

Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine
December 2018
and
January 2019
No. 193

From the Editor

As you page through this edition of Grapevine, you will probably notice a thread running through; that of remembrance. Not only as on Remembrance Day, but also reflecting on lives lived for Christ, and His faithfulness.

It's when we look back that we realise how good God is, and can see his love threading through our lives, in both the good times and the difficult times. So as we come to the end of 2018, let's look back over the year and thank Him for his love and presence in all situations.

And, of course, as we go into the "festive" season, let's focus on Jesus, and celebrate the reason He came to be born on earth: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 NIV

Then, as we look towards the New Year, may we resolve to live our lives for Christ, relying on Him for strength in difficulties but also praising Him and giving thanks in the good times too. In Psalm 34 (TLB), the Psalmist says,

"I will praise the Lord no matter what happens. I will constantly speak of his glories and grace.² I will boast of all his kindness to me. Let all who are discouraged take heart.³ Let us praise the Lord together and exalt his name."

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

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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.



Pastors Page

"Insecure leaders are like fireworks with a lit fuse. It's only a matter of time until they explode, and when they do, they hurt everyone close to them." John Maxwell

This is not just true when talking about leaders, it is true of all people. People who are insecure are likely to explode and when they do, they will hurt people around them.

So where do we find security to ensure that we are not the one who is likely to explode and find ourselves hurting others and then sensing disappointment in ourselves.

Firstly, our security is not in possessions, our achievements or our ability to always be right. Our security is found in a relationship with God.

*My soul finds rest in God alone;
my salvation comes from Him.*

*He alone is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.*

Psalms 62:1-2,

Secondly it comes from being at peace with ourselves. So much of the way we are and the way we behave is tied up with the image and understanding we have of ourselves. We need to learn to make peace with ourselves. As Christians we are forgiven, renewed people.

Jesus talked about someone who comes to faith as being a new creation, or born again (John 3:16). Although the new body may at times be getting old and worn, in Christ we can be renewed daily. Paul, writing to the Corinthian church, says "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." Cor 4:16

And being peace makers with others. Jesus says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God" Matthew 5:9 What a status, a child of God. You are indeed loved and held by a loving and wonderful God.

At this time of Advent, the awaiting of Jesus, Isaiah's statement about the coming of Christ are words which we will hear many times over this season:

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,*

*and the government will be on his
shoulders.*

*And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Even with all the pressure and opposition, Jesus was still known as the Prince of Peace and not as a firework with a fuse lit, ready to explode.

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“in your relationships with one another have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.....” Phil 2:5

*Ian Bunce
(Team Leader)*



4 November 2018 Dedication of Mya Johnson

Lauren dedicates herself to bring up Maya in the way of the Lord.



11 November 2018 Dedication of Ocean-Blue Nelson-Miller

The Nelson-Miller family dedicated themselves to bring up Ocean-Blue in the way of the Lord.

Pause to Smile

Some time ago, the blind pianist George Shearing was going to America to give a concert in San Francisco. In those days guide dogs were allowed to travel on planes with their owners. The plane left from London and landed in New York to refuel. The pilot announced there would be a half hour stop and would the passengers, except any disabled, leave the plane while it is being refuelled. The pilot then went to leave and spotted the celebrity and went up to him and said. “Mr Shearing, I’m the pilot and may I say how good it is to meet you. I have been to several of your concerts and have had a great time and I’d like to say thank you and can I get you anything?” George replied, “That is very kind of you. I’m fine, but would you be kind and take my dog out and let him walk and relieve himself as he’s been aboard from London.” “It would be my pleasure”, said the pilot, and took the dog. George sat for some time, then felt his Braille watch to find he had been there for over an hour. He reached up and pressed the call button and an attendant came to him. “Can I help you Sir?” said the attendant. George asked “We seem to be a long time. The pilot said we would be half an hour. What is happening?” The attendant replied, “We are having trouble getting the passengers back on board as they have seen the pilot walking round the airfield with a guide dog.”

The Church Mouse



Reflections



As I approached 80, I began to reflect on the way God had been there at every turn – the God incidences. When things don't seem to be going as I hoped

or wanted, it has always been good to look back and praise God for being there all the time.

This was confirmed last Sunday morning as I read Psalm 20 and the challenge was to write a Psalm of praise for His love towards me.

As a child of about 5, I went to a Sunday School in a neighbour's front room and learned CSSM choruses (CSSM is Children's Special Service Mission). In 1953 I went to a Scripture Union 'camp' in a boarding school (with 3 school friends) and was challenged to give my life to Christ – but I didn't tell anyone! The faithfulness of a dormitory leader keeping in touch took me to Haringey to hear Billy Graham in 1954 and I went forward – I was 15.

I joined the Congregational church my parents attended, helped at the morning Junior Church and attended the evening service. I was also a member of the Schools Christian Association,

meeting in the Henry Martin Hall in Cambridge five times a term after evening church.

We had no Christian help from teachers in school but the school secretary invited us to her home for regular Bible Studies. I felt God calling me to be a Christian teacher (despite the negative reaction of the headmistress).

In 1957, as the result of poor exam results, I did not go to my first choice of college. I knew no one and had never been inside the college. The very first person I met was Pat Eastman, Michael's sister, who was looking out for me, as a Christian had sent my name in to the C.U.

In 1960 I met up with a Christian school friend and discovered that we were both set to join the same school in Northampton for our first year of teaching. It was not a happy school. I moved on to join college friends teaching at Abbs Cross. It was an opportunity to help with the C.U. in school, young people's weekends away and after school, inter-school training of local secondary pupil C.U. leaders, teachers' prayer groups, etc.

Before I came to RBC I had been challenged through scripture about baptism. Never having been to a baptismal service, I was baptized in March 1963

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by Godfrey Robinson and joined RBC. For many years I was involved on Sunday mornings at Harold Hill Baptist Church but worshipped at RBC on Sunday evenings and the Wednesday prayer meeting. In my 'long' summer holidays I continued with our annual S.U. summer camp, my final 15 years as the caterer. In 1975 I told them it would be my final year – why? I didn't know, but God did. My father died in August 1976!

In 1968 Sheila Eastman encouraged me and found me a flat. "Ok it will be fine for 2 years", I said to God. 50 years later and I am still here.

In 1981 Mum was able to move from Cambridge to the flat next door. She always wanted what would be easiest for me!

In 1992, after two lots of major surgery and starting to care for Mum, I left teaching expecting to work at Parkside or Hospice. I ended up caring for Mum for the best part of 7 years. I was so apprehensive about being alone when she died. Anne Barnes popped in one evening, suggested Gordon drove round and collected Winnie. She decided to stay the night, and Mum died that night. How good is God?

Small group and prayer meeting are a vital part of my life. I have always been involved with schools work and am a trustee of Graceworks.

I thank God for being there each step of the way although there have been many ups and downs, and pray I will continue to trust Him for the future.

Barbara Gatherum

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays December 2017

1st Christine Wright
25th Muriel Warner



Birthdays January 2018

5th Anne Barnes
10th Anne Carter
15th Peggy Warner
23rd Daphne May
25th Janet Loveard
28th Barbara Palmer



It's a letter from your church. They want to know if you've done the flower rota, if you've done the brass-cleaning rota, and have you ordered the mince pies for the carol singers' Christmas party?

Church Flowers 2019

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed towards the cost of the weekly Church flowers during the past year. Not only have the flowers enhanced our sanctuary, but they have also been a blessing to many of the congregation who have received a small bunch of flowers after the services



If you feel you would like to provide flowers for the Church to celebrate an anniversary or for a special occasion, please add your name to the list against the appropriate date. The list

can be found on the Welcome Desk.

The cost is approximately £25 and donations can be made by cash or a cheque made payable to Romford Baptist Church. Please place your donation in an envelope with your name and chosen date and place it in the offering bag or give it to Kathy on the Welcome Desk.

We are always looking for help with the arranging and distribution of the Church flowers and if you are interested in serving in this way, please have a word with Patricia Townson or Clarissa Harris.

Patricia Townson

Flowers

December 2018

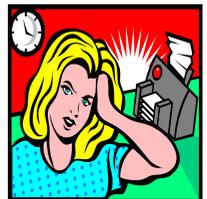
- 2nd Mel Pigeon
- 9th Wilma Blyth
- 16th Alison and Alex Savine



The deadline for the February 2019/March 2019 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 19th January 2019

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





Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving



Brenda Beaver

4th July 1934 - 23rd July 2018

I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Brenda Beaver, who went to be with her Lord on 23rd July 2018.

Brenda was born on 4 July 1934 to parents Florrie and John Byford, and she had five brothers and three sisters. Her dad was a builder/bricklayer and her mum cared for the family. She attended Love Lane Infant and Junior School and passed her 11+ exam and went to Southend High School for Girls. She was in the Girl Guides at Rayleigh Baptist and always helped out if there was a need somewhere.

Brenda was taken by her sisters to Sunday School at a very early age at Rayleigh Baptist Church, where she later became a Sunday School teacher herself in the Primary Section which she loved. She used to take her large handbag with her and if any child became distressed she would allow them to go through her bag and they soon forgot about being upset.

After leaving school, she worked on the counter at Rayleigh Post Office, where she really enjoyed serving others and the social aspect of meeting so many people who she knew.

Brenda met Dickie when his family moved to Rayleigh and came to the church, and it wasn't very long before the romance began and they were married at the church on 12th October, 1963. They were blessed with a son and when Mark was still very young, they moved to Romford.

They started attending Romford Baptist and Brenda became well involved in a number of aspects of church life. Brenda loved to visit people, and especially those in need, and she also headed up the flower team at church each week. The team had great fun working together to produce a wide variety of beautiful displays, especially those for Harvest, Easter, Christmas, weddings, funerals and other occasions over the years. Brenda was also a member of the Floral Art Society and the Fine Arts Society.

Brenda also used her skills with flowers as a basis for hosting garden parties at their home for the church's 50th Anniversary, St. Francis Hospice, BMS World Mission and the Bible Society. Cakes, other refreshments and a good social time were also part of these events, while money was being raised

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at the same time for good causes.

Brenda was skilled in making people feel welcome and valued as a person and this led to many long-term friendships. She was so interested in each one as the person she was talking to that everyone really felt that they mattered.

In addition to all these attributes Brenda had a practical caring heart, and offered hearty Sunday lunches to family, friends and those in need. She was a fantastic cook and her lemon drizzle cake was legendary. Their home was open to family and friends alike, whether for Christmas celebrations or as people popped in and out over the years, particularly latterly to spend time with Dickie. She was also a lover of jigsaw puzzles and there was invariably one out in the lounge for all those who visited to join in with, including the carers as they came day by day for Dickie.

Brenda was unable to be as involved in RBC as she would have liked for a number of years since she devoted herself to caring for Dickie. However, she remained a valued friend to many people and continued to take an active interest in the church and its people.

Brenda will be sadly missed by her family and her many friends of long

standing.

Neil Walden (Based on a tribute given by Vikki Bunce during the thanksgiving service for Dickie).

Smile Lines

What do you call a cat in the desert?
Sandy Claws.

What goes oh oh oh?
Santa walking backwards.

What did the dog get for Christmas?
A mobile bone.

What did Adam say in the Garden of Eden on December 24?
It's Christmas, Eve.

Why do turkeys never go hungry at Christmas?
They're always stuffed.

Which Christmas carol is most popular with new parents?
Silent Night!

Where do mistletoe go to become famous?
Holly-wood

Why is turkey so popular at Christmas?
Because the weather is a lot warmer over there.

Prayer Diary for December 2018

Sat 8 th	We have several in the church who are ill. Use the Weekly Bulletin to pray for those currently needing our prayers.	BANGUG, May Bambee; <i>Zara Fibee</i>
Sun 9 th	Pray for Vikki preaching at this morning's baptismal service, & pray too for the candidates.	BARNES, Gordon & Anne
Mon 10 th	Pray for the Parent & Toddler group meeting this morning, also for Streetlight at the Nativity Project this evening.	BARNES, Joanna, <i>Katie & Matthew</i>
Tues 11 th	Both the Needlework club and Treasure Times meet today. Non-believers attend both meetings. Pray that they will feel the Lord's presence.	BARRETT, Simon & Debbie, <i>Joseph & Daisy</i>
Wed 12 th	Pray for the leaders of small groups, that they may be given help in their preparation to increase the faith of each in the group.	BAVIN, Simon
Thurs 13 th	Praise the Creator for the beauty of the world around us.	BECKLEY, Suzanne & Gary, <i>Thomas & Max</i>
Fri 14 th	A nursery will be using our buildings today. Pray that the little ones may love the atmosphere & will want to come on Sunday (& parents).	BELLO, Grace
Sat 15 th	Pray that all the children will begin to understand that Christmas celebrates Christ's birth & seek to know more about Him.	BENJAMIN, Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke & Sophia</i>
Sun 16 th	Pray for Hannah & Matt as they lead the morning service & for Jan preaching (Toddler service).	BIGGS, Fred & Frances
Mon 17 th	'The God of love my Shepherd is'. Thank and praise Him for it.	BITAGA Dougan & Fely, <i>Jiela</i>
Tues 18 th	Rise Park School have their Carol Services today & tomorrow. Pray that those who come will hear the true story of Christmas.	BLYTH, Ron & Wilma
Wed 19 th	Pray for those working on public transport as they enter their busy season. Pray also for the Remembering at Christmas service this evening.	BRETT, Dennis & Brenda
Thurs 20 th	Pray for the residents at Parkside, that at their Carol Service tonight more will understand the true meaning of Christmas.	BROWN, Chris & Shirley
Fri 21 st	Pray for the safety of all who will be travelling over the next few days, that patience & care will be evident.	BROWN, Christine
Sat 22 nd	In the shopping & cooking rush, pray that we will not lose sight of the true reason for doing it.	BROWN, Claire, <i>Elliott</i>

Prayer Diary for December 2018

Sun 23 rd	Carols by Candlelight tonight brings visitors to the church. As Ian preaches, may hearts be opened to the Lord.	BROWN, John & Glynis
Mon 24 th	Christingle service today involving Vikki & Jan. Pray that at this service some may hear the Lord speaking to them.	BUNCE, Ian & Vikki
Tues 25 th	Christmas Day, Ian will be taking the service. Pray that his fresh message of hope will be heard & some will respond.	BURGESS, Joyce
Wed 26 th	Pray for members of the Emergency Services, who get little leave & are often very busy at this time of year.	BURLAND, Elaine (Mrs)
Thurs 27 th	Praise God for all His mercies, & thank Him for them.	BURRAGE, Reg
Fri 28 th	Pray for your neighbours & for help in witnessing to them.	BUTLER, Pat, Stephen
Sat 29 th	Pray for your family & friends, who love & support you.	CALLENDER, Elizabeth
Sun 30 th	Remember all those who work in hospitals. There is little rest for them. Pray for them.	CARTER, Keith & Anne
Mon 31 st	Cast your mind back over the last year. Find something to pray about, thank God for, & something to rejoice about.	CELESTINO, Helder
Tues 1st Jan 2019	At the start of 2019, pray that it may be everyone's New Year resolution (& yours) to grow closer to God in 2019.	CHILDS, Nicola & Dave; <i>Lorna, Amelia & Felicity</i>
Wed 2 nd	Pray that having a regular quiet time may be the start of each day for all at the church.	CLARKE, Alex
Thurs 3 rd	Pray for the peace of the world.	CLARKE, Ian
Fri 4 th	As life begins to get back into its usual routine, pray that this includes time for God.	COLLINS, Les & Therese
Sat 5 th	Many of the groups which meet in the church start again shortly. Pray that they may be fruitful for the Lord.	COLLINS, Sally & AVIS, Stephen
Sun 6 th	Vikki & Ian will both be preaching today. Pray that the Lord will guide their thinking & speaking.	COX, Gerald
Mon 7 th	The Ministry Team have an away day today. Pray for them as they study & plan.	COX, Nettie



If you have any items for inclusion in the January 2019 Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.





Available as posters up to A0 size from cpo.org.uk

For more resources visit cpo.org.uk or call us on 01903 263354



Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving



Eunice Dalrymple

21st April 1927 – 5th September 2018



I am sad to report the death of one of our members, Eunice Dalrymple, who went to be with her Lord on 5th September 2018.

Eunice always had a positive, enthusiastic fun view of life and her cup was always never half empty, but half full. Indeed, it was full and overflowing and this was reflected in her hospitality, openness and welcoming nature to all. For many years Eunice and Ken regularly provided hospitality in their home to visitors, friends and acquaintances from their church. Eunice was a great baker and she was always on the lookout for a new recipe that she could try out and then share with others.

Eunice was born on 21st April 1927, the youngest daughter of parents William and Ethel Weeks and sister to Beryl. She often reminisced, in great detail, incidents from her childhood and teenage years which gave the sense of a truly happy and loving family.

Eunice and Ken resigned their jobs in their early fifties and became volunteers who travelled extensively together in the UK, Europe and Africa as Mission Aid workers. They carried out a long and valued ministry during this time.

When she was 21, she met and fell in love with Ken Dalrymple and they married on 30th September 1950, and their only son, Andrew, was born four years later.

Eunice was a hairdresser by trade and she continued her career after Andrew was born by becoming a 1950s version of a mobile hairdresser, by visiting elderly or housebound ladies in their homes.



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Ken died in 2007, so Eunice looked for a new focus for her energies and at the age of 80 enthusiastically worked as a volunteer in the Parent and Toddler group at RBC.

In recent years, the frailty of old age, together with mental health issues, led to increasing dependency on her neighbours, friends and family for her daily living needs. Eventually she could not live independently and for the last three years was wonderfully cared for by the staff at the Merrie Loots Farm residential home.

Eunice remained positive during these difficult times and retained an indomitable optimism about life.

Eunice will be sadly missed by her son Andrew, daughter-in-law Jenny, her grandchildren and great grandchildren and her friends at church.

Neil Walden (Based on a tribute given at the thanksgiving service for Eunice).



REMEMBRANCE POEM

See the poppies how they grow,
It wasn't like that long ago.
Once the fields were full of life,
Then came war, the toll and strife.
In Flanders fields.

There, the fields men bravely fought,
to the death, that's what they thought.
Dying men and gunshot sounds,
the shrieks of screaming all around.
In Flanders fields.

Desperate cries, red blood flowed,
firearms cracked, explosions glowed.
The sky was filled with death,
In Flanders fields.

The whole world pledged no more war,
you can't forget what they saw.
The fields now green, where poppies
grow,
100 years, so long ago.
We won't forget,
Flanders fields.

Pauline Higgins

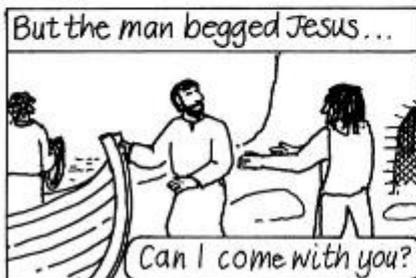
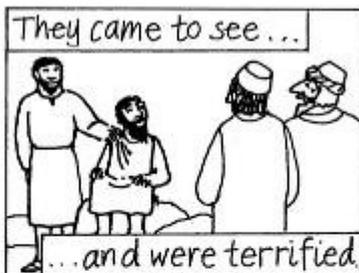
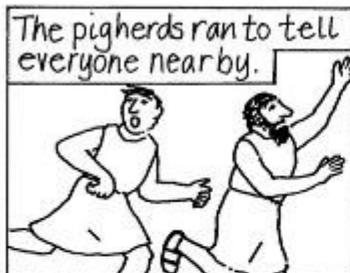
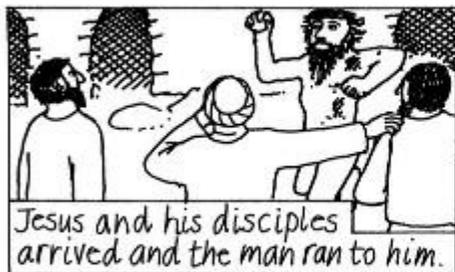


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons. He tore off any clothes or chains put on him, and he lived in the graveyard.



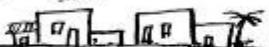


Preparing the Church for Remembrance Day 2018





The First Christmas



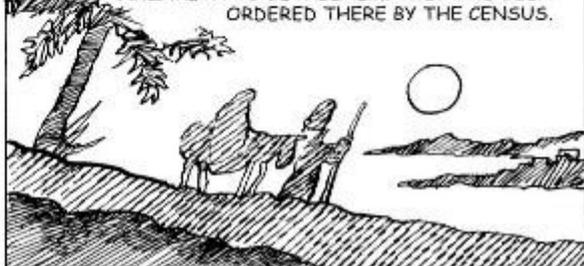
JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE VERY SPECIAL BABY



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE BY THE CENSUS.



BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL... THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...



...WHICH IS WHERE THE BABY JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY. AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAS BEEN BORN.





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 but 10 December 2018)
	7 pm	Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)
Tuesday	10 am	'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group
	2.15pm	Treasure Times
	8 pm	Prayer Meeting
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.



...and if you scan it, you can download my
Christmas sermon!

