



# Romford Baptist Church

## Grapevine



**Family Magazine**

December 2016

and

January 2017

**No. 181**



# From the Editor

"Brown paper packages tied up with string..."

Well, some of my 'favourite things' involve wrapping presents, and sending packages to friends and family scattered all around the world. I get so much pleasure thinking about how my they will feel when they receive their gifts, having carefully chosen what I imagine they would like.

A few weeks ago it was Shoebox Sunday, and over 700 boxes were collected at RBC for Operation Christmas Child. What a joy to see the videos of excited children when they receive a shoebox filled with all sorts of goodies, and to know they will hear about Jesus' love for them.

So, as you read this edition of Grapevine, with stories of what God has done and is doing in peoples' lives, ways to make a difference in other lives, and details about events to celebrate Jesus' birth, let us remember that He came to give us eternal life – that is our gift from God. All we need to do is accept this gift by truly believing in him.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*  
2 Corinthians 9:15

**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*

Shame:

A simple 5-letter word, from the letters of which you can make 44 other words. Often used as someone looks at something that has gone wrong, and says quietly, "Isn't it a shame!"

Yet it is a word that is destructive, devastating and also used as a weapon. Sin is bad enough, but shame! Don't bring shame upon yourself or your family! Many have suffered personal devastation from the power of shame upon their lives, the embarrassment and their reputation is in tatters! In some countries people have even been killed for the shame they have brought on their families.

I have become convinced that, while the power of shame is destructive, the Bible and Christmas has something very different to say. God, who you would have thought would want to preserve His reputation, allowed cultural shame to surround the most important event since the creation of the world, the birth of His son, Jesus, the hope of the world. He suffered the shame of being born out of wedlock, being homeless, a refugee, fleeing for a continued existence.

The boy became a man and again suffered shame, the shame of the cross,

the shame of being whipped in public, the shame of a ruined reputation in the public space. Paul, writing to the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us." So when you feel shame, Jesus does understand and does not reject you.

Paul completed the verse with the following: "so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." What does that mean? It simply means an end to our shame, God has made it possible that our shame can be turned into righteousness.

So as we enter Advent, the message of Hope comes real again, so don't imagine that God does not understand your feeling of shame. He understands what you did feel but He also invites you to let go of your shame and experience the righteousness that He longs for you to have. This is why He suffered shame.

We spend too long wondering about our reputation. In God, we have an opportunity to have a new beginning, without shame, so take it, after all it would be a shame not to.

*Ian Bunce  
Team Leader*



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

### **Maureen Stewart**

10<sup>th</sup> April 1945 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Maureen Stewart who went to be with her Lord on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Maureen was brought up in a Christian family who attended Salem Baptist Church, where her Dad was a deacon and elder. Maureen moved to Main Road Baptist Church (RBC) as a young person due to the attraction of their thriving youth group. She had believed in God from an early age, and was baptised as a believer at RBC at the age of twenty-one.

Maureen's Mum, Daisy, lived with John and Maureen for many years following the death of her father in his fifties, and had a very positive influence on the lives of both John and his children. John came to faith a bit later in life and this was in no small measure due to the dedicated faith of both Maureen and her Mum.

Maureen was involved in RBC for a long time and in various ways and was involved in running the crèche for many years.

She also ran the Fishers café with Liz Harvey for a number of years, which served coffee, tea, cakes and light lunches as an outreach to the local community and friends and associates of RBC members.

Maureen and John were a wonderful team and served God and His church in a loving and consistent way for many years. They were kind and caring and always there to help anyone needing help or encouragement and did this without making any fuss or drawing attention to themselves. Maureen supported John faithfully as he served on the diaconate and as a Parkside trustee, and her strong faith shone through her life in so many ways.

Maureen was a wonderful cake baker and some of her recipes were amazing and enjoyed tremendously by so many of us at RBC over many years.

Maureen was also a keen gardener and vegetable grower and a connoisseur of unusual varieties of tomatoes. Her interest was shared with a number of us who have benefitted by receiving tomato seedlings, which produced different colours and shapes of tomato.

*(Continued on page 5)*

Maureen was a wonderful example of faith triumphing over adversity as she fought cancer and with John she continued to attend church as often as she possibly could during her arduous treatment.

The service of thanksgiving for Maureen's life was a wonderful tribute to a life lived fully for God and gave glory to her saviour. Her fortitude in adversity and suffering was a real example and challenge to us all and was reflected in one of the hymns chosen for the service:

*"When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say;  
'It is well, it is well with my soul'"*

Maureen will be sadly missed by John, Sarah, Matthew and her grandchildren and by her many friends at RBC and beyond. However, she will be fondly remembered for her love, kindness, caring heart and for her exceedingly good cakes!

Neil Walden

## **BMS Birthday Scheme**

### **December 2016**

1<sup>st</sup> Christine Wright  
3<sup>rd</sup> Julie Knight  
23<sup>rd</sup> Frances Biggs  
25<sup>th</sup> Muriel Warner



### **January 2017**

5<sup>th</sup> Anne Barnes  
10<sup>th</sup> Anne Carter  
13<sup>th</sup> Lauren Knight  
15<sup>th</sup> Peggy Warner  
17<sup>th</sup> Joyce Henniker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Daphne May  
25<sup>th</sup> Janet Loveard  
28<sup>th</sup> Barbara Palmer



## **Flowers**

### **December 2016**

4<sup>th</sup> Rob and Shirley Pigeon  
11<sup>th</sup> Temi  
18<sup>th</sup> Alison and Alex Savine  
25<sup>th</sup> JJ Giwa-Majekodunmi



### **January 2017**

22<sup>nd</sup> Christine Brown

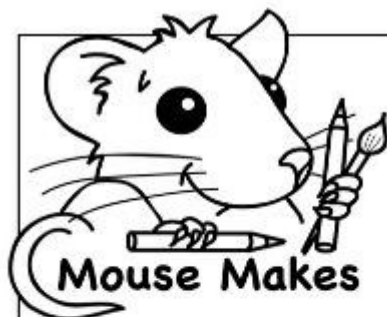


**The deadline for the February 2016/March 2017  
edition of the Grapevine is  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017**

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)**

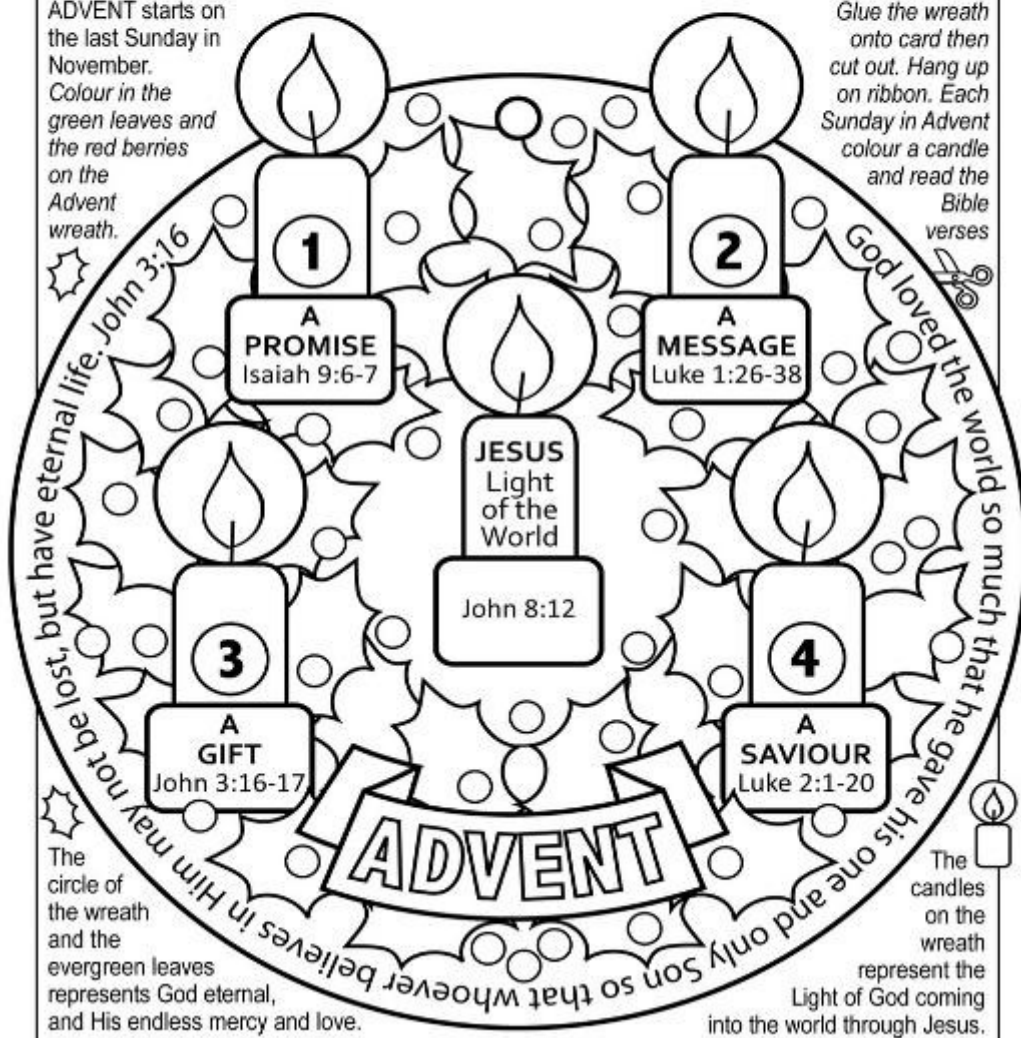




Jesus is coming, ADVENT is here!  
 Advent is the time we celebrate the arrival of Jesus, who is God's Son and our Saviour. In Advent we remember  
**God's promise** to the world,  
**God's message** to Mary,  
**God's gift** to us and  
**God's promise** come true in Jesus.

ADVENT starts on the last Sunday in November. Colour in the green leaves and the red berries on the Advent wreath.

Glue the wreath onto card then cut out. Hang up on ribbon. Each Sunday in Advent colour a candle and read the Bible verses





# The Choice

## by Andy Robinson

A story of a man who from childhood turned his back on a loving family and chose to go his own way, selling his soul to the devil in return for all carnal pleasures he wished for until .....

Andy decided God was a killjoy, a bully, someone who wanted to make your life a misery, so he turned his back on Him and decided to hate Him. From age 12 to 17 he was a nightmare at school, he fought, he destroyed, he hated. He built up addictions to nicotine, alcohol and drugs. At 17 he was on the streets, an angry but frightened lad. He had made his pact with the devil by this point and all was going downhill fast. He ended up in Winchester prison. Occasionally things looked up and life was OK 'ish, but generally his hatred destroyed him and all he came in contact with. BUT.....God never gave up on him and during one of his calmer periods he had a job he loved, and a good friend who invited him to his church one day. Andy went and was so amazed at how unlike church it was that he became involved with the group. He met a lovely girl called Louise, who later became his wife. All was good, Andy gave his life to Christ, except..... Satan reared his ugly head big time to remind Andy who he belonged to. In the midst of a terri-

fying episode of spiritual attack Andy was prayed for by people who really understood spiritual warfare and eventually the battle was won, the evil spirits were identified and Andy was released. Satan is no match for God, EVER..... Andy felt strongly the call from God to share with others what He had done for him, so he went to college, got a degree and was ordained in 2006. Life still has its challenges, not least in regard to his health, and he also had random attacks from Satan, but Andy belongs to God. If you are at all sceptical about spiritual attack or warfare ---- Read this book ----- it will give you a whole new insight into its reality.

*Liz Harvey*



# Baptism

## Anthea McCulloch – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016



I have been a Christian for over 30 years. During that time God has blessed me and has answered impossible prayers.

However, my walk with God has not always been straightforward as I drifted in and out of Church. I then decided in my early twenties that I could go it alone, without church. I felt I could still maintain a relationship with God but that relationship was based very much on my terms.

Six years ago, I had an experience through which God brought me back to church. As a result of this experience I saw God in a completely different way. I saw him as a God who was in control of me and not the other way around and a God who I should not take for granted. God also taught me to realize he had ultimate authority in my life and in the lives of my children.

Through attending church I became aware of how broken I was and how

distant God had become to me. Throughout the time that followed, I began to search for God in ways I had never done before. God instilled a discipline in me, which meant that I was routinely praying and reading the Bible.

God taught me to obey Him and completely change some areas of my life. He also taught me to exercise patience and wait on Him. As a result, God has completely changed me and He is continuing that change. I marvel at the things God has done for me.

So as the song says, "Precious Jesus, I surrender every care." Today I am ready to meet God at this point in my journey and I walk forward in faith knowing He has never and will never let me go.

*Anthea McCulloch*



Pictures by JJ Giwa



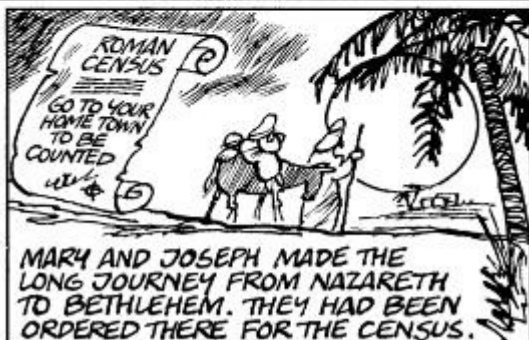
# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



SORRY... I'VE NO ROOM!

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

# **Baptism**

## **Detola Osho – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016**



When I was younger, I was convinced that God told me I belonged to Him. I have been a follower ever since. For many years

in my life I have had the grace of being used by God as a vessel to share His message of love, peace and hope.

At this point, I feel like I would like to take the next step to become closer to God through baptism. Baptism, to me, means a fresh start.

Since attending the ongoing Alpha Course, I've felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to participate in this baptism and I am very excited to take this next step in my journey as a believer in Christ!

God has always been a refuge for me. Although I am not always as true to Him as I should be, He always pulls through for me. There was a time many years ago in my life when I felt helpless and hopeless but He showed me that I am better off hanging on with

Him, no matter what. I learnt that a rough journey that has God in it is better than a smooth journey without God.

I have always known that He has a great purpose for my life and I am sure that one of the reasons why He has kept me is for a day like today, which marks the most significant event in my Christian life.

I see every day of my life as a bonus and for this reason, I cannot remember a day in the last 15 years that I had not wholeheartedly said "Thank You, Father". I have so much trust and confidence in God now, no matter the circumstance, and this is a line that the devil has not and will never be able to cross.

Of course, life still throws challenging circumstances at me which seem impossible to overcome, but I have overcome, and through faith will continue to overcome all challenges one at a time with the help of Jesus. He has always been my support, and that is the only way I have survived.

However, I am done with just surviving.

*(Continued on page 11)*

Now I want to thrive! That is why I have decided to follow Jesus more than ever before and get baptised, in His name. Isaiah Chapter 12:2 says "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord is my strength and my song; and he has become my salvation." I'm no longer a slave to fear, I am a child of God." I want that to be the way I live my life after being baptised!

Now I feel the joy that comes with ex-



Pictures by JJ Giwa

periencing His love; I feel completely overwhelmed by His mercy and greatness. I feel gratitude for my salvation and a responsibility to live according to His will and to serve Him. As I desire to take this powerful step of faith ownership, to be buried with Him in His death, and be raised to new life by the power of His glorious resurrection, I am pleased to say that I will be bap-

tised a very grateful man.

I am grateful to God for the example of faith I have had my whole life. I have also intentionally chosen my children to support me in the process of today's baptism as they have always heard about the love of God but it will make me more joyous when they see this love in action.

As David said about Him, "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand. I will not be shaken." (Acts 2:25). I know that after being baptised, Jesus will set me and my family free from the bondage of sin and evil.

Finally, I am excited to have the opportunity to be baptised in such a beautiful place filled with wonderful people. I have considered the Grace of God which is available to all, regardless of our past, present and the promised future. No man or woman is perfect or will ever be on this earth. I will no longer wait until the day I feel perfect to be baptised as it will never happen. Likewise, being baptised is not trying to be perfect but being ready to journey with God. His amazing grace has helped me to conclude that I am ready to give my life to Jesus more than ever before! Amen.

*Detola Osho*

## **RBC Small Groups**

Over the past few months we have been considering what we aspire to be as a church. As I thought about what I could write about our small groups, to encourage and challenge more of you to join a small group, consider hosting a group or even becoming a small group leader, a thought occurred to me.

I was standing in the hall and saw the poster with the church aspirations listed on it. As I looked it, occurred to me that our small groups are also working towards or currently include many of the aspirations we have for our church. For instance, as a church we aspire to be a praying church and prayer is central to what we do in our small groups. Every session/term starts with an evening devoted to prayer and every small group meeting has a time set aside for prayer. So whenever our small groups meet, RBC is praying.

In James chapter 5:16 we read this: *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you might be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective"*

So I believe our small groups embrace that aspiration. Another aspiration that we seek to meet within our small groups is that of being a disciple-making church. Small group is the

place where you get the time and space to grow and develop your faith, as you study the Bible together and make friendships that perhaps you don't have time to develop on a Sunday.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says this: *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."*

I also believe that our small groups seek to be inclusive. If you come to this church you can join a small group. If you have a friend who doesn't come to our church but wants to come along, then bring them too. Our groups are not based on age, ethnicity or gender; everyone can belong to a group. And actually they are fun. As small groups meet on a regular basis, it's where you will find out that you are not alone.

At RBC we believe that our groups are the pastoral heart of the church. They are the places where you can share your struggles and your successes. Where you can laugh together and cry together. It's the place where you can be assured that you have support and you are cared for in Jesus' name.

*(Continued on page 13)*

I hear many, many stories of groups rallying round when a member of their group is ill or struggling with something. Of course this isn't limited to small groups but it is another aspiration that our groups seek to be part of, that of serving one another.

My purpose in writing this article, as I said at the beginning, was to encourage and challenge more of you join a group and to be involved in the small groups at RBC. But we also need people to prayerfully consider whether your gifting may be calling you to host a group or offer yourself to become a small group leader.

Friends, I do not believe that our Christian walk was meant to be a solo effort. The early church lived together, ate together and worked together for the good of all, so let's build on their example, as I firmly and truly believe that our small groups follow that model.

Our groups meet fortnightly on a Wednesday in various homes throughout the borough and we have 2 day-time groups that meet in the church. If you wish to join a group or feel that you could host a group, or even become a small group leader, then please come and see me on a Sunday or contact me via the numbers in the church directory.

*Mike Simpson*

## Pause to smile

An elderly couple were sitting in their garden in the afternoon enjoying the sunshine. When the lady turned to her husband and said, "Darling do you remember when we were first married, you made this lovers' seat for me?" "Yes" replied the old chap, "It was the day we came home from our honeymoon". "Do you recall you called me into the garden to show it to me and said "My darling I have made this just for you", and we sat down together and you kissed me?" "I do," said the old man and he leaned over and kissed his wife tenderly on the cheek." Do you also remember how we used to hold hands and look into each others eyes?" "I do", said the old chap, taking her hands in his and looking at her tenderly. "And how you used to put your arm round my shoulder and give me a little cuddle and nibble on my ear?". At that, the old man groaned and got up and started back up the garden. "Where are you going?" asked the old lady. "I'll be back in a minute", says the old man, "I'm just going to put my teeth in" .

*The Church Mouse*



## Prayer Diary for December 2016

Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	Blood donors use the hall today. Thank God for the blessings of the National Health Service.	HILLS Emma, <i>Samuel &amp; Benjamin</i>
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	New Beginnings Nursery group using the hall today for their Christmas celebration.	HILLS Yvonne
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	In the busy days up to Christmas, help us to set aside time to reflect on the true meaning.	HOGBEN Cynthia
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Special Parent & Toddler service this morning, led by Ian and Jan, followed by their Christmas party.	HOLMAN Jill
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for all the preparations being made for Christmas at Parkside, especially the volunteers who will be there this evening.	HOOPER Jim & Iris
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pray especially for the Needlework Group meeting this morning - the charity craftwork they make and conversations that take place.	HOTTEN Ida
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Small Groups tonight. The last in the Amos series/ social evening.	HOWSON Nathan
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for the Music Group, praying that more people will come forward to use their gifts to lead us in worship.	HOWSON Abigail
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for and pray that, as our young people have a sleepover at the church, they will come closer to our living Lord.	HOWSON Tim & Yvonne
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Labyrinth (time of prayer) today at RBC, plan to be a part of it.	HUANG June
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Carols by Lamplight this evening - who could you bring along?	HUGHES Brenda & Raymond
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pray especially for the coffee morning and Foodbank at RBC today. May God's love be evident.	HUNT Maisie
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Rise Park School have their Carol Service at RBC this morning.	HUXTABLE Les & Janet
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Remembering at Christmas, a service of reflection this evening.	JEGEDE Olakunle & Bunmi & <i>family</i>
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Anne and Gordon Barnes lead a service at Chase View this afternoon.	JOHNSON Kevin & Claire, <i>Anna, Stella &amp; Harry (Davis)</i>
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pray especially for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time - the lonely, bereaved, anxious...	JOHNSON Sarah, <i>Serena</i>



## Prayer Diary for December 2016

Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for a real sense of God's presence for the Christingle at 4pm and the Midnight Communion.	JONES Joyce
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Morning worship only, pray for those who are serving the community today: doctors, nurses, response units, police...	JONES Shona
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	As families come together at this time, may Christ be at the centre of all our celebrations.	KALANGA Annie, <i>Megan, Joanne &amp; Katy</i>
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for all the staff at your doctors' surgery. Could you set up a group so that they are remembered in prayer each day of the week?	KEINAMMA Mumbi, & Samantha (Wairimu)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Spend time praying for your neighbours.	KEKANA Carol
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for all those who volunteer in service at RBC.	KELLY Julie, <i>Samuel &amp; Thomas</i>
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for those families within our church, especially the young people.	BAVIN Simon
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	Watchnight Service this evening and pray for those celebrating the new year at parties etc.	KENSIT Michelle & Paul, <i>Alex &amp; Max</i>
<b>Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017</b>	Morning worship only today, pray that each one of us will go into the new year with a renewed sense of God's purpose.	KENT Matt & Emma, <i>Bella &amp; Jacob</i>
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reflect on this promise: 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' Hebrews 13:5.	KETLEY Tony
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pray for the Leadership Team.	PULLUM Gill
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for our young people and pray for them as they return to school/college.	KETLEY Joan
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Graceworks/SU team visiting schools, for additional team members to be able to accept all the invitations.	KING Paul
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Ian & Andrea in Malaga and Teddy & Didi in Sofia. Remember also Deb & Dug as they seek God's will for their future.	KIRBY Dennis & Jean
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pray especially that each one of us will be prepared to hear what God is saying as we meet for worship tomorrow.	KIRBY Tania and Steve, <i>Emma &amp; Liam</i>



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





# Romford Baptist Church

## Fit 4 Life

Come and join a new group starting Tuesday  
10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Willow Hall

at 1.45pm-3pm

*Healthy cooking demonstrations, food  
tasting, exercise for fun and fitness, talks and  
discussions on living a healthy Christian life,  
both spiritually and physically.*

Come and find out more at an informal  
session on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017

With Jan W & Kathy T



# Baptism

## Maria Ogunleye – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016



Hello, I am Maria's sister and I will be reading her testimony on her behalf.

Hello everyone, my name is Maria Ogunleye, I am 20 years old and I go to St John's College. I love to sing, dance and praise God all day every day. As many people know, I have autism, it has been hard at times for me and my family, but with God's help we have never given up.

I am happy we came to Romford church, it has been my second home for 14 years and I want to thank everyone who supported me and who are still supporting me. I want to say a special thank you to my family, who I love very much. I want to thank Auntie Lin who has supported me for all these years. Thank you Josie, Jan, Sandra and my special school teacher, Mrs Martin, and Rosie who helped me in Corbets Tey School.

I thank God for loving me and always being there, I know he is always with me.

We also want to take this opportunity as a family to say that anything is possible with God.

Thank you for listening.



Pictures by JJ Giwa

Maria will now say a few words.

Thank you Jesus, Thank you Dad, Mum, Emmanuel and Christabel, I love you. Thank you RBC, thank you Josie, Jan, Auntie Lin, Sandra, Mrs Martin and Rosie. Thank you to all my Sunday School teachers. Thank you to all my Sunday School friends, Megan, Georgia, Hannah and others.

*Maria Ogunleye*

## Watchnight Reflections

1. Some folk thank God for the year that has gone –  
I thank Him rather for this, just begun,  
For the 52 times we shall meet here together  
At good old Main Road in 1947.
2. And yet it is good, e'er the Old Year retires,  
To stir up the embers of memory's fires,  
So, if you'll bear with me, we'll try and remember  
Our infamous doings from Jan to December.
3. The first day of the year we kicked off quite well  
With a 'Robinson' social which really was swell.  
Faint memories linger of wet fish in the dark,  
Ghost stories, radio and 'Lovers in the Park'.
4. We often, in prayer, think of those on the Congo,  
So t'was really a thrill to meet from Upoto  
Our friend Mr Marker who inspired us each one  
With his story of life 'neath the African sun.
5. Along came Feb. with a mag. and a quiz,  
(It's surprising how ignorant our Y.P.F. is!)  
And our brave lads from the Forces (bless their woolly smalls)  
Told of cruises abroad and scaling high walls.
6. March saw a few of us sweating away  
Over pages of script for V.J.'s play,  
"A Soul for Auction" will recall  
How, through love of this world Demas forsook Paul.
7. One evening in April we went to the 'flicks'  
And with the aid of a film and a box of tricks,  
Trod "The Shining Highway" with H.L. Gee  
And transformed this hall into a 'Bird Sanctuary'.
8. Those of us who enjoy a Garden Party  
Found plenty of fun down at 'Waverley'.  
Came Miss Howell's examination the following week,  
Gosh, the thought of it makes me go knees at the weak?



9. One fine summer's evening, with vigour so rare,  
Our Y.P.F. thought it would take some fresh air,  
So joined in a ramble by hedgerow and field,  
Though I somehow don't think we all reached South Weald!
10. The third week in September our Y.P. grew bigger  
And met with Salem, Collier Row, Mawney Road,  
a piano accordion and Mr. Trigger,  
The following Tuesday we welcomed home  
Several chaps who from Main Road far did roam.
11. In October we heard of the work of our brothers  
Who endeavour to brighten the suffering of others  
And tell them the news of the Christ who came  
To heal the poor lepers who call on His name.
12. On November 5<sup>th</sup> after a not-so-Quiet Talk,  
Midst crackers and rockets we burnt old Guy Fawke,  
I'm sorry the 's' is left off his name  
But somehow I cannot get this verse to rhyme.
13. With carols at Christmas, you'll remember too well,  
We raised our sweet voices like a choir from - heaven,  
And the social we had on the 31<sup>st</sup>, still  
Brings sweet thoughts of mince pies, cress, fruit cake,  
cheese, biscuits, tea, spam - boy, what a meal!
14. But through all our enjoyment the old clock still ticks  
And for the last 30 minutes of 1946  
We gathered with one heart at the feet of our Lord  
In reverent worship and to hear the Word  
Of Christ, who to those who on Him wait  
Bids  
"Enter ye in at the Straight Gate".

*By Edna (East) Weir  
December 1946*

Submitted by David East. This poem was written by his sister Edna. Perhaps it will bring back a few memories of Old Years past!

# Remembrance Sunday

## 13 November 2016





# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke ch.1 verses 1-25 & 57-80

The Romans had invaded Israel and still ruled it. Zechariah and Elizabeth were an old childless couple living in the hill country.



It was Zechariah's turn for temple duty in Jerusalem.

He was given a once-in-a-lifetime chance to burn incense in the holiest place in the temple



As it burnt he prayed



Lord God, please rescue us, your people.

Then he saw the angel standing next to him



God has heard your prayer, and you will have a son.

At our age that's not going to happen



To show you that God means what He says..

you will be unable to speak until your son, John\*, is born



\*In Hebrew, 'John' is 'Yochanan' or 'God is gracious'

When Zechariah came out of the holy place...



What happened?

He went home and soon Elizabeth had good news



I'm pregnant!

Elizabeth's cousin Mary visited her...



but left before...

Elizabeth's baby was born.



He is called John

But that's not his father's name

Zechariah wrote...



His name is John

and could speak again.

He praised God for what He had done...



and what He was going to do...





Saint Francis Hospice has been helping those affected by life-limiting illnesses in your area for the last 32 years and we truly understand that the run-up to Christmas may be a difficult and daunting time for you this year if someone special is missing from the celebrations.

One of the ways we can help is through **Light up a Life**, where our community joins together to reflect, remember and celebrate the lives of the people that we miss – whether or not they have received hospice care.

Families or individuals can dedicate a memory star to a loved one, which can be hung in our beautiful hospice garden display or online in our Virtual Night Sky, from early November until Twelfth Night.

You may also like to join us at our open air concert on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Ground. This special celebration will begin with a Christmas Market from 2.45pm and the concert will begin at 3.45pm. Non-ticketed event but donations are welcome upon entry.

By remembering, reflecting and celebrating the loved ones you miss this Christmas, you will be helping Saint Francis Hospice to provide expert care and support to local individuals and families affected by life limiting illness.

Please find full details about Light Up a Life, dedicating your star or attending one of our special events at [www.sfh.org.uk/light-up-a-life](http://www.sfh.org.uk/light-up-a-life) or by calling 01708 771403.

2016

# LIGHT UP A LIFE

in aid of Saint Francis Hospice

**Who will you dedicate your star to?**

To dedicate your star call 01708 771403 or visit [www.sfh.org.uk/light-up-a-life](http://www.sfh.org.uk/light-up-a-life)

"I'm proud to support Light Up a Life. My memory star is dedicated to my lovely mum, who the whole family will miss this Christmas."

Richard Melling, 2016

You can also join us at Dagenham and Redbridge Football Ground for our open air concert as we celebrate the lives of those we miss at Christmas on Sunday 11th December starting at 4pm. Donations welcome on entry. [www.sfh.org.uk](http://www.sfh.org.uk)

**000**  
Search Saint Francis Hospice    Bayland Charity No. 275332

saint  
francis  
hospice  
Living with dignity



RBC is now working in partnership with Fareshare Foodcloud, a charity which puts retailers in touch with charities to supply them with surplus good quality food, which the charity can then use for its various groups.

We have been teamed up with Tesco Metro at Collier Row, and for the past 6 weeks I have been collecting wonderful good quality food to use. The staff at Collier Row have been great to work with, they always have my collection ready and happily load it into the car for me.

So far we have been able to use food in our Special Needs Small Group (Fruit and Bakery) , the Kerygma group on

**KERYGMA** Mondays, ( bakery products, vegetables and fruit), Alpha meals (vegetables, eggs, bakery, and fruit) and Church Breakfasts (eggs, fruit, bakery) to name but a few!

The fruit, vegetables and bakery and tinned food we have received is all good quality and well in date, and leaves us able to put back finances into



by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall).

other areas.

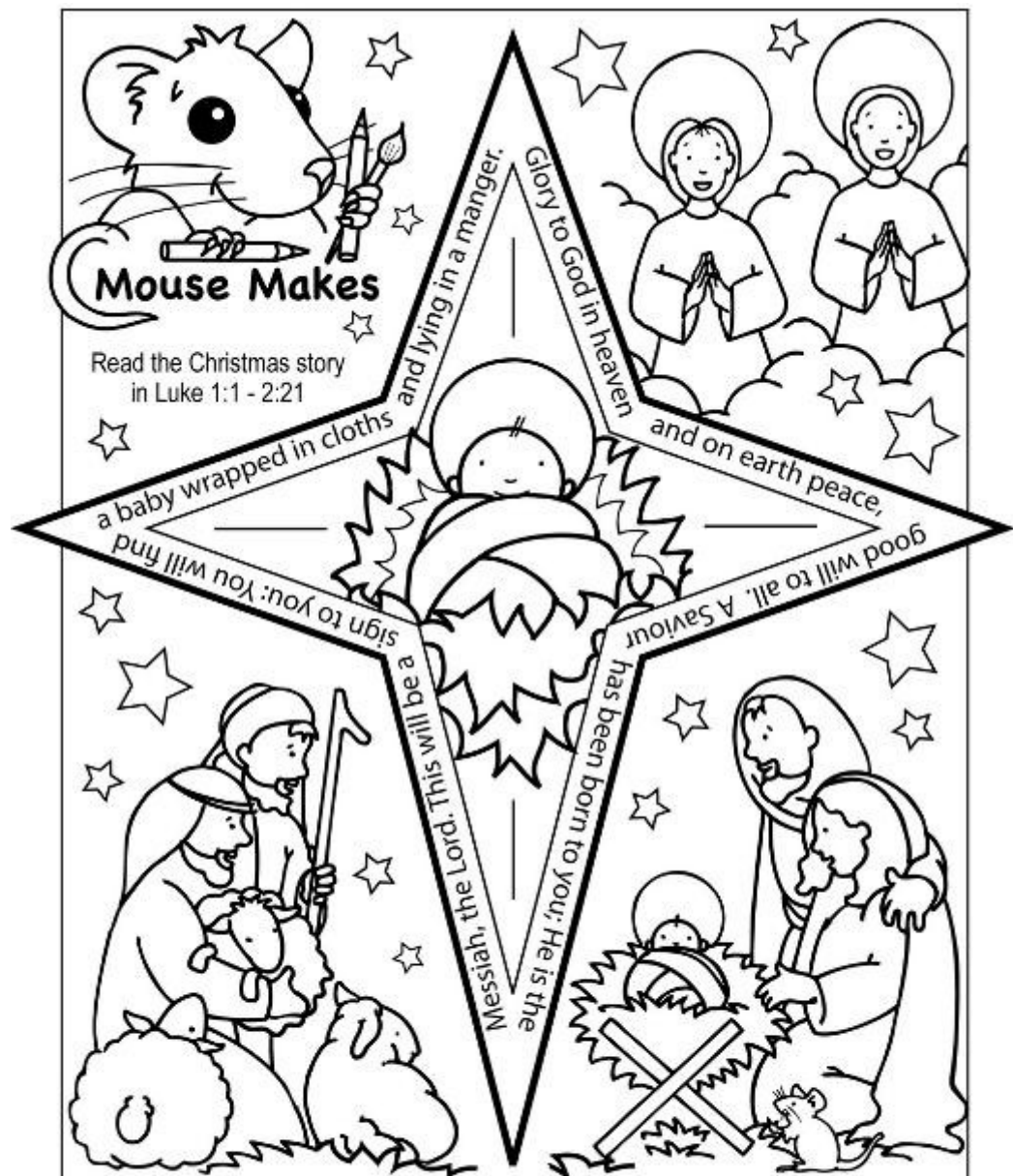
In return, we help Tesco to reduce its food waste (as highlighted on TV

At the time of writing, I am doing all of the collections on Monday and Thursday evenings, which is a big commitment, but I am passionate that good quality food, which I would happily use at home with my own family, is not sent to landfill just because there is no system to get it to those who can use it.

I would, however, be very glad to hear from anyone who would be willing to help with this scheme. You need to be able to drive and have a reasonable size car, as there can be up to 6 large boxes of food.

Please speak to me on Sundays or contact me by phone, my details are in the church directory

*Jan Walden*



☆ Eastern star, white and bright, ☆  
 In the darkness a shining light, ☆  
 Points to Jesus, God's precious Son, ☆  
 Our Lord and King, our Saviour has come! ☆  
 Shepherds hear the Angels sing; ☆  
 "Glory to the heavenly King, ☆  
 Peace on earth, good will to all." ☆  
 Come to Jesus the Saviour of all. ☆





# Christingle

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
4~4.45pm



We would love to see you and your family at our Christingle service. This short service is aimed at families with children under 12 years old. We will make Christingles together and celebrate the coming of Christmas Day with carols for everyone to join in. It will be a lively, fun and festive service to complete the countdown to Christmas Day.



## Remembering at Christmas - An Invitation.

Christmas can be a painful time for some, as it may be the first Christmas without a loved one. It may be a time that has always been difficult and is without a sense of peace.

For these reasons, Romford Baptist Church offers a special ***"Remembering at Christmas"*** service on **December 21st at 7.30pm**. Come and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledges that God's presence comforts those who mourn or struggle, because God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness and brings us hope for the future.

Everyone is welcome.





## Regular Church Activities



<b>Monday</b>	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	12:50 pm	Parent & Toddlers
	6.45 pm	'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group) - first Monday in the month, except December (will be 12 <sup>th</sup> December)
	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.



*...relax Miss Pugh... he's not introducing incense - he's just got a new phone with a faulty battery!*