



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine

Lockdown Edition 2



From the Editor

Just when we'd settled into lockdown, and many of us felt like we had developed a routine and knew what we were meant to be doing, the lockdown is now easing, and all the once-familiar activities are now feeling very unfamiliar!

The rules and guidelines keep changing, and while some of us are really enjoying the new-found freedom, others are finding this freedom comes with unexpected challenges and concerns. Do I? Don't I? Should I? May I? The Bible tells us that we have freedom in Jesus.

*I will walk about in freedom,
for I have sought out your precepts.*
(Psalm 119:45)

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36)

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil. (1 Peter 2:16)

Therefore, as we take our first tentative steps into freedom, let us focus on walking in faith and living for Jesus. May we be light to those around us, and shine the spotlight on Him as we live as free people with purpose.

I wish you a blessed Summer of new beginnings.

Cheryl Schulte

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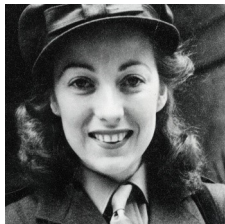
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Our purpose is to take the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to all, with the goal that they become His loyal disciples.

Pastor's page

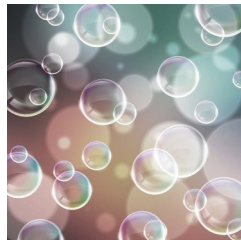


Many of us will know the song 'I'm forever blowing bubbles' made famous by a number of singers including Vera Lynn and Doris Day. West Ham supporters will also be very familiar with it, as I understand that it was adapted for the team, having been sung by the crowds gathering during the air raids during the Second World

War to raise morale.

I don't think it matters what age we are because we can all enjoy bubbles, whether we are blowing them, trying to pop them or just watching them blowing in the wind. Unlike the bubbles blown from the small bottles often purchased in newsagents or toyshops, today people can buy kits and special devices to enable bubbles to be blown in the shape of cuboids, to giant size proportions or even with liquid that you can lick to pop it and then eat. Yet

however clever we may be, no matter how many bubbles we may be able to blow in one go, they only last a moment in time, here one minute, gone the next.



For many of us we feel that the coronavirus pandemic has been around for far too long, in fact we'd love it to vanish just like one of those bubbles but the reality seems to be that it will be around for some time to come. But do you know something that's of far more importance than that? God is going to be around for far longer.

He's more mighty, He has more substance and solidity than something that will only last for a moment and to Him, this pandemic and all the restrictions surrounding it is only a moment in time even if, to us, it feels so much longer.

Psalm 103:19 reminds us that *The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over*

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**The deadline for the
October 2020/November 2020
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 20th September 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



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all. Our faith in our all-powerful God needs to be rooted firmly and deeply, not to be doubted when things go wrong or when tough times come. What have you learnt about your faith over these last few months? That perhaps it's not as strong as we thought it was? Then what are we going to do about it because it's not God that's moved away from us but probably we've allowed things to come between us and God, momentary things, things of pleasure, things that will only last for a moment and which have no substance. Perhaps we've allowed our doubts and fears to take precedence and we've forgotten that God offers us hope and the promise of eternity. All He asks of us is that we follow Him, we praise and adore Him, we turn to Him because, unlike the bubbles that burst and pop, the promises of God will last our lifetime no matter what is happening around.

As it says in Proverbs 4: 25-27,
*Let your eyes look straight ahead;
fix your gaze directly before you.
Give careful thought to the paths for
your feet and be steadfast in all your
ways. Do not turn to the right or the
left; keep your foot from evil. Let us fix
our eyes on Jesus, the author and per-
fector of our faith.*

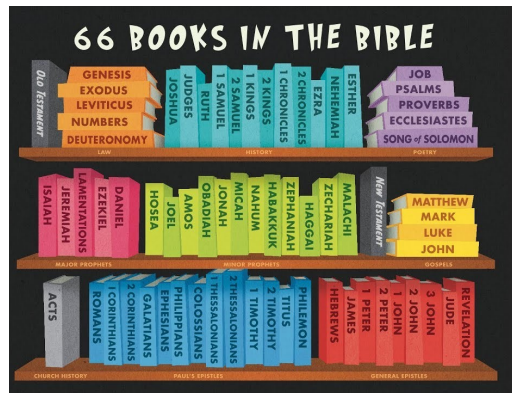
Trust you are all okay xx

*The Revd Vikki Bunce
Team Minister – with a focus on the
older generation*

Can you find the books of the Bible?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu - kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. I want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others might require judgements to find them. I will quickly admit, it usually takes a minister to find most of them. But once people see them, you'll hear loud lamentations. One lady I know says she brews a cup of tea after the first try, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of the books of the Bible in this paragraph.

Submitted by Margret Coles





Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving **Frederick Alan Biggs**

14th November 1944 -19th January 2020



Dad was born in Rochford, to devoted and hard-working parents, but grew up in the family home in Forth Avenue, Manor Park. His brother Geoff was 12 years older. He was very close to some of his cousins, especially

John, Maureen, Eve and Linda. He would often cycle from Manor Park to Rochford to spend the weekend with them. They have fond memories of family holidays in Rye Harbour at his grandad's home; accommodation was a converted railway carriage!

Dad met his life-long friend Terry at Manor Park Covenanters Boys' Club, playing football and cricket with Terry as fast bowler and Dad as wicket keeper. Terry's most enduring memory is of a football match, a team from British Ropes played Dad's team from north of the river. Their team mate, Dave had a heart condition but insisted on playing. During the match he had a heart attack. Dad, who weeks earlier had learnt CPR, proceeded to give mouth to mouth until the ambulance arrived. Sadly Dave died in the ambulance, devastating everyone.

Dad's father was a chauffeur at British Ropes. Dad started there on the factory floor. He truly loved his work, suc-

cessfully rising to a well-respected production manager. The photo on the order of service was taken at work and Dad did admit he was posing for the camera!

We often heard the phrase 'When I was on Dartmoor...' when Dad would recall events of hiking, a practice rescue where Dad was hoisted precariously up a cliff, and digging their own latrines during a team building week at a time when health and safety didn't feature so much; we would all roll our eyes!

Mum and Dad met in the 1960s one evening through a mutual friend. On returning home, he declared to his parents he'd met the woman he would marry! During their engagement, he spent a year working in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, passing on his rope making skills.

Married in 1969, they moved to Takeley Close six months after I was born. Stuart arrived within three years. Many happy memories were created there with other young families and street parties. Dad would often be the one to bundle more kids than there were seats in the car to play football in the park!

Dad loved supporting us with our sporting activities and achievements. I know one of his proudest moments was when he stood next to the father of my nemesis at a slalom race when my winning result appeared on the screen!

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Both Mum and Dad had their own pastimes, but he became involved in Mum's Chigwell Row Operatic and Dramatic Society as their number one barman. So many long-time friendships formed there, with memorable after-show or fancy dress parties and Mum's annual birthday 'bash' where many friends would cram into their house just before Christmas.

Dad's sporting passion was football, first playing then refereeing and becoming a long-term committee member of Essex Referees, who valued Dad's work. He reached semi-professional level. One game we went to, we never watched, Mum spent the games' earnings buying antique teapots! He was still running the line until a few years ago, albeit for younger players. He was Stuart's team's number-one fan, offering lots of advice and encouragement from the sideline. He was awarded Referee of the Year recently, with an average score of 96.7% - due to his firm but fair approach and willingness to pass on skills and tips to the younger players.

Dad was devastated when British Ropes (Bridons) closed around 1996. He found a manager position at another factory but the company did not value its staff. Dad told me recently how he intervened on many occasions to support his team and they did truly appreciate him.

Chatham Dockyard saw Dad back at what he really loved - rope making, and in a great historic

setting. Along with my friend, he made the 2012 Olympic canoe slalom boat racks at Lee Valley White Water Centre. More recently he fixed their rope fencing around the course, knowing he could do a better job than any fencing contractor!

Dad adored his five granddaughters, playing a big part in their lives; attending school assemblies, running races and sports days. Even when I was in labour with Lorna, he came up to the hospital with sandwiches for Dave to see him through the night!

He was a very 'hands on' man. He loved to cook, competing with me for the best Christmas pudding, but we each preferred the other's! He could make a pie from scratch, especially liking an apple and Wensleydale cheese combo! He truly proved how capable he was when in October 2018 Mum had a life-changing stroke. He demonstrated love, patience and devotion to Mum in the care he provided.



(Continued from page 6)

Their 50-year marriage is an example to us all of what marriage is about. They had their own separate passions but shared so much together. Friends and family have been so important to Mum and Dad. Dad would often arrange family gatherings in Southend and restaurants, where raucous laughter would ensue.

They've had many holidays and days out with dear friends – even tracing his Uncle Fred's WWII war grave, who he's named after.

Dad's zest for life, love and commitment to his family and his love of God will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

Nicola Childs

BMS Birthday Scheme

August 2020

Bree Norris 8th
Brian Sharp 11th



September 2020

Iris Hooper 5th
Sue Sharp 14th



The Chief Purpose of Man

How clever man is, he has conquered
the skies,
Reached for the stars and stepped on-
to the moon,
But he still does not know why he is
here
Or what is the purpose, or why he was
born.



And did it all start with one big bang
As stars and galaxies burst into space?
Or was it the hand of a mighty Creator
Who lovingly fashioned this wondrous
place?



Into this world God planted a garden
And placed man there to enjoy its de-
lights,
But he soon disobeyed, and sin en-
tered in,
And so, man was banished and thrust
from God's sight.

How gracious God is, He has reached
out again
To reconcile man and bring him back
home,
Sin's debt has been paid by the death
of His Son,
To know God as Father is why man
was born.

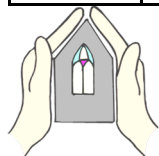
Megan Carter

Prayer Diary for August 2020

Sat 8 th	C Children are important to God, pray for the charities that help them.	MARTIN, Beki & Paul, <i>Sarah & Sophie</i>
Sun 9 th	H 'Hear the call of the kingdom', is God calling you?	MARTIN, Trudy
Mon 10 th	R Remember the Foodbank, please donate to them.	MAY, Don & Daphne
Tues 11 th	I I.C.E. number Jeremiah 33v3 'Call on me and I will answer'. (I.C.E. "In Case of Emergency")	McKENZIE, Michael & Beverley; <i>Arianna & Chaeli</i>
Wed 12 th	S Show Christ to others by your actions.	McSWEENEY, Bren
Thurs 13 th	T Time to start a good habit? Read your Bible daily.	MILLER, Paul & Anne; <i>Tommy & Katie (Ridout)</i>
Fri 14 th	A An army of ordinary people - God changes the ordinary into extraordinary- including you!	MOI, Sam & Cecilia
Sat 15 th	L Leave your worries at the cross; do not pick them up again.	MOKAKE, Julie Enjema
Sun 16 th	O One Lord, one faith, one baptism.	MOTT, Wendy
Mon 17 th	N New to RBC? We welcome you.	MURRAY, Paul & Susan
Tues 18 th	E Everything you have comes from God, even the air we breathe.	MUSE, Morenike
Wed 19 th	C 'Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place', there is a place in heaven for you.	NELSON-MILLER, Emma & Stephen, <i>Stephanie & McKenzie (Miller) & Ocean-Blue (Nelson-Miller)</i>
Thurs 20 th	O 'OK, Lord, have your way in me'. Can you honestly pray this?	NICHOLLS, Ruth
Fri 21 st	R 'Reign in me, Lord'. Is this true?	NITISOR, Claudiu & Dana, <i>Darius, Giulia, Danluka</i>
Sat 22 nd	N Never pray what you do not mean!	NJUHI, Hannah
Sun 23 rd	E Enter into the presence of God, spend quality time with Him.	NKENG, Cecilia

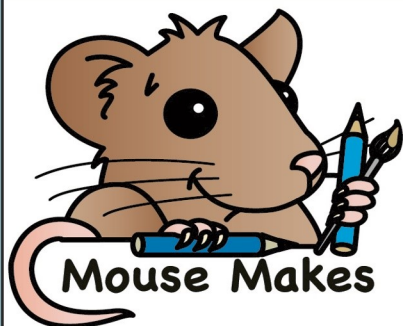
Prayer Diary for August 2020

Mon 24 th	R Relationships are easily broken, handle with care.	NORMAN, Doris
Tues 25 th	S Stick to Christian principles, do not be tempted to compromise.	NORRIS, Bree
Wed 26 th	T Take time to listen, what is God saying to you?	ODETOLA, Jide, Foluke; <i>Arinola, Damilola</i>
Thurs 27 th	O Open your heart, let God heal your hurts.	ODUYEMI, Caroline
Fri 28 th	N Nothing is beyond God's forgiveness, confess all to Him.	OFORI, Gladys
Sat 29 th	E Even for me, Jesus died on the cross. Thank Him for the pain He endured for you.	OGUNLEYE, Adekunle & Ronke, <i>Maria</i>
Sun 30 th	T Tea is not always the answer to all problems, but God is.	OGUNLEYE, Christabel
Mon 31 st	H Have you spent time with God today?	OGUNLEYE, Emmanuel
Sept Tues 1 st	A 'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good (people) do nothing!' Do you need to act?	OLAWUYI, Anne & Abiodun, <i>Chelsey & Clinton</i>
Wed 2 nd	N Not everyone has heard about Jesus. Talk to someone today.	OLIVER, Iris
Thurs 3 rd	K Knowing you, Jesus, is the greatest thing.	OLOFINJANA, Bunmi, <i>Tobi, Dianne, Feyi (Bankole)</i>
Fri 4 th	S Saviour I thank you for...	OLUFEMI, Ola & Esther, <i>Emmanuel, Jemimah & David</i>
Sat 5 th	G God I am sorry for...	OLUSOJI, Laura & Moses, <i>David & Toluwalope</i>
Sun 6 th	O Omnipotent Father I praise you for...	OMOKOH, Jermaine
Mon 7 th	D Dear Lord I am so glad we are in a relationship. I will not forget the price that was paid for it.	Peter and Louise Lynch, Bangladesh



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





The **PSALMS** are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.

*"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will **thank you**: I will **praise you** for ever and ever."*

Psalm 145:1-2

Glory to God



"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."

Psalm 19:1

Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."

Psalm 24:1



Praise the Lord!

*"Let everything that has breath, **praise the Lord**."*

Psalm 150:6



Give thanks!

*"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will **praise** you. I will give You **thanks** as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."*

Psalm 63:3-4



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 8:5-13

When the Romans invaded Israel, they used soldiers to keep order. For the centurion in Capernaum it was more than just a job...

The centurion had a young servant who was in great pain and dying.



When he heard that Jesus was near, he asked the town leaders to ask Jesus for help.

The leaders told Jesus..



This man deserves your help. He loves our people.

He has even built us a meeting place!



This could have been a tricky situation, for Jews never went into the houses of non-Jews.



But Jesus said..

I will go and heal the boy.



But the centurion knew that, as a Jew, Jesus could not go into the houses of non-Jews so as Jesus got near, he sent some friends to him.



He says he isn't worthy enough for you to come to his house.

But he says he understands authority and knows you have it. You only have to say so and his servant will be healed

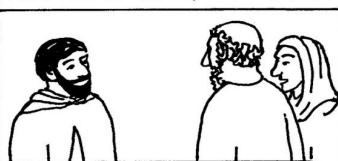


Jesus was amazed!



I have never met anyone in Israel with as much faith.

He said to the friends...



You may go now. What he has believed has happened.

When the friends got to the house they found the servant completely healed!



Smile Lines

Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!

Body parts

A doctor in our village surgery often plays a game with his younger patients to put them at ease, and to test their knowledge of body parts. And so it was that one day, while pointing to my young son's ear, the doctor asked him solemnly, "Is this your nose?"

Alarmed, my son glanced over to me and said softly: "Mum, I think we'd better find a new doctor!"

Some miscellaneous observations on modern life...

Fools rush in where fools have been before.

It's called 'take home' pay because you can't afford to go anywhere else with it.

Success is relative - the greater the success, the more relatives.

If at first you succeed, try to hide your astonishment.

You must have learned from others' mistakes. You haven't had time to think all those up yourself.

It's okay to let your mind go blank, but

please turn off the sound.

Worry kills more people than work because more people worry than work.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Misers aren't much fun to live with, but they make great ancestors.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

The real reason you can't take it with you is that it goes before you do.

Junk is something you throw away about three weeks before you need it.

Hospitality is making your guests feel at home, even if you wish they were.

Some people are like blisters. They don't show up until the work is done.

A babysitter is a teenager acting like an adult while the adults are out acting like teenagers.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.

**

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom, on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am

(Continued on page 13)

strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."

Shock

On a bus a man gave his seat to a woman. She fainted. On recovering, she thanked him. Then he fainted.

Who's right for which job?

Does your company struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy way to decide....

Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.

If they are counting the cracks in the floor, assign them to Finance.

If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them to Manufacturing.

If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good place for them.

If they are sleeping, they are Management material.

If they are writing up the experience, send them to Technical Publications.

If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.

If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.

And if they've left early, put them in Sales.

Multiply

Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."

Sick of preaching

Our new vicar had just been prescribed bifocals. The reading portion of the glasses improved his vision considerably, but the top portion of the glasses didn't work so well. In fact, he was experiencing dizziness every time he looked through them. He tried to explain this to the congregation on Sunday: "I hope you will excuse my continually removing my glasses. You see, when I look down, I can see fine, but when I look at you all, it makes me feel sick."

The doctor and the ill person

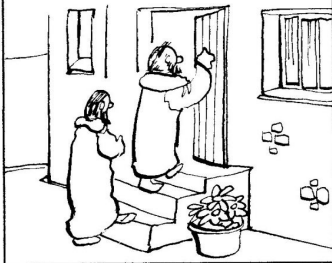


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!



"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13



Current Church Activities **(during lockdown)**



Monday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

Tuesday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

8:00pm Prayer meeting via Zoom

8:15pm "Journey" 18-30's Life Group via Skype

Wednesday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

10:00 am The virtual Meeting Place Chat via Zoom

6:30pm Youth Quiz Night via Zoom

7:30pm Wednesdays @ RBC via Zoom

Thursday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

8:10pm RBC Music Team via Zoom

Friday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

Sunday

10.30am Online Morning Service

12:30pm RBC Youth Stream for years 6 -13 via Zoom

6.00pm Online Evening Service

6:30pm RBC Youth Stream for years 10 -13 and university via Zoom

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



Where was the social distancing?

