



# Romford Baptist Church

## Grapevine



**Family Magazine**  
December 2021  
and  
January 2022  
**No. 211**



# From the Editor

For many of us, Christmas is a time of excitement we look forward to. As we share this time with family and friends, let's remember the reason we celebrate – the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. - Titus 3:4-7 (NIVUK)*

We recently witnessed a number of baptisms and were blessed by the testimonies given in the service by those being baptised. It was a great privilege to be reminded of the grace of God and the hope we have in Him, and to see the enactment of dying to the old life and rising to a new life in Jesus.

New Year is also a time of reflection on the year's passing and the possibility of new beginnings. I pray that we will look forward to 2022 knowing that we have been justified by God's grace and have the hope of eternal life.

May you all have a very joyful Christmas and blessed New Year!

*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
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

## Team Pastor

Jide Fawunmi

## Church Secretary

Miss Hayley Ayris

## Church Office

Main Road  
Romford  
RM1 3BL  
Tel 01708 743382  
[www.romfordbaptist.org.uk](http://www.romfordbaptist.org.uk)  
[office@romfordbaptist.org.uk](mailto: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

We started 2021 with the church text for the year from Isaiah 55:12-13

**"You shall go out with Joy and be led forth in peace"**

We focused on the three words, Joy, Peace and Celebration, encouraging us all to be gospel people who know delight in God and live as people who know life and know it in God's fullness.

Of course we have had a lot to moan about in 2021 and some of us have become experts. One idea I had was that we could have an RBC Victor Meldrew competition, but some would just not believe it and the competition may be too great.

As in each year, as we look back there have also been some sad times. As a community we have wept with those who wept and struggled with those who struggled. This is a church that really cares and so at times, really hurts.

Back to the start of the year and our three key words: Joy, Peace and Celebration. Let us, as we turn to the Ad-

vent season and towards the end of 2021, challenge ourselves with these three questions.

- Where have I experienced Joy in 2021?
- Where have I found Peace in 2021?
- Where have I Celebrated in 2021?

For me, Joy has been so easy this year as we, as a church, have stepped carefully into "in person" services, live worship and being together again. Seeing the people we have missed and starting to venture towards handshakes, and even the occasional hug. Joy for Vikki and me was also our trip to Austria and seeing our son and his family. Spending time with our daughter in law and our beautiful grandchildren. Joy was being taught the German words for ice-cream flavours by a 4 year old! Joy was also found in laughter with other members of our family and the beginning to eat with friends and be able to do something like normal again.

Peace for me was found in the beauty

*(Continued on page 4)*



**The deadline for the  
February 2022/March 2022  
edition of the Grapevine is  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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)**



(Continued from page 3)

of music and the calm of a walk along a beach. It was found in communion and coffee, in being with people and also walking alone. Peace was found in the hand of a surgeon and the love of our NHS.



And celebration, celebrating life, celebrating new life of baptism. Celebrating a church that is seeing new people and a congregation that is growing. I celebrated our new deacons and all who took a step to serve God in new ways, I celebrate hope for the year to come, with all its opportunities (and another grandchild on the way!)

I could write a long list of woes and complaints. Truth be known, I have far more to thank God for and be excited about. My prayer for myself is that as I enter 2022, it will not be leaving Joy, Peace and Celebration behind, but recognising as a child of God, this is a life-long calling and way to be.

Will you join me in listing your Joys, Peaceful places and Celebration, in the words of the old hymn:

*1 When upon life's billows you are  
tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is  
lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them  
one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord  
hath done.*

*Refrain:*

*Count your blessings, name them one by  
one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath  
done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by  
one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God  
hath done.*

*2 Are you ever burdened with a load of  
care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called  
to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt  
will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.  
[Refrain]*

*3 When you look at others with their  
lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His  
wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings, money can-  
not buy  
Your reward in heaven, nor your home  
on high. [Refrain]*

*4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or  
small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;  
Count your many blessings, angels will  
attend,  
Help and comfort give you to your jour-  
ney's end. [Refrain]*

*Baptist Hymnal, 1991*

*Rev. Ian Bunce  
Team Leader*

## Inspirations

Card Making

I am currently trying to sort out what we have to do to start our group again, but as I said before, I desperately need help if we are going to continue long term.

Please seriously consider if you can help in this way and contact me.



I pray that everyone will continue to keep safe.

God Bless you all.

Pauline Yates  
07742 707790



**Amaze**  
Support Group



Amaze Adults have enjoyed meeting every Tuesday learning about Daniel in the lions den, and now celebrating God's creation.

## cma Romford Baptist

Community Money Advice

### Romford Baptist Community Money Advice

As I'm sure many of you know, Romford Baptist Church now runs a debt advice centre in partnership with Community Money Advice. Ten volunteers from RBC and myself have trained to be qualified debt advisers. At the centre we offer free, impartial, face-to-face debt advice. The service that we provide is completely confidential. I, as the centre manager, am the only person that knows who all of our clients are.

If you are in debt then please let us help you. If you know others that are in debt and need our help, then please recommend us to them. You could even offer to come along with them to their first appointment to give them that extra bit of support.

For more information and to book an appointment please call 07378 191183

Alison Savine

**cma**  
Freedom from debt  
Hope for the future





# Congratulations Correction



Rev. J. Loveard presents a celebratory certificate to Mrs P. Read.

In the last edition of Grapevine, we incorrectly congratulated Brian and Pauline Read on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, when it was, in fact their 60<sup>th</sup>.

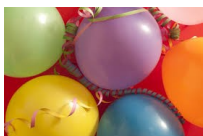
We apologise for this error. The greeting should have read:

*"Congratulations to Brian and Pauline Read who celebrated 60 years of Christian marriage on 16th September 2021."*

## BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

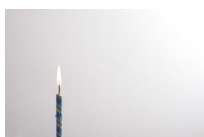
### Birthdays December 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Christine Wright  
25<sup>th</sup> Muriel Warner



### Birthdays January 2022

5<sup>th</sup> Anne Barnes  
15<sup>th</sup> Peggy Warner  
16<sup>th</sup> Grace Bello  
25<sup>th</sup> Janet Loveard



## Miscellaneous observations on modern life

*I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.*

*Humans are about 60% water. Basically, we are ice cream with anxiety.*

*A lot of money is tainted - It taint yours and it taint mine.*

*Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.*

*Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Planning

*Do you ever have so much planned for the next day, and then you wake up and just say, "Nah."*

## Remembrance Sunday Acrostic poem

Over 100 words were supplied by the residents at Parkside during an activity to the letters of Remembrance Sunday and then a poem was formed from them by Pat West on their behalf using many of their words:



**R**eminisce about the past  
**E**very day could be their last  
**M**oments that would always stay  
**E**vening shadows end this day  
**M**emories, both good and bad  
**B**eautiful thoughts of that young lad  
**R**esolute to do his best  
**A**nxious pangs about the test  
**N**othing though could prepare for  
**C**arnage that was waiting there  
**E**motions bursting in his heart, still prepared to do his part

**S**ilent now the sounds of war  
**U**nderstanding there'll be no more  
**N**ight or silence comes along  
**D**awn brings back sweet bird song  
**A**llies meet, greet, celebrate  
**Y**outhful heroes, home does await.

*Pat West*

## From Texas to Montana

A cowboy who has just moved from Texas to Montana walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud. He sits at the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender walks up and says to the cowboy, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought them one at a time. " The cowboy replies, "You see, I have two brothers. One is in Arizona and the other is in Colorado. When we all left our home in Texas, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."



The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The cowboy becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and orders only two mugs. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss." The cowboy looks quite confused for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. "Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains. "It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking." "It hasn't affected my brothers though."

*Ian Bunce*

## Armistice day 2021



## Smile Lines

### Camels

In Jane's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a large star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. "Why is the third man going in a different direction?" her mother asked. Jane replied: "Oh, he's looking for a place to park."

\*\*\*

### Snowmen

Two snowmen were standing next to each other. One said to the other: "Can you smell carrots?"

\*\*\*

### Christmas Carols

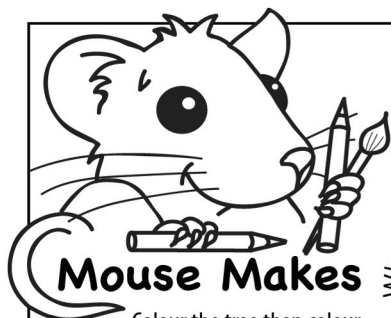
One night Freda went carol singing. She knocked on the door of a house and began to sing. A man with a violin in his hand came to the door. Within half a minute, tears were streaming down his face. Touched, Freda sang every carol she knew - and some she didn't. The man continued to weep gently throughout her performance. "I understand," she said softly at last. "You are remembering your happy childhood Christmas days."

"No, not exactly," he replied in a choked sort of voice. "I'm a musician!"

### Silence?

Christmas is the season when your neighbour's radio keeps you awake playing 'Silent Night'.





Colour the tree then colour  
in one star each day until Christmas.  
Leave the large star at the top of the  
tree to colour in on Christmas day!

What's on the Christmas Tree?



**A STAR**  
shows the way  
to Jesus

Read  
*Matthew 2:1-12*



**ANGELS**  
bring messages from God

Read about  
Gabriel's message in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

Read the  
shepherd's story in  
*Luke 1:26-38*

**LIGHTS  
AND CANDLES**  
remind us that Jesus  
lights our way to God

Read *Luke 2:29-32*



**PRESENTS**  
remind us of God's  
special gift to us ... **JESUS!**



"For God loved the world so much that He  
gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes  
in him may not die but have eternal life." *John 3:16*

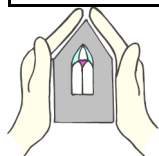
Presents at Christmas  
under the tree,  
A red Christmas stocking  
waiting for me,  
But what really is Christmas,  
What is it about?  
Just look and the Bible  
and you will find out!  
It's about **JESUS**  
- the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our **Saviour**,  
God's gift to us all!

## Prayer Diary for December 2021

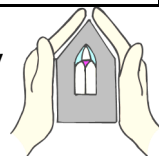
Date	People	Event or other
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	MAY, Don	
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	McSWEENEY, Bren	Singcerity concert tonight
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup>	MILLER, Paul & Anne; Tommy & Katie (Ridout)	Blood donors use the building
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>	MOI, Sam & Cecilia	
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	MOKAKE, Julie Enjema	
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	MOTT, Wendy	
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	MURRAY, Paul & Susan	
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	MUSE, Morenike	Remembering at Christmas tonight
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	NELSON-MILLER, Emma & Stephen, <i>Stephanie &amp; McKenzie (Miller) &amp; Ocean-Blue (Nelson-Miller)</i>	
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	NICHOLLS, Ruth	
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	NITISOR, Claudiu & Dana, Darius, <i>Giulia, Danluka</i>	
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	NJUHI, Hannah	Family all age nativity service and Carols by Candlelight
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	NKENG, Cecilia	
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	NORMAN, Doris	
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	NORRIS, Bree	Carols in the café
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	ODETOLA, Jide, Foluke; Arinola, <i>Damilola</i>	
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	ODUYEMI, Caroline	Christmas praise party and Midnight Communion

## Prayer Diary for December 2021

Date	People	Event or other
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	OFORI, Gladys	Christmas Day Service to-day
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	OGUNLEYE, Adekunle	Pray for the ministry team as they rest after a busy season (no services today)
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	OGUNLEYE, Ronke, Maria	
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	OGUNLEYE, Christabel	
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	OGUNLEYE, Emmanuel	
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	OLAWUYI, Anne & Abiodun, <i>Chelsey &amp; Clinton</i>	
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	OLIVER, Iris	Crossover Service tonight
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022	OLOFINJANA, Bunmi, <i>Tobi, Dianne, Feyi (Bankole)</i>	
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	OLUFEMI, Ola & Esther, Emmanuel, <i>Jemimah &amp; David</i>	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	OLUSOJI, Laura & Moses, <i>David &amp; Toluwalope</i>	
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	OMOKOH, Jermaine	
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	ONABAJO, Yemi & Bukky, <i>Ifeoluwakishi &amp; Mofioloruntele</i>	
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	OPOKU, Peace; <i>Victoria, Nicholas, Caroline &amp; Aviel (Tetteh)</i>	
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Gardens Baptist Church, Canvey Island	



If you have any items for inclusion in the January 2022 Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.



# **Baptisms**

## **31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

Ramiya Lewis

Surely your goodness and love will  
follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of  
the LORD forever.

Psalm 23:6



Megan Kalanga

<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to  
fan into flame the gift of God,  
which is in you through the laying  
on of my hands.

2 Timothy 1:6



## Gabrielle Bourne

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

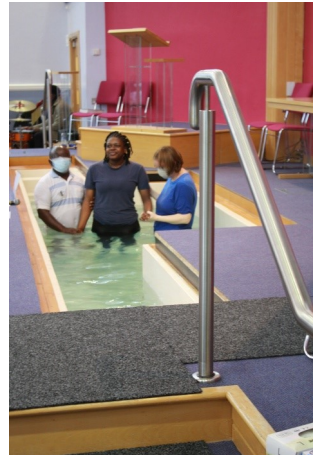
Philippians 4:6-7



## Katy Kalanga

"Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20





## Joanne Mary Lumumba

<sup>4</sup>You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4



## Jacquie Rose

<sup>14</sup>For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Roman 8:14-15



# Pray for those in Education

## End of Term

*"Through Jesus... let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* Hebrews 13:15-16

- For schools, that they will enjoy the build up to Christmas.
- For schools to be excited about the birth of Jesus.
- For school staff that they will not be overwhelmed by the extras the season brings.
- For people planning Nativity plays, that they will reflect the truth about the birth of Jesus.
- For children not to simply be swept along with the commercial nature of Christmas.
- For children worried about being at home in the holidays.

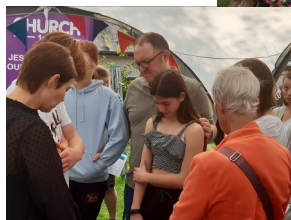
## Christmas

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Isaiah 9:6

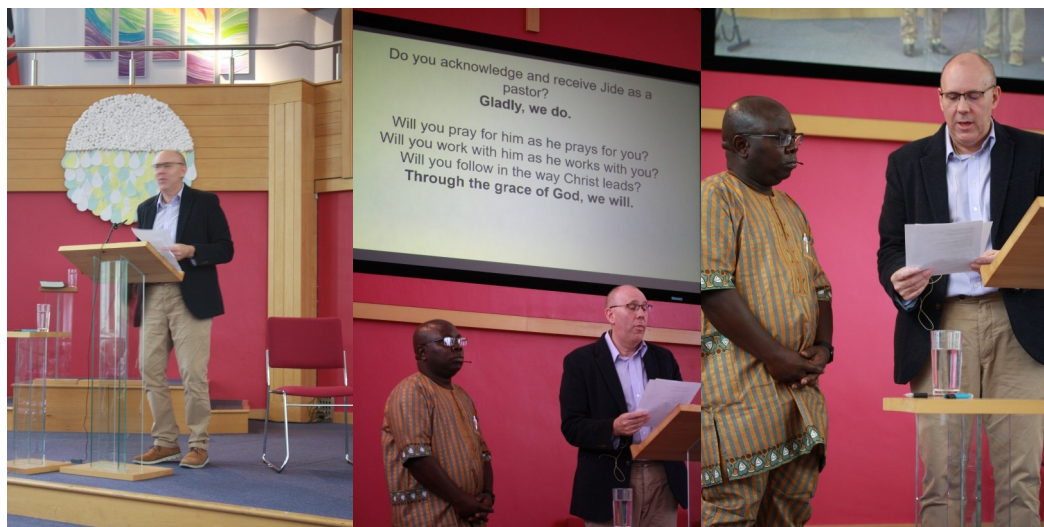
- For those who face loneliness this Christmas.
- For those still being affected by Covid.
- For those who attend church services at Christmas but not at other times.
- For young people to glorify and praise God, as did the shepherds that first Christmas.
- That we will seize the opportunities the season brings to speak of our Saviour.

*Submitted by Barbara Gatherum*

# Pictures from the final service of Church 123



## Jide Fawunmi was formally recognised as a pastor on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021





# Bible Bites

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 2: 1-10

Around the time of Jesus' birth, in a land far to the east of Israel, there were men who studied the stars...

When they saw a new star they believed it showed a special King had been born. ✨



They set off to see that King.

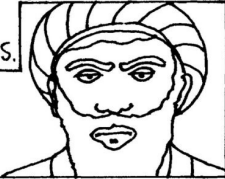


They reached Jerusalem, the home of King Herod.



Where is the new King whose star we saw?

The Romans had made Herod King of the Jews about 30 years earlier. He was ruthless.



The Jews hated him and he was always worried that people were plotting against him.



He had them killed even if they were his wife or children...



So what the wise men said about a new King upset Herod



and that made everyone else afraid.

Herod got the teachers and priests together and asked about the king's birthplace.



That would be Little Bethlehem\*



\*Micah 5:2

Herod secretly met the wise men and asked when they had first seen the star.



Go to Bethlehem and look for the child. When you find him let me know so I can come and worship him.



As they left Jerusalem the wise men were elated to see the guiding star again. ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

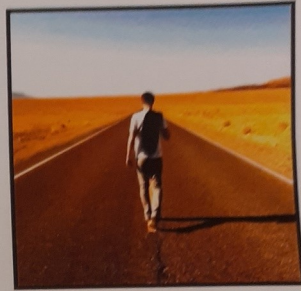


# A BIRTHDAY POEM

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life" **Psa 23.6***

Life is like a journey  
For me, and for everyone  
The years have flown quickly past  
Memories, stored up by the ton!

A lifetime of varied thoughts  
Fill my human mind - **Psa 37.25**  
Events and people I have known  
And places too, I find



*Blessed by God  
for 90 years*

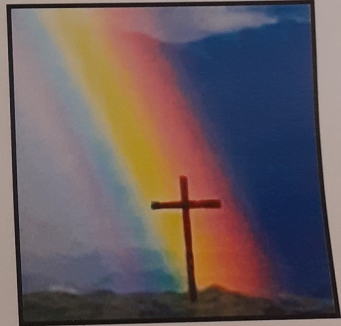


To reach the age of ninety  
Words cannot describe  
My gratitude to God in heaven  
Who's always by my side - **Isa 41.10**

The Lord has led and fed me  
All the days of my life - **Psa 68.19**  
Blessed me with friends and family  
And ALICE - my lovely wife

A birthday is a milestone  
To reflect and view the past  
Value our daily blessings - **Psa 103**  
And things we know will last

The future is as bright  
As God's promises that shine  
Which I stand on firmly  
And make each one mine - **2 Cor 1.20**



† **Bob McCaughren** †  
**Salem Baptist Church, Romford**

Submitted by Glynis Brown





## Current Church Activities



### **Monday**

9:30am

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in the month)

12-2pm

Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

### **Tuesday**

10:00am

Needlecraft group

10:30am

Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs

2:00-3.30pm

Treasure Times

8:00pm

Prayer meeting on zoom

8:00pm

RBC Worship Team meet

### **Wednesday**

9:45-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers

10:00-11:45am

'Friendly Faces' – OrangeLine (Hospice bereavement support coffee group)

12:45pm

Pause the Week (Midweek service)

7:45pm

Wednesdays @ RBC

### **Thursday**

9:45am

Thursday morning Wellbeing walk (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month)

10:00am

Thursday morning life group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)

10:00-11:00am

'Come and join us for a chat', 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

11:00am-3:00pm

Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly

11:00am

Di's Diamonds coffee group (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

7:30-9:00pm

Youth Club (alternate weeks)

### **Friday**

10:00am

Craft Group in the Meeting Place

### **Sunday**

10:30am

Morning Worship in the building and online

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

