

Romford Baptist Church

G r a p e v i n e



Family Magazine

October 2021

and

November 2021

No. 210



From the Editor

In recent days, I've noticed the leaves on the trees turning golden, and the days getting shorter. The changing of the seasons is upon us. This always reminds me that, ultimately, God is in control. No matter what we do, we can't stop the shifting of the seasons. Psalm 104:19 tells us, *"He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down."*

Isaiah 45:5-7 says,

*⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
apart from me there is no God.*

*I will strengthen you,
though you have not acknowledged
me,*

*⁶ so that from the rising of the sun
to the place of its setting
people may know there is none besides
me.*

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

*⁷ I form the light and create darkness,
I bring prosperity and create disaster;
I, the LORD, do all these things.*

So, as we see the signs of autumn all around us, let's remember that we can rely on God because He does not change, even when things around us are volatile and unpredictable.

*Yesterday, today, forever, Jesus is the
same,*

*All may change, but Jesus never,
Glory to His name!*

Cheryl Schulte

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**(With focus on the
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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



with us. We need only to stop and take the time to listen.

Mathew 6 vs 33 tells us to seek God first, to spend time alone with Him first. Then He will take care of anything else we need in this life.

John 15 vs 5 tells us to abide in Him, and He will abide in us. Then we will see God's goodness in our lives.

As I write this in September, we are slowly returning back to some form of normality. Shops have reopened, children and young people are back to school, uni and college. We even have the wonderful blessing of being able to spend time with loved ones again.

And as we begin to enjoy these wonderful things in life that we have missed for so long, our diaries have suddenly become a lot fuller, and our days have become a lot busier!

What I did value during our time in lockdown, was the blessing of time: time to pause and reflect, time to re-discover what was really important, and most importantly time with God.

There are so many verses in scripture that tell us God wants us to be in relationship with Him. God is longing to spend time with us and waiting to share His will and wisdom for our lives

All of this comes by making the conscious decision to put God first in every day of our lives. To abase ourselves in the Lord, to lay our foundations in Him. After all, all other ground is sinking sand!

So my encouragement to you is, whilst life has become busy again and we find ourselves filling our calendars with various commitments, keep putting your relationship with God first. Don't let anything become a distraction or a higher priority.

We as Christians are called to be salt and light in this world, but to bless everyone and everything that God created, we must spend time with the Creator.

*Hannah Griffiths
Children, Youth and Families Worker*



**The deadline for the
December 2021/January 2022
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 14th November 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



Letter from Jean Eke to all friends at RBC

DANKE!
THANK YOU!
MERCİ!
GRAZIE!
GRACIAS!
DANK JE WEL!

.....

Dear All

Now that life is a little more normal and you are all together again, I felt it was a good time for me to once again say a very BIG thank you for all your prayers.

When one is low, it is a great help to know that so many folk hold you in their thoughts. It has been a year of many ups and downs for me, as it has for so many people, but I am one of the lucky ones, as I have made good progress now and I am very grateful for that.

I have visited my home for several odd days and on my last visit I stayed for 10 days. I have now to find a way to regain my confidence to manage alone without regular support from my family.

Now that we can sing again let us raise our voices high in praise to our Lord, for his love and care for us all.

Keep safe and God bless you all.
Jean

Pray for those in Education

The Curriculum

Then Elihu said: "Hear my words, you wise men; listen to me, you men of learning. For the ear tests words as the tongue tastes food. Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good." (Job 34:1-4)

- For staff who are asked to teach content which is not in keeping with their beliefs
- For more Christians to be challenged to become teachers of Religious Education
- For those in schools who have curriculum responsibilities

Young People

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives for ever. (1 John 2:15,17)

- That Christian young people will not be afraid to witness about their Saviour
- For all young people who are unsure about their future
- For churches to engage with and encourage the young people in their area
- That there will be good role models for the young people
- For the claims of Jesus to be more clearly heard in our secular world and for people, young and old, to come to faith

Submitted by Barbara Gatherum

Andy and Rianna Stannard

Extracts from their August 2021 newsletter:



Thank you for your faithful prayers and support of God's work in Moldova, through us as a couple. In ministry there is a vital need for both goers and senders, so we are grateful for your

partnership which plays a pivotal role for the Kingdom.

UK Visit

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time back in the UK for a couple of family weddings and catching up with our friends that we miss while we are living and working abroad. Our schedule has been filled with enjoyable company at meals, visits to London and other parts of the country and a presentation about Moldova to a wider group at the church. Since arriving, the border regulations for us to get into Moldova have changed and we are no longer able to receive our second Covid vaccine before 8 weeks. This combination means that we have not been able to return on the date we had planned and decided to stay in the UK till the middle of September.

Ongoing Support

Some have asked us about how they can support us. Those who work with OM are volunteers, this means that in order for us to live and serve in Moldova we rely on God to provide for us through financial and prayer partners. If you (or someone you know) would

like to:

- Financially support us (one off or regularly) – please use the link to the Giving Page at the bottom of each newsletter (www.uk.om.org/Appeal/stannard)
- Receive regular updates of the ministry and prayer requests – please let us know any updated email addresses that we can use for contact
- Find out more about OM, Moldova or us – please email us so that we can arrange a day to meet or even a zoom call!

Future Newsletters

In the month of July we enjoyed writing weekly to you with anecdotes of our work. Our next newsletter will be once we return to Moldova. We are always open for suggestions and ideas of things that you want to read about, so get in touch if you have questions or ideas!



Photo above - Celebrating Christmas 2020 in August 2021 because we all missed being together this year!

Andy and Rianna Stannard

Wellbeing Walk



On Wednesday 14th July a number of RBC people met up outside the Youth Lounge for another Wellbeing Walk. We walked over to Raphael Park via Lodge Farm Park. This provided good opportunities to chat to different folk along the way.



We stopped at the bandstand, where Anne Miller shared with us some reflections on Hope. She also gave us some little cards which had a lovely illustration entitled "Hold onto Hope" on one side and a Bible verse on the other. The verse was Romans 15:13

(NLT) which says, 'I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.' What a special prayer to hold onto.



We then continued to the café near the tennis courts, where we were able to stop, chat, and enjoy a hot or cold beverage, or even a delicious ice cream. After the café stop, we could make our own way home or walk back to the church with those wishing to return to the starting point.

It was a great time of fellowship, fun and some exercise - all very good contributors towards our wellbeing.

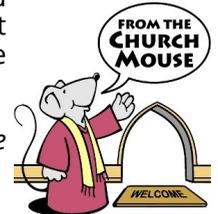
Cheryl Schulte

Pause to Smile



Three absent-minded old professors were talking together in a bus terminal. They got so engrossed in what they were saying that they didn't notice the bus had pulled in. As the driver sang out "all aboard" they looked up startled and dashed for the bus. Two of them managed to jump on the bus before it moved off but the third didn't make it.

As he stood sadly watching the bus disappear into the distance, a man who was watching tried to cheer him up, saying: "You shouldn't feel too bad old chap, two out of three of you got on, so that's a pretty good average". "It would be" said the old professor "except that those two came to see ME off".



The Church Mouse

Praying for the Glasgow Climate Conference (COP26)



From 31 October to 12 November 2021 most of the governments of the world will be meeting in Glasgow to discuss, and commit to action to limit, global heating. This '26th Conference of the Parties'¹ follows on from the 6th report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which came out in August, which is the most authoritative assessment of what is known about climate change. (Interestingly, part of the IPCC report is dedicated to the memory of the leading scientist, and Baptist, Sir John Houghton.)

The landmark study warns of increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding, if drastic action is not taken over the next ten years.

The report is written by scientists but endorsed by governments. Now 99% of real scientists (not receiving funding from American oil and coal billionaires) say that climate change is real, dangerous, and definitely caused by human activity.

Echoing the scientists' findings, UN Secretary General António Guterres said: "If we combine forces now, we can avert climate catastrophe. But, as

today's report makes clear, there is no time for delay and no room for excuses. I count on government leaders and all stakeholders to ensure COP26 is a success."

UK minister Alok Sharma said earlier this year 'the next six months will see the UK push others not to flinch from the big policy decisions: ending coal power, phasing out polluting vehicles, making agriculture more sustainable, tackling deforestation and supporting developing countries with finance'



Governments will be negotiating with each other now as to what action they will take and trying to influence others to do more – or in some cases, less. A 'pre-COP' meeting of ministers from 35 to 40 countries will happen in Milan, in Italy, from 30 September to 2 October.

- We can be praying now for:
- All governments to be willing to take drastic action
 - Wealthy countries to commit to provide funding to help poorer countries cope with the effects of climate change
 - All governments to commit to cut their carbon dioxide emissions by 50% as against the level in 1990, by 2030.
 - Governments to value the long-term future of our children and grand-children above short-term profit.

Peter Feinson

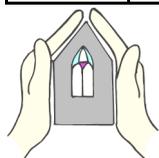
1. 'Parties' means the governments that have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change' of 1994 ('UNFCCC').

Prayer Diary for October 2021

Fri 8 th	T Time to commit your life to Christ, speak to the ministers.	EREKU, Derek & Laraine, <i>Josiah, Re-kem, Elandre & Dante</i>
Sat 9 th	H Holy Spirit, work in me today, I pray.	EWEOYA, Ben & Ona, <i>Timi & Ninu</i>
Sun 10 th	E Equip me, Lord, to serve you.	FAWUNMI, Jide & Yemi, <i>Ayomide, Ayoola-mide, Favour & Fisayo</i>
Mon 11 th	M Make time in your busyness to listen to God.	FEINSON, Peter & Gill
Tues 12 th	E Every knee shall bow...	FLACK, Ken & Linda
Wed 13 th	E Every tongue confess to God. Romans 14v11.	GATHERUM, Barbara
Thurs 14 th	T The people responsible for RBC buildings, pray for them.	GEARING, Bert & Rita
Fri 15 th	I ICE number Jeremiah ch 33 v3 'Call on me and I will answer.'	GOSTLING, Geoffrey
Sat 16 th	N Neighbours – pray for your neighbours.	GRIFFITHS, Ben & Hannah
Sun 17 th	G God be in my head and in my understanding.	GRIFFITHS, Margaret
Mon 18 th	P Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.	HALL, Ian & Susan
Tues 19 th	L Live your life as a suitable witness to others.	HARDING, John & Sue
Wed 20 th	A Audio visual team at RBC, pray for them.	HARRIS, Clarissa
Thurs 21 st	C Christ be evident at The Meeting Place.	HARRISON, John
Fri 22 nd	E Evening time, thank God for another day.	HARVEY, Liz
Sat 23 rd	Pray for The Meeting Place.	HENNIKER, Joyce
Sun 24 th	O Office staff at RBC, pray for them.	HENSON, Ruth
Mon 25 th	U 'Until He comes again'. Christ will return.	HENWOOD, Stephen & Dorothy
Tues 26 th	T Thank God He loves you.	HIGGINS, Pauline & Kevin, <i>Lauren & Rachel</i>

Prayer Diary for October 2021

Wed 27 th	R Regularly pray for someone who needs to accept Christ as Lord.	HILLS, Emma, <i>Samuel & Benjamin</i>
Thurs 28 th	E Everything you have is on loan from God, thank Him for His provision.	HILLS, Yvonne
Fri 29 th	A All have different gifts according to the grace given to us.	HODINITU, Nicolae & Natalia
Sat 30 th	C Child of God – grow your faith.	HOGBEN, Cynthia
Sun 31 st	H Hasten to help those in need.	HOLMAN, Jill
Mon 1 st Nov	Pray for The Meeting Place.	HOOPER, Iris
Tues 2 nd	C Christ is the cornerstone that holds all things together, praise Him.	HUGHES, Brenda & Raymond
Wed 3 rd	E Especially remember the vulnerable, pray for them.	HUNT, Maisie
Thurs 4 th	N Never doubt God hears your prayers.	HUXTABLE, Janet
Fri 5 th	T Thank God for healings of body, mind and soul.	ILSLEY, Margo
Sat 6 th	R Remember you are not perfect, confess your sin.	IZE, Christiane; <i>Saleem Mbiti (Kayibi)</i>
Sun 7 th	E Every word of God is flawless. Proverbs 30 v5.	Sofia Baptist Church



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



50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Parkside is celebrating its 50th year of providing Christian love and care to residents and the community and we'd love you to come and help us celebrate.

Saturday 9th October 2021 – 10am-4pm

Please join us at the front of the Parkside building for a variety of celebrations throughout the day.

Sunday 10th October 2021 – 10.30am

Please join us at Romford Baptist Church as we give thanks to God for the last 50 years and look forward to what the future may hold.



Congratulations



Congratulations to Brian and Pauline Read who celebrated 50 years of Christian marriage on 16th September 2021.

Rev. J. Loveard presents a celebratory certificate to Mrs P. Read.

Smile Lines

PARAPROSDOKIANS...

(Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected!

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.
10. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted the pay cheques.

What the young monk found

A young monk was assigned to help other monks copy out the old canons and laws of the church by hand. On his very first day he noticed that all the monks were copying from copies, not from the original. So, the new monk pointed out that if someone had made even a small error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all the

subsequent copies.

The head monk said: "You make a good point, my son." So he went down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts were held in a locked vault that had not been opened for hundreds of years. Hours went by and nobody saw the old abbot.

Finally, the old monk returned, looking distraught. "We missed the R ! We missed the R ! We missed the R ! The word was... CELEB R ATE!"

Fitting God in

A little girl said to her mother: "The minister's sermon this morning confused me." Her mother was surprised, so the little girl continued: "He said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true, too?" Again, the mother agreed.

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and He lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

What you need

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mark 6:17-28, Matthew 14:1-11

After Herod Antipator died, the Romans allowed his son Herod Antipas to rule Galilee and Peraea. He was hated by the Jews

Herod Antipas divorced his wife and married his brother Herod-Philip's wife, Herodias.



John the Baptist told him he had broken Jewish law by marrying his brother's wife*



*Lev 18:19, 20:21. She was also his niece.

Herodias hated John and wanted him dead. Herod was afraid of John and wouldn't kill him but put him in prison.

Herod liked to listen to John.



Finally, Herodias got her chance.

Herod had a big party for his birthday.



(Birthday parties were a new trend from Greece.)

He invited everyone important in Galilee.



Herodias sent her daughter to dance for Herod and his guests.



(No decent girl would do this.)

They were very entertained.



I will give you anything, even half my kingdom



(Which wasn't really his to give.)

Salome asked Herodias, then said



I want John's head on a plate.

Oh, no! But I made a promise in front of everyone!



So John was killed* and Salome was given his head. She gave it to her mother.



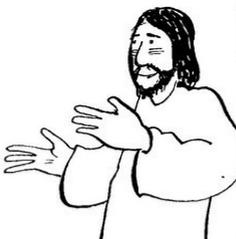
*illegal without a trial



The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS




ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES




HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY...

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...

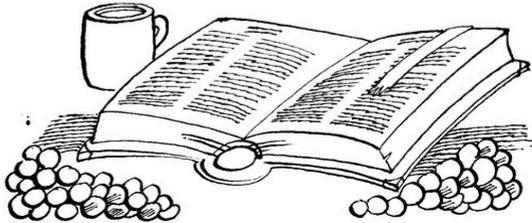



...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...

... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!



JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.

YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



"But, Mum, if the vicar wasn't coming here Trick-Or-Treating, why did she still take the chocolates I gave her?"

