



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



From the Editor

When flying, I love looking out the window – it's so exciting trying to orientate myself, and sometimes see landmarks I recognise or know really well.

So it is with absolute amazement that I look at some of the photos that astronaut Tim Peake has been taking from space. He talks about looking down on electric storms, passing through thick "aurora soup", experiencing 16 sunrises a day, glimpsing volcanoes and icebergs, pyramids and islands; that "it's like flying over a canvas of art".

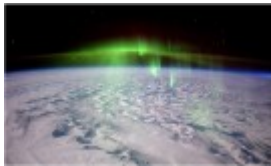
What a privilege we have to be able to know the One who created all of this – the artist who flung the stars and planets into space, and put us here on Earth too. That God is interested in us is indeed wonderful.

*³When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,*

*⁴what is mankind that you are mindful of
them, human beings that you care for them?*
Psalm 8:3 – 4

Consider how amazing it is that this Creator is so involved in our lives – we are not alone, we just need to acknowledge Him and allow Him to be part of our lives, because He cares for us!

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.

From the Secretary

Dear Friends,

What a glorious season spring is! I'm always so pleased that I live in a country that has seasons, each with its own beauty. On the particular spring day on which I am writing this, many of us around the country are placing our votes to elect people to various positions of power and responsibility. The decision we make, as we put our cross on the voting papers, is something that we can make public or keep private – just as we wish – as a decision that no one else needs to know.

This is not the case with the decision that many of us have made to accept Christ as our Saviour and Lord and to respond to a very different sort of cross. Although, when we made that conscious step of faith, it was between us and God, the good news of His love and His plan for us is something about which we are commanded to speak out! It's been great, over the last year, to have heard the public testimony of many people who have been baptised at RBC. Each one has witnessed to the power of God to change lives. If you're like me, you'll know that it can be all too easy, with the years, to lose something of the sense of joy, excitement and ur-

gency of this and become too 'comfortable' and take the wonder of what God has done for us for granted.

Let us allow God's Holy Spirit to work through us in our daily lives, living a life where what we do and say is a witness to what God has done for us and in us. May our words and actions speak out clearly about our Lord and how He is longing to be part of the lives of all those we meet, showing His overwhelming love for each person of His creation. This is true for each of us as individuals but, also, as a body of God's people. As we are seeking to move forward at RBC, following where Christ is leading, let's pray that we will be shown how we can show and speak out about God's love to the community around us and that we will grasp and take these opportunities to make Jesus known.

'In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.' 1 Peter 3:15

*With love,
Debbie*

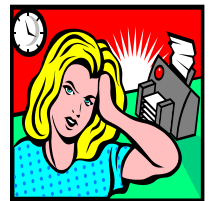


**The deadline for the August/September 2016
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 3rd July 2016**

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



Baptism Sally Collins - 27th March 2016



I've lived in the Borough of Hornchurch for 29 years with my late mum, who passed away when she was 60. My mum was not a Christian. I went to a local school in the borough; my first Church was Holy Cross Church. I was there for my childhood and in my adult years I moved to St John and St Matthew's, the latter was a good church.

As the years passed I was losing faith with God. In my adult years I've done volunteering at various places: Cancer Research, St Francis Hospice and Salvation Army. At Salvation Army I met my partner, whom I hope to marry eventually. We met while I was going to St John and St Matthews. My partner was going to Havering Christian Centre Fellowship. He left his church and we went back to St John and St 'Matthews but he wasn't happy there. We then tried The Good Shepherd but some-

thing told me that wasn't the place for me, and for me to continue my faith I found I should be in RBC and I felt so much happier here. As soon as I entered the Church I felt the Holy Spirit, I've never experienced this in any other church.

I feel my faith in God is back, even stronger now. Thank you God for finding the right church. The last two years of having Jesus in my life has been up and down but it has not been straightforward, but nor is life. I have moved from Church to Church just to find the right Church; God led me to come to Romford Baptist Church, I feel very much at home in this Church. I'm happy with what God is doing in my life now.

God has always been by my side like

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He is with everybody, I'm so glad there is a God and He has given me hope and a future. He has brought an amazing man in my life which I thought I was never going to get. He is caring and helpful and he is very helpful with my journey with God, so thank you God for believing in me, and getting baptised today is a very big part of my life, as I've been told by many other Christians that when you come up from the emersion of the baptism pool you feel awesome. I have been reading my scriptures on my journey with God.

This scripture stands out as a BIG part of fulfilling my amazing dream with God: 1 John 2:27 "but you have received the Holy Spirit and He lives within so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true for the Holy Spirit teaches you everything you need to know. What He teaches is not a lie so just as He taught you remain in the fellowship with Christ. Amen.

So with the grace of God I'm feeling so blessed for this baptism to be happening today and thank God for bringing all my brothers and sisters of God for this amazing day.



BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays June 2016

- 4th June Huang
- 6th Bren McSweeney
- 19th Sue Townson
- 19th Colleen Thompson
- 21st David Thompson
- 27th Jiela Bitaga



Birthdays July 2016

- 1st Daryl Townson
- 4th Brenda Beaver
- 8th Gordon Palmer
- 19th Jackie Brett



Flowers

June 2016

- 5th Brian and Rosemary Loveard
- 12th Doris Norman
- 19th Yvonne Howson and Christine Henson
- 26th Dougan and Fely Bitaga

July 2016

- 3rd Christine Brown
- 19th Beryl Mather
- 17th Nettie Cox
- 24th Rebecca Waigwa
- 31st JJ Giwa-Majekodunmi



Baptism

Sarah Kruger - 27th March 2016



Throughout my life, I have had many good times, and many bad times. It is the bad times that I have almost let destroy me.

From an early age I learned how cruel life can be. A large part of my life was surrounded by painful experiences. Things I have seen, and experienced... impacted me in such a bad way, more than anyone could imagine. I have seen and felt Evil and it has tormented me all of my life.

I have tried to deal with my burdens alone, I tried to block out what I have seen, what had happened to me, but the pain grew and grew. I felt broken, I felt lost. I struggled deeply with my self worth. I felt the need to find acceptance with the people around me.

I hated myself so much; I would constantly look back into my past and by doing this I was torturing myself, never allowing my wounds to heal.

There were many moments where I would just break down and cry, wondering why am I here? What is my purpose? Am I here just to feel this immense pain in my heart? I would fall into such great despair that I couldn't care less if I just dropped dead. That everyone would be better off without me because I felt like nothing... and then I would be overwhelmed with guilt because I felt selfish for feeling like this.

How could I feel so lost when I have such a loving God? Why was I not getting out of this dark hole? The reason was me.

I had built a wall between me and God which was made up of all my wrong thoughts and actions, bitterness, guilt, sadness, regret, hurt, self loathing, envy. I had eventually imprisoned myself for a large part of my life and the sad thing was that I had the key, and the key was God.

How did I come to Christ? It was through my twin sister, Karen. She was once lost like me, but as she built her relationship with God I could see the wonderful change; she was found. I

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wanted that, I wanted God in my life.

Karen would share God's love with me, she encouraged me to come to church and together we came across Romford Baptist Church 2 years ago this Easter and we found our place. I had longed to be accepted and to be surrounded by God's love, and I finally had a place where I belonged. The people that I have met here in Romford Baptist Church have changed my life, to me, it's not just church, it's my family. I have found my purpose, living for God, and to build a deeper relationship with God through Christ.

I am part of a small group where I have built great relationships and have become closer to God through our studies. I have also been volunteering for 9 months at the Monday morning food bank here at church, which means so much to me personally as I lived in the homeless section for 4 years during my teenage years with my mother, twin sister and my youngest sister, who was a baby at the time. It was not a happy time but after the struggle we finally got a home and I just wanted to give something back.

The reason for being baptised today is because I want to surrender myself to God. I want to give up my burdens, I want my chains to be broken. For too long have I struggled to deal with my

pain alone, today I am opening my heart, my soul completely to God. I am knocking down my walls.

I found it very difficult to write my testimony, I couldn't quite find the words or I just didn't know how to tell it. It wasn't until last weekend, I was walking down the street with my friend, and a man came up to me and gave me a leaflet, he then said 'Jesus loves you'. When I found a moment, I opened the leaflet and there was a message, but this message felt so personal, like it was meant for me... and through that message, I was able to identify my problem and was able to deal with my issues. God spoke to me that day, I could feel His love, His presence. I finally truly understood my need to have God in my life. All this time I felt so alone, but the truth is, God has always been there for me, and always will be, He has always loved me and always will.

God sent His only son to die on the cross for our sins, for my sins. What great love He has for us, for me.

I want to be free to live my life for God and to glorify His name for He is the light that is leading me to the place where I'll find peace.

He is the strength that keeps me walking.

He is the hope that keeps me trusting.

He is the light to my soul.

He is my purpose, my everything.

Baptism

Karen van der Merwe - 27th March 2016



Hello,
My name is Karen Van der Merwe.

I spent a lot of my life trapped in a self made prison of hurt, bitterness, anger, fear, guilt and bad memories.

For a while I wasn't aware of the extent of my wounds, therefore I could not heal. Rev Ian Bunce told me the phrase 'Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you', is a lie, and I agree. Words can be soul-destroying. It was words from others that made me feel like I was worthless, useless, stupid and a failure.

I was a person with no confidence in myself, I would often avoid situations and people if the risk of failure and rejection was high. I would cry alone and wonder 'What am I here for? What is the point? I am useless, nothing.'

My self-worth was very low. I would try so hard to win people's approval and acceptance. I just wanted to feel like a 'somebody'. I believed in God, but I had no relationship with Him, no true understanding.

A big turning point in my life was when I met a friend who I now believe God placed into my life, not to replace anyone, but to guide me to Christ. She shared the gospel with me, she told me that I shouldn't be trying to find my self-worth in people and earthly things because I was already deeply loved, pleasing and accepted by God.



She sent me a Bible and a number of great books which helped me learn to forgive, let go of my bad memories and to base my self-worth on the love, ac-

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ceptance and the forgiveness of Christ. She told me how to be saved through Jesus. When I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour I could feel a weight being lifted. I placed my life, my trust in God, I lifted my burdens to Him. God put everything into perspective, the way I looked at life, people, relationships and situations had changed. The Lord opened my eyes to all the blessing in my life. He gave me hope.

My heart was filled with love, happiness and peace and I wanted to share that with everyone. I wanted people to know about Jesus. Many treated me like I was a joke, brainwashed, like I was following some sort of satanic cult. That really hurt to begin with. But, reading the Bible prepared me for this. Jesus said In Matthew chapter 10 verse 23 " You will be hated by everyone because of my name, but the one who endures to the end will be saved" God opened doors for me. He equipped me with knowledge and courage so that I could help lead people to Him, for example my twin sister, Sarah.

Myself and my friend created a Christian support group in which we have seen prayers being answered. He guided me to Romford Baptist Church, where I have met wonderful friends who have helped me grow spiritually. This church has made me feel like I am

part of a family, that I have everything to offer. Taking part in a small group has been really helpful and fun.

I volunteer at the food bank here at church, which I love. Helping people in need and sharing the love of Christ

By studying God's word and experiencing loving relationships with other believers I have continued to gain a better understanding of the way God values me and what my purpose is. All of this has helped me with my self-worth.

I still have my difficult days but I always remind myself of this. " I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

I want to be baptised because I want to give God the glory He deserves. My goal is to live the rest of my life for God's Glory.

Baptism
Timi Eweoya
27th March 2016



Prayer Diary for June 2016

Wed 8 th	Thank God for the encouragement gained through Small Groups, as we meet together tonight	Steve Romain
Thurs 9 th	Pray that the book "The Servant Queen and the King she serves" will help draw attention to the impact of the Queen's faith on her work and life	Josie Ronald
Fri 10 th	Eastern Baptist Association meet this weekend at Felixstowe.	Simon Ronald, Joshua & Isaac
Sat 11 th	Pray for the leaders and those who attend, to be encouraged as we share together	Ossie & Evelyn Rose-Green & family
Sun 12 th	Ian leads worship both morning and evening.	Grace Sakwa, Samantha & Matthew
Mon 13 th	Jan and Sandra will be at Rise Park Juniors at 9.30am to give out "It's Your Move" to Year 6	Chelsea, Feyisola & Princess Salau
Tues 14 th	Pray for the forthcoming European Referendum, that each one of us will be engaged	Ian & Hilary Salisbury
Wed 15 th	Pray that Christians working in Parliament would be salt and light to those around them.	Mark & Laura Salter & Noah
Thurs 16 th	The BMS Action Team (Jess, Elizabeth and Susie) arrive today. Pray they will settle in quickly	Alex & Alison Savine, Jonathan & Eleanor
Fri 17 th	Continue to pray for Jess, Elizabeth and Susie, as they prepare and visit Church 123 today	Dorice Sayer
Sat 18 th	"Let us be fools for Christ's sake" (1 Cor 4:10)	Pamela Schild
Sun 19 th	The Action Team are involved in both services today	Bernd & Cheryl Schulte & Amber
Mon 20 th	Pray for all those involved in the Summertime Fun over the next few days. Action team at lunchtime drop-in and Streetlight today.	Tony Searle & Georgia
Tues 21 st	Action team at Summertime Fun today and Energize this evening.	Debbie Seymour

If you have any items for inclusion in the
July 2016 Prayer Diary,
please contact the Church Office.



Prayer Diary for June 2016

Weds 22 nd	Continue to pray for those involved in the Summertime Fun	Brian & Sue Sharp
Thurs 23 rd	Pray for wisdom and grace for Christians as they vote in the European Referendum today	Rich & Alison Shorter & family
Fri 24 th	Pray for safety as the Summertime Fun group has a day out.	Mike & Becky Simpson & James
Sat 25 th	Pray for those in authority with influence over education	Marjorie Sims
Sun 26 th	Conclusion of Summertime Fun, with a Songs of Praise at 3pm, followed by a cream tea.	Thulisa Sithole & Innocent
Mon 27 th	Small Group leaders meet this evening – pray for wisdom as new studies are chosen	Margaret Slade
Tues 28 th	Pray for preparations being made for the KidzClub being held at the end of August	Joyce Smith
Weds 29 th	Church meeting tonight – thank God for speaking to us and leading us forward	Maureen Smith
Thurs 30 th	Pray for the Graceworks / SU team, visiting schools, that more churches will get involved	Jessica Sosina
Fri 1 st July	Pray for wisdom for school / college governors	Carol Speight
Sat 2 nd	Thank God for the NHS. Pray for your doctor and ancillary staff	Devon Spencer
Sun 3 rd	Ian and Andrea Froment will be sharing with us today. Fellowship Lunch for all in the Willow Hall	Pamela Spencer
Mon 4 th	Pray today for the continuing and varied work of the BMS	John & Angel Spencer
Tues 5 th	Leadership Meeting this evening.	Nadia Stancheva
Wed 6 th	Pray for those in our society who feel marginalised or bullied	Andy & Rianna Stannard
Thurs 7 th	This year, the Evangelical Alliance celebrates 170 years of uniting evangelical Christians. Thank God for their involvement with the government & media	Charlotte Stannard

Pause to smile



When I was in my secondary school, our English master would give us a list of words and tell

us to look up the meaning, and write sentences using these words.

One list I was given was Amber, Festooned, Infinite, Majestic, Void, Waxing, Wherein and Zenith. I looked up the meanings of the words then went away to think about using them.



Later, when sitting down, I came

up with this: I sat and watched the night sky, I gazed at the heavens and watched the waxing moon ride across the zenith of the sky like an amber chariot towards the ebony void of infinite space wherein the belts of Jupiter and Mars hung forever festooned in the majesty among a million stars. And as looked up, I thought to myself, I wish Dad would repair the hole in the roof of our outside toilet.

When I handed this homework in to the teacher, he remarked "not bad but

next time cut out the comedy", but I never could.



Whilst on a visit to Canada, we were told that it was duck shooting season and would we like fresh duck for supper. We said we would, and our host then took us to a friend of his who was a hunter, and he took us to a lake where he said we would find lots of duck. He got us all in his car, together with his dog, and soon we arrived at the lake. We were told to keep quiet as we approached the lakeside, and the dog lay down and watched. Soon a duck took flight and the hunter raised his gun and fired, hitting the duck, who fell into the lake. The hunter turned to the dog and said "fetch" and the dog ignored him, again he yelled at the dog "go fetch". The dog walked to the edge of the lake then ran on tiptoes across the water, picked up the duck and returned it to the hunter. My friend asked the hunter "what's wrong with the dog, is he deaf?", "No" replied the hunter he can't swim".

The Church Mouse





Unlock London Walk 23rd April 2016

UNLOCK
LONDON WALK 33

Unlock London walk is an 8 mile walk around a specific area in London where you are able to visit up to 8 churches and see how they are working to reach out in their local community. One of the aims of the walk is to raise awareness of the work that is being undertaken in deprived areas, not just in London but around the UK.

I had heard about the walk for many years but I hadn't actually been on one. I am not a particular fan of early mornings (my friends will testify to this!). However, on Saturday 23rd April I was at Gidea Park Station by 8.30am ready to start this journey!

The walk is a circular walk, so you can begin and end at any part of the walk, which meant throughout the day we would pass many groups of others doing the walk, studying their maps in order to complete the route. By 9.15am we were at our first church, St Paul & St James Church, not far from the Olympic Park. I found it interesting to see that for this church they had seen the mission opportunity to be carried on after London 2012 and they have a minister who lives in the East Village (which was the Athletes Village of the Olympic Park) in order to reach

out to the new community being formed in that area.

Our second church was Major Road Baptist Church – this church knew how to welcome people! I shook 5 people's hands before I had even entered the church! Like quite a few of the churches that we visited, Major Road had suffered bombing during the Second World War. This was one of the smaller churches we visited, but I will remember the welcome I received for a long time.

The next leg of the walk took us over Hackney Marshes. Seeing the many football teams and cricket teams playing, people running and cycling along the canal, I was reminded just how vast London is and our opportunity to reach out.

Our next stop was Paragon Chapel and for one of our group, Irene Turner, this was a particularly poignant stop, as this was the church where she was baptised, It was good to be able to share that experience with her!

We then headed off to Clapton and Homerton to visit Clapton Park URC, St

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Barnabas Church and St Mary of Eton Church. For some of these churches, their challenges have been how to work in communities where they have a history of poverty, violence, and in some cases, gang violence.

The walk was entitled "Around the Orbit" and it was at this point that the Orbit at the Olympic Park started to come back into sight. It was at this stage my feet were starting to slow down, but with only two churches left to visit, I was determined to finish!

Bryant Street Methodist Church was a church "tucked" down a side road off of West Ham Lane but has always been a part of their local community. During World War One the hall was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers and was even visited by King George and Queen Mary because of this, and during London 2012 they were hosts to the Island Nation of Vanuatu. I was also particularly excited by the fact that this church offered sandwiches and cakes!

Our final church was St Francis of As-

sis RC Church in Maryland, not far from where we started. This large building of grand architecture contained a lot of history, but inside contained people who were serving their local community by feeding the homeless and assisting in a soup run up to Central London. As we sat there regaining our strength, I reflected on how all these churches were aiming to try and adopt Jesus' command to "Love your neighbour as yourself" and it



made me think, what am I actively doing in this capacity?

My feet are now recovered and now ready for next year's walk 29th April 2017 – see you there!

Hayley Ayris



**Unlock London
23rd April 2016**

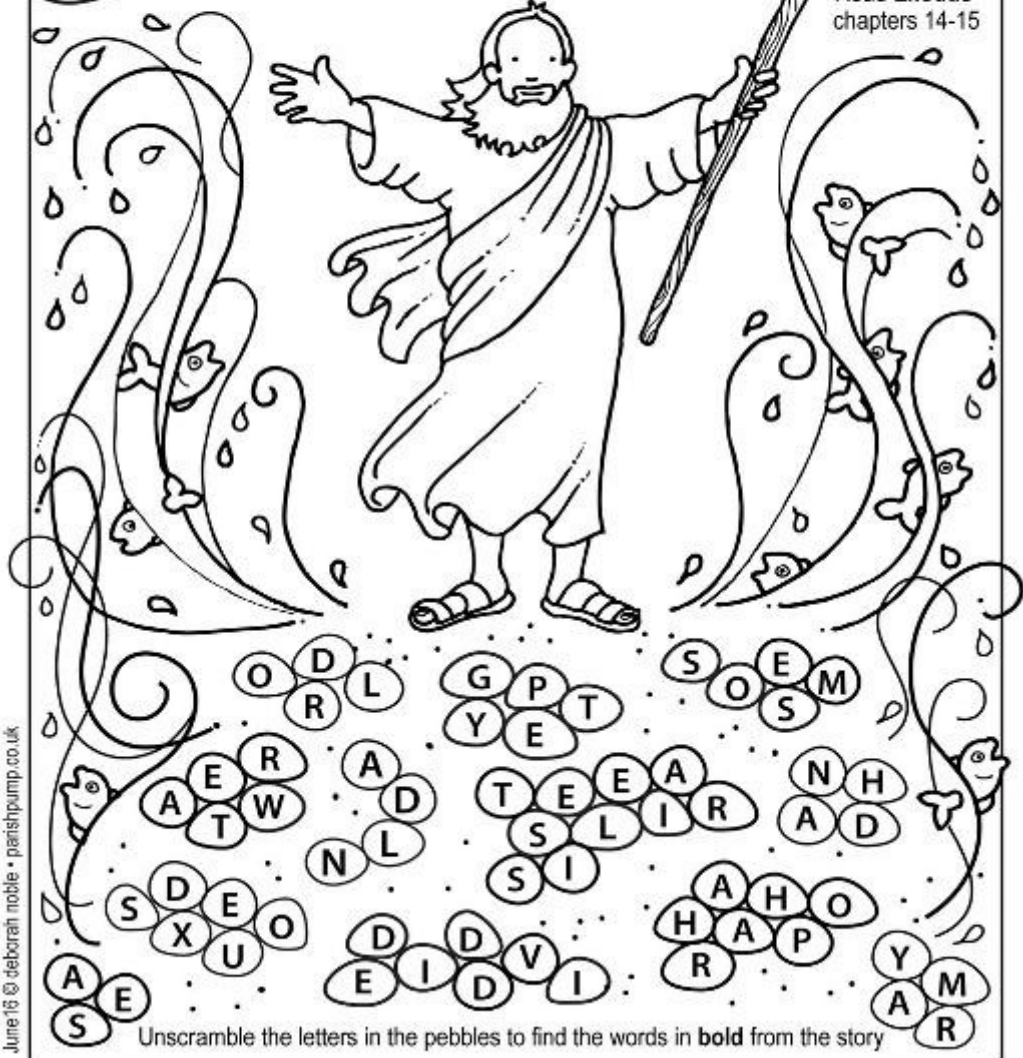


Pictures supplied by Michael Eastman

When **Pharoah**, the King of **Egypt**, let the **Israelites** go free, God led them across the desert to the **sea**. But Pharoah changed his mind and came after them with his **army**. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the **Lord** for help. **Moses** told them, "*Do not be afraid*". He held his hand out over the sea and the **water** divided to leave dry **land**.

Read **Exodus** chapters 14-15

Mouse Makes



Unscramble the letters in the pebbles to find the words in **bold** from the story



THE SAINT & THE MONSTER

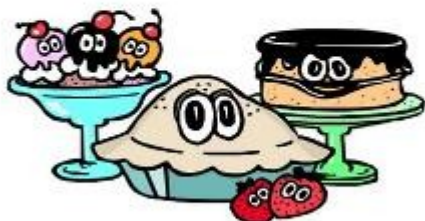
St Columba, whose feast day is 9th June, was born in Ireland and came to Scotland to be a 'pilgrim for Christ'. He founded a monastery on the island of Iona in 563. The monastery at Iona became a centre of learning and many missionaries were trained there. Columba carried the message of God's love throughout Scotland and monks from his monastery carried the message into England.

St Columba wrote a number of hymns and is said to have transcribed, or written out by hand, some 300 books in his lifetime.

And what has he got to do with a monster? Well, it wasn't the Loch Ness monster but a monster that was living in the River Ness. St Columba is said to have driven away this monster who was attacking a swimmer, with the sign of the cross and the words "Thou shalt go no further, nor touch the man; go back with all speed."

MONSTER MUNCHIES

- 75 g (3 oz) margarine
- 3 normal size Mars Bars (thinly sliced)
- 3 large tea cups Rice Crispies
- 100 g (4 oz) chocolate cake covering (melted)



Grease and line a swiss roll tin. In a heavy based saucepan, gently melt the margarine. Add the Mars Bar pieces and stir until no lumps are left.

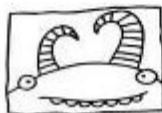
Take the pan off the heat and stir in the Rice Crispies – adding more if the mixture will take it. Spread the mixture in the tin and press it down evenly with the back of a spoon.

Cover with the melted chocolate and leave to set. Cut into 24 bars when cold – or cut into less



bars if you are feeding a very greedy monster!

How does a monster count to 17?



On it's fingers.

1 May 2016 Dedication of Osho Family

Adetola and Abisoye Osho Rock dedicated themselves to bring up Victoria in the way of the Lord.



Picture supplied by Kevin Johnson

An evening with:



Paul Jones &
Fiona Hendley
How faith in God
changes lives.

Sat 28th May 2016 @ 7.30pm



Summertime fun
Do something different for a week!

21-23 June based at Romford Baptist Church
24 June enjoy a day out
26 June celebrate the week with a Songs of
Praise event followed by a cream tea.
Bookings for the Event 1st - 18th May 2016





Regular Church Activities



Monday	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	1 pm	Parent & Toddlers
	6.45 pm	'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group) - first Monday in the month,
	7 pm	Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)
Tuesday	10 am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.30 pm	Tuesday Fellowship
	6.15 pm	Energize and Re-Energize (Primary School age)
Wednesday	9.45 am	Parent & Toddlers
	8 pm	Midweek Meeting (Small Groups or central meeting)
Thursday	9.30 am	Focus (alternate Thursdays)
	9.30 am	Small Group (alternating with Focus - Foyer)
	7.30 pm	RBC Music Team
Friday	10:30 am	Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30 pm	Prayer Meeting - Oak Room
	12:30 pm	Small Group Alternate Fridays
Sunday	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Service

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



...er, if I could just tear you away from your mobile phones for a moment...