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No. 194

From the Editor

The beginning of 2019 seems a distant memory; the days are getting lighter and longer, and already there are snowdrops appearing in the parks and gardens. Soon there will be the crocuses and golden daffodils to enjoy.

I love spring and its promises of the transformation of nature, the new life of flowers, butterflies, birds and animals.

Not only has nature been transformed, but if we are in Christ, we too have been transformed. The Bible tells us this in many ways, including, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." *2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV.*

As you read the various articles and testimonies in this Grapevine, let's consider how being transformed results in us wanting to know God more and wanting to serve Him more. I pray that we will all be challenged to know, love and serve God more.

Cheryl Schulte

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Our purpose is to take the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to all, with the goal that they become His loyal disciples.



From the Secretary

"That we may know God better" Eph 1:17

This is our text for the year and as I look at the wall planner with this text, I have already started to fill in dates/

events for this vear.... some work....some church... some fun... things all that I deem important enough to spend my time and with this text in mind. T began to



think "how will I know God" better? Because that's the brilliant thing about this text, in all that we do we can know God better and this verse can apply to us all in whatever our life, whatever our circumstances. I can seek to know God better as I spend time serving

that I had and I will be able to recognise how and where I got to know God better and I hope that you will too.

> Hayley Ayris (Church Secretary)

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The deadline for the April 2019/May 2019 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 17th March 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





God as Church Secretary, as I play badminton, walk to work, as I spend time with my friends and as I learn



The next workshop will be on Saturday 16th February when you are invited to 'Add a stamp or two'.

Stamping is a timeless technique and, starting with a blank canvas, we will put our knowledge of stamping into practice to create a beautiful card.

We will use rubber stamps, transparent stamps and ink pads to make this card, adding a few embellishments, should you wish, to complete your card which can be adapted for any occasion.

The workshop is suitable for all abilities and will be ideal for those who attended the recent "Back to Basics" tutorial on stamping, as it offers the opportunity to put into practice what you learned. However, you do not have to have been to the tutorial to attend this workshop.

You can work at your own pace to create your cards and there will be a limited choice of stamps to use, although you are welcome to bring some of your own.

The fee for the workshop is £6 which includes drinks, cakes and materials, and it runs from 9.30am -12.30pm.

Please complete and submit the booking form, available in the Foyer, Willow Hall or Welcome Desk, by Sunday February 3rd, 2019.



Inspirations Card Making

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Thank you very much to all those who have given a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme on their birthday during 2017, raising a total of £1113.00 (including gift aid). Your gifts are greatly appreciated, as it helps to support some very worthwhile projects.

For those who are not aware of the Scheme, it is organised by the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) World Mission in order 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.

One example of this valuable work is the BMS supported Hope Home in Thailand, 'a place that nurtures and supports children with disabilities'. (BMS Birthday Scheme News Bulletin) To promote the scheme it has been the custom to publish birthdays in Grapevine. However, your permission - via the Church Office - is now required in order to comply with new regulations.

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

With thanks on behalf of BMS and best wishes for 2019.

Christine Brown

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays February 2019

16th Sheila Cross26th Margaret Coles

Birthdays March 2019

- 7th Don May
- 14th Rosemary Loveard
- 18th Keith Carter

Flowers

February 2019

3rd Hoopers 10th Jan and Neil Walden 17th F. Grace Bello

<u>March 2019</u>

10th I. Knight 31st Sue and Brian Sharp





<u>Thank you</u>

Thank you to Sheila Cross for all the behind-the-scenes work done over the years as part of the team collating the Grapevine magazines. We wish you a well-deserved rest from the role!



Smile Lines

Manner of speaking

'Are your father and your mother in?' asked the vicar when the small boy opened the door.



'They was in,' said the youngster. 'But they is out.'

'They was in, they is out. Where's your grammar, young man?' 'She's gone upstairs, for a nap.'

Rice

A man who had been dating a girl for a number of years took her out to a Chinese restaurant. As they studied the menu he asked: 'How would you like your rice, fried or boiled?'

She looked at him sadly. 'Thrown.'

Efficient

First lady: My husband is an efficiency expert in a large office. Second lady: What does he do? First lady: Well, if we women did it, they'd call it nagging.

Be my Valentine



Young man: Do you love me? Young lady: Yes. Young man: But can you live on my income?

Young lady: Certainly. Though - what will you live on?

Valentine present



Man in car showroom: I've

come back to buy that car you showed me yesterday.

Sales assistant: That's fine, I thought you'd be back. Tell me, what was the dominant feature which made you decide on this car? My wife.

Why teenagers worry

One teenager was talking to another, 'I'm really concerned. My father slaves away at his job so I'll never want for anything, and down the years has set aside thousands of pounds so that I can go to university. And my mother spends every day washing and ironing and cleaning up after me. She even takes care of me when I'm sick.'

The other teenager said: 'Sounds perfect – so what are you worried about?' The first teenager replied: 'I'm afraid that one day they might try to escape.'



Obituary - In His Presence with Thanksgiving



Stephen John Kirby

18th April 1969 - 15th November 2018

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of our friend, Stephen (Steve) Kirby, on 15th November 2018, at such a young age.

Steve was a private, quiet man who was a wonderful son, husband, uncle and a father who was so proud of his children Emma and Liam. He was also a faithful friend to many, as well as a great work colleague, and it is a challenge to do justice to the man who was all of these people.

His best friend, Mark Essl, paid tribute to Steve at the Thanksgiving service on November 30th, and provided a number of anecdotes which captured the character of the man himself. He shared a number of examples of Steve's sense of humour, infectious laugh, his wisdom, his guidance and his opinions regarding West Ham football team's latest results.

Steve was born in April 1969 and was younger brother to Debbie, who delighted in him and they remained close throughout his life. Steve was also responsible for introducing Debbie to her future husband, Jeff, at a family party and this marriage celebrated 25 happy years during 2018. Steve and Jeff remained firm friends over the years.

Steve was a rather shy child, but became involved in a number of acting roles, including a part in the production of "The Taming of the Shrew" at the Royal Opera House. Steve also joined a football team and these activities helped him gain in confidence.

Tania and Steve met when he was eighteen and they became a couple two years later, shared wonderful times together and married in 1998. They became proud parents to Emma and Liam and spent may happy family times together, including a number of family holidays in their caravan at Clacton, which was Steve's favourite place since he had spent many childhood holidays there himself.

Steve began his working life with an apprenticeship in Hainault, where he gained his electrical qualifications, and he began a career in hotels starting at Montcalm Hotel in London, where he became their youngest ever assistant engineer. Tania and Steve enjoyed the corporate events which were associated with his job roles.

Steve was headhunted for other roles in Facilities Management, worked for himself for a while and developed huge respect from colleagues and employers alike.

Steve displayed a great attention to detail and this quality came to the fore in his work environment and at home,



(Continued from page 8)

where the décor, design and fittings had to be "just so" and to a high standard and kept spick and span. This also applied to his cars, for which he had a passion and devoted time to keeping them in peak condition. He also had a love of wallets and watches, which maybe reflected his intense tidiness, being very organized, and his loyalty.

Sadly, Steve developed a rare type of cancer a couple of years ago and went through a lengthy series of treatments involving several surgical procedures, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Steve fought a long battle very bravely, supported wonderfully and bravely by Tania, who was a tower of strength and devotion to her beloved husband, the rest of the family and a number of friends. There were times of hope during this process, as well as many happy family times, outings and holidays. However, the condition eventually became terminal and Steve died during November 2018.

It was a privilege for many people at RBC to support Steve and the family in prayer and in practical ways during this time, and he will be sadly missed not only by his family, work colleagues and close friends, but also by the church fellowship.

Based on memories and tributes given by Tania Kirby and other members of the family and Steve's best friend, Mark Essl.

Neil Walden

Be my Valentine

St Valentine's Day falls on 14th February and since the 18th Century has been associated with the declaration of love, albeit anony-mously. Originally this might be through the offering of sweets or flowers, and now more commonly by the sending of an unsigned card.

One suggestion is that St Valentinus was a Roman Christian who performed weddings for soldiers in the Roman army, even though they were not permitted to marry. According to this story, Valentinus was sentenced to death for his offence, but during his imprisonment prayed for the blind daughter of his judge, who miraculously recovered. Before his execution he left her a note, which he signed 'Your Valentine.'

All of us long to know that we are loved by someone, but declaring our love to another is always a risky business since we may be rejected. They may consider us not attractive enough, or unsuitable in any number of other ways. The pain of unrequited love is indeed great, and so many of us hold back because of the fear of rejection.

One thing we can be sure of, however, is that we are loved by God. He loves us because He made us, and likes us as we are. He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us, and thought we were worthy of such a sacrifice. Here is One who knows everything about us and loves us just the same. His love is unchanging and unending and we need never fear His rejection.

Here is the best declaration of love ever made. God says to you, "I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)."



Prayer Diary fo

Fri	As signs of Spring increase, thank the Lord for the beautiful	GRIFFITHS,
8 th	world He has created.	Ben and Hannah
Sat	There is still time for rough winter weather. Pray for all who	GRIFFITHS,
9 th	have to go out in it, and especially for the infirm.	Margaret
Sun	lan is preaching both morning and evening. Pray for him,	HALL,
10 th	for his voice and above all that the words the Lord has	lan and Susan
	given him may move the hearts of many.	
Mon	Pray for those using the Foodbank today that they may	HANLEY,
11 th	realise that the donations are there because of the Lord's	Barry and
	love and care.	Stephanie
Tues	A busy day at the Church! Pray that all using our buildings	HARDING,
12 th	today may be aware that it is the Lord's house.	John and Sue
Wed 13 th	Local ministers meet at lunchtime. Pray for them and for	HARRIS,
	the All Church Prayer and Bible Study session tonight.	Clarissa
Thurs 14 th	'Holiday at Home' (for the over 65s). Pray for the older folk in the church, many very lonely and some may be less mo-	HARRIS,
14	bile.	Patricia
Fri	Pray for the Special Needs Group meeting today. Pray that	HARRISON,
15 th	the Lord will guide both them and their leaders.	John
Sat	Pray for Inspirations who meet today. Pray that those tak-	HARVEY,
16 th	ing part may encounter the Lord as they work and con-	Liz
10	verse together.	
Sun	Pray for those who plan to picnic together after the service,	HAYWARD,
17 th	that the Lord will speak through those who love Him.	Joy
Mon	Pray for the Pastoral Team who meet tonight, that they	HENNIKER,
18 th	may be guided to those who need them most , and in what	Joyce
	they say.	
Tues	Pray for the Missionary Council meeting this evening, that	HENSON,
19 th	they may be led by the Lord in discussions and decisions.	Ruth
Wed	Pray for the Small Groups meeting tonight, that as they	HENWOOD,
20 th	study Ephesians, they may all learn more about the Lord.	Stephen and
		Dorothy
Thurs	There will be the regular service at Parkside tonight. Pray	HIGGINS,
21 st	that many may hear God speaking to them.	Pauline and
		Kevin, <i>Lauren</i>
E vi	Although the weather should be improving it much be wild	and Rachel
Fri 22 nd	Although the weather should be improving, it may be wild	HILLS, Emma, Samuel and Ben-
22	at sea. Pray for the fishermen, their families and the Fisher- man's Mission who help them all.	jamin
λ.		jannin

<u>r February 2019</u>

Sat 23 rd	Pray that the services tomorrow will be well attended by those who seek the Lord and may those who seek, find You.	HILLS, Yvonne
Sun 24 th	Pray for lan as he preaches at both services today, that he may show us the will of the Lord.	HODINITU, Nicolae and Natalia
Mon 25 th	In our church we enjoy quite a lot of social occasions. Pray for all who plan and prepare for others' enjoy- ment.	HOGBEN, Cynthia
Tues 26 th	Pray for Treasure Times as often very lonely people are able to meet and enjoy one another's company on a Tuesday. Pray that they meet the Lord as well.	HOLMAN, Jill
Wed 27 th	Many coming into our premises today for Weight- watchers may rarely enter a church. Pray that they will be led to come and find out more.	HOOPER, Iris
Thurs 28 th	Spring is really on the way. Pray for the many who get fresh energy at this time of year, that they may use it for the Lord.	HUGHES, Brenda and Raymond
Fri 1 st Mar	Remember all living at Parkside. Many are unwell or less mobile. Pray that the Lord will show them how He can use them.	HUNT, Maisie
Sat 2 nd	There is a prayer breakfast this morning. Pray that many may make an effort to come and seek God's will.	HUXTABLE, Janet
Sun 3 rd	There is a Communion service this morning. Pray that you may be enabled to attend this service and prepare for the Lord to reveal Himself.	IZE, Christiane; Saleem Mbiti (Kayibi), Betsy (Safari)
Mon 4 th	There is a parenting course tonight at the church. Pray that, as the parents want to help their children, to bring them close to the Lord, they may be led.	JEGEDE, Olakunle and Bunmi, <i>Teniola, Bamidele and Dara</i>
Tues 5 th	As the Leadership Team meet tonight, pray that they may be led to plan the best for God and listen to what He is saying.	JOHNSON, Kevin and Claire, Anna (Davis), Adam (Johnson), Stella and Harry (Davis)
Wed 6 th	As the Small Groups meet tonight, pray they sense God's presence with them and for guidance for the leaders as they prepare for it.	JOHNSON, Sarah, <i>Serena</i>
Thurs 7 th	As the Worship Team practise tonight may they be guided by the Lord to give a good lead to the singing.	JONES, Joyce

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



From Brazil:

After a short stay in Recife, I went to Belo Horizonte, where it was so good to meet up with many of 'my youngsters', who are planning the re-start of Brigade. We had several meetings. They are at the moment making up a video of various brigade activities of the past, to take to churches. In mid-October, I was taken to a church way out in the sticks. They were celebrating 'Children's day'. The whole day is dedicated to children having lots of fun and food. The activities there, started with a devotional followed by presents, food and lots of fun. The church is in a very needy area. Several of the parents are either in prison or have drug related problems, so the grandparents are the main carers. The person who leads the children's work there, is an ex-brigade leader, and she has a group of enthusiastic helpers. There is a good number of teenagers too. The Pastor and his wife have plans for setting up a Social Centre. One Sunday evening, I was at the Union Presbyterian church where the 2nd Brigade Company started, and had to speak about plans for the restart of Brigade. It really felt like being with family, as many in the congregation grew up in Brigade, as well as others having been leaders.

The Pastor was really helpful and has offered his absolute support for the work.

There two groups functioning, one in a Baptist church, and the other in a Pentecostal church.

There was also the job of being taken to several local government offices to have Brigade re-registered as a philanthropic organization. It seemed that everywhere, a stamped signature was required to prove that you are whom you say you are! Because of the lack of annual reports over several years, we had to pay a renewal fee of just under fifty pounds, to be re-registered. The last important document to be recovered is referred to as the CNPJ. This defines what Brigade is to the hierarchy. Can't think at the moment of its equivalent in English.

Please pray about having a suitable place for storing brigade material which has been salvaged and stored in different places. There are two barrels and two large suitcases, temporarily stored at a friend's house. Also pray for all the forward planning and visits to churches, that there would soon be many groups formed and eventually companies established.

Thank you for all your kind help and continued prayers.

Annette Dennis



God needs you in His Church!!

There are many roles in the church which need to be fulfilled if God is to be able to work through the church. In this article we are looking at hospitality. but my point is that God has given us many gifts that we don't always recognise, or use, within the church setting because we think they can't be used. However, your gifts are a valuable re-

What does God teach us in his word? 1 Peter 4v9 says; Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

TOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR CHURCH NEEDS

source that is missing, which leaves a small number of members doing too much!!

So, what can you do? Speak to me or one of the Pastors to find out more about how you can get involved and serve God in his church. There is no obligation, just find out more.

Therefore, God instructs us to show hospitality

to others and this is an important area to get involved in, as a member of RBC. The good news is that anyone can find a role within the hospitality team. Can you make a cup of tea or coffee? Then you can be of value on the hospitality team! Can you greet someone, shake their hand and welcome them? Then you can be of value on the hospitality team! Can you wash up dishes or fill a dishwasher? Then you can be of value on the hospitality team! I could go on Jan Walden (Hospitality Team) P.S I can usually be found near the coffee bar after the morning service.



<u>Baptisms</u> 9th December 2018

Tijesunimi Ewedemi:



I don't really have a story of much grandeur. I didn't have a miraculous moment of healing or a God-sent epiphany telling me that it was my time.

I'm 15 years old. My life is still uncertain, so many unknown variables and possible outcomes. But what I can say I know for certain is two things.

God has a plan for me and God loves me. And even if the world is to fall



down around me, I know I can hold steadfast to these two truths.

Samuel Majekodunmi:



I started attending RBC with my family when I was a toddler, and became a Christian when I was five years old. Although I was, young I felt God was speaking to me to give my life to him.

I asked my mum and dad to pray with me about it.

Since becoming a Christian I have wanted to pray more and read the Bible, and to try and live a Christian life. I have a relationship with Christ, as having given my life, I connect with Him daily, during our family devotion and at quiet prayer moments. I know I belong to Him as I feel Him around me and I can rely totally on Him for anything. I trust him to answer when I

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

pray for friends in school and then I encourage them to be closer to God.

I enjoy attending Sunday School and have gone through the various classes since the age of 5. I am being baptized because God loves me and has accepted me into his family, and in return I have decided to publicly and openly claim him as my Lord and Saviour. My baptism, I believe, will get me ready for the outside world.

God has done many amazing things in my life, he has made me happy through the hardest times and guided me through into a better path. His love for me is unending and I am very thankful.

My whole family has helped me through coming to this decision, by praying with me and encouraging me to live an open honest and faithful life. This is the beginning of my journey, as now I am older and can make wise decisions, my faith and walk in Christ is firm and I pray with God's help and guidance from my parents, I will continue to grow stronger in the Lord.

Caleb Lawani:



I am Caleb and I am 11 years old and being a Christian has changed me because I pray to God. I obey my parents and I'm always reading the Bible so I can know more about God.

I am being baptised because one great Sunday God had spoken to me through speaking in tongues. God has helped me by supporting me.

My favourite friends Hannah, Matt and my loving Mum have pushed me to get more knowledge from the Bible and reading certain passages.





<u>Crossword</u>

Across

1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)

4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)

8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsberg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)

9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)

10 Reading desk in a church (7)

11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around" (Mark 8:24) (5)

12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)

17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)

19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)

21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)

22 Girl's name (5)

23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)

24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down

1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)

2 For example, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)

3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)

5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone."" (Matthew 4:4) (7)

6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)

7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)

9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)

13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)



(Continued from page 16)

14 Or noise (anag.) (7)

15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)

16 ' — Christian soldiers, marching as to war' (6)

18 Saver (anag.) (5)

20 'Unless a grain of — falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed' (John 12:24) (5)



17



"And so we know the **love** that God has for us, and we trust that **love**. **God is love**. Those who live in **love** live in God, and God lives in them." 1 John 4:16

C deborah noble + parishpump.co.uk





Regular Church Activities



			-
Monday	10am	The Meeting Place Parent and Toddlers Food Bank Parent and Toddlers 'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group - usually first Monday in the month) Streetlight Youth Club (Year 7+)	
Tuesday	9am - 3pm 10am 2.15pm 8pm	The Meeting Place 'Stitch in Time' Needlecraft Group Treasure Times Prayer Meeting	
Wednesday	9am - 3pm 9.45am 8pm	The Meeting Place Parent and Toddlers Midweek Meeting (Small Groups or central meeting)	
Thursday	9am - 3pm 9.30am 8pm	The Meeting Place Small Group RBC Music Team	
Friday	9am - 3pm 9:30am 10:30am 12.30pm	The Meeting Place Small Group (Alternate Fridays) Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties Prayer Meeting	
Sunday	10.00am 10.30am 5.45pm 6.00pm	Prayer Meeting Morning Service Prayer Meeting Evening Service	
lf you h	ave any regul	ar church activity which you would like to h	a١

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





...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

