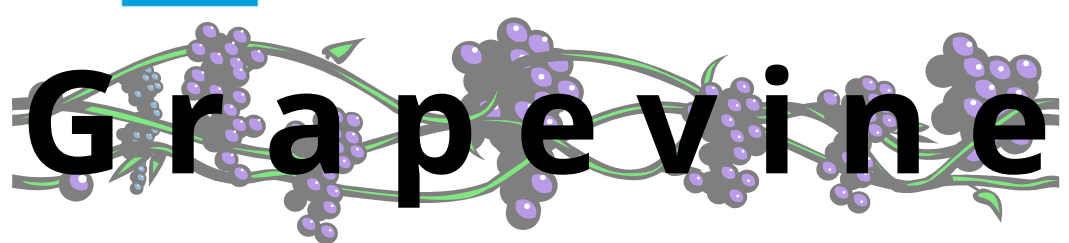


Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple
but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"



From the Editor

So much has happened since the last edition of Grapevine when we were looking forward to the lengthening days and remembering that Jesus said, “*I am the light of the world.*” (John 8:12).

Recent events in the world have caused so much upheaval, and it can be difficult to take the long view, that even with all the darkness, “*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*” (John 1:1-5).

When I read the verse below, it made me think about the church service a few weeks ago where we prayed for the situation in Ukraine, and took sunflower seeds home to plant. I’ve also been so moved by seeing various videos of people singing hymns and songs to keep their spirits up in such difficult circumstances, and this verse reminded me of that too. May the cooing of doves soon be heard across the land.

Let us continue to pray for revival in our hearts and peace in our nations.

*Flowers appear on the
earth;
the season of singing
has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.*



Cheryl Schulte

Song of Songs 2:12

Editorial Team

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Vacant Obituaries
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Church Secretary

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Current Church Activities



Monday

9:30am

12-2pm

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1st Monday in the month)
Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

Tuesday

10:00am

10.30am

2:00-3.30pm

8:00pm

8:00pm

Needlecraft Group
Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs
Treasure Times
Prayer meeting on Zoom
RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

9:45-11:15am

10:00-11:45am

12:45pm

7:45pm

Parent and Toddlers
‘Friendly Faces’ – OrangeLine (Hospice bereavement support coffee group)
Pause the Week (Midweek service)
Wednesdays @ RBC

Thursday

9:45am

10:00am

10:00-11:00am

11:00am-3:00pm

11:00am

7:30-9:00pm

Thursday morning Wellbeing Walk (usually 3rd Thursday in the month)
Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)
‘Come and join us for a chat’, 1st and 3rd Thursdays
Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly
Di’s Diamonds coffee group (2nd Thursday)
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.

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

Smile-Lines

**5th April is end of the tax year.
So, your readers may want to
reflect that...**

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A few more deductions, and your take-home pay isn't going to be enough to get you there.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

It should be easy for any government to please the people. All we want is lower taxes and more spending.

The government not only has the bad habit of living beyond its income, but also beyond ours.

With AGMs at church in mind...

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the **Wishbones** – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the **Jawbones** – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the **Knucklebones** – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the **Backbones** who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?

What a hoot

One evening a bird-loving vicar strolled over to his huge country churchyard, and just for fun, hooted softly, like an owl. To his delight, an owl hooted softly back. The next night the same thing happened, and again, the night after that. Soon it became a regular habit, and every night for the following year, no matter what the weather, the vicar would go to the churchyard and hoot back and forth with his feathered friend. The hoots became longer and more complicated, and the vicar kept a careful log of the 'conversation'.

Just as he thought he was on the verge of a real breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife had a chat with the neighbour who lived in a big house and garden next door to the church. "My husband comes here each night," she said, to "hoot to the owl in the churchyard." "That's odd," the neighbour replied, "so does my husband."

From Parish Pump

Secretary's page

Where's your garden? That might seem a bit of an obvious question, taking into account how much so many of us have appreciated outdoor places over this last 2 years – whether it's your own garden, a balcony, a local park etc, but it's one of the initial questions asked in the new series that we are doing at Wednesdays @RBC called "Be Still".

The garden is referring to where we have our quiet time (and has taken its origins from the layout of gardens in a biblical setting, that in itself I found interesting to learn about!) – as we are all different, our "garden" can be an actual garden, or it may be at your comfy chair, on your journey to work or walking in a park.

This series is giving us the opportunity to discover more about how we spend our time with God and if we are struggling to maintain a regular quiet time, practical ways we can incorporate into our quiet time to keep focused.

At the time of writing this, we've had one session and I am half way through Chapter 3 in the book and have already found it helpful to rethink how do I do my quiet time – what is my place? What time of day is best for me? What is distracting me?

A lot of change has happened over

these last two years and therefore it's ok to change how we do our quiet time, as you may have had your quiet time on your commute to work but now your commute is simply to the kitchen table – so how and where do you find a new time?

If you are unable to join on Zoom on a Wednesday evening, consider obtaining a copy of the book "Be Still" by Brian Heasley and discover where your garden is!

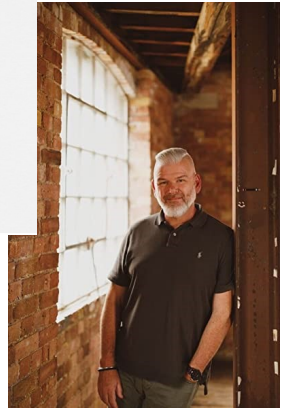
Hayley Ayris
(Church Secretary)

Brian Heasley

Be Still.

A Simple Guide
to Quiet Times

24-7 PRAYER



**The deadline for the
June 2022/July 2022
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 15th May 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



UNLOCK

LONDON WALK 39

IN THE SHADOWS OF THE TOWER

SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2022 9AM TO 5PM

RICH OR POOR?

HEROES AND HOSPITALS

This year's walk takes place within one inner London borough – that of Tower Hamlets, known to be one of the poorest areas of the capital. It certainly has quite a few tower-blocks and lots of uncollected rubbish! It has a large percentage of social housing rather than owner-occupied. The unequal nature



of the area, where significant poverty sits beside great wealth such as Canary Wharf, makes the situation particularly acute. However, Tower Hamlets is rich in other ways: rich in history and unexpectedly rich in green spaces like vast Victoria Park, the splendidly wild Cemetery and the continuous canal-side walk. It is rich in "live" churches which have grown over the past 30 years. A night-shelter is provided seven months of the year by a partnership of local churches. Every night of the week the shelter is in a different church and run by volunteers.

The East End is famous for the Booths (William and Catherine) who founded the Salvation Army in 1865 and Dr Barnardo who established the first Ragged School in 1867 and went on to provide homes for poor children. Less well-known is Annie Macpherson who assisted "gutter" boys and girls, creating "The Beehive" in Bethnal Green. Another charitable institution is the Royal London Hospital, founded in 1757. Since 2012 it has been in a pretty glass tower overlooking its previous premises which are to become Tower Hamlets Town Hall, and making good public use of heritage buildings. In Bethnal Green, The Chest Hospital, built in the 1850s, has now moved to St Bartholomew's in the city. The Grade 2 building is to be developed into luxury flats.



(Continued on page 5)

More Christian Crackers for you to enjoy

The things children say ...



Each Sunday the minister told the children a story. One day he brought a telephone to illustrate the idea of prayer.

"You talk to people on the telephone but don't see them on the other end of the line," he began. The children nodded. "Well, talking to God is like talking on the telephone. He's on the other end, but you can't see him. He's listening though."

Just then a little boy piped up and asked: "What's his number?"

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him the money now, will he let us go?"



Submitted by Ruth Henson



Why not join us for a gentle stroll through Tower Hamlets to hear the stories of how local churches are serving God and small communities in the East End. (See pg 4&5)

Each year Unlock organise a self-guided tour for groups and individuals to explore a different area of London. Their aims include raising awareness of deprived urban areas, and fund-raising for Unlock's work across the UK.

We will leave Romford by train on Saturday morning 23rd April (time to be arranged with Sue and Colin), and expect to arrive home by 5:00pm. Walk at your own pace, and join or leave the tour as you wish.

Please contact Sue and Colin Young for further details.

Link to map of the Unlock London Walk 39:

<http://unlock-urban.org.uk/documents/WalkLeaflet39map.pdf>

Colin and Sue Young
PS bring packed lunch too

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



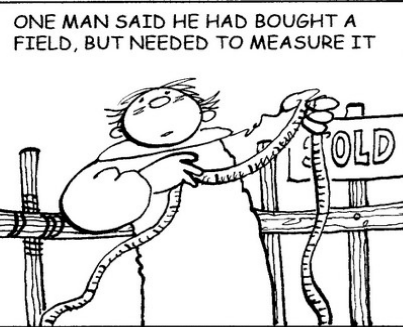
HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

COME TO MY PARTY
COME TO MY PARTY
COME TO MY PARTY
COME TO MY PARTY
COME TO MY PARTY
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COME TO MY PARTY
COME TO MY PARTY
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COME TO MY PARTY

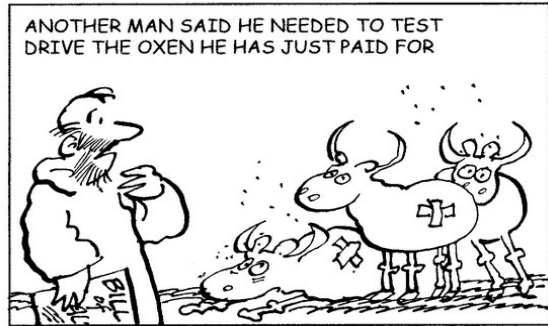


OH! NO!!

BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES



ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



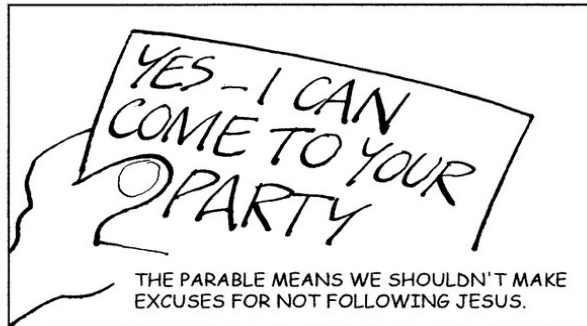
ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

(Continued from page 4)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The average cost of renting in Tower Hamlets is now more than the average household income: it is a big issue. This was true even 120 years ago when the first council estate was built in 1900 around Arnold Circus. The very poor were forcibly removed from the notorious Old Nichol and could not afford to return to the beautiful new Boundary Estate in the NW of Bethnal Green. In the 1960s housing was a problem that concerned Roger Dowley, a member of East London Tabernacle and co-founder of Evangelical Urban Training Project - now Unlock. He created a housing association making it possible for keyworkers to stay in the inner city. This association, now called Gateway, has named property after him: Roger Dowley Court is just north of Old Ford Road. Another housing initiative from worshippers at East London Tabernacle is the Landmark Trust, which campaigned for affordable housing when St Clements, Bow, (formerly a workhouse and then a Psychiatric Hospital) was redeveloped in the last decade.

SPITALFIELDS

Spitalfields Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market, which had traded from 1638, moved to Hackney Marshes in 1991 to get easier access for lorries. The old site (bordering Bishopsgate with its luxury offices) is now full of trendy "upmarket" eateries. Watney market, in complete contrast, is cheap and cheerful. As in Whitechapel or Bethnal Green, it would be a challenge to find a stallholder whose first language is English. If you want to buy Bengali vegetables, this is the place to be! If you want to buy a curry, Brick

Lane offers you a wide choice. Once an area lived in by French Protestant Huguenot weavers and silk-merchants escaping persecution, it was then the centre for Jewish immigrants and the rag-trade. It's now "Bangla-town" and the clothing factories have almost disappeared. Look out for Brick Lane Mosque which started life as a Protestant chapel, was then a synagogue and is now a Muslim place of worship.

TO KEEP OR TO LOSE?

In the grounds of the Chest Hospital there is one of the last remaining mulberry trees in the East End, said to be more than 400 years old. It is under threat by developers. Similarly, Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which ceased making bells in 2017 after 450 years (of which 250 were on this site) needs to be preserved. Land is extremely valuable and so the pressure to make money is always in conflict with the desire to protect our heritage. Each controversy demands more vigilance and energy: to keep or to lose?

GOING GREEN



Finally, what riches can the 2020 Walk show the naturalist? The longest stretch of off-road walking is between Stepney and Mile

End. Take note of the Green Bridge over the Mile End Road at the 4-way junction. It's part of the scheme to have "green" all the way from Victoria Park down to the River Thames. You may be surprised by what riches Tower Hamlets has to offer!

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays April 2022

25th Kathy Metcalf

25th Beryl Dunnings

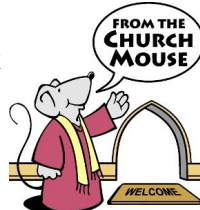
Birthdays May 2022

23rd Elizabeth Callender



Pause to Smile

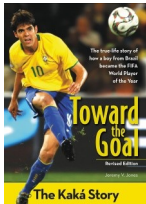
A Sunday school teacher had a class of ten six year old boys and she asked them "who do you think that God is"? She looked round the class at all the blank little faces. No answers were forthcoming, and so she looked at Tommy who always had a lot to say for himself. "Come on Tommy, who is God?" The six year old scratched his head and thought for a moment then with a big smile said "I think God is the man who saved the Queen!"



The Church Mouse

From The Bookstall

Have you read any good books lately? We recommend the following:



"Toward The Goal" - Kaka, the footballer's story. Kaka from Brazil who became the 2007 FIFA World Player of the year, who quoted Ephesians 3:20 in an interview for the Daily Telegraph then.

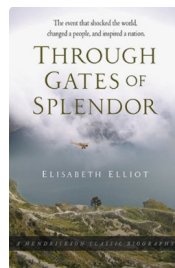
"A Greater Glory - 'From Pitch to Pulpit'" - See what made Gavin Peacock walk away from his dreamlife as a professional footballer and a BBC pundit to become a church minister.



"Through Gates Of Splendour." - The five missionary martyrs of Ecuador.

"Tramp For The Lord." - Corrie Ten Boom pieces together her life on release from the Nazi Concentration Camp and the reality of God's unfailing love.

"Once an Addict." - A drug addict relates of his encounter with God.



There are several books with price reductions up to 50% - Come and browse!!
from The Bookstall
Annette Dennis

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone. Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.

How will we move the stone from the entrance?



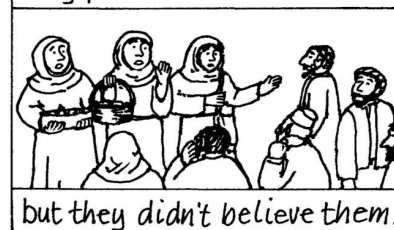
the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty... except for an angel.



Don't be afraid! God raised Jesus to life and he isn't here. Go and tell the disciples.



They fled to tell the others...

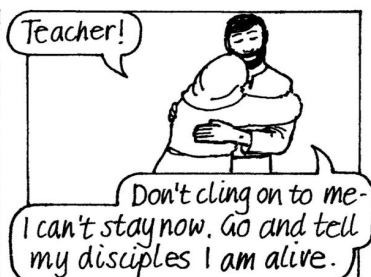


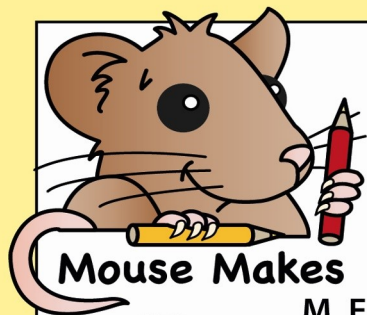
Peter and John ran to the tomb to look.



They saw the tomb was empty and only the cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in lying there. So they went back to the others.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. She didn't understand that Jesus was no longer dead. When she looked in the tomb there were 2 angels.





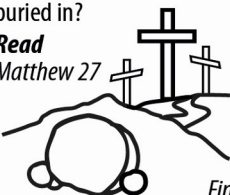
Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put
on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus
buried in?

Read
Matthew 27



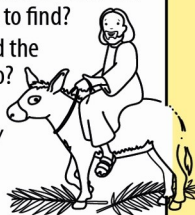
HAPPY EASTER!

Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come
again!



What did Jesus send the
disciples to find?
What did the
crowd do?

Read
Matthew
21:1-11



What did
Jesus do
at Passover?

Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who
rolled away the stone
covering the tomb?
What had happened
to Jesus?

Read
Matthew 28



Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

Apr22 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

THESE TRYING TIMES

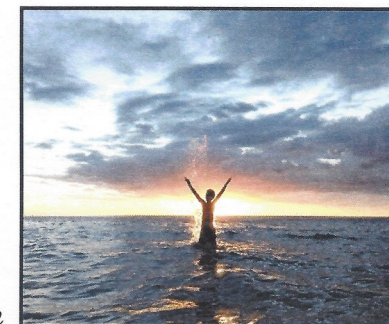


Hours of darkness, hours of day
Miracles of nature on display
Equinox coming twice a year
See the hand of God appear!

Sun and moon fulfil their task
Enjoying blessings we did not ask
Seasons for our benefit reign
Passing by each year the same

The voices of nature loudly call
To us on earth, one and all
To praise the Lord in heaven above
For His greatness - and His love

Who could miss His gentle voice?
And in His wonders, so rejoice
Trust in Christ "the beloved one"
For the atoning work that He hath done



Times of testing here just now
No signs of ending - I wonder why?
Outlook dark - but up look bright
If the Lord is kept in sight!



Lord help us in these trying times
To face each day and all the signs
Let patience, peace and joy combine
And make our daily lives to shine - *Romans 12.12*

† Bob McCaughren †
Salem Baptist Church, Romford

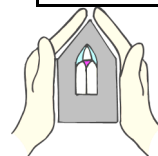
Submitted by Glynis Brown

Prayer Diary for April 2022

Date	People	Event or other
Fri 8 th	BAAH, Michael & Efua, <i>Michael, Julie, Nana & Stephanie</i>	Blood donors use the building today
Sat 9 th	BALOGUN, Ayo	
Sun 10 th	BALOGUN, Olakunle	Palm Sunday
Mon 11 th	BARNES, Anne	Leadership team meeting tonight
Tues 12 th	BARNES, Joanna, <i>Katie & Matthew</i>	
Wed 13 th	BARRETT, Simon & Debbie	
Thurs 14 th	BEARMAN, Susan (Miss)	Blood donors use the building today
Fri 15 th	BELLO, (F) Grace	Good Friday
Sat 16 th	BENJAMIN, Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke & Sophia</i>	
Sun 17 th	BIGGS, Frances	Easter Sunday
Mon 18 th	BITAGA, Dougan & Fely, Jiela	
Tues 19 th	BRETT, Dennis & Brenda	
Wed 20 th	BROWN, Christine	
Thurs 21 st	BROWN, Evelyn	Youth Club meet tonight
Fri 22 nd	BROWN, John & Glynis	
Sat 23 rd	BUNCE, Ian & Vikki	
Sun 24 th	BURGESS, Joyce	'Causeway' service this afternoon
Mon 25 th	BURLAND, Elaine (Mrs)	

Prayer Diary for April 2022

Date	People	Event or other
Tues 26 th	BURRAGE, Reg	Havering Carers hub use the building today
Wed 27 th	BUTLER, Stephen	
Thurs 28 th	BVUMBE, Ella, <i>Ronke, Oladeji</i>	Brewers group use the building today
Fri 29 th	CALLENDER, Elizabeth	
Sat 30 th	CARTER, Keith	RBC social afternoon
Sun 1 st May	CELESTINO, Helder	
Mon 2 nd	CHATRADI, Satya Srikanth & MALLELA, Chris Prajwali; <i>Shanmika (Chatradi)</i>	Foodbank not open due to bank holiday, pray for those who use the Foodbank
Tues 3 rd	CHILDS, Nicola & Dave; Lorna, <i>Amelia & Felicity</i>	Usual Tuesday activities today
Wed 4 th	COLLINS, Les & Therese	Usual Wednesday activities today
Thurs 5 th	COLLINS, Sally	Elections today
Fri 6 th	COX, Nettie	
Sat 7 th	Sofia Baptist Church	



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

