



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine

April 2018

and

May 2018

No. 189



From the Editor

Recently, we were reminded of the verse in Romans 8:28 which says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." I am so grateful that, as a child, I learnt memory verses like this one. By memorising Bible verses, these promises of God become part of our being.

In a similar way, singing songs is a way of putting to memory some important truths, scriptures and praise. A few weeks ago when we were reading Habakkuk, the song based on chapter 3:17-18 of that book popped into my thoughts, even though I haven't sung it in many years. And it's been going round in my head ever since!

*Tho' the fig tree does not blossom
And there be no fruit on the vine
The produce of the olive fail
And the fields yield no food
Tho' the flock be cut off from the fold
And there be no herd in the stalls
Yet will I rejoice in the Lord
Yet will I rejoice in the Lord
I will joy in the God of my salvation
God the Lord is my strength.*

So, in the good times and the difficult ones, may we be focused on Jesus, the God of our salvation, and rely on Him for our strength.

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

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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



Each year I find something different catches my attention within the Easter

story. It can be the horrific nature of Jesus' death or the failure of the disciples to stay awake at the point at which Jesus needed his friends most. One year I followed the story of Simon Peter and his highs and lows of success and failure as a disciple. The narrative of the story is so rich in content, there are story lines that cause us to stop and examine ourselves, and it can bring a sense of unworthiness as we see the amazing love of God reaching down into our need and turmoil.

This year my attention has been focused on the chaos of the occasions



and the untidiness of the last supper. Yet we remember it in the service we call communion, where the smart white cloths are laid out and different people lovingly fill the small cups and

prepare a table for us to remember the death of Christ. However the first supper was not at all like that, and I wonder if, in our attempt to tidy up and sanitise the event, we have missed something of the spontaneity, the intimacy and the real engagement that was happening between Jesus and a bunch of disciples, laid out across the floor, sharing community and life together.

This Easter I invite you to join me in a search for the risen Christ in the messiness and reality that is in the world around us, and not be afraid of discovering that the Christian life and worship is not about neatness, but it is far more about an earthed reality. Jesus wants to break out of our human-made order, to the disorder of God that brings wholeness to chaos.

If Only

*If only.....
tidiness was God's way,
neat lives, comfortable lives,
living the life of victory
of no worries and no more suffering,*

*After all, we have suffered enough,
(and we are not just talking about that
long sermon last week)*

(Continued on page 4)

*Yet, we discover, that the story of Jesus,
and his plan of the church
was not one of smart buildings,
tidy tables, and fine china...*

*No it was of dodgy conversations,
dubious company,
perfume anointing,
water sharing,
fish sandwich picnics,*

*To which all were invited,
the tidy, and smelly,
the in-crowd and the outlaws,
the healthy and the contagious*

*Maybe it is time to go back to be a part of
something that Jesus would be a part of
It will not be tidy,*

*And would have little order
Causing us to be uncomfortable
To a point that some would leave
But it would be open and accessible to all
It would be fun, at times painful
A glimpse of deep community
This would be real church.*

*Ian Bunce
Team Leader*

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays April 2018

10th Jim Hooper
25th Kathy Metcalfe
25th Beryl Dunnings
27th Richard Knight



Birthdays May 2018

6th Neil Walden
23rd Elizabeth Callender
28th Margaret Powell
30th Abigail Howson



Flowers

April 2018

22nd Vikki and Ian



May 2018

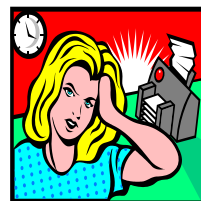
6th Trimi
13th Wendy Mott
20th Iris and Hayley



**The deadline for the June 2018/July 2018
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 13th May 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





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Principal:
Revd Prof P J McCormack MBE

The Revd Ian Bunce
Team Leader
Romford Baptist Church
Main Road
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RM1 3BL

Dear Ian,

13 Feb 2018

I was utterly blown away when I was told of the incredible gift from Romford Baptist Church. The Principal's fund, which I described, has been growing but this gift of £1000 will really enable me and my team to provide practical expressions of help to students who are in need. Please convey my heartfelt thanks to your fellowship for this generosity of spirit so practically manifested.

Thank you for your encouragement and assurance of ongoing support and partnership with the College. I believe that God has opened doors of opportunity to us as a College community and it is deeply affirming to know that you are supporting us.

Karen and I loved the fellowship with you and Vikki. The conversation was good and the light hearted banter was lovely. Please pass on our love to Vikki and let her know that I passed on her regards to Linda and Debra.

I am genuinely humbled by the practical expression of Christian love and support from you Church. Please assure them that their generosity will make a difference to many students and their families.

*Yours in Christ
Philip*

The Revd Prof Philip McCormack MBE

Principal

Spurgeon's College, London



And we know
that in all things
God works for
the good of those
who love him,
who have been
called according
to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Trip to Brazil



Thank you for praying about my trip to Brazil. I went via Lisbon to Recife on an evening flight, and arrived at 4.30 am local time. After a stopover at my friend Gracas on Sunday, then a two-hour flight on Monday afternoon to Belo Horizonte, and had to wait almost an hour at the airport to be met by two friends who said they went to the wrong gate! I stayed with a friend, Maria das Gracas, a youthful 82-year-old.

My first job was sorting out all the material accumulated for Brigade work, which was stored in various places and latterly in a backroom of Maria's son's house. There were damp papers and droppings of a certain nature! But I was able to salvage enough to fill a barrel, 2 large suitcases and some boxes. We had several meetings to elect some people to be legally responsible for the working of Brigade, and to organise a committee with the remit of

preparing the syllabus for the future companies as well as training future leaders and organizing uniform.

There are some groups in formation in 3 churches - Methodist, Baptist and Pentecostal churches.

Please pray: For the progress of these groups, that they will soon be organized into companies. For the provision of adequate storage place as a central office for all the brigade material. For the leaders/officers and all who are responsible for the organization of this work. Some names for your prayers: Anderson, Vanessa, Ana Paula, Antonio, Claudia, Irineu, Maria de Carmo, Maria das Gracas, Diana, Cristiano and Elieiza.

My time in Belo went all too quickly, I do hope it would be possible to return next year, God's willing, to celebrate the growth of Brigade.

Annette Dennis



The Reformation

2. Zwingli and Calvin



Luther was the high profile leader of the Reformation at the start, but soon other teachers who would go further than him started to emerge.

Huldrych Zwingli came to prominence as an influential Protestant leader in the Swiss city of Zurich during the 1520s. At first he seemed to be following Luther, but gradually he started to develop his own ideas which went much further away from Catholicism.



In 1529 he had a major disagreement with Luther over the issue of the Lord's Supper. Zwingli said that the Supper was purely symbolic and that nothing happened in it, apart from people remembering what Jesus had done. Luther insisted that Jesus had said 'This is my body'. This opened up a major and long-lasting rift between the followers of Luther, and the movement which called itself 'Reformed'.

Zwingli died in 1531, but the Reformed movement continued. Ten years later, a Frenchman, Jean Calvin, was appointed by the independent city state of Geneva to lead its church. For the next twenty-five years until his death he became the dominant thinker of the Reformed movement.

Calvin's significance lay in his teaching, and his Europe-wide influence at the time.

At first he and Luther respected each other, but his views on the Lord's Supper eventually divided them. Calvin taught that in communion, the spiritual realities symbolised by the bread and the wine were really given to the communicants. Unlike Zwingli, Calvin thought that something actually happened when Christians took communion, but he could not agree with Luther that the bread was Jesus' body.

Calvin is also known for his teaching that:

God predestines people to believe or not believe in God

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

God is sovereign and in control of everything

Images and dancing should be banned

The church should do only what Christ commanded (whereas Luther thought it was only important to avoid what Christ condemned, otherwise there was freedom)

Godly (ie Reformed) magistrates could resist ungodly and tyrannical kings. (This was politically revolutionary for the time.)

Unlike Luther, Calvin had a high view of the Old Testament, and saw it as having almost equal importance to the New Testament.

Whereas Lutheran influence was largely limited to Germany and Scandinavia, the Reformed movement rapidly gained followers in such widely spread places as Scotland, France, Poland and Hungary and....England.

Peter Feinson



Easter book folding

8 of us spent a couple of hours learning how to do book folding, and made a cross for Easter.



Hilary Salisbury



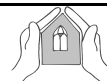
Prayer Diary for April 2018

Sun 8 th April	Ian leading worship both morning and evening, and then pray especially for those who sit around you at church today.	BUNCE, Ian & Vikki
Mon 9 th	Pray for Parkside, our church care home, and the contacts we have with Chaseview and Ashgate House in Junction Road.	BURGESS, Joyce
Tues 10 th	Leaders from the Eastern Baptist Association cluster of churches meet here today. Continue to pray for Nick Lear, Regional Minister, recovering from heart surgery.	BURLAND, Elaine (Mrs)
Wed 11 th	Church AGM tonight, pray for discernment and vision as we go forward together.	BURRAGE, Reg
Thurs 12 th	Remember the town centre clergy as they seek to make Christ known to so many people in need.	BUTLER, Pat, Stephen
Fri 13 th	Remember the Street Pastors (and their families at home) making such a huge difference in Romford tonight.	CALLENDER, Elizabeth
Sat 14 th	Thank God for the National Health Service, praying especially for those in our church family who serve God in this stressful area.	CARTER, Keith & Anne
Sun 15 th	Pray for those working behind the scenes to keep RBC running smoothly.	CELESTINO, Helder
Mon 16 th	Continue to pray that we shall find the person God is calling to lead the Children, Youth and Families Ministry. Remember the Youth Group, Streetlight, meeting tonight.	CHILDS, Dave & Nicola; <i>Lorna, Amelia & Felicity</i>
Tues 17 th	Pray for those who use our premises, e.g. Next Step Fostering.	CLARKE, Alex
Wed 18 th	Thank God for your 'frontline' and pray especially for the people you meet there.	CLARKE, Ian
Thurs 19 th	Thank God for Christian groups meetings in schools, workplaces, and especially the Houses of Parliament. Pray for wisdom, particularly for MPs as they make crucial decisions.	CLARKE-WHELAN, Richard, Mignon & <i>Monique (Clarke)</i>
Fri 20 th	Pray for those preparing to share with our young people on Sunday morning.	COLLINS, Les & Therese
Sat 21 st	Remember the 'Church Without Walls' meeting on the streets of Ilford at 7am each Sunday morning.	COLLINS, Sally & AVIS, Stephen
Sun 22 nd	Thank God for our lay preachers using their gifts in other churches week by week.	COX, Gerald
Mon 23 rd	Pastoral Group meet this evening. May we all play our part as we care for those around us.	COX, Nettie

Prayer Diary for April 2018

Tues 24 th	Pray for the craft group meeting this morning as they knit, natter and produce articles to pass on to others.	CROSS, Sheila
Wed 25 th	Thank God and pray for the Radio 4 daily service (9.45-10am LW) and the encouragement it is to many shut-ins. Pray also for those who arrange Songs of Praise on TV.	CROSSDALE, Winston & Sibongile Khumbula, <i>Alicia & Eryka</i>
Thurs 26 th	Peter and Louise Lynch leave for Bangladesh today, pray for their safety and the family they leave behind in the UK	CULL, Sheila
Fri 27 th	Thank God for our amazing suite of buildings, pray for their protection and our wise use of them.	CURTIS, Ken
Sat 28 th	We rejoice with Ian and Vikki as they celebrate the wedding of their daughter Rebecca to Ryan today.	CUTHBERT, William & Lin
Sun 29 th	Pray for Rich Shorter leading the morning worship and Jide Fawunmi. Thank God for the music group and audio/visual team and pray for more people to join them. Pray also for a new worship leader to come forward.	DALIVA, Leonila; <i>Franchesca, Daniella</i>
Mon 30 th	Pray for those sharing with people who come to Kerygma café and the Foodbank today. Give encouragement and wisdom to all.	DALRYMPLE, Eunice
Tues 1st May	Thank God for the leadership team meeting this evening. Pray for Vikki leading the Treasure Times group meeting this afternoon, and for the activities planned and friendships formed.	DALY, Richard & Sylvia
Wed 2 nd	Pray for the Missionary Aviation Fellowship (pilots, maintenance teams, finance officers etc.) serving missions in remote areas.	DELANEY, Andrew & Sarah
Thurs 3 rd	Local elections take place today. We pray for Your peace in our land.	DENNIS, Annette
Fri 4 th	Pray for those planning and attending the Baptist Assembly taking place in Peterborough next Saturday.	DOUGHTY, Winnie
Sat 5 th	Remember Causeway, for people with additional needs, meeting at St Peter's this afternoon.	DUNNINGS, Beryl
Sun 6 th	Pray for the local churches without Ministers and those people training for the ministry, especially at Spurgeon's College.	EBORN, Daniel
Mon 7 th	May God use our Youth Group to bless and encourage young people as they meet tonight.	EBORN, Michael & Josie, <i>Lily</i>

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



Pauline invites you to 'Tag along' on this single class session which will get you organised for the year ahead.

"Tag along with Me!"

Winter will be over and we will be enjoying the spring sunshine and looking forward to the warmer days of summer. No doubt you will have birthday cards to make, presents to buy and, possibly, a lovely summer wedding to attend. Then summer will turn to autumn and, before

you know it, Christmas will be upon us once again!



So, come and join me on **28th April** to make gift tags for all oc-

casions, using them to embellish cards, and pick up some hints as to how to wrap your gifts, so the recipients know that they are really special.

Get organised early for Christmas, so you have time to enjoy the festive sea-

son, while at the same time, recycling and saving the pennies. I will have all sorts of bits and pieces to use, but please bring along anything that you have which you would like to use - Christmas / Birthday cards that you do not want to keep but which can be cut up and recycled. We can all share our ideas and I am sure we will pick up many hints and tips.

This will be a workshop where you will be free to let your imagination flow, and you can make as many tags and cards as you wish. I will, of course, be on hand to help and hopefully inspire!

Pauline Yates



Pause to Smile

Jealous Wife

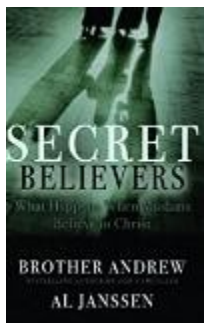
I heard from some of my old friends over the Christmas period, one of which has a very jealous wife who is always watching him. He walked into the house with a ginger hair on his collar and his wife asked where it had come from, and did he know any red haired women? To which he replied that next door's cat was sitting on the front garden wall, and that he had stopped to pet it. This caused it to jump up onto his shoulder and that is how the hair got there. A week later she found a black hair on his coat and again asked, did he know any black haired women? To which he said he had met the man who lived at the end of the road walking with his black Labrador and had stopped to stroke it, and that was how the hair must have got there. After two weeks his wife had found nothing when looking at his clothes and had asked if he knew any bald headed women?

Pigeon

Another friend told me that his ex-neighbour had been prosecuted by the R.S.P.C.A. for cruelty to animals .. Apparently he had purchased a pair of racing pigeons and then moved.



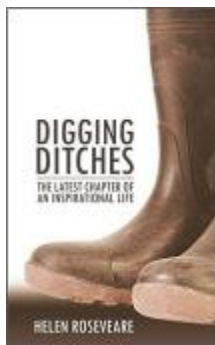
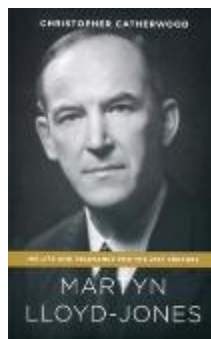
From The Bookstall



Just to let you know that there are several books with greatly reduced prices.

eg. Secret Believers - Brother Andrew. £8.99 reduced to £4.00.

Martin Lloyd-Jones:
His life and relevance
for the 21st century -
£8.99 to £4.00

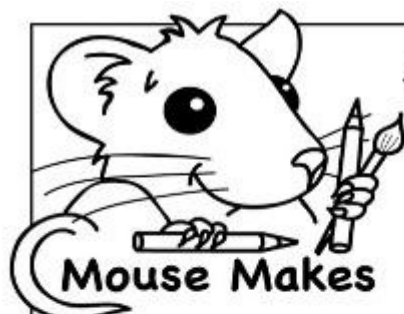


Digging Ditches, from
£7.50 to £2.50

The kindness of God -
£9.99 to £4.00, and
many more!!

For your Easter reading - Who Moved The Stone? - Convinced that the story wasn't true, Frank Morison started to write about Jesus' last days, the cross and resurrection. However, as he studied this period so crucial to the Christian faith, something happened.....

Annette Dennis

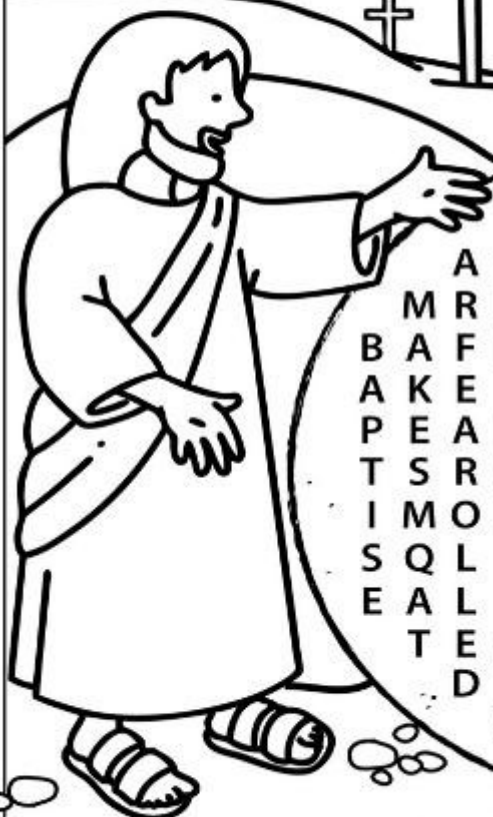
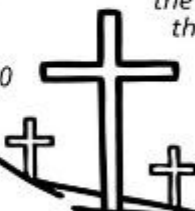


JESUS IS ALIVE!

After Jesus had been raised from the dead He met Mary and Mary Magdalene "Greetings," He said, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

When the disciples met Jesus in Galilee He said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

Read the account of Jesus' resurrection in *Matthew 28:1-20*



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

Can you find these words from the story in the word search above? EASTER • DAWN
DAY • MARY • TOMB • EARTHQUAKE • ANGEL • HEAVEN • ROLLED • STONE • GUARDS
JESUS • RAISED • FEAR • JOY • RAN • GREETINGS • TELL • DISCIPLES • SEE • ELEVEN
GALILEE • MOUNTAIN • WORSHIP • ALL • GO • MAKE • BAPTISE • TEACH • END • AGE



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 urban people revealing good news of the down-to-earth Christ-releasing life-changing skills and confidence”

Website for more information
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!



Bible Bite

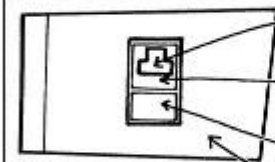
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...

Plan of the Temple

Restrictions



only priests

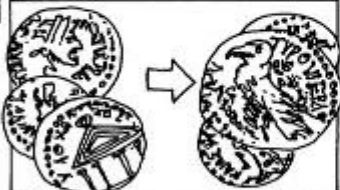
only Jewish men

only Jews

every one

200m

Visitors had to change their money to shekels



They had to buy special animals to sacrifice...

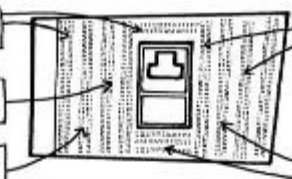


and the stalls filled the only place that non-Jews could come to worship God

stalls

stalls

stalls



yet more stalls

even more stalls

The chief priests had no problem with this...



but it made Jesus very angry...



so he drove them out



This should be a place of prayer but you have made it into a den of thieves *

* Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11

Hosanna!



He is upsetting everything.

We must have him killed

But the crowds love him - we must do it secretly.

The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY
ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...WHO LIVED IN GREAT
LUXURY



MEANWHILE THERE WAS A
VERY POOR MAN WHO LIVED
BY BEGGING AT THE RICH
MAN'S GATE.

THE RICH MAN THOUGHT ONLY
OF HIMSELF.



SADLY, BOTH THE RICH MAN, AND
LAZARUS - THE POOR MAN DIED.



LAZARUS FOUND
HIMSELF IN HEAVEN,
BUT THE RICH MAN...



...ENDED UP SOMEWHERE FAR
LESS PLEASANT!

PLEASE HELP ME. JUST GIVE ME
SOMETHING TO DRINK - PLEASE! OR AT
LEAST WARN MY BROTHERS!!!



THE RICH MAN HAD LEARNED A TERRIBLE LESSON.
HE SHOULD HAVE CARED FOR LAZARUS WHEN HE
HAD THE CHANCE! - IT'S A HARD PARABLE FOR
EVERYONE WHO IS RICH.



SMILE LINES

Show and Tell

An infant school teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, 'My name is Benjamin. I am Jewish and this is a Star of David.' The second student got up and said, 'My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary.' The third student got up and said, 'My name is Tommy. I am a Baptist, and this is a casserole.'



What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookshop, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for "What would Jesus do?" and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions. The man pondered a moment, then said, "I don't think He'd pay £9.99 for that hat."



Family pride

It was a posh parish. Over drinks in the church hall, the church warden informed the visiting archdeacon: 'My family can trace its ancestry back to William the Conqueror.'

'Well,' ventured the archdeacon with a smile, 'my ancestors were in the Ark with Noah.'

'Well, mine weren't,' came the quick reply. 'My people had a boat of their own.'

Phonecall

In the days before WW2, phonecalls cost two pence. 'Can you lend me two pence to ring a friend?' a widely disliked MP once asked Winston Churchill. The great man scoured his pockets. 'Here's four pence,' he said. 'Ring them all.'

Some one-liners

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.

'The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never know if they are genuine.' – St Paul.



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 - usually first Monday in the month, next meeting 9 th April and then 14 th May.)
	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	Small Group
	8 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.

