



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine

Lockdown Edition 7 (+1)



Photo by Jo Barnes

Grapevine Needs You!!

Family Magazine

June 2021

and

July 2021

No. 208



From the Editor

There's always something uplifting when we see a rainbow. The vibrant colours make us look up, and if we're with others, point it out to them too. When Jo shared her photos of the rainbow over RBC recently, it made me think about how timely they were.

In the Living Bible translation of Genesis 9:12-17 we read about God's promise:

¹² And I seal this promise with this sign: ¹³ I have placed my rainbow in the clouds as a sign of my promise until the end of time, to you and to all the earth. ¹⁴ When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will be seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ and I will remember my promise to you and to every being, that never again will the floods come and destroy all life. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ For I will see the rainbow in the cloud and remember my eternal promise to every living being on the earth."

During lockdown, images of rainbows have taken on special significance. It has represented hope and comfort in desperate situations. Rainbows appear after a storm, as the sun comes out and shines through.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Grapevine. As we begin more activities, I want to remind you that **GRAPEVINE NEEDS YOU**. We need your continued support to continue into the future. As already stated in the news sheet, articles can be varied from news of church events that have happened, to testimonies and stories of people's lives. It can be sharing something that has blessed you or a poem or song you have written. Maybe you've read in inspiring book and want to write a review. Anyone who is part of the church can write and be part of it.

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte	Editor
Barbara Gatherum	Missionary Page
Vacant	Obituaries
Bernd Schulte	Layout and Production
Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
Ruth Lu	Printing
Gill Ayris	Collation
Daphne May	Distribution
Alex Savine	Photos

Team Leader

Rev. Ian Bunce

Team Minister

(With focus on community and social action)

Rev. Jan Loveard

Team Minister

(With focus on the older generation)

Rev. Vikki Bunce

Children, Youth and Families Worker

Mrs Hannah Griffiths

Church Secretary

Miss Hayley Ayris

Church Office

Main Road
Romford
RM1 3BL
Tel 01708 743382
www.romfordbaptist.org.uk
office@romfordbaptist.org.uk



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

Looking for a sign?

One of the things I have found really hard with covid is that everywhere you go there are signs, lots of them. From keep spaced out and wear your mask to NHS QR codes and also rules of entry etc. Alongside of these signs that are mandatory, there are also the sad signs, which says something about the world we live in. "Please be kind to our staff" is one such sign that should not be necessary.

The world is so full of signs, we become sign blind, and so begin to miss the vital messages, because we are just overloaded with signs. Maybe "can't see the wood for the trees" should be reworded "can't see the message because of the signs."

One of the things that was asked of Jesus was would He show a sign:

38 Then some of the Scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." 39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. (Matthew 12:38-39)

We recently celebrated Ascension Day. And In Acts 1 we read how Jesus as-

cended into heaven. The apostles who observed this were left behind looking into the sky, I do not know what they were looking for, maybe they wanted a sign, or a voice that said "and now you go and do....." but we simply read,

"They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." There was no sign, no direction just the facts.

Today we have all the facts and signs we need found within the pages of Scripture, yet often we want to wait for further signs, which God has already given before we step out. In fact, God has shown us so much that perhaps we have become sign blind to God's communication. In the whole host of God's messages to us, we have stopped seeing the message and are constantly looking for something else.

Imagine that I am stood outside a restaurant, deciding whether to go in and meet with the whole wall of signs. I need to filter out all the noise of the many, many pieces of paper, to focus

(Continued on page 4)



**The deadline for the
August 2021/September 2021
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 3rd July 2021**

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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onto the menu, to see what is offered and at what price. It is on this that I will make my decision as to whether I go through the door.

Jesus showed the way, he gave the message, he gave the next steps, let's stop looking for a sign, or being overwhelmed by too many signs, and get on with what our Lord has called us to do and be.

That will be a sign to the lost, Jesus is in town at work!

*Ian Bunce
Team Leader*



Moldova Christmas Appeal

For a number of years, we have collected shoe boxes for Samaritans purse. This year we are looking at doing something really



different. In partnership with our link missionaries in Moldova, Andy and Rianna Stannard, we are looking to provide resources and support for their work.

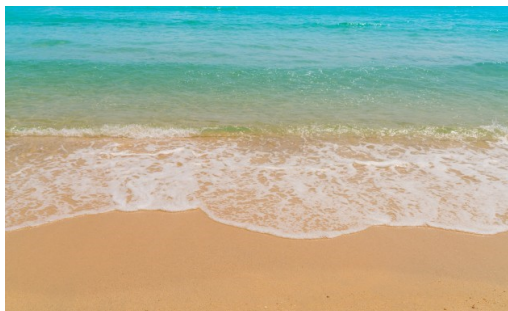
Moldova is the poorest country in Europe and the work that Andy and Rianna do with Moldova is to help those in need and at the same time share the love of God. Examples of thing that we will be collecting are:

- blankets/hats/scarves/gloves etc. for adults and children (New, Home-made or extremely good quality second hand)
- backpacks for school as well as other stationery and colouring books

A thought from Margo

One of my earliest memories is of a beautiful summer's day at the seaside. It was low tide and I remember the feel of the wet sand under my bare feet. I was looking for shells, dropping the prettiest into my bucket. Jesus and I looked at them together and shared the joyful experience, thinking that His Father had designed them all.

Margo



Birthdays June 2021

6th Bren McSweeney
19th Colleen Thompson
21st David Thompson
24th John Brown
25th Christine Brown
27th Jiela Bitaga



Birthdays July 2021

8th Gordon Palmer



(Continued from page 4)



- socks
- chocolate/sweets
- toys - skipping ropes, yo-yos, plushie toys, paints, stationery.
- pencil cases
- soft toys

All the above projects are all used for evangelising purposes (e.g. these are not given to members of the church). Andy and Rianna partner with Pastors who are engaged in church planting/discipleship in villages where there is currently no church.

All it will cost is about £1.50 per KG for the transportation of the parcels to Moldova.

Things like toiletries are generally unnecessary. The above list includes things which are either novelties or things that cannot be bought at a good quality in Moldova.



We will hope to include within our packages some "4 point bracelets" https://www.the4points.com/uk/christian_clothing_wristbands.php?cPath=2 These are used as a tool to share the love of God and share the gospel.

For those who would rather give gifts of money we will also be collecting.



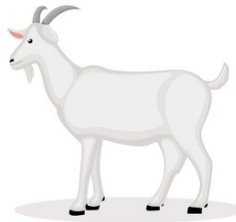
- About £20 will provide a food packet for a family.
- About £30 will buy 10 chickens for one family.
- About £60 will provide a goat, currently. The team

are investigating whether to buy another type of goat which would be up to €200 each. The advantage is that these goats can milk all year round (in comparison to the



current ones which need to be pregnant every year).

- About £585 will buy a family a cow with a calf.



You will hear so much more as the year goes ahead, but we wanted to let you know now, as we know many like to collect as the year goes on, or start making things ready. We will probably need everything in by the end of November for transportation.

The Majekodunmi family have agreed to coordinate this venture for us, and we are grateful to JJ, David, Caroline and Samuel. Please do contact them with any further questions.

What does the Bible say about Slavery?

The history of British and American involvement in slavery has been in the news over the past year. At least one newspaper article has said that the Bible condones slavery. And yet campaigning Christians in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries played a major part in getting slavery abolished. Were they wrong? What does the Bible say?



In the Old Testament, the evil of slavery was recognised and banned from among the people of Israel (eg Leviticus 25:39-43 and Deuteronomy 24:7), but Israelites were allowed to own foreign slaves. This reflects the fact that under the old covenant, the only people who inherited the covenant blessings were the Israelites.

We should not only focus on passages which mention 'slavery'. The Old Testament also contains many verses condemning 'oppression' (eg Psalms 10:18, 82:3, 103:6, Isaiah 58:6 and 10, Ezekiel 22:29 and Amos 4:1). Slavery is one of the worst possible forms of oppression.

In the New Testament, the evil of slavery is recognised by Paul in 1 Timothy 1:10 when he includes 'slave traders' in a list of wicked people. If trading slaves

is evil, then surely owning slaves must also be evil. We should also reflect that Jesus' command to 'love your neighbour as yourself' is not compatible with enslaving or abusing people.

How could Jesus or Paul have fought against slavery? It was one of the foundations of Roman society and economics. Hugely powerful vested interests supported it. Christians were a small powerless minority in a brutal, undemocratic empire in which ordinary people had little or no say in public life. About seventy years before Jesus was born, there was a huge uprising by thousands of slaves (led by Spartacus). These slaves were gladiators, and they were highly trained and well equipped for fighting. Nonetheless, they were defeated by the Roman army and thousands of them were crucified. Thinking to end slavery by political action was hopeless at that time.

Instead, Paul took a different approach. When a run-away slave called Onesimus came to Paul and became a Christian, Paul sent him back to his Christian owner Philemon (thus obeying the Roman law about slaves), but appealing to Philemon to receive him 'no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother'. You do not abuse a 'dear brother'.

(At this point it is helpful to distinguish

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between the legal institution of slavery, which makes it very easy to abuse slaves, and the actual abuse which often results from legalised slavery. Where slavery is legal, slave owners are usually legally free to treat their slaves with terrible cruelty, because they are private property, but they don't have to.)



Thus Paul accepted the legal situation Onesimus was in, but appealed to Philemon to treat him well and with dignity, 'as a brother'. The attitude of seeing a person as your private property, not much better than a thing, and the attitude of seeing him/her as a dear brother or sister, are complete opposites. Paul was undermining the moral and spiritual heart of slavery, without attacking the legal structure.

In other passages Paul told Christian slaves to submit to their masters. All the power, and the law, were on the side of the masters, so rebelling against them would just invite worse treatment. Paul's teaching here may have been an extension of Jesus' command to 'love your enemies'. Paul also told Christian masters to treat their slaves well 'since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favouritism

with Him' (Ephesians 6:9). Paul's God showed no favouritism to slave owners, unlike the Roman law.

In connection with slaves and their owners, Peter wrote about 'the pain of unjust suffering', and suffering 'for doing good' (1 Peter 2:19-20), so he recognised that the abusive behaviour of many slave owners was unjust.

The New Testament does not condone slavery, although it does not clearly condemn it either. However, Christian values about loving your neighbour, and all people being made in God's image, quietly point away from slavery.

Peter Feinson

A word of Testimony

The last few years were trying times for me in terms of being in a job that I loved, but I did not get on with my manager. I took a leap of faith and left my job and continued praying for a new job. I used my time of unemployment to complete some tasks at home - as I had ignored the signs of required repairs. After a few weeks I went for a job interview and that night, I was on the verge of being fretful but God said - don't worry and a calmness that I have not experienced before engulfed me and the very next day I received the call to say I had been successful. I really enjoy my current job. I have been a testimony to my ex-colleagues and they use me as a point of reference in relation to God's mercies and love.

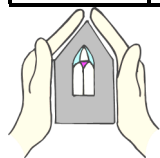
Pauline Thomas

Prayer Diary for June 2021

Tues 8 th	B Believe and be baptised, what are you waiting for?	SALTER, Mark & Laura; Noah & Lois
Wed 9 th	I 'I will offer up my life', some of it or all of it?	SAVINE, Alex & Alison; Jonathan & Eleanor
Thurs 10 th	N Need to say thank you to God, do so now!	SCHILD, Pamela
Fri 11 th	E Eat of 'the bread of life', and never hunger after less important things again.	SCHULTE, Bernd & Cheryl
Sat 12 th	A Admit your sin, you are not perfect!	SHAKES, Wesley & Florence
Sun 13 th	T The beatitudes, do you seek to live these qualities?	SHARP, Brian & Sue
Mon 14 th	I Include the persecuted church in your prayers.	SHORTER, Richard & Alison; Caleb, Jessica & Anya
Tues 15 th	V Victory cry! God has won all the battles for us.	SIMPSON, Mike & Becky; Ellie (Rice) & James
Wed 16 th	E Eventide, thank God for the mercies you have received today.	SITHOLE, Thulisa; & Innocent (Chumunhu)
Thurs 17 th	N Note the minute details in creatures and flowers and marvel at God's creation.	SMITH, Joyce
Fri 18 th	I Interact with your neighbours more so you can talk about Jesus with them.	SMITH, Maureen; & Daniel
Sat 19 th	T Thank God for the food you have and remember to donate to the Foodbank if you can.	SOSINA, Jessica
Sun 20 th	H Have you honoured God financially, do not be remiss in this.	SOSINA, Samuel
Mon 21 st	E Express thanks to those who serve faithfully behind the scenes at RBC.	SPENCER, Devon
Tues 22 nd	R Remember God's faithfulness, trust Him.	SPENCER, Pamela
Wed 23 rd	Z Zion the eternal home for those who are in Christ.	SPRINGER, John & Angela
Thurs 24 th	L Loneliness is widespread; expand your social circle to combat it.	STANNARD, Andy & Rianna
Fri 25 th	I Include widows and orphans in your prayers.	STANNARD, Charlotte
Sat 26 th	C 'Christ triumphant ever reigning', does He reign in you?	STANNARD, John & Christine

Prayer Diary for June 2021

Sun 27 th	H Have you learnt any of the promises in Scripture? Do so.	STANNARD, Matt & Heather
Mon 28 th	W 'Will your anchor hold', how strong will you be under testing?	STANNARD, Rachel
Tues 29 th	I In doubt? Ask the Lord for guidance.	STEPHENSON, Nadine; <i>Gabrielle (Bourne)</i>
Wed 30 th	L Lord of all hopefulness.	STEWART, John
Thurs 1 st July	L Lord of all joy.	STURT, Donna
Fri 2 nd	K Kindness, a gift we can all give to others.	SWINDALE, Ben & Becki; <i>Hannah</i>
Sat 3 rd	O 'Onward Christian soldiers', do not stand still in your journey of faith.	THOMAS-REID, Carmen
Sun 4 th	M Make way for Christ in your life.	THOMPSON, David & Colleen
Mon 5 th	M Make time in your life to serve God.	TIDBURY, Pat
Tues 6 th	E Every tribe and tongue is welcome at RBC.	TIMOTHY, Kathy
Wed 7 th	N New to RBC, you are welcome.	Winter Gardens Baptist Church, Canvey Island



If you have any items for inclusion in
the July 2021 Prayer Diary, please
contact the Church Office.



BMS Stamp Bureau

STAMPS - POSTCARDS - COINS and
NOTES - MEDALS and BADGES -
(TEA and CIGARETTE CARDS) - PRE1951
GREETINGS CARDS

Since the late 1920s the BMS Stamp Bureau has been collecting stamps and other items of the above. The first contri-

bution recorded was £60 and the figure for 2020 was £7500.



All the above are sold to collectors and dealers and the money raised goes to BMS World Mission for healthcare in remote parts of Chad, justice for the poor in Mozambique, clean water in Afghanistan, earthquake recovery in Nepal and plenty more besides. Stamps are getting scarce due to printer stamps and emails! Please cut stamps with about ½ an inch or more of the envelope round the stamps, torn stamps are of no use.

- First day covers should be complete with envelope.
- Stamp box (a small ice cream one) is on a desk in the welcome area – hopefully we will need a bigger box.
- All other items can be given to Iris Hooper or Barbara Gatherum.

If you want to know more please get in touch with Iris Hooper.

Iris Hooper

Pause to Smile

Did you know that:
The inventor of the treadmill died at the age of 54

The inventor of gymnastics died at 57
The world bodybuilding champion died at 41
The best footballer in the world Maradona died at 60

And then:

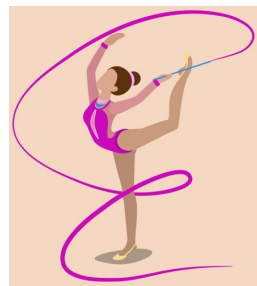
The KFC inventor died at 94

The inventor of Nutella died at 88

The cigarette maker Winston died at 102

The inventor of opium died at 106 in an earthquake

The inventor of Hennessy brandy died at 98



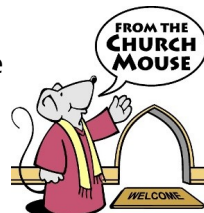
Therefore how do doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life?

The rabbit is always jumping about but lives for around 2 years

And the turtle that doesn't exercise at all lives for over 200 years.

So let us rest, eat, drink and enjoy what life we have.

The Church Mouse



The Best Seat



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



PLEASE COME TO MY PARTY

ON ONE OCCASION JESUS TOLD THE STORY ABOUT SOME PARTY INVITATIONS

HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEAL

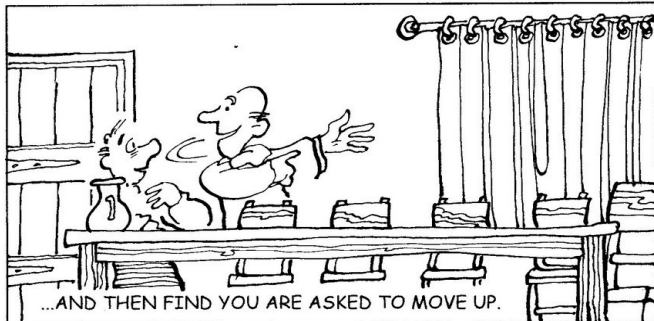


DON'T RUSH TO SIT IN THE BEST SEAT....

...IN CASE YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE DOWN THE TABLE.



IT'S MUCH BETTER TO TAKE THE LOWER SEAT



...AND THEN FIND YOU ARE ASKED TO MOVE UP.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE SHOULDN'T KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES TO THE FRONT.



AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD ALWAYS TRY TO PUT OTHER PEOPLE FIRST. Read Luke 11.7-11



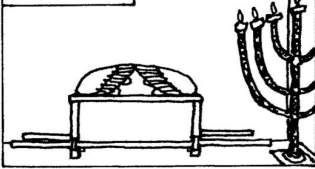
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 4:1-10, 5:1-7:1

God gave Moses two stone slabs with His laws for the Jews on them. They were kept in a special chest, the Ark, and carried with them

When the Jews got to Israel, the Ark was kept at Shiloh.



The Jews did not keep God's laws so He let the Philistines attack and defeat them.



The Jews took the Ark into battle with them to make God help them win.



But the Philistines won. They took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their god Dagon.



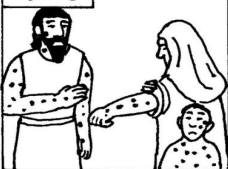
The next day they found Dagon's statue face down.



The next day it was over again and its head and hands had broken off.



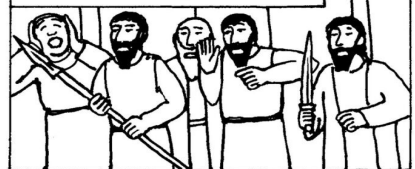
Then the people became covered in sores.



They moved the Ark to the city of Gath.



They were going to move the Ark to Ekron, but the people there wouldn't let them.



So they put the Ark on a new cart with a gift of gold.



At Bethshemesh, people harvesting saw the Ark.



But some treated it without respect and died.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

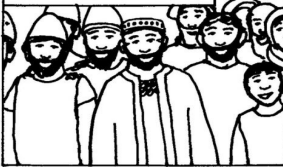
It can be read in the Bible in
2 Sam 6: 1-10, 2 Chron 13, 15:1-28

Copies of God's Laws for the Jews were kept in a special holy chest - the Ark. It had been stored at Keriath Jearim for 20 years...

When king David made Jerusalem his capital, he decided to bring the Ark there.



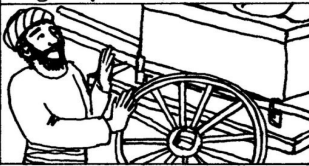
David brought his soldiers and a huge crowd came too



They put the Ark on a new cart and set off down the hill.



The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah thought the Ark might fall off the cart.



He forgot the Ark was holy and held on to it.



David was very angry with God that Uzzah had died



Then he thought of God's power and was very afraid.



So he left the Ark stored at the house of Obed Edom.



David realised that they had not treated God's Ark with respect.



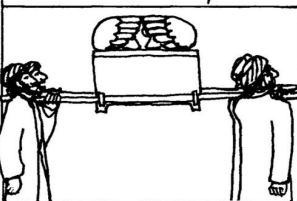
He talked to the Levites, the tribe that God had chosen to be His priests.



They organised musicians and trumpeters, and people to carry the Ark.



God's holy Ark was treated with respect.



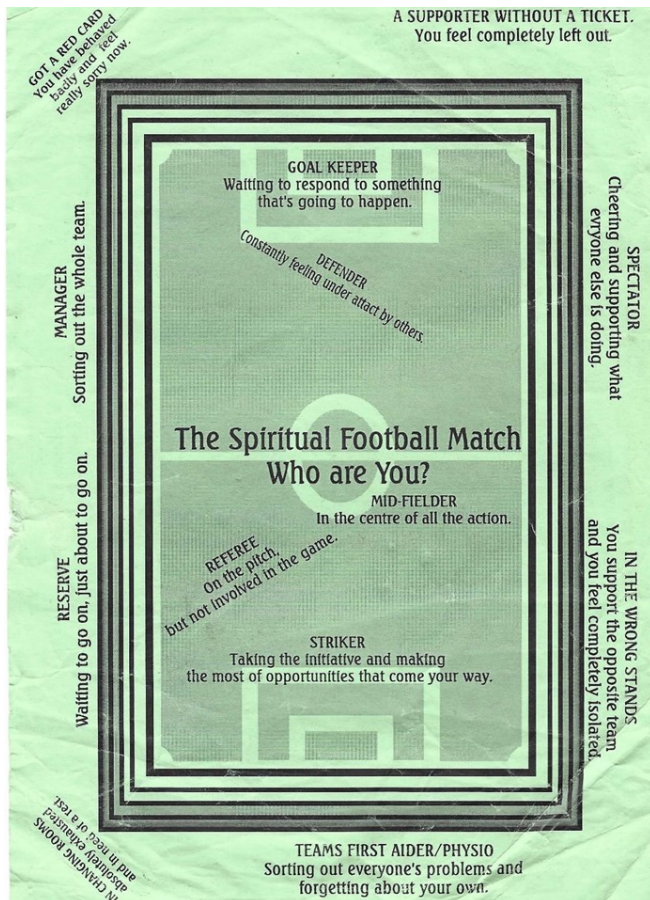
Everyone cheered and sang as the Ark was carried into Jerusalem.



Players Needed – The Super League – Great Celebrations – Final Victory Assured

It is good to have a good sort out from time to time, both of old papers and from a spiritual point of view as well.

Whilst sorting out some of my old Sunday School material, I came across this.....
“the Spiritual Football Match, Who are You”?



Given all the recent newspaper coverage about setting up the proposed Football Super League, I was challenged to review my position in God's Spiritual Football Match and share this challenge with you.

Rodney Eborn



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

Wednesday

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

10:00am 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

8:00pm RBC Music Team via Zoom

Friday

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

Sunday

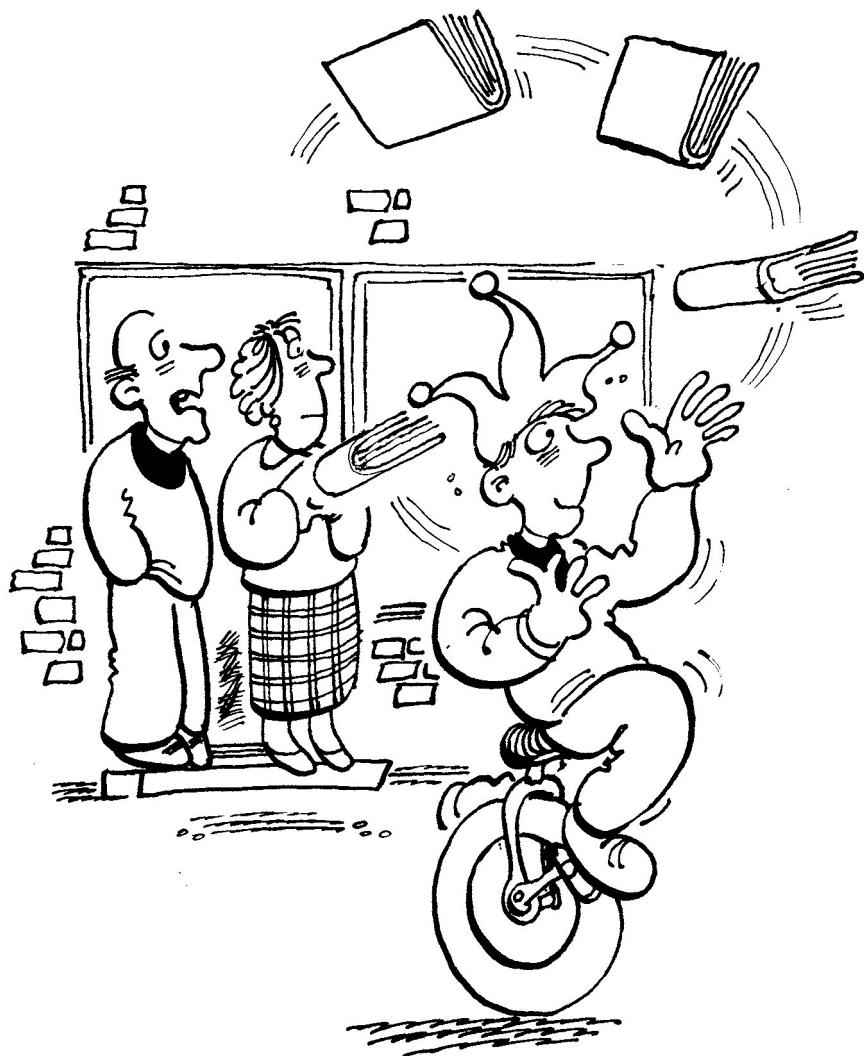
10.30am Online Morning Service

12:30pm Youth Stream for years 6 –9 via Zoom

6.00pm Online Evening Service

6:30pm Student Stream for years 10 -13

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



*...I think I must have missed that module
when I was at theological college!*

