

# Romford Baptist Church

## Grapevine

Lockdown Edition 6(+1)



## From the Editor

We have been hearing a lot about the "Roadmap out of Lockdown", and from Monday onwards we will be able to sit in our gardens with friends or family. Such seemingly routine activities have become big events to look forward to. Suddenly entries like "Coffee in Shirley's garden" or "Meet Sue in the park" are appearing in my long-ignored diary.

After months of having nothing much to write home about, we can start making some plans. It may be stressful having to schedule and complete all these tasks – wake up... wash hair... bake cake... make coffee... walk to park... meet friend... etc. So much to remember! For some of us, going outside and meeting people is just such a new thing, and possibly a bit scary.

So let's take the opportunities available to support each other, whether meeting up in person or catching up by phone, letter or video call.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) we are reminded, *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*

As we continue on our journey, may we travel together, following the Roadmap God has given us: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* - Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Cheryl Schulte

## Editorial Team

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## 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

### Wednesday

9:30am - 1pm Food Bank Donations received via Side door  
10:00am 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  
8:00pm RBC Music Team via Zoom

### Friday

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

### Sunday

10.30am	Online Morning Service
12:30pm	Youth Stream for years 6 –9 via Zoom
6.00pm	Online Evening Service
6:30pm	Student Stream for years 10 -13

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

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



# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY



HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

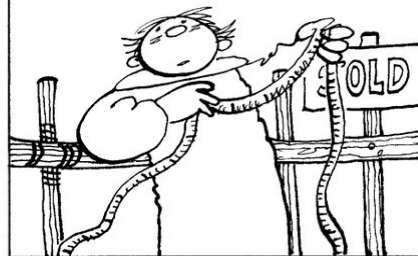


OH! NO!!

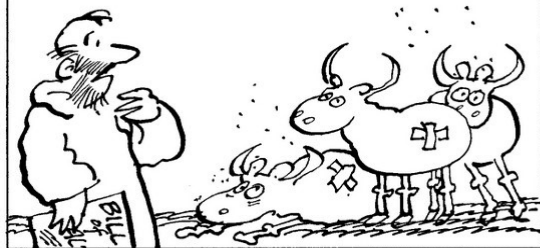


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

## Secretary's page

We are currently experiencing a nice early spring. After going for walks around the park in minus 1° temperatures, I am now enjoying walking without a hat or scarf in sight! Spring and more predominately Easter, symbolize hope and hope is something we have all tried to hold onto during this last year.



I look back and can see where God presented hope to me: it would be sometimes in nature, in the winter months knowing that even though I couldn't see the flowers at the moment, the bulbs had been planted and were getting ready underground to break through in Spring, and it's those flowers I am enjoying seeing now.

One of the areas where I have experienced hope has been the Wednesdays @ RBC. Each of the series that we have done, I have been able to see what God is wanting to speak to me about, and the enjoyment of being able to still share and chat about the Bible with those in my "zoom small groups".

It was during this last course, The Bible Course, where I found my most recent piece of hope as we look to how the "new normal" is going to be in our own lives and at RBC. We still have some time to go, but I know we all long for the day we can be back at home at RBC and I was thinking "how will it look after being apart physically for so long?" and I read this in the book that goes alongside the course and it's this I will leave you with and it's how I view RBC:

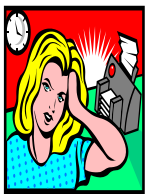
*"Find a community, a small group who can lovingly fuel your dreams and puncture your illusions. Find friends and form a family who are willing to see grace at work in one another's lives.... then go make something of the world together"*

Hayley Ayris



The deadline for the June 2021/July 2021 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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](mailto:grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk)



## Opening thoughts

In the recent news prior to the greatly hyped-up interview between Meghan and Oprah Winfrey, the reporter was trying to extract as much water from the stone as possible to make his news clip last beyond the 20 seconds it justified, patronisingly describing Meghan as a "difficult woman." I do not intend to focus on what is a family issue being aired in public, but rather on that term describing Meghan as a "difficult woman."

I did a Google search about women in the Bible, and a lot of the top searches were full of verses about how women should behave or conform. They were carefully crafted, handpicked verses to enforce a patriarchal control on faith and Christianity. It took me a while to find positive posts, such as great women of the Bible. These women, such as Ruth and Esther, Hannah and Sarah, Lydia and Phoebe (who inconveniently were early church leaders!) and the many, many more risk takers, change makers, God serving, self-sacrificing women of God, may well also have been described as difficult women.

I wonder how that phrase makes us feel? You see, so often that phrase is trying to put down someone who should be raised up. It is the so-called difficult women who change the status quo, who venture further into the possibilities of God. A book published recently by the Baptist Union, *Gathering up the Crumbs*, has been written by a number of "difficult women" who were pushing forward with things of God, with some wonderful and profound writings. One contributor to this book is a minister of this church.

So difficult women (and I need to add

difficult men here) are saying the things we do not want to hear, or doing the things that make us feel insecure, but the Godly difficult ones are also not seeking the opinion of people, but the affirmation of God. Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, says "seek first the kingdom of God" and Paul's letter to the Romans tells us to, "offer your whole selves as living sacrifices" and these verses encourage us all to be difficult in a world that is self-centred and not other-focused.

So a final thought, have we resisted being difficult in order to keep the peace, to avoid dissention, to avoid criticism or challenge, and in so being have not seen the impact we could have made by being really difficult for God's sake? As a preacher, I also grab another "and finally" to ask, would the press have described Jesus as a difficult person? After all, He irritated so many people and never sought popularity, He broke the cultural norms and drove the leaders mad with rage! Maybe a new strapline for the church, could be "difficult people following Jesus!"



Ian Bunce

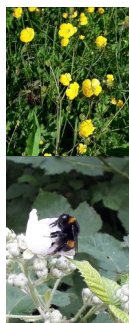
### **Birthdays April 2021**

25<sup>th</sup> Kathy Metcalf

25<sup>th</sup> Beryl Dunnings

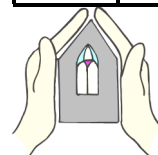
### **Birthdays May 2021**

23<sup>rd</sup> Elizabeth Callender

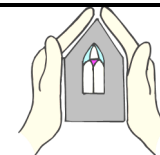


## Prayer Diary for April 2021

Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	O On the cross Christ died for you. Thank Him.	NORRIS, Bree
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	R 'Rejoice the Lord is King'. Praise prayers please.	ODETOLA, Jide, Foluke; <i>Arinola, Damilola</i>
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	D Do you obey God in all things?	ODUYEMI, Caroline
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	T Those who are having their faith tested, pray for them.	OFORI, Gladys
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	O Opportunities to witness, pray for them.	OGUNLEYE, Adekunle & Ronke, <i>Maria</i>
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	U Under the shadow of His wing. Thank God for His protection.	OGUNLEYE, Christabel
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May	S Spend time thanking God for His blessings.	OGUNLEYE, Emmanuel
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>	R Read your Bible daily.	OLAWUYI, Anne & Abiodun, <i>Chelsey &amp; Clinton</i>
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	E Enjoy fellowship with other Christians.	OLIVER, Iris
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	A All it needs for evil to triumph is that good people do nothing.	OLOFINJANA, Bunmi, <i>Tobi, Dianne, Feyi (Bankole)</i>
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	D Do something. Pray intercessory prayers.	OLUFEMI, Ola & Esther, <i>Emmanuel, Jemimah &amp; David</i>
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	I If in doubt pray for guidance.	OLUSOJI, Laura & Moses, <i>David &amp; Toluwalepe</i>
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	T Take time to pray.	Our friends in South East Asia



If you have any items for inclusion in the May 2021 Prayer Diary, please contact the Church Office.





## Prayer Diary for April 2021

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	T Time with God is time well spent. Talk with Him.	MARTIN, Beki & Paul, Sarah & Sophie
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	H He will never leave you or forsake you. Thank Him.	MARTIN, Trudy
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	E Eternal Father strong to save. Trust Him.	MAY, Don & Daphne
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>	H Heed the word of God. He is speaking to you.	McKENZIE, Michael & Beverley; Arianna & Chaeli
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	O Only those who believe in Jesus enter heaven. Evangelise!	McSWEENEY, Bren
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	L Life in all its fullness is God's promise.	MILLER, Paul & Anne; Tommy & Katie (Ridout)
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	Y Ye servants of God your Master proclaim.	MOI, Sam & Cecilia
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	B 'Be thou my vision', to see the needs of others.	MOKAKE, Julie Enjema
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	I In all circumstances praise God.	MOTT, Wendy
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	B 'Be thou my true word'. Do not gossip.	MURRAY, Paul & Susan
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	L Let the peace of God rule in your heart.	MUSE, Morenike
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	E Every day praise God.	NELSON-MILLER, Emma & Stephen, Stephanie & McKenzie (Miller) & Ocean-Blue (Nelson-Miller)
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	G God equips those He calls. What is He calling you to do?	NICHOLLS, Ruth
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	O Overseas missionaries need support, uphold them in prayer.	NITISOR, Claudiu & Dana, Darius, Giulia, Danluka
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	D Do unto others as you would be done by!	NJUHI, Hannah
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	S Spirit of God fall afresh on me.	NKENG, Cecilia
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	W 'Worldly pleasures I surrender', do you?	NORMAN, Doris



### Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

**SON OF GOD**  
Matthew 3:16-17

**KING OF KINGS**  
Revelation 17:14

**PROPHET**  
Luke 24:19

**PRIEST**  
1 Timothy 2:5

**ROCK**  
1 Corinthians 10: 4

**LORD**  
1 Corinthians 1:9

**AMEN**  
Revelation 3:14

**LIFE**  
John 11:25-27

**MESSIAH**  
John 1:41

**SHEPHERD**  
John 10:11

**LIGHT**  
John 8:12

**WORD**  
John 1:1-50

**BREAD**  
John 6:35

**CREATOR**  
1 John 1:3



**CHRIST**  
Matthew 16:16

**SAVIOUR**  
John 3:16-17

**HOLY ONE**  
Mark 1:24

**VINE**  
John 15:5

**DOOR**  
John 10:9

**THE WAY**

**WAY**  
John 14:6

**LAMB**  
John 1:29

V L I F E W D

D I A L A R O C K

C M H M O M S R E H C

H E O B R E A D O O R

R S L W D N V I N E E

I S Y A P R I E S T A

S I O Y P R O P H E T

T A N J E S U S T D O

S H E P H E R D E D B R

K I N G O F K I N G S

D S O S O N O F G O D

L I G H T

## Smile Lines

### Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in. When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'

### Lot's wife

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'

His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

### Miscellaneous observations on daily life...



Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.

In order to keep a true

perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him and a cat to ignore him.

The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

I ate a kid's meal at McDonald's today. His mum got really angry.

### Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

### Expensive boat

A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when she found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. She protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. 'That might be true,' replied the travel agent, 'but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked.'

'Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,' she replied, 'I am not surprised!'

### Prayer



Dear Lord, please keep Your arm around my shoulder -- and Your hand over my mouth.

## Bible Bite

### A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 26:20-25, 31-35, Mark 14:17-21, 27-31  
Luke 22:22, 31-34, John 13:21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the Passover meal, Jesus said



John was sitting next to Jesus, so Peter said



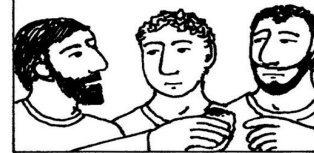
So John asked Jesus



It is the person I give this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece of bread in sauce, and gave it to Judas.



What you are about to do you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



They continued the Passover meal



Jesus then told the rest of the disciples



Peter said



Before tomorrow morning you will have denied you even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I will never disown you!

