



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine

December 2017

and

January 2018

No. 187



From the Editor

Memories and milestones – these are so important. In this edition of Grapevine, you will be reminded of some of these. Although not all events and milestones are recorded, it is such a blessing to celebrate with friends and family. We are indeed blessed to have our friends and family at RBC, with whom to share these special times.

As we look back at how God has been with us through so many experiences, we are also able to look forward, knowing that He will continue to be with us, whatever the future holds.

Although the world seems to be ever-changing, we have a Saviour who is constant. The way we share the Good News may need to change, but the message is the same. So, while all around us seems to be changing, we have the assurance that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Yesterday, today, forever,
Jesus is the same,
All may change, but Jesus never!
Glory to His name.

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte	Editor
Barbara Gatherum	Missionary Page
Neil Walden	Obituaries
Bernd Schulte	Layout and Production
Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
Ruth Wiggins	Printing
Sheila Cross	Collation
Daphne May	Distribution
Alex Savine	Baptism Photos

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(With focus on the Older Generation)

Rev. Vikki Bunce

Team Minister

(Youth and Children)

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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

Who or what are you listening to?

We are all shaped and affected by what we listen to, what we watch and the people we engage with.



Some of these will encourage us, but much will depress us. Our emotional wellbeing is affected by the voices we listen to. If we believe the lie, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" we are mistaken. Ask the young person who grew up in a home that constantly told them they are worthless, have no value, or the child in school

who has a teacher that tells them they are rubbish and useless. Yes, they when told many times, believe it.

What are the lies you have been told that you believe, either about yourself or the world, or God?

We are all susceptible to this. We do

need to guard our minds and bodies from the negative world views that we believe. We will always be told, it is impossible or too hard, so do not set out on that journey.

Recently the Leadership had an away day (we went to the youth lounge)

where we were challenged by the day's facilitators from the Cinnamon Network.

We looked at the stories of both Ezra

and Nehemiah, and were challenged to see things differently. I have to confess, that at times recently it has felt that we are just bouncing from one issue to another, and so all very tiring. Yet Ezra and Nehemiah, with their eyes on God, overcame the negative influences to embrace the big vision God had for them. We were encouraged to lose the "dis" from discouragement and disappointment to see "courage" and God's "appointment."



(Continued on page 4)

Let us start to listen to the voice of God who says, "we can".

Let us let the good news affect our lives more than the bad news, we always believe people if they say we have not done a good job, but brush off a compliment as unimportant.

Let us see God's possibilities for our life and church, the God who can do the impossible, transform society and change the agenda. The God who can remove our "dis" to give us courage and know our appointment.

Let us let the words of God, the scriptures, and the influences of the spirit affect us more than our daily newspaper, the news programme and the social commentators.

Let us with Ezra and Nehemiah, see how God at work can change the community and the world.

It is time to tune in to a different voice.

*Ian Bunce
Team Leader*

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays December 2017

1st Christine Wright
3rd Julie Knight
23rd Frances Biggs
25th Muriel Warner



Birthdays January 2018

5th Anne Barnes
10th Anne Carter
13th Lauren Knight
15th Peggy Warner
17th Joyce Henniker
23rd Daphne May
25th Janet Loveard
28th Barbara Palmer



Flowers

December 2017

3rd Barbara
10th Ron and Shirley
17th Alison and Alex
24th Ron and Wilma



January 2018

21st Christine Brown



**The deadline for the February 2018/March 2018
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 21st January 2018**

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



The Reformation and Martin Luther



The 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation was on 31st October 2017. On that day five hundred years ago, a

German monk and theology professor called Martin Luther launched a protest against certain beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church – at that time almost the only church in Central and Western Europe (Eastern Europe had the Eastern Orthodox Church and was not affected by these events). He nailed a list of ninety-five ‘theses’ (or arguments) to the door of a church in the town of Wittenberg as a way of publicising his view.

Luther had felt driven to speak out against the practice of the sale of ‘indulgences’. According to this system, people could buy time off from purgatory when they died. The Church used this as a way to raise money. Luther believed that only God could forgive sins, and he felt that indulgences were a terrible abuse.

The Church authorities responded negatively to Luther’s arguments, trying to silence him, rather than seri-

ously considering if he might have a point. Luther responded by becoming more and more radical and denied the Catholic Church’s authority, along with a lengthening list of its doctrines.

By 1520 Luther had been warned by the Pope that he would be ex-communicated if he did not recant his ideas. Instead, Luther called on the princes of Germany to reform the church, a direct blow against the Pope and the Catholic hierarchy. In 1521 he was ex-communicated by the Pope.

Many German princes responded to Luther’s call by re-organising the churches in their areas in line with Luther’s principles, and the movement soon spread to England, parts of France, Scandinavia, and parts of Poland and Hungary. In 1529 the pro-Luther principalities of Germany issued a ‘Protestation’ against the Catholics, and the movement became known as ‘Protestant’ as a result. Very quickly during the 1520s, Western Europe divided into Catholic areas and Protestant ones.

Among the new doctrines Luther taught were:

- Justification by faith alone – we cannot earn our salvation by good works

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- The Bible alone as the authority for the Church – not the Church hierarchy, nor its tradition
- The priesthood of all believers
- The non-existence of Purgatory
- Mary and the saints should not be worshipped or prayed to
- The clarity of the Bible - ie ordinary people could read it and understand it
- Confessing our sins to Jesus, not to a priest
- The bread and wine at communion do not literally turn into Christ's body and blood, and communion is not a re-enactment of Jesus' crucifixion

Luther also wrote a new translation of the Bible, in German. Formerly almost all Bibles in Western Europe had been in Latin, so he was giving a readable Bible to ordinary people for the first time.

Luther's teaching gave people freedom to come to God directly, not through a priest, and freedom to read God's Word for themselves, instead of having to believe whatever the priests said. For his time, this was all revolutionary.



Peter Feinson

Book Review

Last year Scripture Union published "Diary of a Disciple - Luke's story" for 7-11-year-olds (price £9.99). If you need a Christmas gift for this age group, I suggest you take a look at this book and the sequel about Peter and Paul, which are on the church bookstall. Do read the following review by one of our 10-year-olds at RBC:

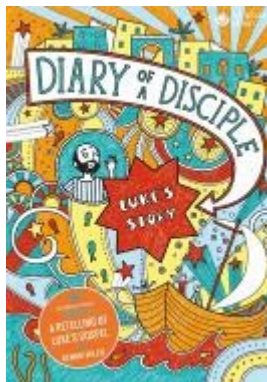
Book review: Diary of a Disciple - Luke's story (by Scripture Union)

I enjoyed this book because it tells you about the Bible, and it is very easy to read (I would rate it 5 out of 5 stars!)

This amazing book has funny pictures and really awesome facts, but most importantly it tells you how much God loves you!

I really recommend getting this book if you want to learn more about God, or just have a laugh.

Giulia Nitisor



My Mother's Hands



My Mother's
hands were
beautiful
A gift from God
above
A gift she used
throughout her
life
to demonstrate
His love.

Her hands reached out for those in
need
Indeed, they did not rest
She served her Lord in many ways
And always gave her best.

Her hands, became so tired and worn
twisted and sore with pain;
her daily tasks would take more time
it was harder, as old age came.

Her hands encouraged my first steps
And wiped away my tears
Their soft caress would wipe my brow
And smooth away my fears.

And as her body became more frail
She'd sit more in her chair,
She'd daily lift her hands to God
And come to Him in prayer.

She washed and ironed and cooked
and cleaned
She knitted and she sewed
She baked an apple pie – or two!
And served them, hot or cold.

Then God reached out and said to
Mum
"My precious child it's time:
Your work on earth is now complete
Come home now, child of mine"

Pauline Yates 2015

Christmas Cards

A friend of ours waited until the last
minute to send Christmas cards. She
knew she had 49 people on her list, so
she rushed into a shop and bought a
package of 50 cards without really
looking at them. Still in a big hurry, she
addressed the 49 and signed
them without reading the
message inside.



On Christmas Day when things had
quieted down somewhat, she hap-
pened to come across the one leftover
card and finally read the message she
had sent to 49 of her friends. Much to
her dismay, it read like this: This card is
just to say a little gift is on the way.
Suddenly she realised that 49 of her
friends were expecting a gift from her.

Dear Praying Hands

It seems at times that we are busy, busy, busy. Busy doing what we believe is required of us by God and we hope that all our industry meets His approval. Our Protestant work ethic motivates our necessity to achieve more and more and there are moments, I think, when we end up doing for the sake of doing. Our burden for God seems to get heavier and heavier and becomes difficult to carry.

I was reminded of this very recently as I read, *Enlisted: My Story* - by Elise Sandes. This lady was responsible for the institution that is now called "Sandes Soldiers Homes". Early in her ministry, as she sought to help the men of the camps close to her home by opening the first Soldiers' Home, she became very ill and was unable to function for many months, fearing her end was near. She sought to understand what God wanted of her and what He was trying to say to



her.

His Place

In her own words she says, "Let me briefly tell you a few of these lessons ... He taught me that He did not want to take His work from me but that He wanted 'me': that even His work should not have His place - the first place in my heart."

I think we see this in Luke's Gospel chapter 10:38-42 when Jesus visits the home of Martha and Mary. Martha busies herself 'doing' while her sister sits at the Master's feet listening to Him. Of course, Martha felt put out that her sister was neglecting her duties, and comments on the fact to our Lord, who replies, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many

things but one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken from her ... For Mary it was far more important than the duties and customs of hospitality to sit at Jesus feet and take pleasure in



(Continued on page 9)

His presence.

When our work for God becomes a heavy load and wearies us, and even then, tired and lacking in energy, we press on regardless to achieve more, it may be that in these moments we need to remind ourselves that Jesus said, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent." John 6:29

He also reminds us in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Sometimes the danger for us is that we think the more active we are for Jesus, the more of His approval we receive. In fact, it may be at times that all He wants us to do is deepen our relationship with Him, because He loves us. I think it is a joy to Him if we take time to sit at His feet and enjoy His presence.



*By kind permission
Soldiers Airmen's
Scripture Reading
Assoc.*

*Submitted by Gordon
Barnes*

Pause to smile



I was in a local supermarket when I noticed a lady was standing and staring at a bottle of orange

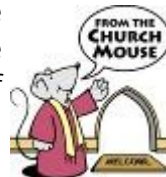
juice. She didn't move but just stood there and stared at the bottle. Curiosity got the better of me and I had to ask her what she was doing. Without moving she replied, "what it told me to do on the bottle" and pointed to the word at the bottom of the label, which read



CONCENTRATE.

Pause to smile

Three old chaps in their late eighties, meet every day in Raphael Park. Reg walks his dog and comes in from the north east end entrance and meets Peter and Dave, who come in from the gate in Main Road. They all have some hearing problems but will not admit becoming hard of hearing. Reg calls to his friends "Morning lads it's windy" to which Peter replies "No it's not Wednesday, it's Thursday", to which Dave says "Well if you're thirsty let's go into the cafe and have a cup of tea."



Prayer Diary for December 2017

Fri 8 th	Ask for God's help to use our time wisely, that we will finish the important things and that we might let go of those things that aren't.	SAKWA Grace, <i>Samantha & Matthew</i>
Sat 9 th	Remember teachers in their busy last days of term.	RONALD Josie
Sun 10 th	Thank God for the freedom we have to worship, and pray for persecuted Christians.	RONALD Simon, <i>Joshua & Isaac</i>
Mon 11 th	Continue to pray for all those who are attending the baptism classes.	ROSE-GREEN Ossie & Evelyn, <i>Junior & Hannah</i>
Tues 12 th	Lift up in the prayer the local ministers up as they meet and eat together.	ROMAIN Steve
Wed 13 th	More people come to God through personal relationships than any other way. Ask God to reveal Himself through you.	SALAU, <i>Chelsea, Feyisola & Princess</i>
Thurs 14 th	Remember all who are connected with Graceworks.	SALISBURY Ian & Hilary
Fri 15 th	Keep all those who are at the "sleepover" safe and give them a blessed time.	SALTER Mark & Laura, <i>Noah & Lois</i>
Sat 16 th	Our students will be home now for the Christmas holiday. Pray that they will have a great time with family and friends.	SANDERS Janet
Sun 17 th	Today in the morning we will have a Family Service, and tonight is a Carol Service. Thanks to all who are involved.	SAVINE Alex & Alison, <i>Jonathan & Eleanor</i>
Mon 18 th	Remember the housebound – could you visit or telephone someone?	SAYER Dorice
Tues 19 th	Pray for our Ministers.	SCHILD Pamela
Wed 20 th	Christmas has some sad memories for some people, let the Spirit of the Lord comfort them.	SCHULTE Bernd & Cheryl, <i>Amber</i>
Thurs 21 st	Let all who enter the Church today to give blood, feel the presence of our Lord.	SCOTT Gareth
Fri 22 nd	Pray for Rahel, our intern, as she leaves to return home.	SEARL Tony & Georgia
Sat 23 rd	Let the Christingle service be a blessing to all who attend and are involved in it.	SHARP Brian & Sue

Prayer Diary for December 2017

Sun 24 th	Invite God to give you a fresh perspective in your celebrations this year.	SOSINA Jessica
Mon 25 th	Give thanks for God's great mercy to us in sending Jesus.	SMITH Joyce
Tues 26 th	Boxing Day – Pray for tradespeople and those working in retail who feel they are forced to work on Sundays and Bank Holidays.	SITHOLE Thulisa, <i>Innocent</i>
Wed 27 th	For many Christmas is a stressful time. Pray for unity and understanding within family relationships.	SLADE Margaret
Thurs 28 th	Pray for the work of our Baptist Colleges as they train men and women for different aspects of Christian ministry.	SIMPSON Mike & Becky, <i>Ellie (Rice)</i> & <i>James</i>
Fri 29 th	Pray for church unity across our borough. That regardless of any differences we will be seen as truly one body.	SMITH Maureen, <i>Daniel</i>
Sat 30 th	Remember those who have struggled with illness through this year. Pray for God's healing of them in accordance with His will.	SHORTER Richard & Alison, <i>Caleb,</i> <i>Jessica & Anya</i>
Sun 31 st	Pray for a good service to welcome in the new year.	SOSINA Samuel
Mon 1st	Be grateful for the new year and all possibilities which 2018 brings,	STANNARD Charlotte
Tues 2 nd	Pray for an increase in our faith - that we will be given a strong sense of what new things God may want us to do.	SPENCER Pamela
Wed 3 rd	Pray for peace, for our World, for our Country, our Community and our homes.	SPRINGER John & Angela
Thurs 4 th	Be thankful for all the hospital staff, who are caring for the ill.	STANCHEVA Nadia
Fri 5 th	Remember the work at Parkside and pray for the residents and staff.	STANNARD Andy & Rianna
Sat 6 th	Let us be grateful that we have so much.	SPENCER Devon
Sun 7 th	Lift up be the Lord those who are vulnerable.	STANNARD John & Christine, <i>Rachel</i>
Mon 8 th	Pray for our MP and local councillors to make wise decisions.	STANNARD Matt & Heather
Tues 9 th	Pray for those in your neighbourhood who do not know Christ.	STEPHENSON Nadine



If you have any items for inclusion in the January 2018
Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.



Scripture Union celebrate 150 years



Big things grow out of little things. A meeting with a few children in somebody's front room in London 150 years ago was the inspiration for what has grown to be an international, inter-denominational outreach ministry which has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people worldwide.

SU had very humble beginnings. It started in 1867 with one man who simply wanted to share the Good News of Jesus with young people. He was Josiah Spiers, who that year unintentionally pioneered a new, less formal approach to sharing Jesus with children, when he shared his Christian faith with 15 youngsters in a drawing room in Islington, London.

The children responded to his warmth with such enthusiasm that soon another meeting was held, and then another. The meetings grew rapidly and soon the Children's Special Service Mis-

sion was formed, later becoming Scripture Union.

When the following year, in 1868, Spiers went on holiday to Llandudno in North Wales, he decided to try holding a children's meeting on the beach. He wrote 'God is love' in the sand, and this simple but compelling message attracted the attention of local young people. Through games and stories Josiah Spiers empowered his young audience to engage with Jesus.

Much has changed since then, but the big idea is still the same. For it was *through involvement in their activities*, that Josiah Spiers positioned himself where he could share the Good News with the young people, *just where they were*.

Fast forward 150 years, and now the beaches may have been replaced by Instagram, Youtube and the sports field, but the mission and the message of Scripture Union remains the same.

In Havering, the Scripture Union, represented by Graceworks, are involved in a number of schools. With more volunteers this could increase. Do collect a prayer letter from the welcome desk and remember this vital work.

Barbara Gatherum

Inspirations

Card Making

We had a good time at our long session in October, experimenting with heat embossing and embellishing Christmas cards. Everybody produced at least one beautiful card and enjoyed time talking and making new friends.

The next session will be on Saturday 27th January 2018 from 9:30am – 12:30pm in the Willow Hall and we will be welcoming back Sue Hall, who will be demonstrating another wonderful folding technique.

Whether you choose to join Sue or to 'Make Music' with me, you are sure to have a great time.

The £5 fee includes materials and refreshments (homemade cakes!)

There are 2 choices of class, so please book as soon as possible to ensure your first choice.

Everyone is welcome! You may be surprised at the inner creative you!

Sakura Flower - Sue:

We are delighted that Sue Hall will be joining us to demonstrate another lovely folding technique. This time you will create a beautiful Sakura Flower

and use it to embellish your card. This is a great way to use any left-over papers you may have.



Making Music - Pauline:

Pauline will be “making music”, producing a card using a variety of techniques, including matting and layering, and stamping. This is a technique that can be adapted to suit a variety of cards, both for ladies and men. We will learn how to create a “shadow” effect to embellishments and how to tie a bow — even if you don't know where to start! You will be amazed!

To register for this workshop, please complete the booking form available in the foyer of the church or on the notice

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

board in the Willow Hall. Please book by Sunday 14th January 2018.
(Cheques payable to "RBC Inspirations")



please). Then either hand your form to Kathy at the Welcome Desk, to Ruth or Anthea in the church office or to me, or post to the church marked for my attention. Do it now and have something to look forward to in the darker winter months!

If you would like more information about Inspirations, please ring Pauline on 07742 707790 or leave a message with the church office (01708 743382) and we will call you back.

Pauline Yates

Congratulations



Les and Kath Emberson



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 1: 26-56 & Matthew 1: 18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.

In one year we will complete our wedding



Then God's messenger angel came to see Mary.



Don't be afraid!

You will have God's baby, and call him Jesus, 'God saves', because he will save people

from what they do wrong.



How can this happen?



With God, nothing is impossible.

Your cousin Elizabeth, who couldn't have children, is now 6 months pregnant.



Mary visited Elizabeth.



When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, he was very upset



This will bring shame on me and my family.



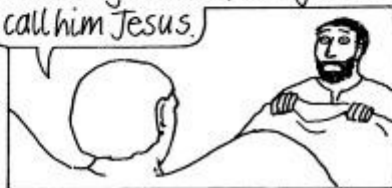
He always did what was right so he decided to end their marriage, but quietly.



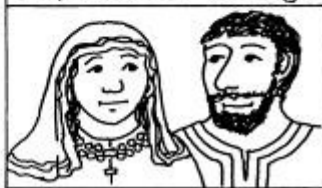
But the angel came to him in a dream.



Don't be afraid to marry Mary. The baby is God's, and you will call him Jesus.



So Joseph and Mary completed their marriage.



It's the Bible – but not as we know it



Richard and Judy have their book club; BBC Radio 2 has its own book club – and now it's the turn of Bible Society to launch our own: *Bible Book Club*.

We're asking a group of people to choose a book of the Bible – any book they want to -- and read it as they would a book chosen by a book club; then to get together and chat about it informally.



For each book of the Bible there is a guide, written by theologian Paula Gooder, to help people probe and question

the text. It tells you things such as who the author might have been, what context the book was written in and why it was written. It also suggests questions you might like to ask as you read and, of course, what you might like to talk about when you get back to-

gether. The idea is that people will really think about what they're reading and be honest about what they found interesting, difficult or just hard work.

Bible Society's research tells us that whilst many people have read the Bible from cover-to-cover, there are also those who find that prospect daunting and stick with the books they know and those which are often easier to read and to understand.

At Bible Society, we believe the whole Bible is worth a read (including Leviticus); so that's why we are launching this new approach.

Talking about the Bible Book Club, Dr Paula Gooder, said:

'The Bible is full of books, but often we only read small sections of them, and there are some books many of us never go near,' she says. 'I want Bible Book Club to remind people that the Bible is theirs to own, read, question and discuss – and if that's over a favourite drink with a group of friends, then all the better!'

You can download your guides for free at biblesociety.org.uk/biblebookclub

Ian Bunce/Ruth Wiggins

Reading the Signs

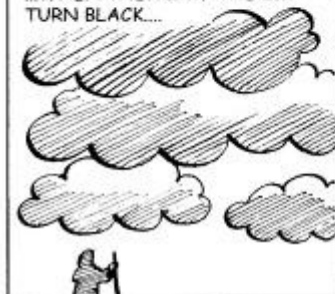
a parable of Jesus

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS
THAT...

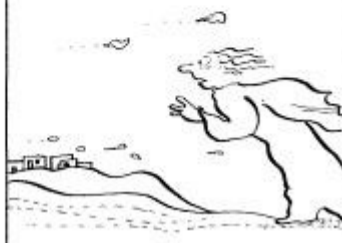
...WHEN THEY SAW THE SKY
TURN BLACK...



...THEY KNEW IT WOULD
RAIN, SOON.



AND WHEN THE WIND CAME
FROM THE SOUTH...



...THE WEATHER WOULD
SOON IMPROVE.



THERE MIGHT EVEN BE
A HEATWAVE!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT EVEN
THOUGH WE MIGHT BE GOOD AT
PREDICTING THE WEATHER...



...IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN
OUR OWN FUTURES.



THE ESSENTIAL THING IS TO MAKE SURE WE
HAVE A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.



A Saviour is born!

Colour in one star
a day as you
countdown to
Christmas

Read the
Christmas
story in
Luke 1 and 2



C H R I S T M A S

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

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

Dec17 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk



Regular Church Activities



Monday	10 am	Parent & Toddlers
	11 am	Kerygma (Coffee Drop-In)
	12:50 pm	Parent & Toddlers
	6.45 pm	'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group - first Monday in the month, except 11 th Dec)
	7 pm	Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)
Tuesday	10 am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.15pm	Treasure Times
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)
	7.30 pm	RBC Music Team
Friday	9:30 am	Small Group (Alternate Fridays)
	10:30 am	Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Sunday	10.00 am	Prayer Meeting
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Prayer Meeting
	6.30 pm	Evening Service

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



"The vicar's still miffed that one of the parents got £250 from You've Been Framed for their video of last year's nativity play."