



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine

April 2020

and

May 2020

No. 201



From the Editor

What a difference two weeks makes. From when we started compiling the material for the Grapevine to now, so much has changed. You will notice information about forthcoming activities, yet many of those are no longer happening, certainly not in the physical sense.

With the blessing of technology, even in this period of self isolation, social distancing and other precautions, we can check up on each other, participate in groups and meetings, and enjoy fellowship and prayer. We've even had our very first online-only Sunday service.

Being forced to slow down has really made me appreciate God's creation. The beautiful spring blossoms, the new leaves on the trees, the ducklings, goslings and cygnets in the lakes. The beautiful sunrises and sunsets. How great is our God?

As Psalm 19:1 reminds us:
*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

My prayer for us during this time of uncertainty and worry, is that we will know the peace of God which passes all understanding, that we will be able to cast our cares on Him, knowing that He cares for us.

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.

Secretary's page

".....the mouth speaks what the heart is full of" Luke 6:45

Discipleship EXPLORED

This was one of the verses that we have looked at during the Discipleship Explored course. This particular verse stuck with me as I

felt it linked with our verse of the year:

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written : "Be holy, because I am holy" 1 Peter 1:15-16

What words come out of our mouth? To the people we work with, our friends, our family, those who serve us



in shops and here at RBC? More importantly we use our mouth to pray and worship God. If we strive to live holy lives then we will discover that our mouths soon will follow suit.



We will encourage one another, we will remember to say thank you to the person who served us in the supermarket (even if the queue was long), we'll have honest conversations with

those who are close to us and we'll laugh with our family and friends and our prayer lives will grow.

Make it your aim this month to pay more attention to the actual words that come out of your mouth and see how it impacts others and strengthens your faith.

Hayley Ayris
(Church Secretary)

**The deadline for the June 2020/July 2020
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 10th May 2020**

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



I DAVID Thank you for everything

I thank you God that I have lived
In this great world and known it's many
joys
Of tales or stories I have told to friends
That may have given joy, or brought a
smile

Of loving parents who taught me much
Of life rich pleasures and to know your
name
For my own children to cherish and to
love
For grandchildren too, for me to love
the same

Of cooling breezes in the secret dusk
The song of birds, the strong sweet
scent of hay
Hills, and the lonely heather covered
moors
And flaming sunsets at the close of day

The beat of waves upon the rocky
shore
Music at night, and moonlight on the
sea,
Children's happy laughter carried on
the breeze
And wild sea spray, flung high in ec-
stasy,

The faithful eyes of pets, and treasured
books
The love of kin and fellowship of
friends

A carpet of spring flowers, in a wood-
land glade
And all that makes life's beauty, to de-
fend

I thank you too, that there comes to me
A little sorrow and, sometimes, a de-
feated sigh,
A little heart-ache and the loneliness
That comes with parting, and the word
"Goodbye"

Dawn breaking after weary hours of
pain
When I discovered that night's gloom
must yield
And morning light breaks through to
me again
To bring a glow of light, to creep across
a field

Because of these and other blessings
poured
Unasked upon my wondering head
Because I know that there is yet to
come
An even richer and more glorious life
ahead

And most of all because your only son
Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me
I thank you God that I have lived
Now hope to live with you, for all eter-
nity

David Wilkinson

Bible Bite

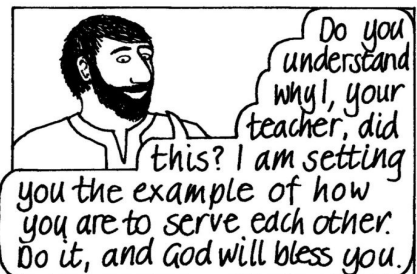
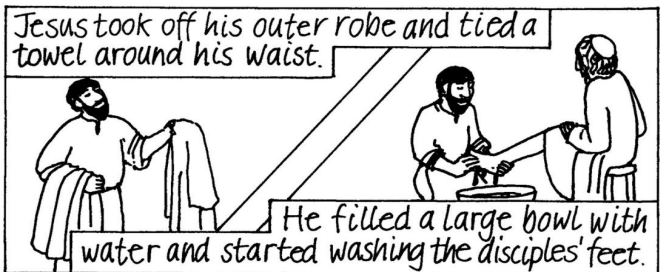
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.





The Next (37th) Unlock London Walk will take place on Saturday 25th April 2020, 9am to 5pm in Tower Hamlets.

This will be the 37th walk around a London borough. The route this year has the theme “History, Hospitality and Housing” and will cover parts of the East End of London including Stepney, Spitalfields and Bethnal Green.

The purpose of Unlock’s work is to raise money for deprived urban areas across the UK. Also, to increase awareness of the issues of exclusion and showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas.

RBC’s involvement began about 20 years ago through the initiative of Michael Eastman. From only a few people in the beginning, we now generally have over 20 folk who meander through the unfamiliar streets to learn how inner-city churches are surviving and thriving in their communities. This year’s walk will probably be the nearest one to us in Havering, and the easiest one to reach.

Normally about 700 people attend the walk from within London and beyond. The length of the route is approximately eight miles but many of our walkers come and go as they please. Why not join our mixed group of all ages and bring along some of your friends? For more information see the map on the notice board or pick up a sponsorship form.

Further details of where to meet will be made known nearer the date of the walk.

Susan and Colin Young



Unlock 36

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time.

He came to die and rise again
The firstfruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

Megan Carter

BMS Birthday Scheme

April 2020

25th Kathy Metcalfe
25th Beryl Dunnings



May 2020

23rd Elizabeth Callender
28th Margaret Powell



Flowers

April 2020

5th Julie Kelly
12th Mel Pidgeon
19th Vikki and Ian
26th Sylvia Daly



May 2020

3rd Janet Huxtable
10th Wendy Mott
24th Iris and Hayley



Prayer Diary for April 2020

(Welcome in Swahili, Afrikaans French (f) and Italian (m)).		
Wed 8 th	K Kneel before God, submit to His will.	AQUILINA, Connie
Thurs 9 th	A Administration is a huge task at RBC, could you help in some way?	ARGENT, David & Jean
Fri 10 th	R 'Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise', build up your treasures in heaven.	AROWOLO, Kolawole & Esther
Sat 11 th	I Immortal, invisible, God only wise.	AROWOLO, Samuel
Sun 12 th	B 'Be thou my vision', Lord, help me see the world as you do.	AROWOLO, Emmanuel
Mon 13 th	U Undisciplined behaviour does not honour God.	AROWOLO, Joshua
Tues 14 th	W Wise people seek God's counsel.	ASUMANG, Enoch & Vera, <i>Brendon (Osafo), Bradley & Brady</i>
Wed 15 th	E Environmental issues need our prayers.	AVIS, Stephen
Thurs 16 th	L Love your neighbour as yourself.	AYRIS, Hayley
Fri 17 th	K Kneel before God and confess your sin.	BAAH, Michael & Efua, <i>Michael, Julie, Nana & Stephanie</i>
Sat 18 th	O 'O worship the King', today and always.	BALOGUN, Ayo
Sun 19 th	M 'Mercy and grace are mine', let me show these qualities to others.	BALOGUN, Olakunle
Mon 20 th	B Bless a housebound person with a phone call.	BARNES, Gordon & Anne
Tues 21 st	I In all situations seek to honour God.	BARNES, Joanna, <i>Katie & Matthew</i>

Prayer Diary for April 2020

Wed 22 nd	E Everyday seek to serve God.	BARRETT, Simon & Debbie, <i>Joseph & Daisy</i>
Thurs 23 rd	N New people at RBC.	BAVIN, Simon
Fri 24 th	V Value all the ministers at RBC and pray for them.	BEARMAN, Susan
Sat 25 th	E Encourage someone struggling in their faith.	BELLO, Grace
Sun 26 th	N 'Never leave you or forsake you', God's promise to you.	BENJAMIN, Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke & Sophia</i>
Mon 27 th	U Underpin someone in prayer today.	BIGGS, Frances
Tues 28 th	E Ever stepped out in faith, trusting God? Or do you prefer a quiet life?	BITAGA Dougan & Fely, <i>Jiela</i>
Wed 29 th	B Bless someone with encouragement.	BLYTH, Ron & Wilma
Thurs 30 th	E Eternal Father, the same yesterday, today and forever, praise Him.	BRETT, Dennis & Brenda
Fri 1 st May	N Negative outlook? Ask 'The Light of the World' to shine into your darkness.	BROWN, Christine
Sat 2 nd	V Value our deacons and administration team, uphold them in prayer.	BROWN, John & Glynis
Sun 3 rd	E Evidence your faith by serving God.	BUNCE, Ian & Vikki
Mon 4 th	N New day, thank God for the blessing of it.	BURGESS, Joyce
Tues 5 th	U Ur the country God told Abram to leave. Is God asking you to move on in your faith too?	BURLAND, Elaine
Wed 6 th	T 'Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son'.	BURRAGE, Reg
Thurs 7 th	O Omega and Alpha, the end and the beginning, God is in all of it, praise Him.	Church 1v23



If you have any items for inclusion in the May 2020 Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.





Home Assignment



We have spent the Autumn months back in England reconnecting with friends, family and our church. This has been such a

blessed time for us and we were so excited to have this very special opportunity. We are very grateful for the moments we could spend back in England over the Christmas season and since this was the first time in 2 years to really have an extended period of time available to us where we could meet one on one!

MDT e3 (Missions Discipleship Training eastern Europe extreme)

Stepping back to Moldova, we have certainly "hit the ground running". There was very little time before our training program started so we had

lots of last minute details to attend to. Once we are in this 5 month program we have very full and long days, either teaching or mentoring participants to be disciples who replicate and make other disciples wherever they find themselves. This year we have 15 participants from 10 different nations, aged between 18-34years, who have come ready to be moulded by God and who have a sincere desire to know Him more. This program takes place in both Moldova and Romania and is a mixture of teaching and practical experience.

Prayer:

- In Moldova, it is common on the rental market that you may move every couple of years. Pray for wisdom as Andy and I now look at possible options for later on in the year
- For our new participants on the training program as they adapt to this intense community life and allow God to use these 5 months of their lives
- We are quite often travelling across the Romanian and Moldova borders as well as visiting those who are elderly and unwell in the villages. Please pray for health since we want to be a blessing to those that we meet

Praise:

- For our wonderful time in England and new supporters who have

(Continued on page 11)

joined us through finances and prayer

- Safe arrival of all our participants and a great start to the program. We are excited for what God will do!
- For the opportunities these participants have already had to share God's good news with others in Eastern Europe

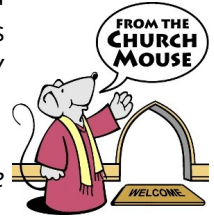
Andy and Rianna Stannard

Their situation with Coronavirus (further update on 15 March 2020)

"In Eastern Europe I am glad to see that the government are responding very quickly to things. As soon as Moldova had 1 case they started to take strong measures. So much of the population is elderly people that we can't afford to have a wide spread of the virus. So schools are all closed, airport borders are closed, and people can't gather in large groups in an enclosed space. Good information has been circulated too about hygiene. I am actually quite impressed :) as a result we still only have 12 cases and I pray that with all these precautions we can keep the cases low. Now is the best time to keep it under control".

Pause to Smile

On a large chicken farm in Essex was a field set aside for breeding hens. At one end of the field was a large shed which had three dozen nesting boxes, There were also three dozen hens and a large cockerel in the field. The chickens would lay their eggs, then sit on the nest and hatch the chicks for the battery side of the operation. All was going well until one hen got off the nest and revealed one chick and an orange The chick called to the other chicks "look at the orange MY MA LAID"



The Church Mouse

SOME ONE-LINERS

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

Give God what's right - not what's left.

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.

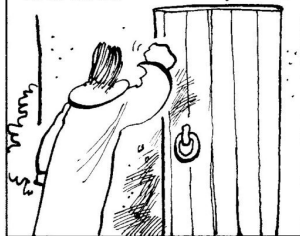


Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK. NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42

With Holy Week and Easter in mind...



The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet.

E Thomson

Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.

Charles M. Crowe

Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime.

Martin Luther

Spring bursts to-day, for Christ is risen and all the earth's at play.

Christina G. Rossetti

Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals.

Charles M. Crowe

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life.

S.D. Gordon

If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!

Clarence W. Hall

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

Pope John Paul II

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

Anon

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the Church.

WR Nicoll

Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use.

D L Moody

Spring at RBC

Wednesday programme

As well as Life Groups, we will meet once a month for Together at RBC at the church, please use the side doors. We meet for refreshments at 7.30pm, and start the programme at 8pm. We will conclude by 9.15pm. Church meetings are for the church membership and start at 7.45pm at the church.

Dates for Wednesday evening group to July are as follows:



April	9 - Together at RBC (Maundy Thursday) 22 - Life Groups
May	6 - Life Groups 13 - Together at RBC 20 - Life Groups
Jun	3 - Life Groups 10 - Together at RBC 17 - Life Groups
Jul	1 - Church Meeting 8 - Life Groups 22 - Life Groups

Other events

Discipleship Explored

In the spring term we are starting a 6 week course on a Monday called Discipleship Explored. This course, which is DVD based, is for all who want to explore how to move on in their discipleship. It is meeting on a Monday evening on the following dates: 3 February - 23 March (with a break for half term).

Christianity Explored

On Mondays, starting at the beginning of May, we are running a 9 week course called Christianity Explored. This DVD based course is a great opportunity for all who want to explore the Christian faith or to remind themselves of the faith. It is a great time to come along and also bring your friends too. It will run on the following dates: 4 May - 29 June inclusive

Easter @ RBC (6-12 April)

Reflect with us on Maundy Thursday and celebrate the resurrection with us this Easter week. Details to follow.

Youth Club trips to be announced

Coming soon: RBC Student's Drop-in Café

Newcomers' receptions (8 March, 14 June, 13 Sept, 29 Nov)

(Continued on page 14)



Regular Church Activities
(to be resumed when possible)



Monday	9am - 3pm	The Meeting Place
	10am	Parent and Toddlers
	12pm - 2pm	Food Bank
	6.45pm	'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group - usually first Monday in the month)
	7.30pm	Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)
Tuesday	9am - 3pm	The Meeting Place
	10am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.15pm	Treasure Times
	8pm	Prayer Meeting
Wednesday	9am - 3pm	The Meeting Place
	9.45am	Parent and Toddlers
	8pm	Midweek Meeting (Small Groups or central meeting)
Thursday	9am - 3pm	The Meeting Place
	9.30am	Small Group
	8pm	RBC Music Team
Friday	9am - 3pm	The Meeting Place
	10:30am	Amaze Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Sunday	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
	10.30am	Morning Service (currently online services)
	5.35pm	Prayer Meeting
	6.00pm	Evening Service

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



"The organist isn't too sure about it,
he says he can't play that fast."

