



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine

June 2023

and

July 2023

No. 220



From the Editor

I recently heard of a park called The Rising Sun Country Park, and since then, have had the song "From the Rising of the Sun" in my head. It's quite an appropriate song for these lovely sunny days as we approach the summer. It got me thinking that maybe we must praise God more in the summer since the days are longer, but I'm not sure that's the real sentiment of the song, which is based on a verse in Psalm 113. Rather, I think it means praising Him all day long, from waking to sleeping.

*From the rising of the sun unto the going
down of the same
the Lord's name is to be praised.*

Psalm 113:3, Authorized (King James) Version

In this edition of Grapevine, you will see reports and photographs of people openly professing His name, in Romford at Easter, through Baptism and with testimonies. There are also examples of people doing good and sharing with others, whether that be time, food or company.

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

May we bring pleasing sacrifices to God, as we praise Him, do good and share with others the love of Jesus through our actions and words.

Cheryl Schulte

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(With focus on the older generation)

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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

Tales of the unexpected.

There is an old one-line cartoon that was in a Christian publication which simply said "Want to make God laugh? tell Him your plans"



God does it time and time again. Just when we have a plan, God does the unexpected. Through history, God has a way of taking people on unexpected adventures. Plans are made, everything is in place and then..... God turns up.

To Jonah, - "go to Nineveh,"
To Nehemiah, - "Fancy building a wall?"
To Elizabeth and Mary, - "You are pregnant!"
To Saul, - "You have it all wrong..."

2000+ years later, God is still on the move and the challenge is to see Him at work and to be open to His unsettlement. The unsettlement may at the time be painful, frustrating, inconvenient etc. We may fight against it and sometimes just ignore it, sometimes at great cost.

In the Northumbria Community Morning Prayers we are reminded daily to seek the Lord.

Opening sentences

One thing I have asked of the Lord,

this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.

Call: Who is it that you seek?
Response: We seek the Lord our God.
Call: Do you seek Him with all your heart?
Response: Amen. Lord, have mercy.
Call: Do you seek Him with all your soul?
Response: Amen. Lord, have mercy.
Call: Do you seek Him with all your mind?
Response: Amen. Lord, have mercy.
Call: Do you seek Him with all your strength?
Response: Amen. Christ, have mercy.
(www.northumbriacommunity.org/offices/morning-prayer/)

As we have set our plans, as we have everything mapped out, maybe it is time we are open to being frustrated, diverted, distracted by a Godly intervention. Will you seek God with all your heart, soul and mind, and if you sense His will, His good and perfect will (Rom 12:2,) will you let God have total control?

Well this is not what I planned to write, maybe I need to stop and ask God, what is your plan?

*Rev. Ian Bunce
Team Leader*

Death of George Verwer, founder of OM



George Verwer, the founder of Operation Mobilisation, died on 14th April, aged 84, in his home near London. He had been ill for some time.

Verwer was known worldwide for his commitment to evangelism, and he made Operation Mobilisation one of the world's leading mission charities for more than four decades.

He has been described as one of "the most outstanding North American missionary statesman of the last 60 years." He handed out more than one million free books during his lifetime.

Since his retirement from OM in 2003, he managed special projects, spoke at church events, and wrote more than a dozen books.

He never shied away from admitting his own imperfections and honouring God, who graciously forgives and works through people, despite their mistakes. He called it "messiology."

UK foodbanks busier than ever

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds.

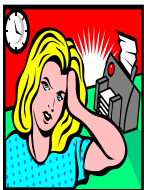
These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children.

These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37-per-cent increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."



**The deadline for the
August 2023/September 2023
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 16th July 2023**

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

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



Easter Craft



Photo: Rev J. Loveard

We had a wonderful time over Easter, celebrating with our support group, with 22 children attending, followed by a meal with our adults. This is a photo of the adults holding up their craft.

Rev. Jan Loveard

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

I have received a letter from BMS World Mission in which they wish to thank all the people who have given to the Birthday Scheme over the past year.

The money raised during 2022 is 'bringing healing, justice, and new life through Jesus across the world'..... and 'your prayers and gifts' have been an important part in this. So thank you all.

For anyone interested in supporting the BMS through the Birthday Scheme, I will be happy to give you more details.

Christine Brown
Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator.

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays June 2023

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



Birthdays July 2023

8th Gordon Palmer



Baptisms

9th April 2023



Arash Zahedidrehshori

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17



Emmanuel Ifedolapo Akinyemi Olufemi

"But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,' declares the LORD."

Jeremiah 1:7-8

Reza Shafieesahlabadi

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will"

Ephesians 1:3-5



Mohamad Shabanian Bashmandowt

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Jacob had cheated his father and brother, and had run away to stay with his uncle Laban. On the way there..

Jacob saw angels and heard God.

I will be with you

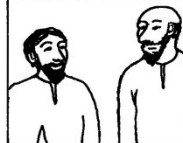


At Laban's house, Jacob met his cousin Rachel



Work for me for 7 years and you can marry her

7 years later



Can I marry Rachel now?

But Laban tricked him into marrying her sister Leah

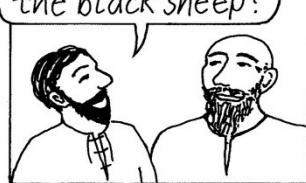


So Jacob worked 7 more years to marry Rachel



Then he said to Laban

As you aren't paying me wages, can I have the black sheep?



Laban agreed, but that day he moved all the black sheep far away



But God blessed Jacob and his black flock grew



Laban became very jealous of Isaac



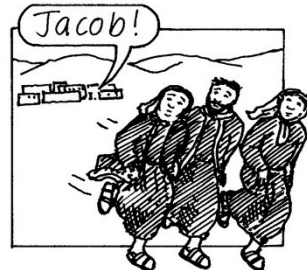
Your father doesn't like me any more. We need to go back to my home.



They waited until Laban was away..



but he was told ...



Prayer Diary 8th June – 7th July 2023

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Thurs 8 th	WINGATE, Lilian	A nursery uses our building today
Fri 9 th	WRIGHT, Christine	Pray for the RBC youth club, meeting most Fridays in term time
Sat 10 th	WRIGHT, John & Pamela	RBC social afternoon today
Sun 11 th	YATES, Ken	Pray for the church meeting to- day
Mon 12 th	YOUNG, Colin & Susan	Pray for the Leadership as they meet tonight
Tues 13 th	ABBEY, Lydia	Pray for Needlecraft, Amaze, Treasure Times
Wed 14 th	ADEKANMBI, Family	Pray for the U3A booking today and the safeguarding training to- night
Thurs 15 th	ADENYIN, Anu	Pray for children and young peo- ple who have exams this term
Fri 16 th	ADEYEMO, Vivian & Adeg- boye, <i>Theodore, Tobias</i>	Pray for the Baptist Assembly this weekend
Sat 17 th	AKINOLA, Emmanuel & Oluwaseun	Starshine use the hall today
Sun 18 th	AMOA, H, Johnson & Pumela, Sipho, Isaac & Harry	Pray for university students as their summer term winds down
Mon 19 th	AQUILINA, Connie	Pray for the regular Monday bookings, and the monthly Well- being walk today
Tues 20 th	ARGENT, David & Jean	Holiday at Home starts today
Wed 21 st	AROWOLO, Kolawole & Esther	London Baptist ministers meet today for lunch
Thurs 22 nd	AROWOLO, Samuel	Pray for the Holiday at Home out- ing today, and NELFT using the building

Prayer Diary 8th June – 7th July 2023

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Fri 23 rd	AROWOLO, Emmanuel & Dani	Pray for the Church Away Day, happening tomorrow!
Sat 24 th	AROWOLO, Joshua	Pray for the government
Sun 25 th	ASANTE, George & Joyce	Causeway service today
Mon 26 th	ASUMANG, Enoch & Vera, Brendon (Osafo), Brady & <i>Bradley</i>	Pray for the Parkside Trustees as they meet tonight
Tues 27 th	AYRIS, Hayley	Pray for the Carers' hub, using our building today
Wed 28 th	BAAH, Michael & Efua, <i>Michael, Julie, Nana & Stephanie</i>	Come and join some prayers in the church this lunchtime
Thurs 29 th	BALOGUN, Ayo	Pray for Brewers and NELFT, us- ing the building today
Fri 30 th	BALOGUN, Olakunle	Pray for the Blood Donors book- ing today
Sat 1 st July	BARNES, Anne	Pray for the team at Parkside as they care for the residents
Sun 2 nd	BARNES, Joanna, <i>Katie & Matthew</i>	Pray for the CMA team, helping those in debt
Mon 3 rd	BARRETT, Simon & Debbie	Pray for the Foodbank as it helps many people today, and the 4 bookings using the building today
Tues 4 th	BEARMAN, Susan (Miss)	Pray for the Worship Group as they meet today
Wed 5 th	BELLO, (F) Grace	Last session of the Life Group se- ries today (social next time)
Thurs 6 th	BENJAMIN, Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke & Sophia</i>	Pray for the Meeting Place and all who walk in – that they know God's presence today
Fri 7 th	BMS World Mission	Pray for those working with the homeless in our local area



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



Good Friday in Romford - 7th April 2023



The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN
MY BARNs AND BUILD
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS
OLD BARNs....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST
MAN IN THE TOWN!



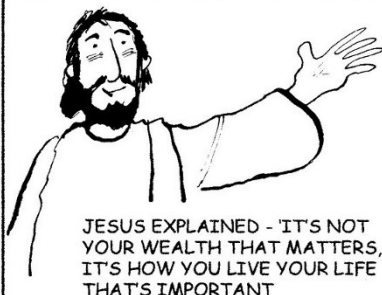
I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN
EAT, DRINK AND BE
MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,
THE MAN DIED!

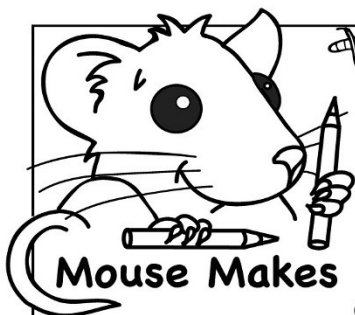


WHAT GOOD WERE HIS
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'IT'S NOT
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE
THAT'S IMPORTANT





The Lord said to Moses,
*"Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh
 to let the people of Israel go out of his land...
 The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord
 when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."*

As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the
 Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...

1

Water turns to Blood

Which water turned
 to blood?

Read - Exodus 7:19

2

A Swarm of Frogs

In which
 places were the
 frogs found?

Read - Exodus 8:3-4

3

A Plague of Gnats

When Aaron struck his
 staff on the ground
 what became Gnats?

Read - Exodus 8:16-17

4

Swarms of Flies

In which land were the
 flies not be found?

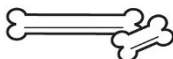
Read - Exodus 8:22

5

Death of Animals

Which animals that belonged
 to the Egyptians died?

Read - Exodus 9:2



D F G B O I L S L
 L S O O T O P I B
 A W D P E O P L E
 N A N I M A L S A
 D R S N G N A T S
 U M I D N I G H T
 S S T A F F U O
 T A A R O N E N O
 D E B K D F S D G
 T M A N W A T E R
 M O S E S R W R O
 C R F S N I L E U
 F I R S T B O R N
 I V O K N L C F D
 R E G H W O U I E
 E R S A K O S S A
 H W I N D T H T
 I L F L I E S E H

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
 WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
 FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
 GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
 BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
 MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
 DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

6

A Break out of Boils

What did Moses throw into
 the air before boils appeared
 on people and animals?

Read - Exodus 9:10

7

A Rain of Hail

What also rained
 down with the hail?
 Where did it not hail?

Read - Exodus 9:24-26

8

A Swarm of Locusts

Where did the wind
 come from that brought
 the locusts to the land?

Read - Exodus 10:13

9

Darkness over the Land

How many days did
 it remain dark?

Read - Exodus 10:21-22

10

Death of the Firstborn

At what time would the
 firstborn in the land die?

Read - Exodus 11:4-6

Smile Lines



Church bulletin notices that didn't quite work...

~ The Revd John Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

~ The students will present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' in the church on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

~ The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

~ The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

~ The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

Miscellaneous observations on life

I burn about 2000 calories every time I put on fitted sheets by myself.

It's weird, being the same age as old

people.

One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.

Laundry

I often do the laundry for our church, and one day I decided to do the altar cloth with a lavender-scented detergent. When our minister next walked past the altar, he sniffed in bewilderment. "What's this?" he asked.

"Guess," I said coyly.

"I have no idea," he said. "It smells like the stuff my daughter uses to line the hamster's cage."

Better by half

As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: "You are better looking than half the women here."

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Genesis ch. 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons - Esau ('Hairy') and Jacob ('grasper'). When the boys were born, God said...

Esau is older but Jacob will be more important.



The boys grew up...

Esau liked to go out to hunt, but Jacob stayed at home.



When Isaac was old and blind he told Esau



But Rebekah went to find Jacob



But Esau is hairy and I am not.



Use goat skin to cover your arms and wear Esau's clothes



Here is your food, Father



Are you really Esau? Come nearer.

Jacob was tricked by the goat skin and Esau's clothes.

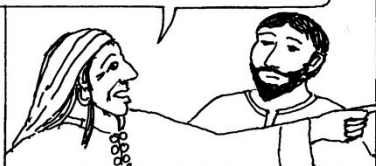


Then Esau returned



I'm sorry, I already blessed your brother

You must run away or Esau will kill you. Go to my brother Laban's home.



Jacob!





Current Church Activities



Monday

9:30am

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

9:45am

Morning Wellbeing Walk (usually 3rd Thursday in the month)

12:00-2:00pm

Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

1:00-3:00pm

Friendly Faces

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

12:45pm

Prayer

7:45pm

Wednesdays @ RBC

Thursday

10:00am

Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)

10:00-11:45am

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

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

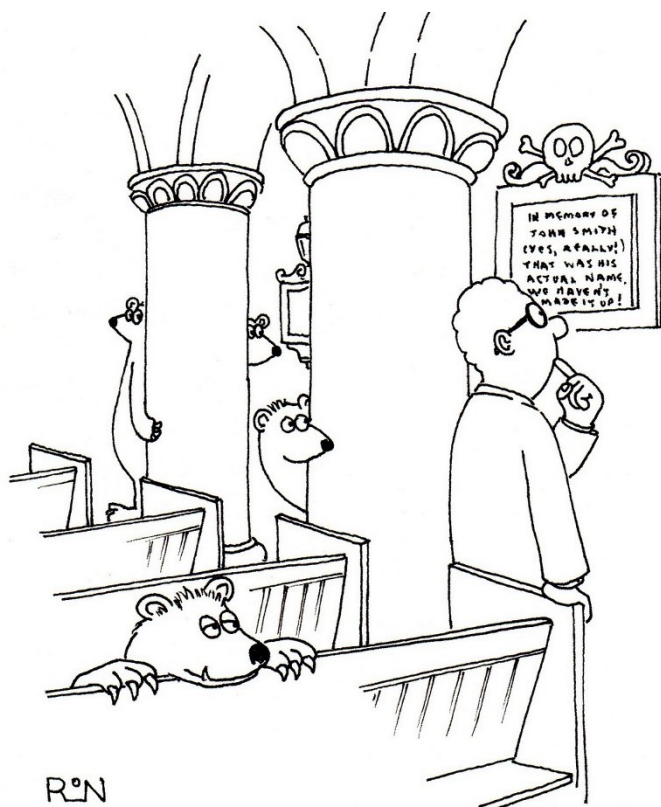
12:15-2:00pm

Student Social (alternate weeks as announced)

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.



Dennis spent a long time
in church looking for
his forebears.

