



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine

Lockdown Edition 8(+1)



Family Magazine
August 2021
and
September 2021
No. 209

From the Editor

As lockdown is coming to an end, and we look forward to being able to enjoy more freedom, we can also look back and thank God for all the blessings he has shown us during this challenging season.

Within this edition you will be able to read some of the answers to the RBC survey about what we have benefitted from, as well what we lost or missed, during lockdown. It makes interesting reading and offers us an opportunity to reflect on our own experiences, thoughts and realisations. As we move forward, we can appreciate regaining some of what we have missed, and try to hold onto some of the good habits we have developed.

In **Romans 15:13**, we read, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

This brings to mind RBC's bible verse for 2021 (Isaiah 55:12):

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

I pray God's blessing on us all as we go out in joy, and even burst into song in our church services! May we all overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Parkside

RESIDENTIAL HOME

Providing loving Christian care for 50 years • 1971-2021

For much of my year I've been involved in the planning for and celebrating of the Golden Jubilee of Parkside. Who would have thought at that church meeting all those years ago that this day would come? So, as I thought about what to write today, I decided to focus on the letters of Jubilee:

J is for Joy. There are many passages in the Bible that remind us to give to God our joy and thanks such as Psalm 9:2 - *I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.* It is only right that we start off by thanking God for all that He has done and His hand being upon the work and ministry of Parkside.

U is for You. Thanks too for all of you who have been involved in the past, are involved now or who may be involved in the future. The work of Parkside still needs you as it has done over its many previous years.

B is for Blessings. There is no doubt that for many, finding a home at Parkside has been a blessing. May that continue in the years ahead.

I is for Intercession. Again and again we have seen how God has answered the prayers of His people. This has remained true, especially in the recent months where His angels have kept those within the walls protected from Covid 19. Thanks to all for your faithfulness in praying.

L is for Lives. It's not just the lives of the residents that have been impacted by being at Parkside but the lives of staff, volunteers, trustees, relatives and the list goes on. Let's acknowledge that God has touched the lives of many over the last 50 years.

E is for Example. Parkside is known as being a Christian-run care home and, although that brings with it a responsibility, it also recognises that '*Jesus is at home*'.

E is for Encouragement. This may be our 50th year but God's not finished yet. Let's keep going so that more lives will be blessed in the years to come.

Rev. Vikki Bunce
Team Minister (With focus on the older generation)



**The deadline for the
October 2021/November 2021
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 19th September 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



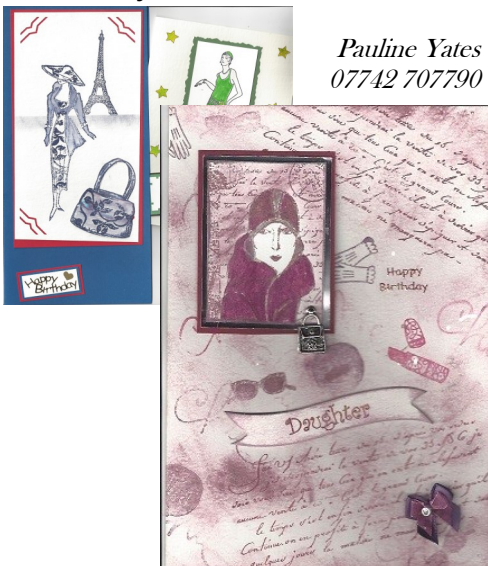
Inspirations card making

As I write we are gradually coming out of Lockdown and things are slowly returning to some sort of normality. I am hoping we can meet again this autumn and at some point still be able to hold the sale for Loveards Little Legs.

During this period, my health has deteriorated and I am really struggling energy-wise. In order for us to start up again, I am going to need a lot of help. I really appreciate those who have helped me in the past and I would be grateful if there are any people willing to step up to help run the group. Please get in contact if you can help.

I pray that everyone will continue to keep safe and be protected during this difficult time

God Bless you all.



Pauline Yates
07742 707790

Pray for our School Pupils and Students

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life". John 4:13-14

Pray:

- For pupils/ students to see Jesus in the Christians they meet.
- For Christian Unions and Bible Clubs in schools and colleges.
- For Christian pupils/ students that they will not be reluctant to be known as Christians.
- For pupils/ students who are considering the claims of Jesus on their lives.
- For those who are soon to leave school/ college and are unsure of the next step.
- For those who have been badly affected by the pandemic.
- For any pupils/ students who are being bullied.

Submitted by Barbara Gatherum

Birthdays August 2021

8th Bree Norris
11th Brian Sharp



Birthdays September 2021

5th Iris Hooper
14th Sue Sharp



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

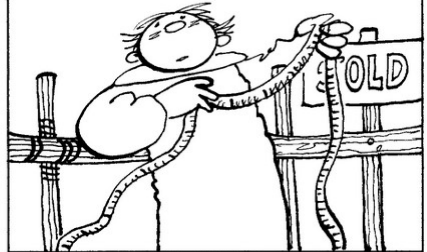


OH! NO!!

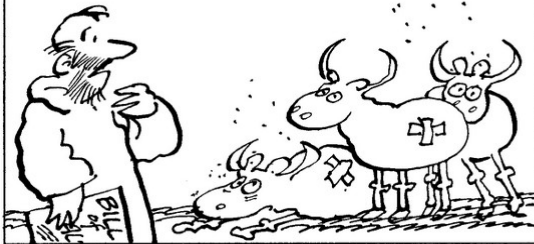


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

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.

Wellbeing Walk

On the 14th of June, Jan led a Wellbeing walk. Despite being a very hot day around 26 folk of all walking abilities were ready to enjoy the first opportunity to see the faces of our dear brothers and sisters, without masks. This was a morning of fellowship for the first time in ages, an opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make connections with new friends.



Our group set out from RBC for what we hoped would be a very agreeable walk, despite it being a very hot day. We went via the shortcut into Lodge Farm Park enjoying strolling and chatting along the footpath till we got to the Main Road Gate. This part of the outing was sufficient for some who were unable to walk far. They were free to go on home feeling satisfied with what they had achieved.

Those more active carried on across Main Road into Raphael Park, past the lake where it felt a little cooler, noticing maybe for the first time, crayfish we didn't know were there, then the familiar swans, ducks and moorhens who make their home on the lake.

We paused at the bandstand for a moment of prayer and reflection and shared the reading from 2 Samuel 22:20 (NIV) "He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me".

We strolled on via the wooded path, saying hello to squirrels and the carved

wooden figure of Percy the Park-keeper, a character created by children's author Nick Butterworth, as we passed by. Then on, eventually, to the Café, where thankfully there was room at the tables for those who wanted to sit.



Others who maybe would not have been able to do the walk, parked nearby and joined us at the Cafe, to enjoy a well-earned tea, coffee or 99 ice cream, and more lovely conversation. After John and I had our drink and conversation with friends, we went home as it is just a short walk to our home.

If you want to know about the return leg of the walk, sorry, you will have to ask someone else. It was such a beautiful morning, I do hope we are able to repeat it sometime in the near future.



Thank you Jan for leading.

Glynis Brown

Parkside Values:



Parkside Care home was founded in 1971 as a unique place of care. We seek to continue this legacy with the following 7 values being at the heart of all we do.

1. Christian

The home is a Christian-founded, -run and -centred home. Founded on the inspiration of Romford Baptist Church, we celebrate the Christian Gospel and seek to be a place of hope where Jesus is centre to all we do.

2. Love

Following on from our Christian ethos, we seek to love our residents as God Himself does. We treat them and each other as family and serve them by caring with a heart of love rather than a job to be done. We will seek to be bringers of joy to the residents with every interaction we have.

3. Team

As one team we will work together to do our best for God and each of the residents as they live in their home. We will support one another and step in and help as needed. Where someone is struggling, we will encourage and help them. We treat all as people of worth, of integrity and without discrimination. The team includes all who are employed by Parkside, irrespective of their role.

4. Integrity

As a Christian home we will all strive to work with total integrity and honesty. Where we make mistakes we will own up, apologise and learn from them.

5. Excellence

We seek, in all our work, to bring our very best to the home and the residents. We will not seek to cut corners. Our care will be one that is above the level that can be expected. Where possible we will go out of our way to do the added extras that will be remembered. We all undertake to do all that is expected of us, including communicating well and training.

6. Home

Parkside is a home, and not a workplace. Our family who live there will want to live in calm, joy and happiness. As it says on the outside of the building, "The news went around that Jesus was at home". We do not do anything that would make residents uncomfortable or anxious. Staff may work here, but we are still guests in their home.

7. Prayer

Prayer is central to all that we do as a home. Staff and residents are encouraged to pray privately and where appropriate with one another. Prayer will also occur in meetings, one to ones and offered at times of difficulty. Worship will be central to our activities and of first importance. Prayer meetings are also encouraged.

Prayer Diary for August 2021

Sun 8 th	I Immanuel. God with us. Praise Him.	ADEKANMBI, Rachel
Mon 9 th	A Abba Father – Is God your Heavenly father?	ADESINA, Bunmi
Tues 10 th	N Never doubt God's love for you.	AJUEBON, Shirley
Wed 11 th	A Almighty, strengthen our faith we pray.	AKINOLA, Emmanuel & Oluwaseun
Thurs 12 th	N New people in the congregation? Welcome them.	AMOAH, Johnson & Pumela, <i>Sipho, Isaac & Harry</i>
Fri 13 th	D Do not be afraid is a commandment from God.	ANDERSON, Lynn
Sat 14 th	V Victory over death! Thank Jesus.	AQUILINA, Connie
Sun 15 th	I Immortal, invisible God only wise.	ARGENT, David & Jean
Mon 16 th	K King of kings, worship Him.	AROWOLO, Kolawole & Esther
Tues 17 th	K Knowing you, Jesus, there is no greater thing.	AROWOLO, Samuel
Wed 18 th	I 'I am the true vine', stay attached to Jesus.	AROWOLO, Emmanuel
Thurs 19 th	B Born of Mary, Jesus is fully human and fully God.	AROWOLO, Joshua
Fri 20 th	U United by faith in Christ, we are one family.	ASUMANG, Enoch & Vera, <i>Brendon (Osafa), Bradley & Brady</i>
Sat 21 st	N Nothing can separate us from God's love.	AYRIS, Hayley
Sun 22 nd	C Christ triumphant ever reigning.	BAAH, Michael & Efua, <i>Michael, Julie, Nana & Stephanie</i>
Mon 23 rd	E Everywhere evangelise.	BALOGUN, Ayo

Prayer Diary for August 2021

Tues 24 th	A 'All to Jesus I surrender', do you?	BALOGUN, Olakunle
Wed 25 th	N New life in Jesus, what a gift, thank God.	BARNES, Gordon & Anne
Thurs 26 th	D Don't stop growing in your faith. What is your next step?	BARNES, Joanna, <i>Katie & Mat- thew</i>
Fri 27 th	J 'Jesus lover of my soul'. You are loved by God.	BARRETT, Simon & Debbie, <i>Joseph & Daisy</i>
Sat 28 th	A Always pray at all times and in all places.	BEARMAN, Susan (Miss)
Sun 29 th	N Never stop writing your Christian story.	BELLO, Grace
Mon 30 th	E Even when it gets tough, the tough keep trusting.	BENJAMIN, Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke & Sophia</i>
Tues 31 st	T Trust in the Lord always and do not lean on your own understanding.	BIGGS, Frances
Wed 1 st Sept	L Love divine all loves excelling. Thank God.	BITAGA Dougan & Fely, <i>Jiela</i>
Thurs 2 nd	O Open our eyes Lord so we see the world as you do.	BRETT, Dennis & Brenda
Fri 3 rd	V 'Verily, verily I say unto you...' Recall Jesus' promises.	BROWN, Christine
Sat 4 th	E Everyday things, God is interested in them. Lift them up to Him.	BROWN, John & Glynis
Sun 5 th	A Answers to prayer, thank God.	BUNCE, Ian & Vikki
Mon 6 th	R Remember to intercede for others.	BURGESS, Joyce
Tues 7 th	D Divine Father forgive our sins.	BMS World Mission



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



RBC Link Missionaries in Town!



"You're the first group who have come to help us all year!" This has been the resounding greeting that RBC's missionaries,

Andy and Rianna Stannard, have received from every Moldovan village that they have visited over the last few months. Globally, international travel may well have been restricted, but within the country the OM team have made short visits to support these small village churches.

Andy and Rianna were commissioned in 2017 by RBC, to serve with Operation Mobilisation (OM) in the country of Moldova to minister to locals and as trainers in an international missions discipleship program. They are now back in Romford for this month of July (Rianna's brother is getting married) and want to connect with members of the RBC community.

They will share on the 25th July during the evening service but why not meet with them more personally? ***This is a unique opportunity to meet with one of RBC's link missionaries!***

If you want the Stannards to meet the group you lead or to talk over a coffee one to one with you or if you want to receive regular updates from them, please do contact them on the email address:

Rianna.Stannard@om.org.

Pause to Smile

You know you are getting old when...
 You can remember when service stations actually gave you service
 You could sink your teeth into a juicy steak and they didn't stay there
 You tap your feet and hum to the music in lifts
 You wake up looking like your passport photograph
 Your birthday cake can no longer support the weight of the candles
 Your chemist offers to carry the bag of your medicines to the car for you
 Your back goes out more than you do
 You think you know all the answers, but nobody will ask you the questions
 YOU can smile at all these answers

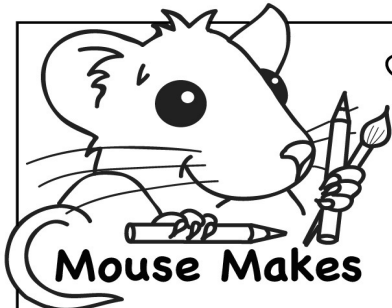
A self-made millionaire lay on his death-bed and sent for his son, "my boy, I've done everything I could to give you a good start in life. I sent you to a good school, then to university, and now you have qualified as a chartered accountant, But I believe a man should make his own money. Promise me you will bury all my money in my coffin with me. The son promised, and when his father's funeral took place a few days later just before the coffin lid was screwed down, he wrote out a large cheque and put it in beside his father's body.



The Church Mouse

What have we benefited from during lockdown that we want to take forward with us as we move forward?

- I have found that I have more time to do things
- A greater focus on what really matters in life - family, friends, neighbours, caring for and loving people and doing more charitable work. Practical sharing of God's love.
- More neighbourly engagement
- Less time travelling to work and starting a new job in the sector that makes me happy.
- Travelled less.
- Sense of community
- Lockdown has enabled the church to make productive use of video conferencing platform Zoom. It has allowed us as a church to share the message of the Bible through different Bible study themes. It has helped us to open up about personal experiences and our current progress in spiritual journey with God
- Opportunity to read the Bible and pray and listen to God more. More family time and far less travelling to go to meetings. Opportunity to go to more Church and External Christian events and Prayer Meetings, virtually. Cleaner environment and skies as less vehicles and listening to more bird song! I have also managed to undertake a lot of online study having successfully completed various courses from Teaching Assistant Level 3, to Estate Agency Level 3 and Child Psychology
- Slower pace of life, chance to 'meet' new people from church virtually through the midweek programmes.
- Grateful for the NHS and public utility workers who put their lives at risk for our safety.
- I have benefited from the slower pace of life, having more time to spend with God, but missed seeing friends who do not live locally
- To think more about the people around us and to appreciate nature.
- Definitely have slowed down, used lockdown to sort the house and some gardening, didn't use the car, our neighbours either side did our shopping, chatted on Duo with our eldest son and grandchildren, our other son phoned or texted. I didn't feel alone people from home group and others delivered meals, talked and prayed. I think lockdown has brought us closer as a church and family
- Definitely a slower pace of life. Having time to catch up with outstanding jobs and feeling more organised and prepared to face the coming months
- Engaged with friends and neighbour
- Definitely the slower pace on social commitments, it's highlighted how much we value family and also clarified life's priorities.
- Deeper understanding of our son's school schedule (due to online schooling). We enjoyed the quality time together, even though we missed the friends around us...it reminded us of who and what really matters when all is said and done!
- I enjoyed not having to rush around. I very much missed feeling connected with own family and church family.
- Less pressure from activities. Quieter life.
- A time to reflect, put away the need-less and concentrate on the blessings
- Cooking at home all week rather than treats to eat out
- More involvement with natural things - in garden and local parks. Better use of Internet, etc.



IN THE BEGINNING ...



What did God
create in the beginning?

___ V ___
and ___ H ___



What was the first
thing God said
on the first day?

"Let there be
___ G ___



What did God separate
on the second day to
create heaven?

___ T ___

How many great
lights did God
create in the heavens?

What grew on the dry land?

___ N ___ and
___ E ___

READ
Genesis
1:31

B S E A S O N S S
E D A Y F L W O M A N
D L A N D O I A N A C I F
S T H R E E U G T E N R A I O
M V S K Y N R H E A V E N S F
U G O O D I T T R E U A I H R
L Y S I X G W F I V E T M G U
T E A R T H O P S E A I A R I
I A W C A T T L E N A O L O T
P R V E G E T A T I O N S U F
L S X U M O R N I N G E E N U
Y U K F R U I T H G O D E D L
X H U M A N S O B I R D S
F O O D Y H T R E E S
C R E A T U R E S

What did God
create to fly
above the earth?

___ D ___

What did God
make after all
the creatures?

___ A ___

Find the answers to the questions in the word search then find all these words too:

CREATION • ONE • DARK • DAY • NIGHT • EVENING • MORNING • SEA
VEGETATION • LAND • SEEDS • FRUIT • THREE • SEASONS • YEARS • FOUR
SKY • FISH • FIVE • CREATURES • CATTLE • ANIMALS • GROUND • HUMANS
WOMAN • FRUITFUL • MULTIPLY • FOOD • SIX • GOD • SAW • GOOD

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in

2Sam 15, 16:15-19, 17:4-22, 18:1-12, 33, 19:1-8

King David had many wives and children. He loved his sons so much that he never punished them or told them off if they did wrong.

Also David had not said who would be king after him.



His son Absalom was very handsome, and he made friends with everyone.



People began to prefer him to David.



Absalom gathered an army of supporters and they headed for Jerusalem.



David and his supporters had to flee.



A few stayed behind to be spies and to give bad advice.



David was able to get away.

The two armies fought in a rocky wooded place.



Absalom was riding through it when his hair got caught in a tree.



Joab and his men killed him.

When David heard Absalom was dead, he was so upset...



My son!

...his soldiers were ashamed they had won.



Joab came back from the battle and found David crying.



You should be ashamed! You care more for your disloyal son than for those who risked their lives for you!



What have we missed or lost during lockdown that we want to regain and rebuild?

- Being part of the congregation on a Sunday.
- Close face-to-face relationships with extended family and friends. Remote prayer for RBC friends and others is good, but we need to reinstate face-to-face prayer ministry which adds another dimension
- Physical contact with friends and family
- Unable to see my family who live abroad
- Hugs with family and friends. Seeing friends F2F. Seeing our GP face-to-face
- Seeing church family
- Coronavirus legal restrictions have stopped regular activities such as singing, which is an important part of RBC worship. When coronavirus restrictions ease, it would be great to see singing reintroduced into the format of Sunday service.
- Meeting face to face with family and friends. Worshipping together in Church. All attending Funeral and Wedding Services rather than virtually or not all..
- Hugs, singing in church, my previous small group, seeing family who aren't local. Also working from home is no longer an uninterrupted oasis of quiet.
- Missing family. Restrictions on visiting sick family member in hospital. Limiting the numbers attending the funeral.
- Have missed small groups in person, but met new people on zoom. Missed inviting people for meals and now feeling it may be too much effort, Should have mentioned the importance of Parent and Toddlers introducing neighbours to the church.
- To make time to meet with friends and family more.
- Going to the church building. I suppose having coffee and chat in the meeting place or family is sort of local although I need to see my mum and sister more often. My mobility stops me helping with food bank dating and sorting, now miss that.
- Support our vulnerable family members
- The freedom to go, wherever I want, whenever I want to
- Extended family and the community
- Being able to meet with others, to sing freely in church and to socialise without the restrictions of social distancing etc.
- We have missed our families of origin; we have had to cancel our trips to Kenya due to lockdown, and currently, our country is still on the red-list, with quarantine measures in Kenya and in the UK, making it impractical to travel even after lockdown.
- We have missed a big chunk of one another's lives. Have missed a big chunk of our active lives
- Missed freedom to see friends and family. Singing in church.
- Seeing friends for coffee
- Seeing more of family and friends.
- Going out more.



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

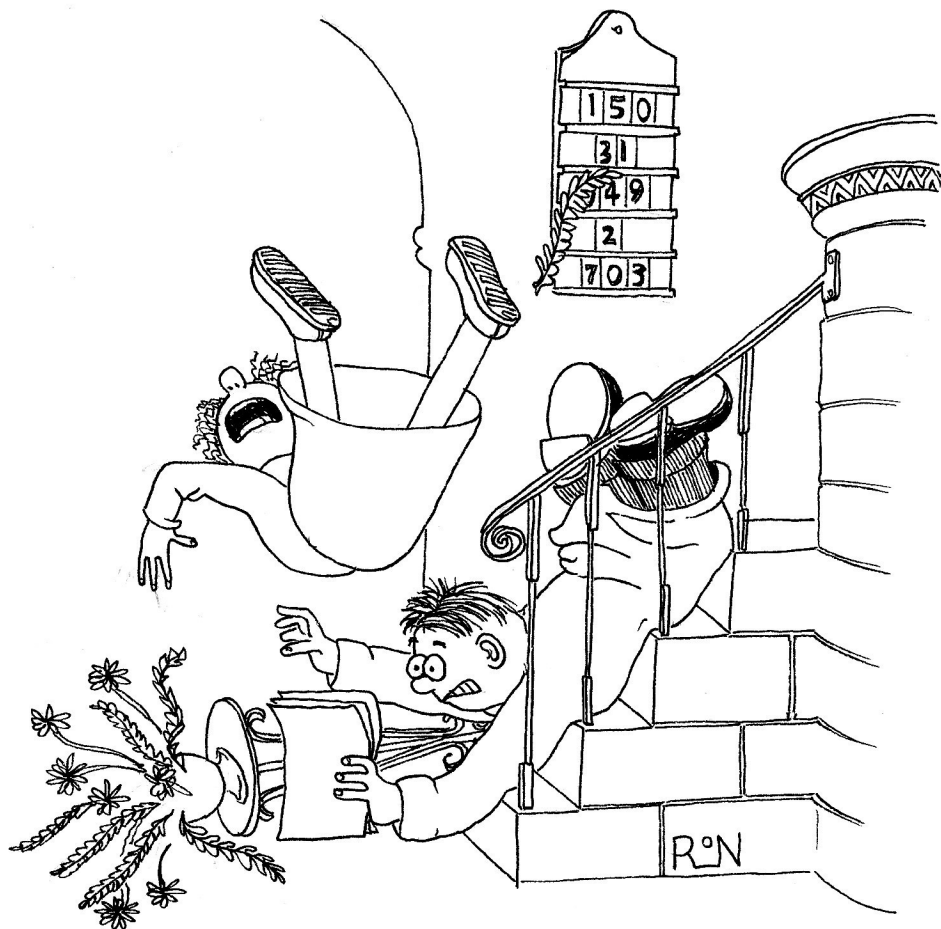
10.30am Online Morning Service

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.



Sharing the Notices while keeping a social distance was proving tricky.

