



# Romford Baptist Church

## Grapevine

### Text 2018

In Christ we, though many, form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the  
others. We have different gifts, according  
to the grace given to each of us.

*Romans 12:5-6a*

[www.romfordbaptist.org.uk](http://www.romfordbaptist.org.uk)

**Family Magazine**

February 2018

and

March 2018

**No. 188**



# From the Editor

As we settle into 2018, we have started the year with some new beginnings – on the first Sunday of the year, we celebrated with a number of people as they were baptised. After the Christmas break, activities are returning to normal (whatever that may mean!).

We have so many opportunities to do new things, join new groups and try out new activities. We have new people with us at RBC, bringing more chance to get to know each other and enrich each others' lives.

It is all too easy to get back into the routine of things, and forget to stop and enjoy the blessings that come with every day.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV) says,  
<sup>22</sup> *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;*  
<sup>23</sup> *they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

Some of our New Year's resolutions may already have been abandoned, but the love of God never ceases. My prayer is that we will be able to take hold of this Biblical promise and experience God's mercy, love and faithfulness every day.

Best wishes for a blessed 2018!

**Cheryl Schulte**

## Editorial Team

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Neil Walden	Obituaries
Bernd Schulte	Layout and Production
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Ruth Wiggins	Printing
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Daphne May	Distribution
Alex Savine	Baptism Photos

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## Team Minister

**(With focus on the Older Generation)**

Rev. Vikki Bunce

## Team Minister

**(Youth and Children)**

Rev. Jan Loveard



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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

There is no doubt about it, life can be really tough sometimes and, on those occasions, there are moments when we just want to escape the circumstances or situations we find ourselves in. Presumably that is why travel agents are so busy in January because so many people book holidays in these first few weeks of a new year, because they need something to look forward to even if the holiday won't take place until the summer. For those who struggle with the seemingly never ending days of cold weather and grey skies, the prospect of heading off to warmer climates seems positively idyllic and yet, to my way of thinking and possibly because I've not yet experienced a holiday somewhere warm in the early months of a year, the prospect of returning back to a cold, damp English winter doesn't currently appeal. Feel free to convince me otherwise after reading this.

Psalm 9:10 says *"Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you"* I'm sure that this is a sentiment with which we all agree, and can even give examples of when we have trusted in God and He has not failed us. However I wonder, when we are in the midst of difficulty, do we find it easy at those times to trust God, to praise Him de-

spite what we are facing, to pray when we feel that God is not listening, to trust God when we feel that things are out of our control. So often, it's not until afterwards when we look back that we can give testimony to God's amazing presence, answers to our prayers, recognition that He was the strength that we needed when we felt weak.



I've been reading again the early chapters of Genesis, where we see God doing amazing things through the lives of Noah, Abraham, Jacob and so

on, and there were times when they built altars to declare God's faithfulness or to commemorate something amazing that God had done, and yet these were the same people who doubted God, who behaved in ways that were dishonest, deceitful or who seemingly simply didn't believe that God could do what He had promised, so tried to sort the problem out themselves. Yet somehow, despite that, God did work things out, God's promises did come true, regardless of the lack of faith, human interference and the wobbles along the way.

(Continued on page 4)



So whatever these early weeks of 2018 have been like for you, let us keep trusting God, knowing that He will forgive us when we do things in our own strength, that He understands how we feel on those days when we're struggling and remember that His hand will be forever on us because He loves us. These then are the reasons that we can join with the Psalmist as he writes at the beginning of his Psalm *"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High."* (vs 1-2)

*Vikki Bunce*

*Team Minister – with a focus on the older generation*

## **BMS Birthday Scheme**

### **Birthdays February 2018**

- 12<sup>th</sup> David East
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sheila Cross
- 25<sup>th</sup> Cameron Townson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Margaret Coles
- 28<sup>th</sup> Megan Walden



### **Birthdays March 2018**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Don May
- 14<sup>th</sup> Rosemary Loveard
- 18<sup>th</sup> Keith Carter
- 30<sup>th</sup> Laura Salter
- 31<sup>st</sup> Ruth Henson



## **Flowers**

### **February 2018**

- 11<sup>th</sup> Neil and Janet Walden
- 18<sup>th</sup> Grace Bello
- 25<sup>th</sup> Patricia Townson



### **March 2018**

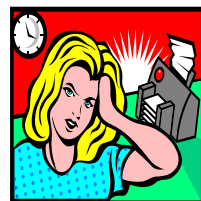
- 4<sup>th</sup> Geoffrey Gostling
- 11<sup>th</sup> Iris Knight
- 18<sup>th</sup> Sue and Brian Sharp
- 25<sup>th</sup> Muriel Warner

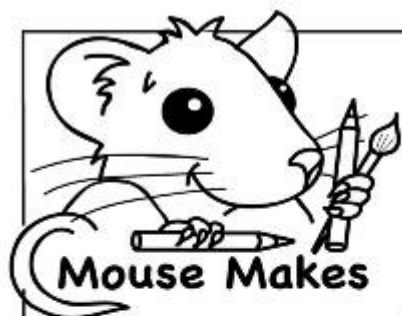


**The deadline for the April 2018/May 2018 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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](mailto:grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk)**

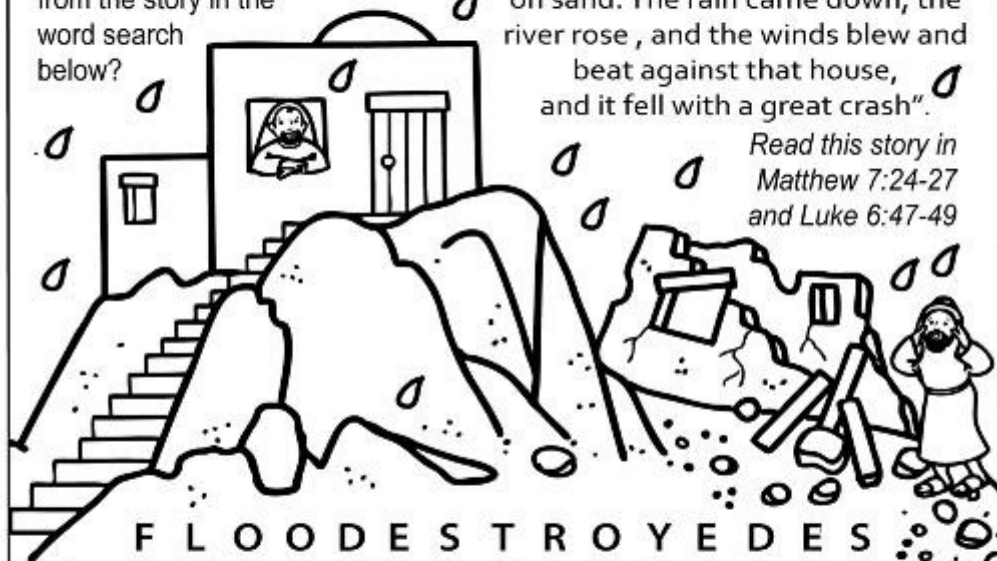




Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?

Jesus taught his disciples...  
"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

Read this story in  
Matthew 7:24-27  
and Luke 6:47-49



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

LISTEN • HEAR • JESUS • WORDS • WISE • MAN • BUILT • HOUSE • SOLID  
FOUNDATION • ROCK • RAIN • WIND • FLOOD • RIVER • BURST • FOOLISH  
SAND • GROUND • COLLAPSED • FELL • DESTROYED • RUIN

## **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME**



Thank you very much to all those who have made a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme on their birthday during 2017. Your gifts are greatly appreciated as it helps to support some very worthwhile projects.

A BMS-supported desert hospital in Chad is just one example of valuable work being carried out. 'Healing bodies and offering hope beyond this life: this is what a truly life-transforming health ministry looks like in Chad.' (BMS Birthday Scheme News Bulletin)

For those who are not aware of the Scheme, it is organised by the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS World Mission) to specifically support their medical/health projects.

By committing to giving a gift on your birthday, of any amount, you will be helping to support health projects in many areas in the world.

If anyone is interested in knowing more about the scheme, I will be happy to give you further details.

With thanks on behalf of BMS and best wishes for 2018

*Christine Brown*

## **Baptism**

**John Springer**

**- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018**







## Treasure Times

Treasure Times started at the end of November, running each Tuesday afternoon from 2.15-3.30, roughly coinciding with term time. Each week there are quizzes, activities, refreshments and an opportunity to sing a hymn or two with a reflective thought and all for a voluntary donation of £1.50.

Not been yet? Feel free to pop along or chat to Vikki or any of those in the photos to find out more.







# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.

The next day...



Why are you beating up one of your own people?

Are you going to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?



Moses had to run away from Egypt.



He went to Midian, got married and looked after his father-in-law's sheep.



One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said..



You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people leave Egypt.



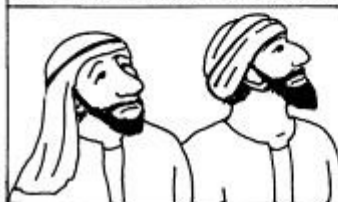
No! I'd rather not do that!



It's not a choice. Your brother Aaron can help you



Aaron and Moses met up and went to see Pharaoh



Our God says you must let all his people leave Egypt.



Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!



## Prayer Diary for February 2018

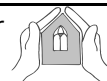
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for our Ministers and their families for God's blessings as they shepherd us, His people	WARNER, Muriel & Rosalyn
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for all activities in the Church and especially the new ones that are under planning, e.g the Café	WARNER, Peggy
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the RIEES Youth club as this ministry meets.	WILKINSON, David & Margaret
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for Ian as he leads both the morning and the evening worship, for God to speak through him, for journey mercy for both Peter & Lynch as they visit RBC	WILLIAMS, Barbara
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	We pray for our government, the local authority, councillors, decision makers and Her Majesty, for God's wisdom as they govern.	WILLIAMS, Helen
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the local EBA ministers as they meet lunchtime and for the RBC Pastoral team as they also meet in the evening	WINGATE, Lilian
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the local ministers as they meet today, for the Small Groups for God to be at the centre of all deliberations.	WRIGHT, Christine
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the music group as they meet. May they have a strong sense of God's presence, fulfilment and blessings as they meet.	WRIGHT, John & Pamela
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Street Pastors as they pound the streets of Romford to show the love of Christ. May God protect them, guide and guard them in all they do.	YATES, Ken & Pauline
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	Let us remember the Solid Festival, for God to be present, for Christ to minister His grace and blessings.	YOUNG, Colin & Susan
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Ian as he leads the morning (family) service, for God's presence to overwhelm as he delivers His words and for Vikki as she leads the evening service and the Communion.	ZAMANTHANGI, Mani
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Bible Course, for God to enlighten our minds to understand His Holy words	ABBEY, Lydia
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for all RBC families, for those who need a touch of healing, reassurance, employment, peace, provision of our daily bread and love of Christ	ACKUN, Rosalind
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Pray that our church prayer evening will inspire us to be more obedient to God's purpose, His direction and to place our hope and reliance on Him.	ADAMS, Barry & Elaine

## **Prayer Diary for February 2018**

Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Let us pray for those who have drifted away from God, our friends and family, for God to show Himself to them and bring them back home – to Himself.	ADEKANMBI, Ade, Margaret, Tolu, Grace & Ade
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Let us pray for those who serve God, especially in very difficult places in the world, for His protection and mercy.	ADEKANMBI Rachel
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the First Aid Course to go smoothly.	ADESINA, Bunmi
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Jide as he preaches at the morning service and Jan as she preaches at the evening service	AGHAEFAR, Hamid
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Let us continue to pray for God's presence as we study His Holy words in the Bible Course.	AJAYI, Merit
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	Treasure Time meets in the afternoon and Mission Council meets today. May God be at the centre of these meetings.	AJUEBON, Shirley
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thank God for those who donate to the Foodbank and pray for God's provision to those who rely on the Foodbank. Pray for the Small Groups as they meet today.	AKINOLA, Emmanuel & Oluwaseun
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Pray for the Blood Donor organisation as they use our building and for those who walk in to donate blood.	ALALADE, Dunsin
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pray for our fellow Christian brothers and sisters around the world, who are persecuted for their faith and belief in Christ; that they will be given God's strength, perseverance, peace and protection.	AMOA Johnson, Pumela, Sipho, Isaac & Harry
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pray for the success of the fund-raising quiz night	ANDERSON, Lynn
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Ian as he preaches at both services	AQUILINA, Connie
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	Remember Parkside and the Bible Course, as it continues, in your prayers.	ARGENT, David & Jean
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Leadership Team as they meet, to sense God's purpose and direction for us as a fellowship. Also pray for Treasure Times as they meet.	ARMSTRONG, Michael, Lesley & Lauren
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	We have, across Havering, an all-church Bible study today: pray that this may be a time of real unity and blessing.	AROWOLO, Kolawole & Esther



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



# Baptism

## Sairadora (Saleem) Ngala – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018



I want to thank God for bringing me into a Christian family and for being by my side throughout my life.

As I have grown, I have realised how fortunate I am for having God in my life. When times would get too difficult, I found it a comfort knowing that God is watching over me. For this I want to thank God by devoting my life to Him through this baptism.

for me, and only calling on His name when something is needed. Today is a sign of changing this lifestyle, and living by my Saviour's way at all times.

I would like to end this speech by thanking my family and the church for leading me to have this wonderful opportunity to get baptized and finally feel worthy of calling myself a child of God.



Another reason for this decision is to strengthen my bond with Jesus Christ our Saviour. At times I feel like I take His love for granted by pushing Him to the side once He has done something



# The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS  
EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T  
ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



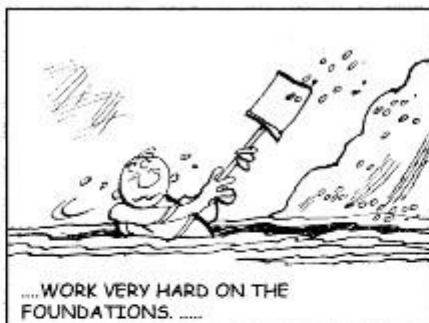
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU  
PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....'

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO  
WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL  
COST.



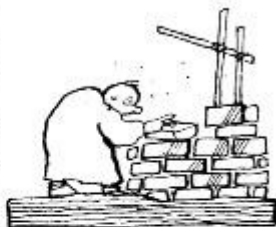
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A  
START, ....

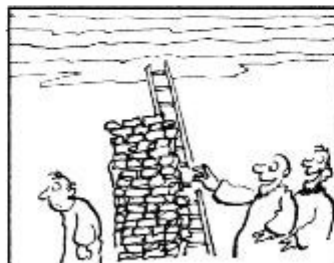


...WORK VERY HARD ON THE  
FOUNDATIONS. ....

...THEN START TO LAY  
THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT  
OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH  
AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT  
ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING  
JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING  
TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT  
CHALLENGE.





## Baptism

### Betsaleel (Betsy) Safari - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Father Lord thank you for creating me in knowing my faith as a Christian preparing me for this day as I've become a child of God.

I give you thanks for protecting me spiritually. This day comes the day of my baptism continuing my pathway as a true Christian.



I accept in Jesus' name to be baptised, I accept You as my creator, Alpha and Omega. Not one day will I will stand and reject Your Son Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

My life will be dedicated to You and Your son. I surrender to You, may the Holy Spirit guide me throughout my days.



## Baptism

### Rob Brett - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018



I was taken to Sunday School as a young boy at St Andrews Church in Romford and was also involved in the Cubs and Scouts there. There was also in those days plenty of Christian

teaching in the schools - mine being at Crowlands in London Road and Pettits Secondary. However, the Sunday School stopped at age 11, which meant that I was attending a high church with very similar services. Also my parents attended church less and less and I drifted away from the church when I was 14. However, I did retain my Christian faith during subsequent years.



I met Jackie when I was 28 and we married almost 2 years later. I then gradu-

ally came back into church life at Collier Row Methodist Church, where I later became a member. Me and Jackie enjoyed helping or leading a youth group for 14 - 18-year-olds and later a Shell Seekers youth group for 7 to 13-year-olds. I was also a Sunday School teacher for about 10 years. Also, I was a steward for the last 14 years of the church and was involved in various leadership meetings.

When Jackie moved to RBC around 2006-7, I continued to attend and support the Methodist church in the mornings, out of loyalty to the remaining and unfortunately dwindling membership, and attended RBC in the evenings.

I have over recent years become increasingly involved in RBC and have been attending a Small Group on a regular basis for about 10 years. I have been encouraged and challenged by Ian Bunce's preaching over the last couple of years and my faith has grown in this time. I have also been involved in helping at Kerygma, the recently started Treasure Times, and make visits to a number of elderly people at Parkside and at their homes. I was part

*(Continued on page 16)*

*(Continued from page 15)*

of the Bulgaria Mission Team at Easter and found this to be a rewarding experience, during which we saw God at work in many ways, with outreach and feeding programmes for the homeless and to a couple of orphanages in different parts of Bulgaria.

You might think that I am more of a Martha rather than a Mary but I like to help.

Why am I being baptised now? Well, I feel as well as having previously been called to be a Sunday School teacher or being called to go to Bulgaria, I feel God is calling me to be baptised now and not to wait any longer. Also I see it as another step in my journey with Jesus.

Various people and friends, both at Collier Row Methodist and Romford Baptist Churches, have helped and encouraged me in my faith over the years. My immediate family of Jackie, David, Katherine and Louise have also proved to be faithful Christians. I doubt if my faith is anywhere as strong as any of theirs, but as someone recently said

to me in the car park - we are on a different journey.



## **Farewell to Pat and Dave**

Dave East moved from Salem Baptist Church to RBC with his parents and three siblings soon after this church opened.

He was a member of the "Boys' Brigade" and later was involved in the youth work at Harold Hill Baptist Church in its early days.

He served as a deacon at RBC for a number of years and became Church Secretary at one time. Dave was also one of the co-leaders at the 'Small Group' which met at the church for some years. His input was always helpful and supportive.

Pat was at one time a member of the church choir and sang solos on a number of occasions. She was a founder member of Young Wives (now Focus) and was also involved in the Wednesday Coffee mornings.

Both Pat and Dave have been faithful members of RBC for many years and will be greatly missed.

They have now moved to St. Albans to be near their daughter.

We pray for God's blessing on them in their new home.

*Gordon Barnes*

## **Smile Lines**

### **School play**

A little boy got a part in the school play and went home to tell his father. 'I'm going to play a man who has been married for 25 years.'

'Well done, that's great,' replied his father. 'And maybe next time, you'll get a speaking role!'

### **Express**

I was in the express lane at the supermarket, quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the checkout line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart and asked sweetly, 'So which six items would you like to buy?'

### **Hands**

A teacher saw a student entering the classroom with very dirty hands. She stopped him and said, "John, please wash your hands. My goodness, what would you say if I came into the room with hands like that?"

Smiling, the boy replied, "I think I would be too polite to mention it."





**35th UNLOCK LONDON WALK**  
**Saturday 28th April 2018**  
**walking around the Tottenham**  
**Area of London.**

7½ mile walk around the north  
 west corner of London.

“unlocking real life stories of ur-  
 ban people revealing good news  
 of the down-to-earth Christ-  
 releasing life-changing skills and  
 confidence”

Website for more information  
[UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK](http://UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK)

For more information speak to  
*Susan and Colin Young*

PS Michael Eastman so loved  
 these walks, let's try and  
 encourage more younger people  
 to join us too!







## Regular Church Activities



<b>Monday</b>	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)
	7 pm	Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)
<b>Tuesday</b>	10 am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.15pm	Treasure Times
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.45 am	Parent & Toddlers
	8 pm	Midweek Meeting (Small Groups or central meeting)
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30 am	Small Group
	8 pm	RBC Music Team
<b>Friday</b>	9:30 am	Small Group (Alternate Fridays)
	10:30 am	Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00 am	Prayer Meeting
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	6.00 pm	Prayer Meeting
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>

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



"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."