



Romford
BAPTIST CHURCH

Grapevine



Family Magazine

June 2025

and

July 2025

No. 232



From the Editor

Serving God is such a privilege, and while perusing this edition of Grapevine, we become aware of how many opportunities we have to bless others through various forms of "service". This could be by helping out at events, or doing something regularly (such as serving coffee, teaching children and youth, ensuring technology works, manning the book-stall, putting out chairs or encouraging folk in our fellowship). The danger of trying to list things is that it is impossible to know or acknowledge everything that people do. However, it is God who sees what we do, both publicly and in secret.

When reading Psalm 100:2 in different versions, it is interesting to see how worshipping and serving the Lord are both used, so in my understanding, serving God is in fact an act of worship.

New International Version: *"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."*

King James Version: *"Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."*

May we be able to say as Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:12, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service." while we serve him wholeheartedly and with gladness.

Cheryl Schulte

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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.

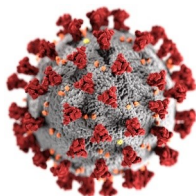
The Adventure of Serving

As many have reported during their membership interviews, my family and I felt led by God to attend RBC in January 2008. At the time, we considered it a "New Year's resolution," which has now turned out to be what I would call "God-intended orchestration"! After a while, especially seeing our children settled in, we transferred our membership and have been blessed to be members of RBC ever since.

It has been a genuine honour to have had the opportunity to serve at RBC as a deacon. Alongside Neil, Bernd, Hayley, and John Stannard, I was welcomed into the diaconate during the Annual General Meeting held in April 2016 (the first appointment) and was re-elected to serve an additional term a few years later. For those of you who are mathematicians, you may be quick to identify the obvious question: did she serve more than eight years? The answer is affirmative, thanks to transitioning from one charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) to another. Our very first leadership meeting paved the way for us to realise that leadership in the church is far different from any other space. The first agenda contained 19 items for discussion, accompanied by several papers! It was clear to us that there was much to be done, and God was entrusting us to do His work in His way. Our meetings are known to be long; we are a mixture of many skilled people, but importantly, the best skill we share is the love for Christ, His people, and His appointment. So, I am quick to state that RBC is indeed blessed with serv-

ant-hearted folks who are fully committed to doing their very best for Christ.

My area of responsibility is membership, and in this role, I have had the most enjoyable opportunities to interview people and sometimes visit them at their homes (mostly pre-COVID). In recent years, we have engaged individuals at their convenience, i.e., after service or during the day at a coffee place (the former more than the latter). All in all, during my time as the membership deacon, we have welcomed 92 friends into membership: a mixture of 11 associates and 81 full members. My thanks go out to everyone who has participated in interviewing these individuals. I have also had the wonderful opportunity to work alongside the ministers during baptisms – which are such joyous occasions – and during the newcomers' welcome events. Serving in these areas has essentially granted me the chance to meet new friends and be a part of their Christian journeys, which has also helped me grow.



Becoming a deacon can feel like a significant journey filled with much to learn! I reflect on the challenges I set for myself from the very start, particularly my commitment to always act in ways that align with God's principles and genuinely connect with names

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

and faces. The beauty of it all is that with dedication, anything one puts their heart into can be achieved through Christ. While I can't say I excel every single time in remembering names and faces, I genuinely strive to make that my goal and that effort has brought a lot of blessings into my life.

Reflecting on the changes since 2008, I join those who have been here before me to express how truly grateful we are for how much RBC has grown; we've experienced not only an increase in numbers but also an incredible growth in spirit as we've opened our arms to many incredible individuals who have joined us since—a truly remarkable blessing from God to grant us the grace to carry such a responsibility.

Aside from being a deacon, I cherish serving as a small group leader and at the welcome desk, where I engage with people and help answer queries related to various needs. I'm thankful to everyone who has enriched my journey in this area. I'm a 'hug' person—and it brings me so much joy to receive warm hugs from those I meet. At RBC, we are a beautiful family, rich in our

RADICAL ROOTS



dynamic diversity, which makes us uniquely special and brings us closer together,

strengthening our faith in Christ. Love is our foundation, and I feel so blessed to have found a treasured place like RBC and to be able to call it my home. This week, we started the new small group series "Radical Roots," in which

we have a front-row view of five friends whose existence spans over 400 years of Baptist history. While watching their story, it dawned on me that we are all empowered to do something for Christ (whether small or big, in the forefront or in the back office), and collectively, our individual efforts can create a story told to generations to come. So, I encourage you, yes, you-reading-this-in-this-moment, to consider what gift He has blessed you with and how you are contributing it to His work. If you have not yet been able to do so, now may be the chance to do something about it. Remember, "to be with Him, to become like Him, and to do things the way He did" - all starts with cultivating good habits. You will find you are not alone; some super-dedicated individuals work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the church's well-being; they are eager for you to be a part of this story and be radical for Christ. There are many ministries in RBC that you can be a part of. Visit the welcome desk to find out more and give something back to Christ for the generous gift He has blessed you with. It could be as small as a smile, a hug, or something much bigger; each action is equally great as it all contributes to the glory of Christ. So, I welcome you to be a part of this adventure of serving the Lord with anything you have. I promise you, it is one of the most fulfilling roles you will play. I have done this for many years, and it's been a blessing. As I head toward handing down my deacon role, I look forward to the new adventures He has in store for me while still carrying out other non-deacon duties here at RBC!

*Much love and be blessed.
Jumoke Giwa-Majekodunmi*

Smile Lines

Our next hymn

A visiting minister, seeing the list of hymns chosen for the Sunday service, sent a message to the organist to say that the last hymn (519) did not suit his sermon, and so he wanted it replaced by 213. The organist's message replied: 'In this church the organist chooses the hymns and I will play 519.' The minister shot back: 'At this service I announce the hymns and I shall still announce 213.'

Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: "I'm a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep recession."

Understand

Sometimes I think I understand everything - but then I regain consciousness.

Life in the Circus

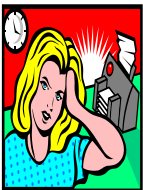
A couple who worked at the circus wanted to adopt a child. Social workers had doubts about their suitability, but the couple produced photos of their large motorhome, which was equipped with a beautiful nursery. As for education, not only was there a nanny, but also a full-time tutor to teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer skills. Finally, the social workers were satisfied and had only one last question. "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"Oh, we don't mind at all," the couple assured them. "As long as he or she fits in the cannon."

Sweets

I gave my four-year-old granddaughter money for sweets and the church collection plate. Later, seeing her enormous pile of sweets, I got suspicious and asked if she hadn't also given some money to God in church that morning. "No," she replied sweetly, "He wasn't there."

From Parish Pump



**The deadline for the
August 2025/September 2025 edition of the
Grapevine is
Sunday 29 June 2025**

Please give any items to Cheryl Schulte, or email them
to Cheryl at:

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



New Members Welcomed

5 April 2025



New members welcomed. From left to right, Rev Vikki Bunce, Jumoke Giwa-Majekodunmi with the new members: Eileen Williams, Trudy Martin, Janet O'Doherty, Fiyinfoluwa Oluwole, Samuel Oluwole, Ayobamidele Odunlami and Simisola Odunlami.

RBC Social

- ⇒ next two sessions 31st May and 28th June, normally last Saturday in month
- ⇒ 4.30 - 6.30. Come when you can go when you must
- ⇒ meet either in main hall or youth lounge
- ⇒ relaxed atmosphere to chat, play some table top games, table tennis or indoor bowls for the energetic
- ⇒ come and chat with others over a coffee to meet new friends
- ⇒ genuinely for all the family
- ⇒ come with your new ideas or teach someone a new skill

See John Harding for more information

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Birthdays June 2025

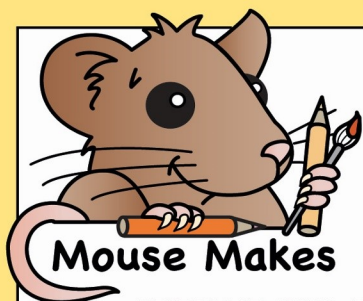
- 6th Bren McSweeney
- 19th Colleen Thompson
- 21st David Thompson
- 24th John Brown
- 25th Christine Brown



Birthdays July 2025

- 8th Gordon Palmer





Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
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It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.



Some views of the tents at the

“Life Exhibition”

held at Romford Baptist Church.

A great time was had by staff, pupils and volunteers.

24-28 March 2025



Bradwell Pilgrimage on **Saturday 5th July**



I attach the latest poster about the Bradwell Pilgrimage on **Saturday 5th July**, in North East Essex, which might be of interest. It's been going for over 70 years, and my husband and I have been the last 3 years and found it a very special time, and I'm now involved with the planning!

The day starts at 10.30am with a service at St Thomas' Church* in Bradwell (car park at the village hall), then a 1.9 mile gentle walk to St Peter's Chapel and adjacent grounds, where there will be another service, worship, workshops, and this year there will be children's activities and various stalls. **Elaine Storkey** is the Keynote speaker. **Adam Atkinson**, Bishop of Bradwell, will be hosting the day.

It's a day when you may be refreshed and be sent back out, to be a light to the world.

The Chapel of St Peter's-on-the-Wall was almost certainly originally built by Bishop Cedd in 654. Cedd travelled south from Lindisfarne to spread Christianity. Many people travel from afar to St Peter's, which is often described as a holy place to come and meet with God. The life of the Chapel centres around the annual Pilgrimage. In recent years, in the week running up to the Pilgrimage, local schools go for a day for their own 'pilgrimage', and there is a record number attend-

ing this year!

Sunday evening services are also held in the Chapel in July and August (details still being confirmed).

Do gather some folk together if you can, to attend the Pilgrimage on Saturday 5th July!

<https://www.bradwellchapel.org/events/event/34/>

*Starts at St Thomas' Church, High Street, East End Rd, Bradwell-on-Sea, Southminster CM0 7PX.

Do get in touch if you'd like further information.

Michele

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ESSEX & EAST LONDON
BRADWELL PILGRIMAGE AND GATHERING

5th July 2025

people of hope

10:30am - 3:15pm

Join us for a day of inspiring talks & reflections, workshops, live music & worship, children's activities and stalls. Starting from St Thomas' Church, Bradwell, then walk to St Peter's Chapel. Light refreshments available. Bring a picnic!

For more information bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk

With special guest, theologian, writer and broadcaster **Elaine Storkey**



A Clearer View

Last September, I had the privilege and blessing of being able to purchase a new (although second-hand) car. I love my blue VW Taigo. Every time I get in I thank God for this blessing in my life. Like many car owners, I know the benefit of good maintenance. My dad always taught me to wash my car regularly. Aside from making me smile because it looks nice, it does actually protect the paintwork too, of course.

I was driving along a winding, leafy, sun-dappled lane in Hullbridge near Southend recently, enjoying the beautiful weather and scenic landscape. The spring leaves were just starting to burst forth in their vibrant new colours. The road was very twisty, often turning 90° to face another direction. My windscreen was clear and vision was great; it was an enjoyable journey.

Then, just as I took one of these corner turns, my windscreen suddenly looked just terrible, full of smears and streaks. The sun was right ahead of me, emphasizing every little mark. Where had my clear windscreen gone? The position I faced made a huge difference in my perspective of the messy patches on my windscreen. With the sun behind me, my windscreen looked as if it had just been cleaned, but with the sun in front, every flaw was revealed, inside and out.

As I continued my twisty journey, frequently changing direction, the smears and marks appeared and disappeared as I drove along. Once again, God showed me a valuable lesson in an everyday situation.

When I am not looking at the light of

Jesus or studying His word, I often cannot see my faults. They are behind me on the back-burner and

my life ticks along in its usual routine. It's only when I take time to meet with the Lord, face His direction and spend time reading His Word that He reveals things to me which need addressing. I don't like being told about my faults (who does?!). However, over the years of my Christian journey, I have come to realise that it's good practice to ask God to reveal areas of my behaviour which need addressing. Although sometimes painful, I've also learnt that God does this for my own good. I know now from experience that things are better afterwards. It can be a difficult prayer for me to pray – "Dear God, please reveal to me the area which needs work and change". I generally live what people would consider a 'good' life – I work hard, care for my family, serve in the church. I don't commit crime, and help where I can. This can sometimes be a barrier between me and God, though, as I sometimes think I don't really need helping. A dangerous game. Pride can stand in the way of my growth in Jesus. I always find it helpful to reign in these thoughts and realign myself with God's standards, rather than thinking I'm a good enough person in the world's eyes.

Thankfully, God doesn't see sin like I do. 1 John 1 verse 9 says *"If we confess*



(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." What a promise! We only have to confess something to our loving Father and He forgives us. I've found that, when I do this, I have clarity of thought in future tricky situations and my actions or words change. By inviting the Holy Spirit to guide, I am better armed to react in the way Jesus would like. Put on the full armour of God! As our annual RBC verse states *"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ"* (Philippians 1 verse 27). What a challenge. I try to imagine Jesus standing beside me when the challenges come. A sobering thought!

One closing comment – I like to get my car cleaned regularly. It looks so nice when it's polished and shiny. And I'm like that sometimes – polished and shiny. Looking to all intents and purposes to the world that I'm a lovely Christian. But nobody's perfect (not in this life anyway). The smears inside my spiritual windscreen are still there, still needing attention, still obscuring my view. That's like my sin which is inside – hidden from everyone's view. Lord, please forgive me when I just pay attention to what everyone else sees and help me to truly surrender to you the secret parts nobody knows about. Those thoughts about that person who drives me mad. That temptation to answer back with a clever, hurtful quip. That unkind, witty comment to make someone feel small and make me feel better. Help me to turn my face towards Your light so that these things are revealed and help me to respond in Your truth and Your way. Help me to clean my spiritual windscreen inside and out. Amen.

Sarah Jenkin



UCCF Student Welcome



UCCF's Student Welcome Box is designed to help new students make the best start to university life as possible. Wherever they're at on their faith journey, this box contains resources to help new students think intentionally about life and faith at university. From food, to recipe books, to practical tips, there are also a range of items designed to help them step out of their rooms and into deeper friendships.

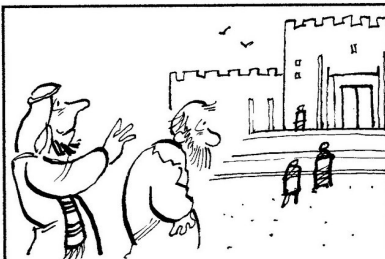
It's the perfect gift for a family member, friend, or new student at your church who's embarking on the adventure of life at uni. Visit uccf.org.uk/welcomebox to order yours.



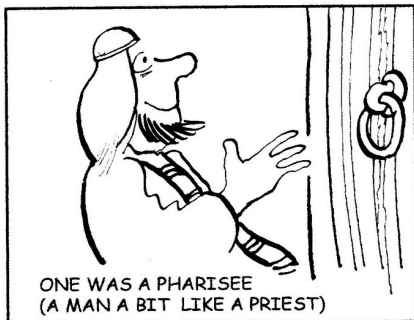
Submitted by:
Barbara
Gatherum

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**

**JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS**



**ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY**



**ONE WAS A PHARISEE
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)**

**THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).**



**THE PHARISEE BEGAN
TO PRAY**

**WHAT A GREAT CHAP I
AM! I NEVER DO
ANYTHING WRONG!!**



**I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!**



**BUT THE TAX
COLLECTOR COULDN'T
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD**

**DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR
ALL THE WRONG THINGS
I HAVE DONE.**



**IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!**

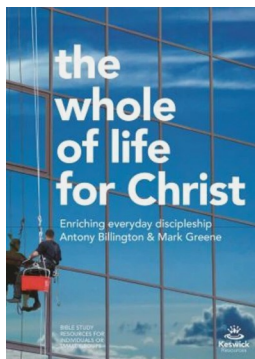


**JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.**

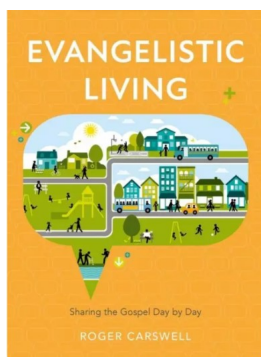
Church Bookstall Update

Greetings, a news update from the bookstall.

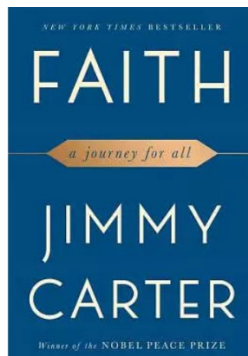
There are number of books available on sale to buy.



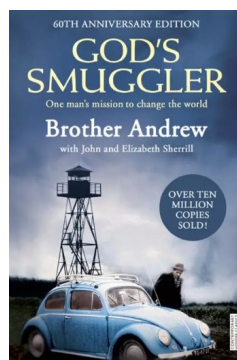
The Whole Life for Christ by Antony Billington & Mark Greene. It focuses on how to devote time understanding God's plans and applying it in your everyday life.



Evangelistic Living by Roger Carswell is also available. Theme of the book explores how to share the gospel with others, so that they learn more about what it means to be a follower of Christ.



Faith A Journey for All by Jimmy Carter examines the US president's personal faith story discovering God.



God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew tells the story of a missionary spreading God's good news to those in need. As a missionary, Brother Andrew explains his spiritual mission sharing the gospel. Also about his conviction to reach people held in captivity behind the Iron Curtain, sharing good news of the gospel.

If you would like to learn more about books shown, please do ask to find out more.

Daniel Eborn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing

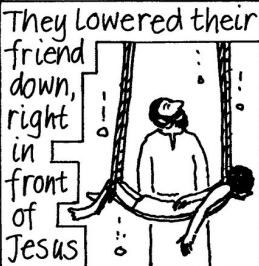


But the crowd wouldn't let them get close

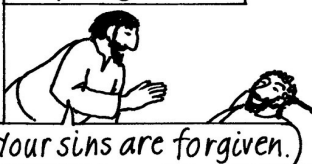


so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?



But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!



Current Church Activities



Monday

9:30am

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

12:00-2:00pm

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

7:45pm

RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

10:00-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers

12:45pm

Prayer

7:45pm

Life Groups

Thursday

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

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

6:00pm

Evening 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.



"Well, no, I'm not dressing like this to create common ground with today's youth culture – I've always worn a hoody."

