Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine

Family Magazine
February 2022
and
March 2022
No. 212

From the Editor

Even though some of the days have seemed a bit dark and dreary recently, they are definitely getting longer! As an old friend used to say, "Isn't it getting light of a night!".

It's great to be able to enjoy a few moments of lightness on the journey in to work and sometimes even a few on the way home. So often we seem surprised that there is light after the darkness, yet we actually know this is how it works!

It is always comforting to see the regularity of the seasons; to remember that our creator is in control no matter what is happening around us.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

So, when things seem to be getting us down, it's good to be reminded that the light outshines the darkness. Jesus said, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).*

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte	Editor
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Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
Ruth Lu	Printing
Gill Ayris	Collation
Alex Savine	Photos

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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

Happy New Year! As I sit here writing this ,it is the start of the New Year, and like many people I like to set myself some aims and goals to steer and direct my personal and spiritual life as well as my service within the church.

HOWEVER… by the time you sit down to read this the New Year will probably be a dim and distant memory. I wonder what this New Year has already meant to you? I wonder if you set yourself any new challenges – have you followed them or given up already? What does the year ahead look like to you?

For each one of us it will look different. It's hard to believe that as we enter 2022 we are still dealing with the Coronavirus and the horrible effects it is having on people across the world. For many, the impact of Covid alone has caused huge challenges, loss, loneliness, a change of lifestyle, just to name a few. It's been a tough couple of years! Maybe heading into 2022 feels difficult: we have suffered the loss of a loved one, exams lie ahead, big decisions need to be made, the future looks tough. For others 2022 looks really exciting with new opportunities, new relationships, wonderful events to look forward to. For many it will be a mixture of the two, both hope and challenge, fear and delight.

Whatever our feelings about 2022, whatever our achievements or failures so far, the most wonderful thing is that we don't step out alone, instead we can head into this year knowing that God is LORD, He is in control, He is all-powerful, He knows us and what lies ahead for us, and we can be certain that He will never abandon us. What a wonderful thought to head into the year with!

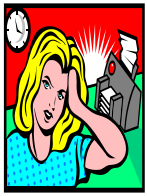
Our verse for the year is from 1 Thess. 5:16-18 "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

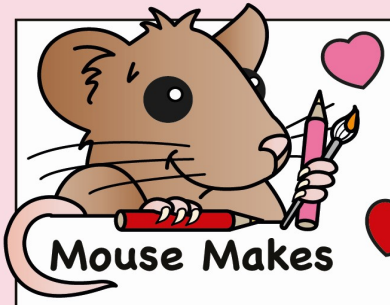
With God on the throne of our lives, my prayer is that we might each one head confidently into 2022, keeping this verse at the forefront of our minds that it might influence every day of our lives over this coming year. Whatever lies ahead, whether smooth or rough, if God is our Father then we will be able to rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances. Why – because we have a good, good Father who is God Almighty Himself!

Rev. Jan Loveard
Team Minister
(With focus on community and social action)

The deadline for the April 2022/May 2022 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 13th March 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**





Mouse Makes

Lord, you are a God who shows
__ __ __ __ __ and is __ __ __ __
...You have great __ __ __ __ and
__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
Psalm 86:1

See what great love the Father has for us that He would call us His
__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
1 John 1:3

How did God show He **loved** us?
Read 1 John 4:9

Love the Lord your God with all your
__ __ __ __ __
with all your
__ __ __ __
and with all your
__ __ __ __.
Matthew 22:37

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Love is ..
Read
1 Cor 13:4-7

__ __ __
is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in
__ __ __, and __ __ __
lives in them.
1 John 4:16

Love your
__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
the same as you love
__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __
Matthew 22:39

Love is:
PATIENT • KIND• GRACIOUS • JUST • TRUTHFUL • TRUSTING • HOPEFUL
PERSEVERE • ENDURES • GOD

Love is not:
JEALOUS • ENVY • BOASTFUL • PROUD • SELFISH • ANGRY • RUDE • EVIL

God's love is:
LOVE • MERCIFUL • FAITHFUL • UNFAILING • ABUNDANT • COMPASSIONATE

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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone who would listen, whatever they were. The Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Thank you very much to all those who have given a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme on your birthday during 2021, raising a total of £1218.00. Additional gifts have also been sent directly to BMS online.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated, as it helps to support some very worthwhile projects.

A letter received from BMS World Mission expresses 'heartfelt thanks …to all those using their birthday to bless people across the world with the gift of good health. Mothers cry tears of joy as they hold their healthy, newborn babies close in Afghanistan. Children with disabilities career around their garden on tricycles in Thailand… A man with a life-threatening tumour getting the surgery he desperately needs in Chad. This is what the Birthday Scheme is doing – giving life. Life to the full. And we are so thankful.'

For those who are not aware of the Scheme, it is organised by the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) World Mission in order to specifically support their medical/health projects.
By committing to giving a gift on your birthday, of any amount, you will be helping to support health projects in many areas in the world.

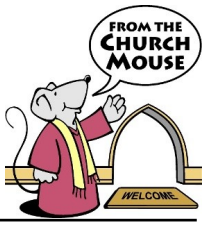
To promote the scheme, it has been the custom to publish birthdays in Grapevine. However, your permission is required - via the church office - in order to comply with regulations regarding Data Protection.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the scheme, I will be happy to provide you with further details. Thank you again on behalf of BMS, and best wishes to you all for 2022.

Christine Brown

Pause to Smile

An old farmer wrote a letter to his son who was in prison for robbery. In the letter he said "This year I can't be planting the top field with potatoes as we planned as you can't be here to help me, so I will only be able to do a small patch and not the whole field as we planned. I know that if you were free you could have helped me do the lot." The son replied, "Dad, don't think of digging up that top field as lots of the loot from my jobs is buried up there." The prison staff read the letter and passed it on to the police who read it before it was sent to the dad. The next day twenty burly policemen arrived at the farm and dug up the whole of the top field and found nothing. The next day the son wrote to his dad and said "Now plant the spuds. Sorry I can't help you with that, but that was the best I could do from here."



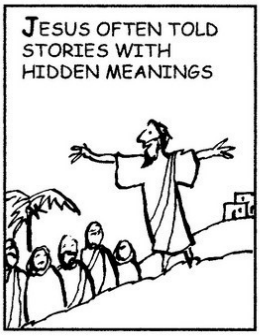
The Church Mouse

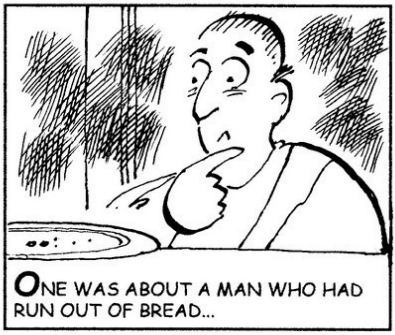
New Members Johnson and Abigail Dada are welcomed in to membership by Team Pastor Jide Fawunmi on the 2nd January 2022.

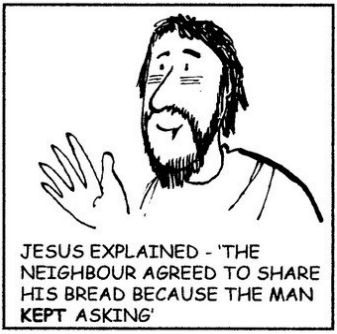
Photo by Hayley Ayris

The Tale of

The Friend at Midnight





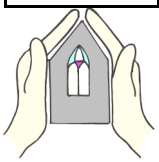


Prayer Diary for February 2022

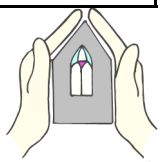
Date	People	Event or other
Tues 8th	SIMPSON, Mike & Becky; & James	London Baptist Ministers Conference continues
Wed 9th	SITHOLE, Thulisa; & *Innocent (Chumunhu)*	Midweek service and Wednesday @ RBC today
Thurs 10th	SMITH, Maureen; & *Daniel*	Youth club
Fri 11th	SOSINA, Jessica	
Sat 12th	SOSINA, Samuel	
Sun 13th	SPENCER, Pamela	
Mon 14th	SPRINGER, John & Angela	
Tues 15th	STANNARD, Andy & Rianna	
Wed 16th	STANNARD, John & Christine	Starshine use the building
Thurs 17th	STANNARD, Matt & Heather	Wellbeing walk today
Fri 18th	STANNARD, Rachel	
Sat 19th	STEPHENSON, Nadine, *Gabrielle (Bourne)*	
Sun 20th	STEWART, John	All-age service this morning
Mon 21st	SWINDALE, Ben & Becki, *Hannah*	Phonics booking in the building today
Tues 22nd	THOMAS-REID, Carmen	Carers Hub use the building
Wed 23rd	THOMPSON, David & Colleen	

Prayer Diary for February 2022

Thurs 24th	TIDBURY, Pat	Brewers use the building
Fri 25th	TIMOTHY, Kathy	
Sat 26th	TIMOTHY, Neil & STANNARD, Charlotte	
Sun 27th	TOWNSON, Patricia	
Mon 28th	TUNDE, KJ	
March Tues 1st	TUNDE, Samuel & Lara	
Wed 2nd	TURNER, Colin & Irene	Church meeting tonight
Thurs 3rd	TYLER, Joyce	Blood donors are in the building today
Fri 4th	URSACHE, Victoria, *Flavius & Anastasia* & CATARAGA, Silvia	
Sat 5th	VEARES, Fay & Brian	
Sun 6th	VILJOEN, David & Carla	
Mon 7th	BMS World Mission	Amaze support group in the Meeting Place



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



I think a retired English Teacher was bored

This took a lot of work to put together!

1. The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
2. The farm was used to **produce produce**.
3. The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
4. We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
5. The guide will **lead** you to the **lead** mine.
6. The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
7. Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.
8. A **bass** (fish) was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
9. I did not **object** to the **object**.
10. The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
11. There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
12. They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
13. The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.
14. A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** drain.
15. To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
16. The **wind** was too strong for us to **wind** in the sail.
17. Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting, I shed a **tear**.
18. I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.

Submitted by Ruth Henson

Pray for those in Education

"Every school... a prayed for school".

Schools, Colleges, Universities

Your local schools, colleges and universities:

- Infant
- Junior
- Secondary
- College
- Uni

Those involved in education

- Head teachers
- Teachers/lecturers
- Support Staff
- Governors
- Students and pupils
- Links with local churches
- Christian School Workers
- Assembly takers
- Christian Unions
- Prayer Space Facilitators
- Chaplains

Churches

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.' Revelation 2:7

- For the involvement of churches in their local schools.
- For those in education to be supported in their church.
- For members of churches to be fully aware of the challenges faced by staff in education settings.
- For churches to pray regularly in services for the schools/ colleges/

(Continued from page 10)

universities in their area.

- For churches to encourage those who are considering becoming teachers.

Submitted by Barbara Gatherum

cma
Romford Baptist
Community Money Advice

Romford Baptist Community Money Advice

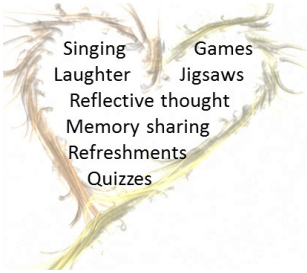
As I'm sure many of you know, Romford Baptist Church now runs a debt advice centre in partnership with Community Money Advice. Ten volunteers from RBC and myself have trained to be qualified debt advisers. At the centre we offer free, impartial, face-to-face debt advice. The service that we provide is 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



Treasure Times

for those who are older
Tuesdays 2-3.30pm

Programme

Jan-Feb 2022

11 January
New Year customs around the world

18 January
Animal families—how good is your knowledge?

25 January
True or false facts about things we've been told

1 February
Fun with dice

8 February
Come and enjoy a sing-a-long

15 February
NO MEETING but why not come and meet Vikki at 1pm and treat yourself to some lunch in the Meeting Place

There will be a break until we will re-start on 1 March 2022

Smile Lines

The Rules of Marriage

Here are the real-life answers from a group of children:

How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you'll have known the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. - Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

The law says you have to be 18, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. - Ricky, age 10

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Those who want to get married

A minister was preparing to marry a local couple within a couple of weeks. At the close of the morning service, he saw them both in the congregation, and wanted to ask them to come forward, but he couldn't think of their names. So he said: "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?"

Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers walked up the aisle.

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Say it with flowers

A man stopped by his local florist shop to buy flowers for his new girlfriend on Valentine's Day. He asked the proprietor, "You know the expression, 'Say it with flowers'?"

"I do indeed!" the florist enthused. "How about three dozen of my finest roses?"

The man hesitated. "No, make it just a half dozen roses. I'm a man of few words."

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More church bulletin bloopers

The youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will begin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is invited to join in this lay ministry programme. It requires only a minimal amount of training and time: six weekly classes of about 200 hours, each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, or a dessert, all in a covered dish.

Advert for a church jumble sale: 'We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.'

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Called

An ineffective vicar was asked by his exasperated bishop what had first prompted him to even enter the ministry.

"I was called," the vicar replied simply.

"Are you sure," pondered the bishop, "that it was not some other voice you heard?"

******

From Parish Pump

Docklands Light Railway

Step aboard the waiting train
The Docklands Light Railway
A train with a difference, you'll see
But you still have to pay

The doors open at each station
Commuters alight - some get on
Enjoying a comfortable journey
Once the train has gone

Something strange catches the eye
There's no driver, bear in mind
Yet she clanks merrily along
To the next stop along the line

An unseen controller
Is out there - somewhere ...
To ensure passenger safety and
Their destination; to get them there

On the journey of our lives
We have an unseen guide - Psalm 23
Controlling life and all events
Of those who in Him abide

The unseen divine presence
Is not far away - but near...
Guiding all who trust in Him
So what have we to fear? - Psalm 32

✝ 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 1st 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 3rd 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', 1st and 3rd Thursdays
11:00am-3:00pm	Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly
11:00am	Di's Diamonds coffee group (2nd 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.

"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?'