

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:14-16

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From the Editor

Whether it's "dry January" or "red January", being healthier or happier, New Year is a good time to contemplate the past and consider the future.

Quotes abound regarding resolutions. Here are just a few I've come across:

- The secret of getting ahead is getting started.
- A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.
- May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions.

The Bible has many inspirational passages that could be added to the list:

- Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.
 - 1 Chronicles 16:11
 - Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! *Isaiah 43:18-19*
 - In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. *Proverbs* 16:9

My prayer is that as we go into 2020, we will focus on Jesus, and not ourselves for the strength to do the right things – for us, for others, and, especially, for Him.

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.



Pastor's page



Sitting here writing this it's the end of the first full week of the new year - the first week back for schools, most people back working, many people complaining of feeling tired as we get back into normal routines. The joy and fun of Christmas and the New Year feels very much a thing of the past and even that sense of a fresh start and new resolutions feels so last week!

Yet as Christians we have celebrated our Saviour this Christmas and as we entered the New Year we received the wonderful text we will focus on over 2020: "but just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: be holy because I am holy". Holy Living! What a fabulous challenge to take into every day of this coming year.

For us, the real message of Christmas, of God's gift of His love shown to us through Jesus, isn't merely celebrated on Christmas Day but is something we should thank God for

daily. Our response to this love? To live holy lives, lives filled with God's goodness through His Spirit in us. Filled so that we overflow in holiness in our daily living, affecting our lives and the lives of everyone we meet.

May the year 2020, and especially as we celebrate the 200th edition of the Grapevine, be marked eternally by the results of our holy living, changing our lives and the lives of all we meet.

> Jan Loveard Team Minister



The <u>deadline</u> for the April 2020/May 2020 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 15th March 2020

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



BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Thank you very much to all those who have given a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme on their birthday during 2019, raising a total of £1218.00 (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.

An example of this is the Gulu Down Syndrome group, started by BMS worker Lois Ovenden 'to support a group of local mothers and their children with Down Syndrome.... Thanks to your support, they, and their families know they are loved by God'.

(BMS Birthday Scheme News Bulletin 2020)

Another is the work of BMS worker Tim Darby who is helping rural communities to dig boreholes to provide clean water, and so promoting health by making it easier to access. 'Every single borehole changes and improves lives'. (BMS Birthday Scheme News Bulletin 2020) To promote the scheme it has been the custom to publish birthdays in Grapevine. However, your permission - via the Church Office - is 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 2020 Christine Brown

BMS Birthday Scheme

February 2020

16th Sheila Cross26th Margaret Coles



March 2020

- 3rd Glynis Brown
- 7th Don May
- 14th Rosemary Loveard







<u>Moldova</u>



Hello dear church family. We would like to thank all who have met with us one-toone or in your Small Group and to all who are partnering to serve God in

Moldova. It has been very precious for us to spend the last two months back in England with our home church. We greatly appreciate your prayerful and financial support. Let's keep connecting with each other on Facebook, email or WhatsApp, now that we have arrived safely back in Moldova for continued service with OM. We would love to



continue hearing your personal updates and prayer requests. Please do get in contact if you still have any questions about how you can, by faith, join our support group! For those of you who would like to consider joining this mission through one off or monthly financial support, you may use this link: www.uk.om.org/appeal/stannard. We are excited for the next phase of serving the Lord together! May God bless you in all that you do."

Andy and Rianna Stannard

Flowers February 2020

9th Pauline Higgins 16th Olive Wenborn 23rd Wiggins



March 2020

- 1st Fay and Brian Veares
- 8th Geoffrey Gostling
- 15th Iris Knight
- 22nd Muriel Warner
- 29th Sue and Brian





It can be read in the Bible in | Samuel 2:11-17,22-25, 3:1-21 A short story from the Bible

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...



Remembering Anne Frank and her diary

Anne Frank, the Dutch Jewish diarist and Holocaust victim, died 75 years ago, in February 1945, in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 15 – probably from typhus. She is known for writing *The Diary of a Young Girl*, an account of how she and seven others were hidden in a secret annex to escape the Nazis.

The group had been arrested the previous August, and only Anne's father Otto survived the war. At first it was believed they had been betrayed, but it is now thought possible that they were discovered by accident.

The *Diary*, which Anne – who was born in Germany – started writing at the age of 13, is the story of how ordinary people risked their lives to help those in need, but it says little about the unclear relationship the Dutch had with Nazi Germany. Up to 80% of the Dutch Jewish population were killed during the war – the second highest percentage after Poland.

The diary, which had been kept safe by Otto's secretary, Miep Gies, was published in English in 1952 and has since been translated into more than 60 languages. The Anne Frank House, a museum in Amsterdam, opened in May 1960. Asteroid 5535 Annefrank was named in Anne's honour in 1995.

When education for ALL children arrived

150 years ago, on 17th February 1870, the Elementary Education Act – commonly known as Forster's Education Act – was introduced in England and Wales. It provided a framework for the education of all children between five and 12.

Many people objected to the concept of universal education, including the upper classes, who wanted to keep educational privileges for themselves, and employers who feared losing cheap labour. But there was also a feeling that the newly enfranchised classes should be better educated.

The churches in general had doubts about the Act, worrying that they would lose their influence on young people. The Earl of Shaftesbury, 20 years earlier, had feared national education would be "a death warrant to the teaching of the evangelical religion".

Before 1870, elementary education was provided largely by the Church of England's National Society and the nonconformist British and Foreign School Society. In fact, in the 15 years after the Act, the number of Church of England schools rose from 6,382 to 11,864, and in the 21st century church schools are still flourishing.

After the Act, however, the state did become increasingly involved with further reforms: and after 1880 attendance was made compulsory for children until they were 12.



Pause to Smile

It was Christmas Eve and I raced round to the Butchers to collect the two large Turkeys that I had ordered, as we had twenty-one family and friends coming for Christmas and Boxing Day. On entering the shop I was met by the Butcher who recognised me at once, and before I could say anything said "Oh sir, I am so sorry there has been a terrible mistake. I'm afraid I only popped out for a minute to get a pint of milk for our tea break and the boy, Billy, sold your turkeys to two other customers while I was out. I don't know what to do. I have phoned round all the other Butchers and they say all their turkeys are gone." "Well that's terrible, what can I do, have you any other meat?" I asked, "I have a houseful of people coming and nothing to feed them with." "Look," said the butcher, "I have eight legs of Venison in the freezer it's the only meat I have left in the shop. Would you like that? I would let you have it at a good price as its our mistake. We would normally sell them at £25 per leg but I could let you have them at a good price as we sold your two birds by mistake." "I would have paid £80 for the birds, so what would you ask for the eight legs of venison, as I must have some meat to feed my

guests." The butcher said, "How about £150 for all eight legs?" I replied, "That's TWO DEER!"



<u>Why Elijah did that...</u>

The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times over. "Now," said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

Love in a bag

I asked my nephew whether he bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day, and he said he had bought her a belt and a bag. When I commented that I am sure she would appreciate them, he agreed: "Yes, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."







Prayer Diary for February 2020

Date	Prayer	People	
<u>Sat</u> 8 th	G Great is God's faithfulness, thank Him.	SCHILD, Pamela	
Sun 9 th	E Everyday blessings, food shelter etc. thank Him.	SCHULTE, Bernd & Cheryl	
Mon 10 th	N Nothing is impossible for God.	SHARP, Brian & Sue	
Tues 11 th	E Every day is a gift from God, we are not promised tomorrow.	SHORTER, Richard & Alison; Caleb, Jessica & Anya	
Wed 12 th	S Seek the Lord while He may be found.	SIMPSON, Mike & Becky; <i>Ellie</i> (<i>Rice</i>) & James	
Thurs 13 th	I In need? PRAY.	SITHOLE, Thulisa; & Innocent (Chumunhu)	
Fri 14 th	S Stressed? Seek the peace that God gives.	SMITH, Maureen; & <i>Daniel</i>	
Sat 15 th	E Encourage someone in their walk with God.	SOSINA, Jessica	
Sun 16 th	X Remember the cross and be thankful.	SOSINA, Samuel	
Mon 17 th	O Older people need our prayers.	SPENCER, Devon	
Tues 18 th	D Do not underestimate how God can use you.	SPRINGER, John & Angela	
Wed 19 th	U'until He comes'. Christ will come again, be ready.	STANNARD, Andy & Rianna	
Thurs 20 th	S Spend some time praying for those with additional needs.	STANNARD, Charlotte	
Fri 21 st	L Lost and lonely people need our prayers.	STANNARD, John & Christine	



Prayer Diary for February 2020

Date	Prayer	People STANNARD, Matt & Heather	
Sat 22 nd	E Everyone employed at RBC needs our support and prayers.		
Sun 23 rd	V Vikki Bunce needs our prayers.	STANNARD, Rachel	
Mon 24 th	l lan Bunce needs our prayers.	STEPHENSON, Nadine	
Tues 25 th	T The Meeting Place needs our prayers.	STEWART, John	
Wed 26 th	l Include team pastor Jide in our prayers.	SWINDALE, Ben & Becki; <i>Hannah</i>	
Thurs 27 th	C Children, Youth and Families Worker Han- nah needs our prayers.	THOMAS-REID, Carmen	
Fri 28 th	U Under 18s need our prayers.	THOMPSON, David & Colleen	
Sat 29 th	S Social Action and Community Minister Jan needs our prayers.	TIDBURY, Pat	
Sun 1 st Mar	N Neighbours near you need your prayers.	TIMOTHY, Kathy	
Mon 2 nd	U Under pressure? Ask God for help.	TIMOTHY, Neil	
Tues 3 rd	M Members of the emergency services, fire, police and ambulance staff need our prayers.		
Wed 4 th	B Blessed by giving, who can you bless today?	TUNDE, BJ	
Thurs 5 th	E Endeavour to get to know God better.	tunde, Jj	
Fri 6 th	R Read God's Word – The Holy Bible.	TUNDE, KJ	
Sat S Seek to try to remember passages in the 7 th Holy Bible.		Peter and Louise Lynch, Bangla- desh	

If you have any items for inclusion in the March 2020 Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.





Inspirations

The next workshop will be on Saturday 7th March 2020 (9.30am – 12.30pm) when we will be looking forward to the warmer months of spring and summer, and making a card which is suitable for these seasons and featuring a beautiful garden scene.

Garden Scene

Glynis will be heading up this workshop, which consists of a versatile card which can be used for many occasions. The card is made using a template, a stencil, inks and very small flower stamps, which combined together make a beautiful garden scene.

The fee for the workshop is £6, which



includes drinks, cakes and materials, and runs from 9.30am -12.30pm.

Please complete and submit the booking form

available in the Foyer, Willow Hall or Welcome Desk by Sunday March 1st 2020. Everyone is welcome.

Pauline Yates 07742 707790

What are angels like?

Try asking school children that question, and you'll get some imaginative replies!

Like these

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - *Sara, aged 6*

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter. - Jared, aged 8

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. - *Anthony, aged 9*

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. - *Kate, aged 9*

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the kid get over it. - *Vicky, aged 8*

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. - Sarah, aged 7





The Next (37th) Unlock London Walk will take place on Saturday 25th April 2020, in Tower Hamlets.

RICH OR POOR? This year's walk takes place within one inner London borough - that of Tower Hamlets, known to be one of the poorest areas of the capital. It certainly has quite a few tower-blocks and lots of uncollected rubbish! It has a large percentage of social housing rather than owneroccupied. The unequal nature of the area, where significant poverty sits beside great wealth, such as Canary Wharf, makes the situation particularly acute. However, Tower Hamlets is rich in other ways: rich in history and unexpectedly rich in green spaces like vast Victoria Park, the splendidly wild Cemetery and the continuous canalside walk. It is rich in "live" churches which have grown over the past 30 years. A night-shelter is provided seven months of the year by a partnership of local churches. Every night of the week the shelter is in a different church and run by volunteers.

HEROES AND HOSPITALS The East







(Continued from page 14)

End is famous for the Booths (William and Catherine) who founded the Salvation Army in 1865 and Dr Barnardo who established the first Ragged School in 1867 and went on to provide homes for poor children. Less wellknown is Annie Macpherson who assisted "gutter" boys and girls, creating "The Beehive" in Bethnal Green. Another charitable institution is the Roval London Hospital, founded in 1757. Since 2012 it has been in a pretty glass tower overlooking its previous premises which are to become Tower Hamlets Town Hall, and making good public use of heritage buildings. In Bethnal Green, The Chest Hospital, built in the 1850s, has now moved to St Bartholomew's in the city. The Grade 2 building is to be developed into luxury flats.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING The average cost of renting in Tower Hamlets is now more than the average household income: it is a big issue. This was true even 120 years ago when the first

council estate was built in 1900 around Arnold Circus. The very poor were forcibly removed from the notorious Old Nichol and could not afford to return to the beautiful new Boundary Estate in the NW of Bethnal Green. In the 1960s housing was a problem that concerned Roger Dowley, a member of Fast London Tabernacle and cofounder of Evangelical Urban Training Project - now Unlock. He created a housing association making it possible for key workers to stay in the inner city. This association, now called Gateway, has named property after him: Roger Dowley Court is between Bethnal Green Methodist Church and Bethnal Green Mission Church. Another housing initiative from worshippers at East London Tabernacle is the Landmark Trust, which campaigned for affordable housing when St Clements, Bow, (formerly a workhouse and then a Psychiatric Hospital) was redeveloped in the last decade.

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SPITALFIELDS Spitalfields Fruit and Vegetable Wholesale Market, which had traded from 1638, moved to Hackney Marshes in 1991 to get easier access for lorries. The old site (bordering Bishopsgate with its luxury offices) is now full of trendy "upmarket" eateries. Watney market, in complete contrast, is cheap and cheerful. As in Whitechapel or Bethnal Green, it would be a challenge to find a stallholder whose first language is English, if you want to buy Bengali vegetables, this is the place to be! If you want to buy a curry, Brick Lane offers you a wide choice. Once an area lived in by French Protestant Huguenot weavers and silkmerchants escaping persecution, it was then the centre for Jewish immigrants and the rag-trade. It's now "Bangla-town" and the clothing factories have almost disappeared. Look out for Brick Lane Mosque which started life as a Protestant chapel, was then a synagogue and is now a Muslim place of worship.

TO KEEP OR TO LOSE? In the grounds

of the Chest Hospital there is one of the last remaining mulberry trees in the East End, said to be more than 400 years old. It is under threat by developers. Similarly, Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which ceased making bells in 2017 after 450 years (of which 250 were on this site) needs to be preserved. Land is extremely valuable and so the pressure to make money is always in conflict with the desire to protect our heritage. Each controversy demands more vigilance and energy: to keep or to lose?

GOING GREEN Finally, what riches can the 2020 Walk show the naturalist? The longest stretch of off-road walking is between Stepney and Mile End. Take note of the Green Bridge over the Mile End Road at the 4-way junction. It's part of the scheme to have "green" all the way from Victoria Park down to the River Thames. You may be surprised by what riches Tower Hamlets has to offer!

> Website for more information UNLOCK-URBAN.ORG.UK



Spring at RBC

Wednesday programme

As well as Life Groups, we will meet once a month for Together at RBC at the church, please use the side doors. We meet for refreshments at 7.30pm, and start the programme at 8pm. We will conclude by 9.15pm. Church meetings are for the church membership and start at 7.45pm at the church.

Dates for Wednesday evenings up to July are as follows:



- February 5 Life Groups 12 - Together at RBC 26 - Life Groups
- March 11 Life Groups 18 - Together at RBC 25 - Life Groups

April

- 1 Church Meeting 9 - Together at RBC (Maundy Thursday)
- 22 Life Groups

May	6 - Life Groups
	13 - Together at RBC
	20 - Life Groups
Jun	3 - Life Groups
	10 - Together at RBC
	17 - Life Groups
Jul	1 - Church Meeting
Jui	0
	8 - Life Groups

22 - Life Groups

Other events

Discipleship Explored

In the spring term we are starting a 6 week course on a Monday called Discipleship Explored. This course, which is DVD based, is for all who want to explore how to move on in their discipleship. It is meeting on a Monday evening on the following dates: 3 February - 23 March (with a break for half term).

Christianity Explored

On Mondays, starting at the beginning of May, we are running a 9 week course called Christianity Explored. This DVD based course is a great opportunity for all who want to explore the Christian faith or to remind themselves of the faith. It is a great time to come along and also bring your friends too. It will run on the following dates: 4 May - 29 June inclusive

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<u>Men's breakfast (18 January) details</u> <u>to follow</u>

BMS café event (9 February)

Dr Kang-San Tan, General Director of BMS World Mission, will be joining us that morning to preach and a team are coming to engage with the young people. This will be followed by a lunch event. We hope to also reveal a new mission partnership.

Easter @ RBC (6-12 April)

Reflect with us on Maundy Thursday and celebrate the resurrection with us this Easter week. Details to follow.

<u>Holiday at Home events (6 February, 2 April)</u>

Events for those aged 65+ which include food, fun, laughter and thought. More details available from Vikki.

<u>Youth Club trips to be announced</u> <u>Coming soon: RBC Student's Drop-in</u> <u>Café</u>

<u>Newcomers' receptions (8 March, 14</u> June, 13 Sept, 29 Nov)

For anyone new to the church, there may be tea and cakes...

Amaze information and events

Our Amaze Ministries are events we run for children, adults and their families who have additional needs. Why the name Amaze? Firstly, because we



believe everyone is amazing! God created us all and delights in each person, we want to celebrate the worth, unique-

ness and individuality of each amazing person. Secondly, the Amaze name came about because it can be a complete maze for a parent, carer or guardian to get the needs met, support provided and understanding received. Also, for adults with additional needs, life can seem a complex maze. We seek to support all these groups of people with the mazes they face.

- **Amaze Friday life group** welcomes all adults who have additional needs. We meet each Friday at 10.30am and enjoy an interactive time of worship, study, snacks, peer support and a LOT of fun

- **Amaze Support Group** - normally meets the first Monday of every month and is for parents, guardians and carers of children with additional needs. We meet in The Meeting Place from 9.15am.

Dates in Spring Term: *13 January 3 February 2 March

Special Amaze Family Event 15 February (details to follow)





Regular Church Activities



Monday	9am - 3pm 10am	The Meeting Place Parent and Toddlers
	12pm - 2pm 6.45pm	n Food Bank 'Parksiders' (Social and Fellowship Group - usually first Monday in the month)
	7.30pm	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 10:30am	The Meeting Place Amaze Small Group for People with Learning Difficulties
	12.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Sunday	10.00am 10.30am 5.35pm 6.00pm	Prayer Meeting Morning Service Prayer Meeting Evening Service
lf you hav	e any regula	r church activity which you would like to have

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





"Pancake party?" said Simon, "What Pancake Party?"

