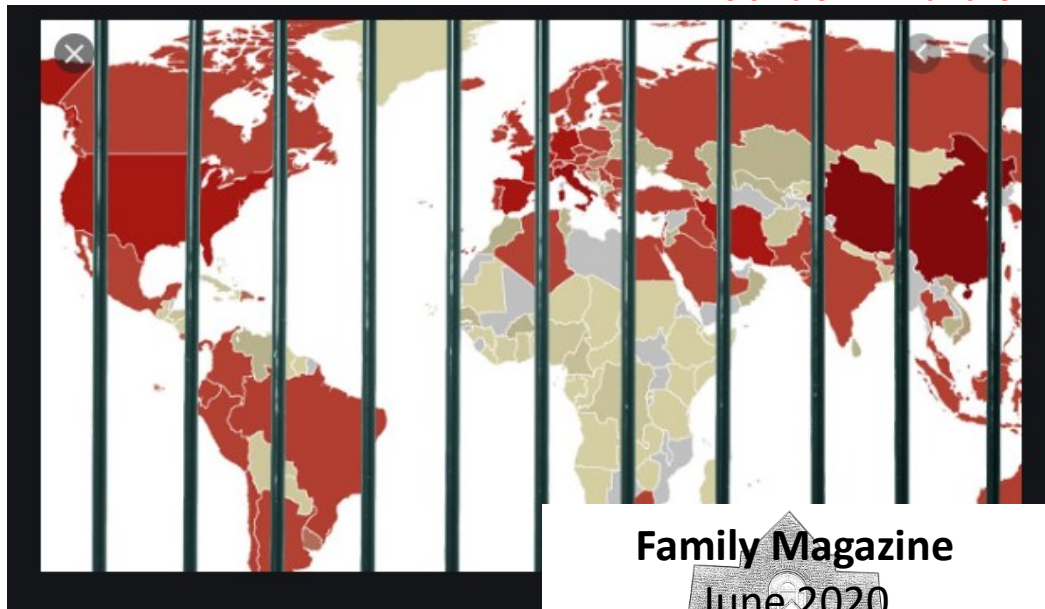




Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine

Lockdown Edition



Family Magazine

June 2020

and

July 2020

No. 202



From the Editor

During these 9 weeks of lockdown, I've quickly settled into new routines. Working from home has its challenges, but the shorter daily commute to the dining room table is great. Church services via the website on Sundays, groups on Zoom and keeping contact by phone, WhatsApp, Skype and other technological wonders are the new norm. Of course, there are many things we miss – visiting family, catchups with friends, regular weekly activities, the social aspect of our jobs.

For some, lockdown has been a very difficult time. Paul wasn't in lockdown, but he was in prison. In **Philippians 4:12-14**, he says, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles."

We are encouraged to be content, but also to share the troubles we face. As **Hebrews 10:24-25** reminds us, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another".

Blessings to everyone!

Cheryl Schulte

Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte

Barbara Gatherum

Neil Walden

Bernd Schulte

Kathy Pomeroy

Ruth Lu

Gill Ayris

Daphne May

Alex Savine

Editor

Missionary Page

Obituaries

Layout and

Production

Proof Reader

Printing

Collation

Distribution

Photos

Team Leader

Rev. Ian Bunce

Team Minister

(With focus on community and social action)

Rev. Jan Loveard

Team Minister

(With focus on the older generation)

Rev. Vikki Bunce

Children, Youth and Families Worker

Mrs Hannah Griffiths

Church Secretary

Miss Hayley Ayris

Church Office

Main Road

Romford

RM1 3BL

Tel 01708 743382

www.romfordbaptist.org.uk



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



Much has been said and much speculation has been done on the whole matter of the Coronavirus and as I write this, we are awaiting the plan for bringing the lockdown to an end.

There is probably not anything else in recent history that has affected the

whole world in the way that this invisible virus has done. As the world came to a moment of pause, with people being forced to stay at home, we have been forced to be still.

And the Psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God."

Yet in our stillness we are exposed to things and matters we have had hidden in our frantic busy lives. Seeing things in ourselves we would rather not and fearing for an uncertain future. A future when everything that seemed secure, suddenly is not.

And the Psalmist says, "God is our strength

and refuge".

But what if we cannot make it, what if we are too worn out and anxious about life? There is so much fear and unanswered questions on which we need to come to conclusion before we can even imagine moving forward again.

And the Psalmist says: "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

But it all feels too big, beyond our capabilities. We are not sure we can get through this. We have not navigated the world in this way before. Getting everything up and running again and even understanding all the new rules and guidance feels like it is beyond us. How are we going to cope?

And the Psalmist says: "God is an ever-present help in trouble."

We are scared, concerned, ill-equipped, anxious and, if we are being honest, want to stay where we are, after all, it has become familiar and comfortable.

And the Psalmist says, "Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the

(Continued on page 4)



**The deadline for the
August/September 2020
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 5th July 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



mountains fall into the heart of the sea”

All these quotes are from Psalm 46 and to quote it, this time from The Message:

*1-3 “God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help when we need him.
We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom,
courageous in seastorm and earthquake,
Before the rush and roar of oceans,
the tremors that shift mountains.
Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.*

*4-6 River fountains splash joy, cooling God’s
city,
this sacred haunt of the Most High.
God lives here, the streets are safe,
God at your service from crack of dawn.
Godless nations rant and rave, kings and
kingdoms threaten,
but Earth does anything he says.*

*7 Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.*

*8-10 Attention, all! See the marvels of God!
He plants flowers and trees all over the
earth,
Bans war from pole to pole,
breaks all the weapons across his knee.
“Step out of the traffic! Take a long,
loving look at me, your High God,
above politics, above everything.”*

*11 Jacob-wrestling God fights for us,
God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.”*

*Ian Bunce
(Team Leader)*

Inspirations

Card Making

As I write we are in Lockdown due to the Coronavirus and groups are not allowed to meet. Sadly this meant cancelling the workshop scheduled for 30th May, but we need to see the progress of the virus and whether we are allowed to gather on Saturday August 22nd. Please keep this date in your diaries. We will also hopefully still be able to hold the sale for Loveards Little Legs, but if we are unable to go ahead on this date, we will fix a later date so please keep making your cards.

We cannot meet in person, but we can still support each other by phone, email and other social media. If anyone needs help, please let us know. There is a help line at the church which you can contact between 9.30am and 12.30pm, 01708 743382 (select option 1). We are also still operating the Food Bank for those in need, so if you are able to donate anything for them it can be dropped off between 9.30am and 12.30pm at the side door of the church (Doorstep delivery)

Enjoy the time doing all those little jobs which have been put off, and spending more time reading the Bible and in prayer so you can get closer to our heavenly Father. Give thanks for everything we have, we are so blessed.

We pray that everyone in the group will keep safe and be protected during this difficult time.

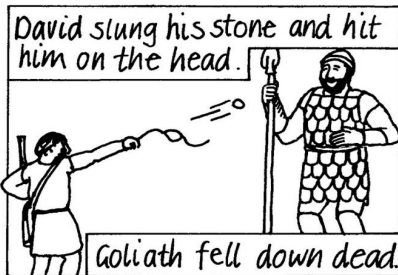
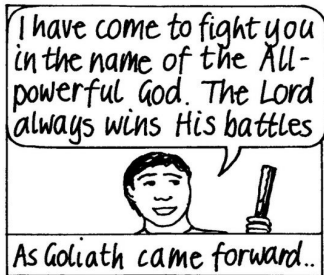
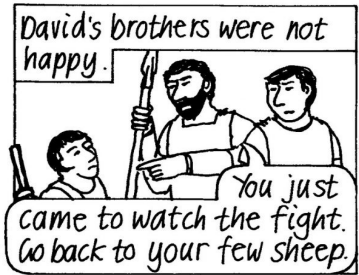
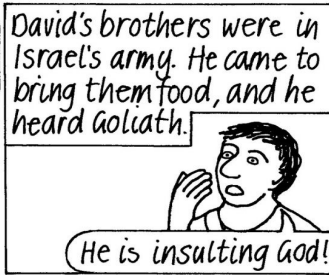
God Bless you all.

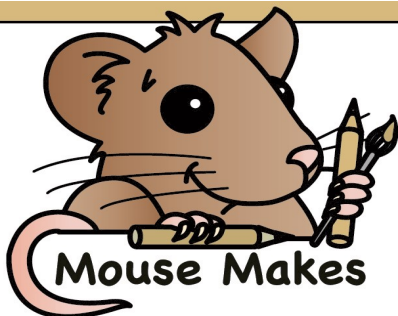
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them.





Mouse Makes

When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| ○ PRAY | ○ GATE |
| ○ RUBBLE | ○ BEAM |
| ○ REPAIR | ○ BOLT |
| ○ RESTORE | ○ BAR |
| ○ BUILD | ○ STEP |
| ○ WORK | ○ TOWER |
| ○ STONE | ○ HOUSE |
| ○ TIMBER | ○ POOL |
| ○ WALLS | ○ FINISH |
| ○ FLOOR | ○ DEDICATE |
| ○ ROOF | ○ DOOR |
| ○ CELEBRATE | |

			S	
E		A	E	
	L			Y
	R		A	L
B				M
RE		R		
		L		
		S		
		ER		O
A	E		I	ER
			D	
		K		P
		RE		R
			O	E
			B	

How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?

BMS Birthday Scheme

June 2020

6th Bren McSweeney
19th Colleen Thompson
21st David Thompson
24th John Brown
25th Christine Brown
27th Jiela Bitaga



July 2020

8th Gordon Palmer



Pauline's Puzzle



What has 7
letters ?



Preceded God,
Is greater than God,
More evil than satan,
Rich men need it,

Poor men have it,

If you eat it
you will surely
die.



Answer - NOTHING

**Congratulations to Andy and Ruth Lu
on their marriage.
22nd February 2020**



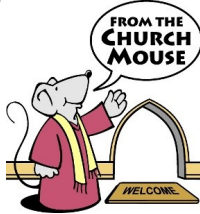


Lockdown Fellowship

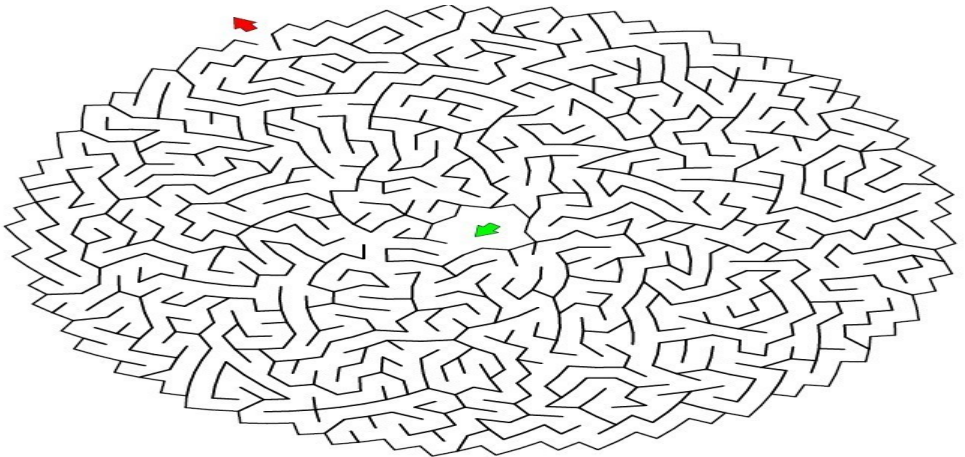


Pause to Smile

When we were 15 we all had to go to work. My brother got a job as a jockey, and his boss the head trainer told him to always listen to the owner of the horse that he was riding, as they knew the horse better than anyone else. Well the time came for his first race and he went up to the owner for his instructions. The owner said to my brother, "He runs like the wind but before the fences you must shout in his ear, one two three jump, and give a light tug on the rein." My brother thought, what a load of rubbish I'm not shouting at the horse! Well, they all lined up at the start and up went the tapes and they were off. They came to the first fence and the horse ran straight through it, the same thing at the second, then the horse pulled up. The owner was mad and shouted at my brother "Why didn't you shout one, two three jump?" "The horse couldn't hear me" said my brother. "What", said the owner, "He's not deaf you fool he's blind!".



A man saw an advert in the window of a Bible shop, which said "Salesman wanted." And so as he was unemployed, he went in. "I I I've come for the job" said the man. The shopkeeper said, "But you have a bit of a stammer do you think you can manage?" "O O O Yes" said the man. The shopkeeper said it was not an easy job selling Bibles but he would give him a try. Well, the man took twenty Bibles and was gone for two hours then came back and said "Sssold them, can I have sssome more?" The shopkeeper was delighted and gave him thirty more. Away went the man and was back three hours later. "Ssssold them", he said. The shopkeeper was amazed, he had not sold that many in a week, and asked the new man how he had sold that many in five hours. "Wwwwell", said the man. "I I I knock on the dddoor and say wwwould you like tto buy a Bbbible and then I start to read it to them, "liiin the begining Ggggod and they stop me and buy a Bbbible."



Prayer Diary for June 2020

Mon 8 th	D Do you confess your sin or do you try to hide it?	EWEOYA, Ben & Ona, <i>Timi & Ninu</i>
Tues 9 th	E Everyone needs compassion, the kindness of a stranger, is that you?	FAWUNMI, Jide & Yemi, <i>Ayomide, Ayoolamide, Favour & Fisayo</i>
Wed 10 th	U Understanding God's message? Ask for clarity if necessary.	FEINSON, Peter & Gill
Thurs 11 th	T Trust God and obey for there is no other way.	FLACK, Ken & Linda
Fri 12 th	E Every good gift comes from God, thank Him.	FORD, Janet
Sat 13 th	R Romford Churches Together events need our support and help to proclaim Christianity in the area.	GATHERUM, Barbara
Sun 14 th	O 'Over all the earth God reigns on high', thank God that He is in control.	GEARING, Bert & Rita
Mon 15 th	N Never leave you or forsake you, God's promise to you.	GILL, Marjorie
Tues 16 th	O Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, reflect on God's holiness.	GOSTLING, Geoffrey
Wed 17 th	M My Jesus my Saviour, is He your Jesus and your Saviour?	GRIFFITHS, Ben & Hannah
Thurs 18 th	Y Young people can find confessing their Christian faith to their peers difficult, pray God will strengthen them.	GRIFFITHS, Margaret
Fri 19 th	J Jesus loves you warts and all, and that is how we are to love others.	HALL, Ian & Susan
Sat 20 th	O Overseas missionaries need encouragement from Christians in the UK. What can you do to help?	HARDING, John & Sue
Sun 21 st	S St Francis Hospice needs local support, both financially and with prayer.	HARRIS, Clarissa
Mon 22 nd	H Harold Hill is a fragile community. Pray for Church 1v23 as they try to show God's love there.	HARRIS, Patricia
Tues 23 rd	U Under temptation? Ask God for help.	HARRISON, John

Prayer Diary for June 2020

Wed 24 th	A Always spend quality time with God.	HARVEY, Liz
Thurs 25 th	J Jesus forgives us when we confess our sin, but then we need to forgive others.	HENNIKER, Joyce
Fri 26 th	U Under pressure? Ask God for strength.	HENSON, Ruth
Sat 27 th	D Debt is becoming a big problem in this country. Pray for CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and similar charities and the work they do.	HENWOOD, Stephen & Dorothy
Sun 28 th	G Graceworks – a Christian outreach in schools need encouragement; pray that God will supply all that they need.	HIGGINS, Pauline & Kevin, <i>Lauren & Rachel</i>
Mon 29 th	E Ever wondered how God could use you if you just let Him.	HILLS, Emma, <i>Samuel & Benjamin</i>
Tues 30 th	S Seek the Saviour, today and always.	HILLS, Yvonne
Wed 1 st July	A Auxiliary staff in hospitals and clinics, thank God for them.	HODINITU, Nicolae & Natalia
Thurs 2 nd	N Nurses, thank God for them and the NHS.	HOGBEN, Cynthia
Fri 3 rd	D Doctors, thank God for them and the NHS.	HOLMAN, Jill
Sat 4 th	R Romford is served on a weekend by Street Pastors, pray that they have wisdom and protection in dangerous situations.	HOOPER, Iris
Sun 5 th	U Under the weather? Ask God for healing.	HUGHES, Brenda & Raymond
Mon 6 th	T The Meeting Place, pray for the staff and volunteers and those who the Meeting Place was reaching when it was open.	HUNT, Maisie
Tues 7 th	H Have you grown in your faith? Or are you still reluctant to let God have His way?	Operation Mobilisation - Andy and Rianna Stannard, Moldova



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



Smile-lines for June

Here are some excruciating one-liners...

One-line quiz questions

1. What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.
2. Who was the fastest runner in the race?
Adam. He was first in the human race.
3. Why are atoms Catholic?
Because they all have mass.
4. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck
5. Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?
He only had two worms.
6. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No — just an apple.
7. Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?
He thought he saw a job.
8. Does God love everyone?
Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.
9. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?
He just knew there was something fishy about it.
10. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?
Absolutely ruthless.

11. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose.
Mosquitoes come close, though.

12. What's so funny about forbidden fruits?
They create many jams.

The following are actual call centre conversations....

Wrong number

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days. Why didn't you answer?"

Travel agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre."

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours."

Other side?

Caller (enquiring about legal requirements while travelling in France): "If I register my car in France, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?"

Sure

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"

Caller: "Yes, of course. That's what it says on

(Continued on page 13)

the label; Woven in Scotland."

What it says on the sign

At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want your tows instead."

On a maternity room door: "Push. Push. Push."

At an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

In a podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a house's fence: "Salespeople welcome! Dog food is expensive."

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in five minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the electric company: "We would be delighted if you pay your bill. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

Simplify

A businessman was telling his friend about the worries plaguing him, declaring: "They are beginning to smother me, dozens closing in from all sides."

"The thing to do," consoled the friend, "is to simplify your problems. Lump together the related ones. That's what I did, and now I have only three problems: nagging creditors, profitless business, and the fact that I'm broke."

Flat

Looking at the report on the financial condition of most nations today, we are inclined to think the old idea that the world was flat had some merit, after all.

Not a bride

"Something's wrong with me," sighed a young lady after a wedding. "I've been a bridesmaid twice, I even caught the bouquet, too; but I'm still single."

"Next time," advised her grandmother, "don't reach for the flowers; reach for the best man."

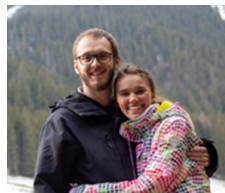
Competitive



Andy and Rianna Stannard

MDT e3

(Missions Discipleship Training eastern Europe extreme)



We are also feeling the effects of the Corona virus pandemic here in The Republic of Moldova. For the last 5/6 weeks we have been working from home and trying to figure out what our new 'normal' is. We unfortunately had to cancel our Missions Discipleship Training program back in March due to the widening reach of this pandemic. Being only 6/7 weeks through the 5-month program we were really downhearted and troubled as we could see such a large potential in the participants that God has sent to us this year. However, God is faithful! Even though our 15 participants didn't get to complete the program, we were still privileged to see how The Father was working in each and every life present. Even now 7 weeks after closing the program our participants are still meeting together online to study God's word together and to speak into each other's lives. It really is amazing to see the transforming power of Jesus at work in



"I realized that my identity is not in what I do or did, but in who Christ is calling me to be."

"I realized that knowing about God and knowing God are two different things, and I want to know him more and more."



Team Hike



those who have come to know him.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

The majority of us have this tendency to think that we are good at teamwork. But what about when you have little time to prepare, are cold, annoyed at your broken bag, constantly managing a language barrier, and eager to reach the end of a task – is this still an easy claim? Or when push comes to shove do the cracks begin to reveal themselves. God calls us to be a people group



who stand out by reflecting His unconditional grace which has been so freely poured out onto us. This is the challenge and purpose of the hike which we embarked on.

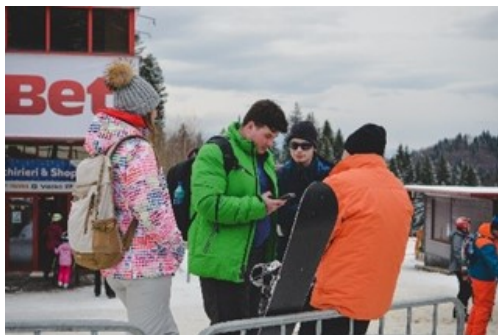
“I learnt that it is important to bring any conflicts out in the open and resolve them, instead of avoiding conflict. I also believe we were stronger as a team afterward, and understood each other better, which seemed to help with troubleshooting problems later.”



“I have learned a lot but the thing that stands out is trust.”

Snowboard Out-reach

Have you ever thought about how your hobby



can be used to extend God's Kingdom? The group took to the slopes in Romania to practise various evangelism tools whilst learning how to snowboard. Over two days over 100 tourists were able to hear about the Good News of Jesus.

“I learnt that evangelism is not a one-time thing or that you don't have to plan it but you can do it anywhere and anytime even when you're having fun.”

New Directions

We have seen an increasing need for basic necessities here in Moldova as many are unable to work and struggle even more than normal to afford simple things like food and drink. Through a sponsor, we have been able to start a project throughout Moldova which is being called COVID-19. This project is aimed at meeting this great need that many people around Moldova are feeling right now. Food packets weighing 30KG each are being supplied to churches all around the country to be able to provide for those in their local communities who are in need. Andy was able to go together with a couple of others from OM to deliver 300 packets to 5 different churches in the south-

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

west of the country. The local pastors shared how they are really seeing the potential for this project not only to meet people's physical need, but to also build good relationships within the community and to open doors to share about the hope that we have in Jesus

Prayer:

- Our team and leaders as we discern which opportunities God is leading us to pursue
- The economy in Moldova which will be impacted greatly as many find income from their jobs abroad
- That through the projects that many would come to know Jesus as their hope and salvation and the Father as their provider and refuge

Praise:

- For the way in which God safely carried all of our participants back to



Planted in the love of the Father



Photo by E. Czaban

Planted in the love of the Father

You can grow, dear one,
You can grow.

Watered by the spring of the Spirit

His fruit you'll show,
His fruit you'll show.

And when the sun scorches,
And the thorns threaten,
And the storms around life's garden blow –
Your roots will hold,
And hold secure,
Because you're planted in the love of the Father.

Daphne Kitching



In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who answers prayer
er

Who intercedes before the throne

The Son of God who ever cares
Who walks with us, we're not alone.

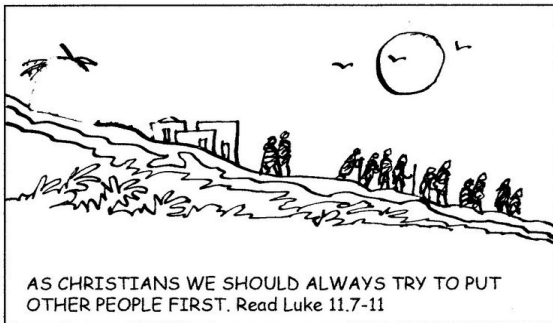
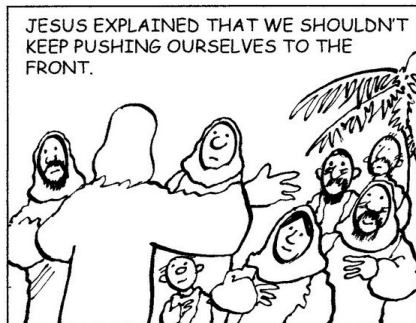
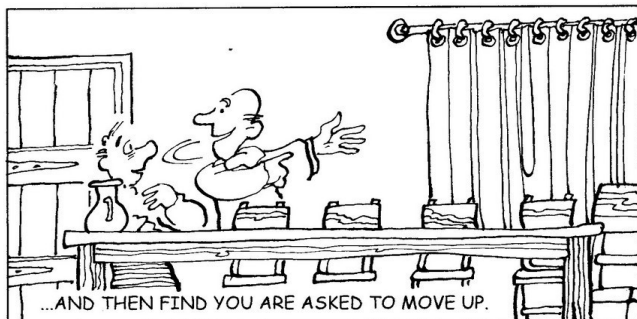
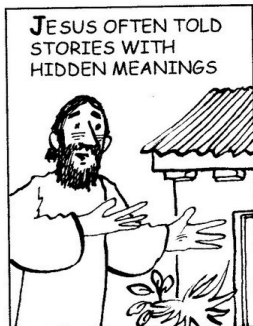
Though flood and pestilence should come
He sees the path that we now tread
His rod and staff will comfort us
He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things
And lift our prayers to heaven above
Our confidence is all in Him
Encompassed by unfailing love.



**Congratulations to
Ami and Chris on
the birth of their
son, Theo.**







Current Church Activities **(during lockdown)**



Monday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

Tuesday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

8:00pm Prayer meeting via Zoom

8:15pm "Journey" 18-30's Life Group via Skype

Wednesday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

10:00 am The virtual Meeting Place Chat via Zoom

6:30pm Youth Quiz Night via Zoom

7:30pm Wednesdays @ RBC via Zoom

Thursday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

8:10pm RBC Music Team via Zoom

Friday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door

Sunday

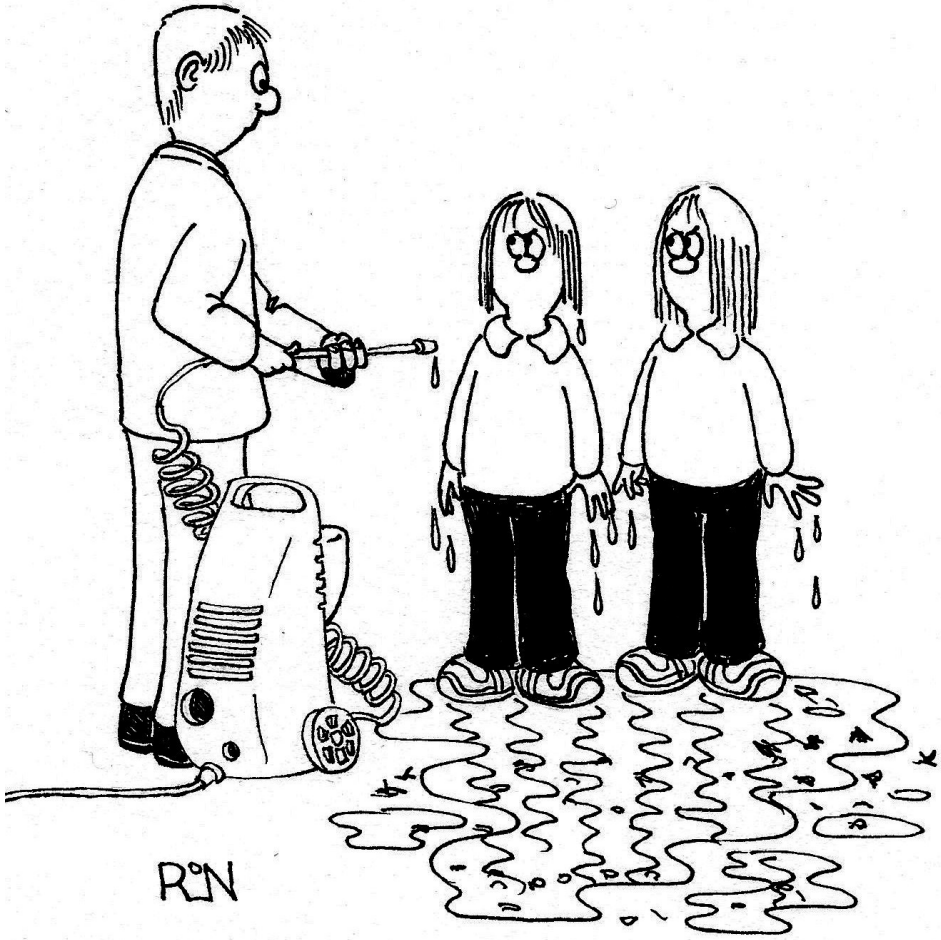
10.30am Online Morning Service

12:30pm RBC Youth Stream for years 6 -13 via Zoom

6.00pm Online Evening Service

6:30pm RBC Youth Stream for years 10 -13 and university
via Zoom

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



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.

