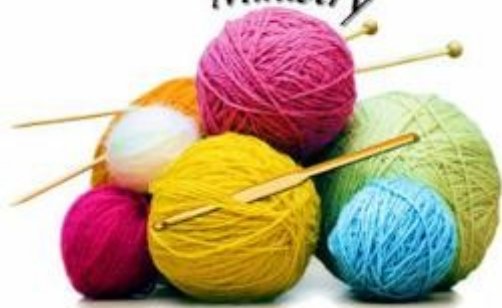


African Style Worship Evening 29th May 2016



Prayer ministry shawls

Prayer Shawl Ministry



As you may have heard over the last few weeks, the Tuesday needlecraft group have started a new initiative, knitting and crocheting prayer shawls for the pastoral team (and others) to distribute to people.

The idea is that those who knit/crochet the shawls pray for the person who may be the receiver, stitch by stitch. Those who receive the shawls are blessed by knowing that others were praying for them during the creation of the gift and shawls are given to people for a variety of reasons, perhaps because they are ill, are house-bound, been bereaved or are expecting a baby. If you would like to help by donating wool or creating a prayer shawl, it would be much appreciated.

*For more information see Sue Sharp or
Barbara Gatherum.*

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays August 2016

12th Yvonne Howson
16th Margaret Gardner
20th Nathan Howson
30th Janet Walden



Birthdays September 2016

5th Iris Hooper
8th Debbie Seymour
14th Sue Sharp
23rd Elizabeth Powell
25th Dickie Beaver



Flowers

August 2016

7th Debbie Seymour
14th Ruth Henson
21st Temi
28th Mignon Clarke



September 2016

4th Daphne and Don May
11th Lyn Anderson
18th Sue and Brian Sharp
25th Sylvia Daly



Baptism

Jiela Bitaga – 15th May 2016



Hello, my name is Jiela Bitaga. I am 13 years old and I go to St. Edward's Secondary School. I have been a Christian since I was very young as I have been born into a Christian family. I've

been in this church since 2002 and you've welcomed our family as if we were your own. I've always known I was a Christian but I have never taken it seriously until 3 years ago when I was depressed and was self-harming. When my parents found out they were stressed and kept praying for me to get better. After one year of counselling and praying, I got better. This made me realise that God is real and He is there for us. I thought I didn't have a purpose but thanks to God, I am standing here right in front of you. I always knew I wanted to be baptised because I have seen many baptisms but I never was ready to make that commitment, until Christabel guided me on what it means to get baptised. I finalised my decision when I started going to the baptism classes which were lead by

Sandra and Ade. They taught us what being baptised does in a Christian's life. And now I understand that Jesus loves me for who I am and I suggest that anyone who wants to be baptised to pursue it. I know I won't be perfect but I will try to be the woman God wants me to be because He is my one and only God, even when times are tough He will always be there for me.

Thank you.



Baptism

Georgia O'Neal – 15th May 2016



Since I was a toddler, my mum has always brought me to church every Sunday. When I was little, I never took church too seriously and I did muck around quite a lot. However as I grew up, I learnt

more and more about being a Christian from my family, Sunday school teachers and other Christians. When I was 8, I decided to make a commitment to God and become a Christian. This was a big step for me and I became more interested in prayer, the Bible and church. Although as time went on, and I got older, I felt like I was distancing myself from God. I still came to church every Sunday but I saw it as more of an opportunity to see my friends rather than to worship God.

Throughout my teenage years I felt God testing me and I lost hope. I questioned God lots of times and started doubting it all. I went through a difficult time in my life and was not interested in knowing God at all. Looking back now, I can see that there were many things distracting me from God. When I moved schools to Marshals

Park which is not a Christian school, I distanced myself even more and denied my faith because I felt embarrassed to be a Christian and go to church. However, when I was 14 years I went on a

youth weekend away and I began to feel a sense of God's spirit. I prayed and asked for forgiveness for the things I wasn't proud of and began to think seriously about God again. When I was 15 I went on a Youth Alpha Course, which spoke more deeply about the meaning of being a Christian. This helped me prioritise my relationship with God more and answered some difficult questions I had. Although there have been many situations where God has tested me, I have continued to stay strong and I have started to see them as blessings and opportunities to learn and grow. Also I have gone along to baptism classes after church which has taught me a lot more about the true meaning of being baptised. Being on this course has taught me that being baptised is not



(Continued on page 9)

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about being perfect and I feel like now is the right time as I have known for a while that I want to walk with Christ and be a follower of Jesus.



Baptism

Ayoolamide Fawunmi – 15th May 2016

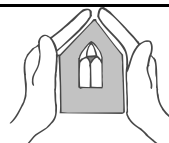


Prayer Diary for August 2016

Mon 8 th	Pray for the work of "Childline", as long school holidays can be a stressful time for families	<i>Muriel Warner & Rosalyn</i>
Tues 9 th	As D and D return, may they continue to know God's leading	<i>Peggy Warner</i>
Weds 10 th	Thank God for our freedom to worship. Pray for all facing persecution for their faith	<i>Beryl Wells</i>
Thurs 11 th	Pray for the Baptist Missionary Society and all their work on different mission fields	<i>David & Margaret Wilkinson</i>
Fri 12 th	Pray for the work of Street Pastors; sustain them as they show compassion to those in need	<i>Albert Williams</i>
Sat 13 th	Pray for Rich and Alison Shorter and all involved in the work at Harold Hill	<i>Barbara Williams</i>
Sun 14 th	Thank God for the blessings of our Sunday School and pray for all those involved in it	<i>Helen Williams</i>
Mon 15 th	Pray for those who visit our drop-in centre today. May RBC be able to assist all those in need	<i>Mercia Williams</i>
Tues 16 th	Pray for Ian, Vikki, Jan and Sandra, who are having an Away Day today	<i>Lilian Wingate</i>
Weds 17 th	Praise God for the blessings of creation.	<i>Christine Wright</i>
Thurs 18 th	A.S. and A2 results out today. For the disappointed and the jubilant, may our young people know God has a plan for their lives	<i>John & Pamela Wright</i>
Fri 19 th	Pray for our Caretaker, Cleaner, Property Co-ordinator, PA, and others who faithfully serve God behind the scenes	<i>Ken & Pauline Yates</i>
Sat 20 th	Pray for Sandra, that God will continue to strengthen her in her new role at RBC	<i>Colin & Susan Young</i>
Sun 21 st	Pray for Ian and Vikki, and their ministries at RBC	<i>Mani Zamanthang</i>
Mon 22 nd	KidzClub (the Holiday Bible Club), starts next week. Pray that God will guide all the planning and preparation	<i>Lydia Abbey</i>



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



Prayer Diary for August 2016

Tues 23 rd	Pray for Jan, as she continues to balance work and the responsibilities of single-parenthood	<i>Rosalind Ackun</i>
Weds 24 th	Pray for those either side of you in the Church Directory	<i>Elaine & Barry Adams</i>
Thurs 25 th	GCSE results out today; pray that our young people know God's will as they seek courses for further education	<i>Ade & Margaret Adekanmbi & family</i>
Fri 26 th	Pray for Mignon Clarke and Richard Whelan as they get married today	<i>Rachel Adekanmbi</i>
Sat 27 th	Pray for those with mental health issues and those who care for them	<i>Shirley Ajuebon</i>
Sun 28 th	Pray that God's Word will fall on fertile soil, today	<i>Oluwaseun Akinola</i>
Mon 29 th	Bank Holiday today. Thank God for the many blessings He lavishes on us	<i>Dunsin Alalade</i>
Tues 30 th	As KidzClub starts today, may each child and adult grow in their understanding of God	<i>Johnson & Pumela Amoah & family</i>
Weds 31 st	Thank God for our fire brigade and pray for their safety	<i>Lynn Anderson</i>
Sept Thurs 1 st	Thank God for our ambulance service and pray for the protection of its members	<i>David & Jean Argent</i>
Fri 2 nd	Thank God for our hospitals; pray for all the Christian staff there	<i>Michael & Lesley Armstong & Lauren</i>
Sat 3 rd	Thank God for our police service and justice system	<i>Kolawole & Esther Arowolo & family</i>
Sun 4 th	Conclusion of KidzClub today. Pray that all who attend the service and the BBQ afterwards will be blessed	<i>Enoch & Vera Asumang & family</i>
Mon 5 th	As the new school year begins, pray for all Christian staff and students, that their faith is respected	<i>Amy Aumeer</i>
Tues 6 th	Leadership Meeting tonight; pray for our weekly activities re-starting this week	<i>Hayley Ayris</i>
Weds 7 th	Pray for all those who care for the dying, especially the staff at St Francis' Hospice	<i>Michael & Efua Baah & family</i>

Mission Matters



Since going to university in Plymouth in September 2014 I have had a fantastic time! This had been due to enjoying my course as well as being an active member of the CU (Christian Union).

Plymouth University's CU has been amazing and has broadened my horizons and has meant that I have made some brilliant friends. During Freshers' week in September 2014 the CU held daily events, most of which involved some sort of food (a winner in my eyes!) Every Sunday for the first month, Plymouth CU did an event called Surf the Churches which meant that new CU members and existing ones were able to test and see churches in the

area together. From this I was able to find a church. Finding a church for myself was a new experience and confirmed that I had a faith and believed in Jesus, rather than going to church because that is what my parents did.

Now almost 2 years later, my faith has grown so much since the beginning of University. I have been a small group leader and learnt more about the Bible and improved how much I read it. I have friends that I can share my faith with and pray with. I have made great Christian friends, and gone on weekends away with them.

I could not have done any of this without being a part of the CU and would not love University as much without the people I have met through my faith.

Amber Schulte



Pause to smile



I was in a local supermarket when I noticed a lady was standing and staring at a bottle of orange juice. She didn't move but just stood

there and stared at the bottle. Curiosity got the better of me and I had to ask her what she was doing. Without moving she replied, "what it told me to do on the bottle" and pointed to the word at the bottom of the label which read CONCENTRATE.

At the European Parliament they employ translators to help the other countries to understand what the MEPs are talking about in their speeches. On one occasion a Greek to Danish and English interpreter was taken ill, and a Dutch to Greek interpreter was called to stand in for his colleague as he had some English. In a statement, the Irish MEP who was on his feet had used the quotations "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" and later on another quote "Out of sight out of mind". These came back from the interpreter as "The whisky is all right here but the meat is awful" and "The invisible idiot".

The Church Mouse



Grandparents



July 26th is the feast day of St Joachim and St Ann – and you are probably asking, who are they? Legend says that these are the names of Jesus' grandparents; his mother's

father and mother. Whether these are their real names or not, it doesn't matter: what does matter is that Mary's parents brought her up to be a very special person; someone who was calm in a crisis and loved her family. And this comes from being part of a close-knit, loving family.

July 26th is the 'feast of grand-parents'. It reminds all grand-parents of their responsibility for generations to come; to make family traditions and history live.

But the feast has a meaning for the younger family members as well. It reminds younger people that older people's wealth of experience is to be celebrated and appreciated. And we do, don't we?

Why should Elijah's parents be remembered by all business people?

Because they made a prophet.

How long did Cain hate his brother?

As long as he was Abel.

Summertime Fun

Laughter, food, conversation, entertainment and a wide variety of things to do or be part of, these are just a few of the words that summed up the week of activities that took place under the Holiday at Home umbrella in the middle of June. All those who came as guests are asking when the next one will take place and even those who were involved want to run another one in the future, so watch this space. Instead of more words though, enjoy a few pictures of the week's activities....





Photos submitted by Vikki Bunce

A huge thanks to all involved, who gave of their time, energy, skills or came as our guests, watch this space for dates for next year!

Vikki Bunce
Minister (Church and Community Life)

Can you help in praying with others?



You will be aware that, as a regular part of our Sunday services, we have a number of people who are willing to pray with those that need it after both services. This offer to pray for people is usually announced each week during the service and the prayer ministry team have been privileged to walk with people in good times and at times when some of us may be struggling. There have been great answers to prayer during these times.

If you feel that you would be able to offer yourself to join the prayer ministry team, Vikki is looking to run a new training session later in the summer so please let her know or email her on vbunce@romfordbaptist.org.uk **by the end of July.**

Vikki Bunce

Minister (Church and Community Life)

A Young Afternoon Tea for folk from Parkside



Photos submitted by Vikki Bunce

The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY...

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Are you ready when he comes?

Whether you like or not he's coming back one day. And 'HE' of course is Jesus! The big question is: "Are you ready?" Jesus tells this story about five girls who were very sensible and ready. They were waiting for the bridegroom to come to the wedding and they had batteries for their torches in case it was dark when he came. So when they heard a shout in the middle of the night that he was coming, they could go happily with him to the wedding!



Some were wise and some were silly!



W. Mather ©

When the call came the sensible ones were all ready and able to go in!

Sadly there were some silly girls with no batteries and they were left out! In the story Jesus is the bridegroom and all Christians together make up "the bride" and are married to him! And how do we "get ready"? By believing in and following Jesus - so we become part of the church or 'bride' - married to Jesus for all eternity! *How about you? If HE comes tonight, are you ready? Read more in Matthew 25: 1-13*



The silly ones weren't allowed in



Regular Church Activities



Monday	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+)
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.



'Baby McBabeface' - are you really sure?