



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine
August 2023
and
September 2023
No. 221

From the Editor

In this edition of Grapevine, we read about how God has made a difference in many people's lives. We celebrate the lives of God's faithful servants. We are also encouraged to make a difference – in our own lives, the community and the environment.

There are many verses in the Bible about God's creation. In Psalm 89:9,11&12 we wonder at God's magnificence:

*⁹ You rule over the surging sea;
when its waves mount up, you still them.*

*¹¹ The heavens are yours, and yours also
the earth;
you founded the world and all that is in it.*

¹² You created the north and the south;

And in Psalm 8:3&4, we contemplate our significance:

*³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,*

*⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of
them,
human beings that you care for them?*

How blessed we are that God in his magnificent glory is still interested in us, such seemingly insignificant beings. May we be comforted and encouraged, yet humbled, in the knowledge that he cares so much for us.

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

We recently met as a leadership team to pray, something we do from time to time.

As we prayed through the church text for the year, I was led to reflect on what God is saying to me personally through the verse and I thought I would share with you.

As a reminder, our key text for the year is from the book of Isaiah 54:2:

*Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.*

As we prayed I focused on the following:

Enlarge the place of your tent: I felt that God was saying to me about actively making a bigger space for more people to come in. That might be about a physical place, that is bigger rooms, bigger buildings, but it also occurred to me that it was about having softer edges so that new people can join us. It is about the boundaries of our community being open in such a way that people can come in and feel comfortable in God's space, the space He has given us.

Stretch your tent curtains wide: The tent curtain is that of the doors. One of the biggest obstacles to people coming into a church is the hurdle of crossing the doorway. Often that

doorway is not very big or there is only one way for people to enter and they feel that is filled with the unknown. Maybe God is calling us to have many doors, many ways into His church that people from all walks of life may feel that they are comfortable to enter and discover the loving God for themselves. To enter without fear of being judged or questioned, but to enter in and feel welcomed, wanted and loved without being overwhelmed.

Do not hold back: This I took as a bit of a rebuke me personally but also the church. God has, over the past few years, said so much to us as a church, yet we have held back, mainly through fear or lack of faith, but sometimes we have also done that through sheer stubbornness that we do not want it to happen. As the Israelites came to the borders of the Promised Land they held back because they listened to the wrong voices or feared the cost of going forward. As a result they missed out on so much. I do wonder what we have missed out on already. God says do not hold back.

Lengthen your cords: When you lengthen the cords of a tent, you are making future growth possible, so it is an investment into the future. We are benefitting from so much investment from the past generations, from those who had the vision to build a church here to those who over the years have


(Continued on page 4)

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taken wise, but sometimes risky, decisions that have built on the investment of the past. I believe God is calling us to consider where we lengthen our cords, or to mix the metaphor, put in new foundations, for the next generation to build on.

Strengthen your stakes: A tent will stand or fall on the strength of the stakes in the ground and also the ground in which they are placed. Our ground is that of the rock that is Christ, but how deep and how long are our stakes? I believe that this is a call to deeper discipleship. Going deeper into God's word, getting into a deeper relationship with God, seeing God as a bigger part of our lives in every way. If we are going to see the church grow, the doors wider, us not holding back and the future foundations built, it will need to start with deeper discipleship and strengthening our stakes, so we can hold all that God is going to put into His church here in the heart of Romford.

Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. ISAIAH 54:2 (NIV)



*Rev. Ian Bunce
Team Leader*

How do you cope with the loss of a beloved pet?

In July 2008, we chose a sweet little tortoiseshell kitten from a litter. She was the only kitten that colour. She sat there prim and proper, watching the other kittens racing around. We chose her because of her colour and she seemed of a calm disposition. Our daughters were seven and eleven and so thrilled to have her, we named her Daisy. As I held her and showed her around our beautiful garden, I said, "Welcome to our home, this is all yours".

Fast forward nearly 15 years and sadly, on the 4th May, we had to say goodbye to her. Our house feels empty, the sorrow of losing her is immense. Our minister Ian Bunce preached on phobias and fears recently and I sat there thinking, I am fearful of getting another cat, as I know I will be setting us up for heartache again. However, with so many animals needing a loving home, we will get another cat and what a lucky cat it will be.

Pauline Higgins



**The deadline for the
October 2023/November 2023
edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 17 September 2023**

Please give any items to Cheryl Schulte, or email them to Cheryl at:

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



Romford Baptist Church Bookstall

This article has been written in hindsight to raise awareness of the Church Bookstall that is operational after Sunday morning and evening services. Annette and I have been busy managing the stall. There is a diverse range of Christian Books that are sold on two small coffee tables and the wall bookshelf at the front of the church near The Meeting Place. Also, I wanted to notify visitors to the current promotional sales of 50 % off on all reduced listed books.



The picture shows the bookstall and the books that are currently on sale.

Recent added books to the stall include The Ten Commandments by J John, Song of the Nightingale by Helen Berhane, I Dared to Call Him Father by Bilquis Sheikh and God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew. I would recommend reading these books to better understand how to deepen your faith, also in seeing progress and movement in your spiritual journey with God.

The Ten Commandments by J John inspects how the Ten Commandments should be the framework for how Christians should be living their spiritual journey with God. Society has moved away from these truths and J John asks the question on how we can reclaim our biblical values and timeless truths so we can apply them to

everyday life situations.



Song of the Nightingale by Helen Berhane is an autobiography that provides a gripping account of how, despite being persecuted and imprisoned in Eritrea for two years in appalling conditions, she recognised freedom in God. She relentlessly shared the story of Jesus Christ though persecuted. She insists that freedom in Jesus Christ shouldn't be taken for granted and that we should be active in spreading the message of the Gospels.

I Dared to Call Him Father by Bilquis Sheikh tells the story of how a devout Muslim woman found a personal relationship with God. Her journey to faith



as someone leaving the Muslim faith was dangerous and filled with adversity.

The book examines what is required of us when we give our lives to God completely and let him take reign

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in our lives.

The last recommended book is God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew. It tells the story of how a Dutchman risked his life by sharing his faith behind the Iron Curtain. His ministry spanned the globe from Middle East, Pakistan, China to Asia. He was determined to send Bibles to churches and places of worship who had no access to Bibles.

We welcome everyone to the bookstall and look forward to speaking with you to share more about different Christian books that are on offer. Please do feel free to browse the books and Annette or I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Daniel Eborn

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays August 2023

8th Bree Norris

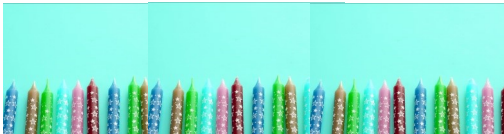
11th Brian Sharp



Birthdays September 2023

5th Iris Hooper

14th Sue Sharp



Tribute for Therese Collins

Therese Heather, or 'Captain' as she was fondly known, was born on the 28th August 1956 to William



and Doris Abbott. The eldest of three, she was a protective older sister. Truly she was a free spirit with a mischievous streak and a beautiful heart.

A collector of things from an early age: as a small child, Therese would wander along the beach collecting the buckets and spades she happened upon. Unfortunately she hadn't yet developed an understanding of ownership; and was duly followed by a steady stream of irate parents. She really was quite a handful.

She lived in her own world: often inhabiting the literature of which she was so fond; often oblivious to what was happening around her.

Therese was legendary for having no sense of direction. Once, asked by her father to post a letter, she asked: 'But where's the post box?' 'in Reed Pond walk' 'Where's that, Dad?' 'at the end of the road, Therese' came a baffled response.

Therese attended Pettits Lane secondary school, where her physical strength expressed itself through the athletic pursuit of throwing things. The discus,

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the javelin and putting the shot were all events in which she excelled.

At the age of sixteen she and a group of other students walked the twenty-six miles from their school in Romford, to Southend-on-Sea: a marathon to raise money for a bus for differently abled children.

After Pettits Lane, she then chose to attend Mascalls Sixth Form in order to take A levels: history, being her favourite. Whilst there she was often to be found sitting in a quiet corner with her nose in a book. She was a faithful of classics and had a certain ability to remember all sorts of things she'd read. Throughout her life she would amuse and entertain others by quoting snippets and anecdotes from literature. Therese had a great capacity to bring people into her world of books and was very social. She found huge enjoyment in social occasions, especially impromptu meals and gatherings.

After achieving her A levels and leaving school, Therese's love of books followed her into the Civil Service where she would arrive into London early to purchase the bargain books at 'Smith's'. And thus in her office a small windowsill-library came into being. It was ever a borrowing library, as she always wanted to share the things she loved and give everyone a chance to participate in them. In her lunch break she would fill the office with classical music. People often remarked upon her musical selection with curiosity: in the midst of a Bach record her boss asked her to write down the name of the piece so that he could listen to it again, which gave her immense pleasure.

But Therese's musical journey didn't start off classical: Dave Clark Five and Freddie and the Dreamers were firm favourites as a child. In fact, at one early stage of her life, the sound of classical and operatic music would have her walking around the house, fingers in ears, pulling a very sour face whilst exclaiming: 'What's that horrible noise?'

My, how things change. Anyone who knew Therese could not help but be affected by her great passion for music. Therese never stopped collecting; she cast her net wide and had 100s and 100s of CDs, from jazz to opera to orchestra. In addition to these were the treasures collected from her numerous trips around antiques shops with her parents. She and her family had a great enthusiasm for antiques: directing their outings to a list of preferred haunts spanning three counties.

Amidst the steadfast favourites of Therese's wardrobe, there lurked a collection of her many and varied phases of style. Her sister remembers meeting Therese once at Tottenham Court Road Station. Dressed in an army greatcoat, Therese was carrying two huge bags of army surplus, wearing her hallmark smirk (and possibly even a beret). Therese's dress style, though subject to change, was - like everything about her - conservative with a heavy dash of quirk. The only thing she was always staunchly con-founded by was mini-skirts and their seeming ubiquity.

In her early twenties, Therese married Les. They had become acquainted through her cousins, with whom Les shared a love of sailing. Les had a small dinghy on which Therese and he

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spent many hours bobbing along the beautiful Bradwell briny. They sometimes entered boat races just for the fun of it. After their courtship, Les proposed and they were married in the local church, setting up home just around the corner in Gidea Park. Admant that her much loved baby grand piano should accompany her, and seeing as though its current residence – at Therese's family home – was just a few roads away, a plan was put in place. This involved a conveyance not dissimilar to a skateboard, with a piano *very* carefully balanced and a lot of pushing down the middle of the road. Owing to the conveyance being similar in size as well as shape to that of a skateboard, friends and family members were recruited to run alongside in order to keep the much loved piano upright. So began married life.

There are many pictures of Therese running down the beach sporting her trademark ear to ear grin after a swim. She was a very strong swimmer and gloried in the sea.

Holidaying with Les in their little two-seater went as follows: book the ferry crossing, pack the car and off we go. In her words 'it felt so free. Just driving around France, stopping when and where the fancy took us. No plans, just drifting.'

Sometimes, having become very lost, it would be pointed out – in tones of frustration from Les – that she had the map upside down.

She was never lost, however, when it came to her faith. Where The Lord was concerned, Therese was unwavering. Therese's heartfelt belief in Christianity was first kindled while working at

the Civil Service with her lifelong friend, Ruth. Christianity spoke to Therese's, already extremely strong, sense of morality.

In her late twenties Therese was dealt a crushing, life-changing blow: The diagnosis of MS meant she would eventually have to give up her job in the Civil Service completely. Sadly the progression of MS slowly curtailed her adventures in the physical and practical sense but never her spirit, mental capacity or resolve to beat the unbeatable MS. Therese's Christianity and belief that The Lord would provide afforded her great guidance and comfort in her darkest hours. Her faith gave her a sense of calm and peace. Her constant courage and joie de vivre in the face of the degenerative nature of her condition is humbling.

In spite of her adventurous spirit and many holidays, she delighted in her corner of Essex and London town. As well as the classics, she also read a lot of Dickens and latterly developed a huge interest in all aspects of London history. One of her favourites was the diary of Samuel Pepys.

She lived in Gidea Park her whole life. Therese really loved her family and living around the corner from them was, to her, perfect. So when her parents and siblings moved from Essex to Sussex in the early eighties, her world was a little less full. But she still saw her family as often as possible.

Latterly Therese and Les enjoyed holidays to the warmer climes and bluer seas of the Mediterranean with Therese's parents, Doris and Bib. And there was always great excitement in 3 Millbrook Gardens at the start of the

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concert season. Therese would comb through the programme from the Festival Hall and delight in choosing something to appeal to everyone. Her parents were then advised as to her selection and another season of symphonies – with ice cream in the interval and cheese and biscuits afterwards – began again.

As Therese went into hospital more and more, Leslie once described 'missing the music' when she wasn't there. The house was surely a very quiet place without her. As her MS increasingly clipped her wings, she brought the world to her: collecting CDs, china, books and all sorts from the internet, as well as listening to religious teachings and socialising online. She soaked up all she could from life but there was no avarice to her. Therese was incredibly generous. She prayed for everyone and loved to share: forever sending music and books to anyone who showed an interest in them and donating money to all manner of charities.

Therese's life took another life-changing blow eleven months ago today with the sudden death of Les: her husband of over forty years, partner and full-time carer. The one person who was always there for her. The shock of this and having to leave her lifelong home caused her to suffer a stroke, which affected her speech and reduced her mobility further.

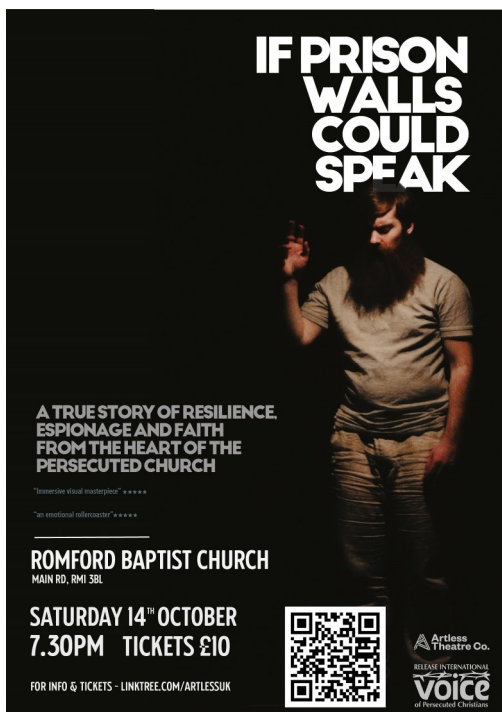
In spite of her sadness at her declining physical capacities, she never complained or blamed. She was always so thankful for the smallest kindness. Therese managed somehow to maintain her own sense of

mischievous and fun. Always a beautiful smile and welcome greeted any visitor.

Therese was an Amazon. Both in stature, mental resolve and generosity of spirit. Therese never gave in or gave up to anything life could throw at her. Even MS.

Therese was a truly brave, beautiful human being with a fantastic and admirable zest for life. She is missed by us, the living, but she wasn't afraid of death; her release.

Now, shepherded and welcomed by The Lord, Therese is reunited with all her loved ones who have passed; where she is surely met with open arms and cries of, 'Hiya Cap'.



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An Environmental Strategy for Romford Baptist Church

At the Church Meeting on the 11th of June the members agreed to adopt an environmental strategy for the Church. You can find the document on the Church website at:

https://romfordbaptist.org.uk/Groups/360075/Romford_Baptist_Church/Resources/Other_Policies/Other_Policies.aspx

The strategy has four main aims:

- a. Fostering a greater awareness of Biblical teaching relevant to God's creation, through teaching and worship.
- b. Putting our own house in order: using church buildings and other resources in ways that reduce our impact on the environment – and hopefully save money as well.
- c. Corporately taking action to promote care of creation, whether through local action, influencing local politicians, or giving to creation care work overseas.
- d. Adopting simpler individual lifestyles, which have less harmful effects on God's creation, as part of our discipleship.

Aim A is self-explanatory.

Aim B will focus particularly on getting the Church buildings properly insulated, using green cleaning products, and avoiding waste.

Aim C will encourage us to take action to promote the care of God's creation, including writing to MPs and keeping in touch with the Havering green Forum.

Aim D will encourage us as individuals to reduce the damaging environmental effects of our lifestyles, eg avoiding food waste, insulating our homes and choosing more sustainable forms of travel when we can - with many of these also likely to save money and benefit our health as well.

This strategy has been prepared by the Green Working Group, consisting of:
Nicola Childs
Rodney Eborn (Link with the deacons)
Peter Feinson (Co-ordinator)
Barbara Gatherum
Jacquie Rose
Alex Savine
John Springer

If you would like to ask anything about the strategy, please speak to Peter.

Peter Feinson

Tips for Greener Living

The Church has agreed an environmental strategy to help RBC to play its part in caring for the environment, or as we would say, God's creation. (See article above)

We all as individuals have a part to play in leading more environmentally-

sustainable lives; each of us as individuals can change our lifestyles to benefit ourselves, our friends and families, as well as God's world – of which God has made us custodians.

The Green Working group will share

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tips and ideas to help us lead more environmentally-sustainable lives so that we can demonstrate to others how, by making small changes, we can all reduce our impact on the planet, our pockets and perhaps even improve our health in the process – what's not to like?!

Tip 1. Active Travel

Car exhaust is bad for the environment, both because it is bad for our health, and because it contributes a great deal to global warming. There are a number of ways we can reduce our use of cars, particularly public transport, walking, or cycling.

So many car journeys are under 2 miles which are easy to walk or cycle. There are many forms of cycle to suit most needs (utility/ leisure/ commute/ race) and many people also use them as a mobility aid.

Travelling actively (walking or cycling) is healthy – the risk to health of poor air quality or risk of a collision are far outweighed by the benefits to your heart and lungs and your mental well-being as you observe the wildlife even in our urban environment, or as you smile at strangers you pass. You're more likely to shop in your local shops as you don't need to worry about parking a car on a yellow line. Consider when you are in your vehicle, the air quality inside is far worse than outside, as your car's heater sucks in air from the vehicle's exhaust in front and it builds up within. The more that we travel outside of our metal 'car-coons', the more we are helping to make our neighbourhoods more secure, noticing things we don't observe at 30mph.

Note on Cycling:

Havering does not have the best facilities for cyclists (and this is unlikely to change in the near future) although it is well covered with cycle parking at almost all local public amenities and shopping centres. A look at an online map may help you realise there are many routes around that use quieter streets; many streets are already closed to motor traffic (low traffic neighbourhoods that have been in place for decades!) but facilitate cycling. Some parks do allow cycling and many streets are connected by alleyways that prohibit cycling but one can simply get off and walk through (until the council finally relent and remove the barriers). One should not ride on the footway but in the absence of safer facilities

and if you are accompanying children, do so with the upmost respect for pedestrians.



Havering Cyclists, a local branch of the London Cycling Campaign, has excellent advice about enjoying cycling at whatever age or ability at: <https://haveringcyclists.org>. Information includes: Bike Buyers' Guide; Cycle Buddies; Parking; Local Suppliers; Training; Maps and more. Nicola Childs is a member and will happily give advice on how to get 'on your bike'.

As drivers, in the hierarchy of responsibility given in the Highway Code, we are below pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders in the order of priority. Please drive remembering they are only protected by their flesh and bone – drive accordingly!

Peter Feinson

Smile Lines

Ecumenics of a crisis

During a recent gathering of local faith leaders, the church caught fire.

- The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.
- The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?"
- The Anglicans formed a procession and marched out.
- The Quakers silently praised God for the blessings that fire brings.
- The Lutherans posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.
- The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.
- The Congregationalists shouted, "Every man for himself!"
- The Fundamentalists proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"
- The Charismatics praised God for another falling of the Holy Spirit.
- The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee, to look into the matter and submit a written report.
- The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.

The perfect diet

What is the best and most infallible way to reduce your waistline? Just move your head slowly from right to left when asked to have a second helping.

Way ahead

People aren't really so smart. The turtle had a streamlined body for travel, a hard top, retractable landing gear and a mobile home for thousands of years before we did.

Oil

If they squeeze olives to get olive oil, how do they get baby oil?

Rainbows

Q: Where do rainbows go when they're bad?

A: Prism, but it's a light sentence.

Old age

Old age is like flying through a storm. Once you're aboard, there's nothing you can do.

Doctor's appointment

I told my doctor's receptionist I need an appointment. "How about 10 tomorrow?" she asked.

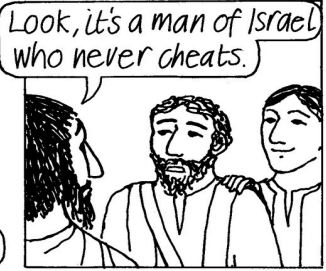
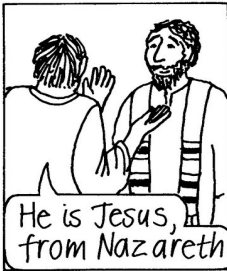
"I don't need that many," I replied.

Bible Bite

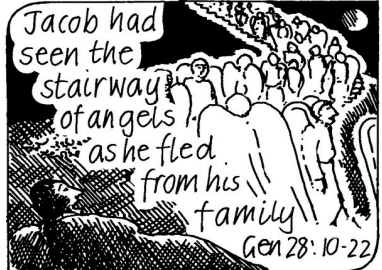
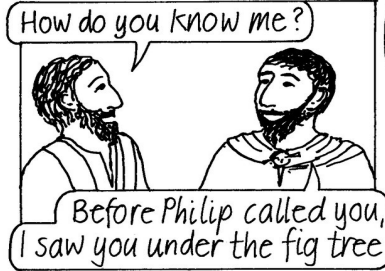
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
John chapter 1 verses 35 - 51

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples, he went to find their friend Philip ...



Background: the ancestor of the Israelites was Jacob, whose name meant 'Grasper' or 'Cheat', and who cheated his father and brother. God gave him a new start and a new name - Israel - 'Prince of God'. Gen 25, 27, 32



Prayer Diary 8th August – 7th September 2023

ate	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Tues 8 th	EWEDEMI, Olalekan & Adeyinka, <i>Tijesunimi & Jesuto-funmi</i>	Pray for the music group
Wed 9 th	EWELOYA, Ben & Ona, <i>Timi & Ninu</i>	Pray for Parent & Toddlers as they take a break over summer
Thurs 10 th	FASANYA, Rachel	U3A use the Hall today
Fri 11 th	FAWUNMI, Jide & Yemi, <i>Favour & Fisayo</i>	Pray for the Youth Club as they take a break over the summer
Sat 12 th	FAWUNMI, Ayomide	Pray for the church town leaders, that they may find rest in God this summer
Sun 13 th	FAWUNMI, Ayoolamide	Pray for the all-age services this August
Mon 14 th	FEINSON, Peter & Gill	Pray for the Foodbank and all who use it
Tues 15 th	FLACK, Ken	Pray for those who attend Treasure Times, even though they're not meeting today
Wed 16 th	GATHERUM, Barbara	Pray for the CMA team as they continue to help those with debt
Thurs 17 th	GEARING, Bert & Rita	Pray for the university students in our church
Fri 18 th	GRIFFITHS, Margaret	Pray for the residents at Parkside
Sat 19 th	HANYANA, Ngqabutho & Lolete, Khaya & <i>Rebecca</i>	Pray for the church staff team
Sun 20 th	HARDING, John & Sue	Pray for the homeless in our town
Mon 21 st	HARRISON, John	Pray for all the Monday bookings as they take a break over summer
Tues 22 nd	HARVEY, Liz	Pray for those who attend Amaze Tuesday group, even though they're not meeting today
Wed 23 rd	HENNIKER, Joyce	Pray for those who work with the homeless
Thurs 24 th	HENSON, Ruth	NEFLT use the building today
Fri 25 th	HENWOOD, Stephen & Dorothy	Pray for the staff team at Parkside

Prayer Diary 8th August – 7th September 2023

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Sat 26 th	HIGGINS, Pauline & Kevin, Lauren & Rachel	Pray for teachers and others who work in schools
Sun 27 th	HILLS, Yvonne	Pray for the children in our church
Mon 28 th	HODINITU, Nicolae & Natalia	Bank holiday today, pray for the emergency services today
Tues 29 th	HOGBEN, Cynthia	RBC Kids Holiday Club starts to- day
Wed 30 th	HOLMAN, Jill	Parksiders today
Thurs 31 st	HOOPER, Iris	NEFLT use the building today
Fri 1 st Sept	HUGHES, Brenda & Raymond	Amaze kids event today
Sat 2 nd	HUNT, Maisie	Pray for the youth in our church
Sun 3 rd	HUXTABLE, Janet	Pray for the older generation in our church
Mon 4 th	ILESANMI, Tolulope & Doyin, <i>Oluwatoofe & Oluwapemi</i>	Amaze support group meet, and Next Step Fostering and another booking use the building today
Tues 5 th	ILO, Funmilola & Mayokun, <i>Omolola Catherine, Omolade Isaac & Omolayo Bella</i>	Pray for Needlecraft
Wed 6 th	IZE, Christiane; <i>Saleem Mbiti (Kayibi)</i>	Pray for the safeguarding training coming up soon
Thurs 7 th	Sofia Baptist Church	Pray for the church meeting coming up soon



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

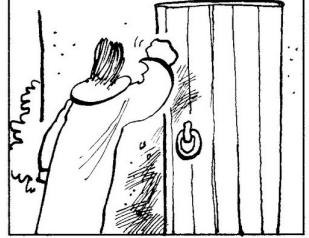


Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK. NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



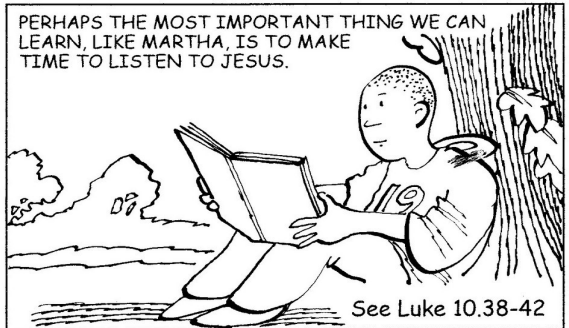
MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!

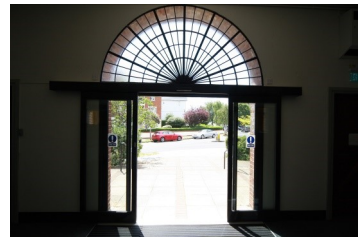


PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42

24 June 2023 Church Day Away



Tribute for Beryl Dunnings

Firstly thanks to those who contributed to the following:

Beryl was born in Romford on 25 April 1934 to Ada and Will Dunnings and theirs was a happy home with sister Margaret to keep her company. Their father worked for British



Rail and they lived in their house in Lawns Way, Collier Row and it was there that they were kept safe during the war thanks to the air-raid shelter at the bottom of the garden. At some point, fifty or so years ago, she and her parents moved to the bungalow in Hamlet Road where she remained until she moved into Parkside care home, but more of that later.

After leaving school, Beryl trained as a seamstress in what is now the London School of Fashion, learning about the practical side of clothes making. After other short-term jobs, she eventually came to work for Bourne and Hollingsworth in Oxford Street where she remained for 17 years. She was initially employed in their alterations department but her talent was recognised and she became a machinist.

It was in this capacity that Mary Everett came to know her when Beryl moved to work for her at the Simon Ellis Company and Mary describes her as one of the best machinists she ever had the privilege to work with, and they continued to stay friends as well as col-

leagues. Vikki can remember Beryl telling her that she was dedicated to her job and one particular day following heavy snow in the winter of 1978, she travelled by bus to work, leaving home at 5.30 in the morning and not returning home until 9.30 that night.

Beryl was an excellent seamstress, as many of us know, making patterns for clothes which were then turned into samples and put into shops. If they were well-received they would then be mass produced. Her skill for creating items was not just for work but for others too, making wedding and bridesmaids dresses for many, including her sister Margaret and others at church. She described herself, when she moved into Parkside, as a Court dressmaker and Vikki was told several times of how she had a hand in Princess Diana's wedding dress, and Vikki also understood she was involved in making bespoke clothes for many of the famous dress designers of her time including Hardy Amies.

Despite working full time, she also cared for her ageing parents until first her father and then her mother passed away, the latter events causing her great distress.

Beryl used to love tending her garden which was her pride and joy, and she was a member of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Society and she and a friend Clarissa were regulars at local meetings. Clarissa describes how Beryl would save a seat for her at each meeting right in the front row and they would watch the demonstrators whilst whispering to

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

each other and crunching polos! Whenever there was an outing they fancied, they would go together and they visited some wonderful floral events and gardens. She arranged the flowers at the church for many years and Mary also said that she helped create the wildflower arrangements at her daughter's wedding.

Beryl's extensive knowledge of plants meant she always had a neat, colourful and tidy garden. Whenever, in her latter years, friends offered to help her, she knew exactly which plants she wanted and how they should be arranged. It is perhaps significant that in her last summer she kept a multiheaded foxglove inside by the French windows, where she could care for it and in August went blackberrying with a friend - at the end of her own garden. However, not much of the fruit made it back to the kitchen owing to some "over sampling" by the pair of them!

Beryl loved being part of Romford Baptist Church, whether it was attending on a Sunday, being part of a small group, meeting with friends or being involved in the many different activities and events that took place week by week for many years. On one occasion when the church was celebrating a significant milestone, there was a fashion show of clothes from the past and Beryl not only made clothes from the seventies but modelled them too! During the pandemic when it wasn't possible to attend church, her friend Clarissa would log on for the online service and place her phone next to the speakers, as Beryl had no Internet, and Clarissa could often hear her singing along to the hymns.

Although quiet and rather reticent at

times, Beryl had a strong personality, and her particular knowledge and sense of humour will be missed by all those who came to know her. Her many friends and family shared how she joined them at various times over the years. Whether that was with her cousin Jean and her husband and their children Sally and Gary when they were small for many years for Christmas lunch when they used to live in Mawney Road, Romford, or being collected by Jean and taken out for a meal or to stay overnight at her home before returning the following day. For others like Jan and Jemima, it was playing afternoon games on Christmas Day at Rosemary and Brian Loveard's home in more recent years. Some Good Fridays were also spent with Brian and Rosemary, travelling to Stapleford Abbots Church for the service, before driving around looking for primroses, before returning to her bungalow for hot cross buns and tea. Mary, too, described how Beryl would join her and the family for Christmas lunch at either their home or her brother's in later years, and many of you talk about trips out and Beryl was fond of going out to eat, treating the outing as a real event even if it was only to the cafe in Collier Row! She loved jacket potatoes with prawn mayonnaise, as well as rich tea biscuits and coffee and walnut cake.

Clarissa described Beryl as a real lady, taking great care of her appearance making sure everything coordinated. Her deportment was exemplary, no slouching for Beryl. She drank her tea from a cup and saucer... no mug for Beryl, always had a plate for her biscuit and a fork for her cake. She loved fish and chips and Clarissa would often go and fetch this while Beryl set

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

the table with proper fish knives and forks and warmed the plates. She enjoyed making the small things into an event and, because her faith was very important, they always said Grace before they ate.

On her 80th birthday, Harry and Jean drove over and took Beryl to Lavenham for a meal and overnight stay at the famous Swan Hotel. To extend the celebrations, the three of them booked a ride on the Kent extension of the Orient Express, enjoying a sumptuous meal and beautiful views en route, although she was a little disappointed that it wasn't pulled by a steam train. However, the accompanying tourist souvenir brochure was read time and again by Beryl as a reminder of a wonderful day and often shown to visitors with her comments on the carriages and decor. Beryl and Mary also went out for her 80th birthday for a Mad Hatter's afternoon tea celebration at the Sanderson Hotel, having marked Beryl's 70th birthday with a stay with Mary's daughter to celebrate that.

Until recently she would take a coach trip each December to the Christmas Fair at Rochester, usually returning with at least one bottle of non-alcoholic orange and ginger punch. This was warmed and consumed when a church home group friend dropped in one evening after work and the two would share conversation and amusing stories for hours until someone noticed that it was almost eleven o'clock. I gather Beryl exclaimed that she normally went to bed at 10pm (not tonight !) and just laugh at the thought of a late night.



Beryl owned a small car which she drove part-way to work each day, but she was also a great fount of knowledge on the local bus routes and timetables, and friends would often ring her up for advice on these. However she had found learning to drive hard but, once she'd mastered it, it gave her a sense of freedom. Beryl, with her friend Lucy Howson, would regularly drive off on outings, often to one particular garden centre called Summerhill on the A127 going towards Rayleigh. Beryl missed Lucy greatly when she passed away.

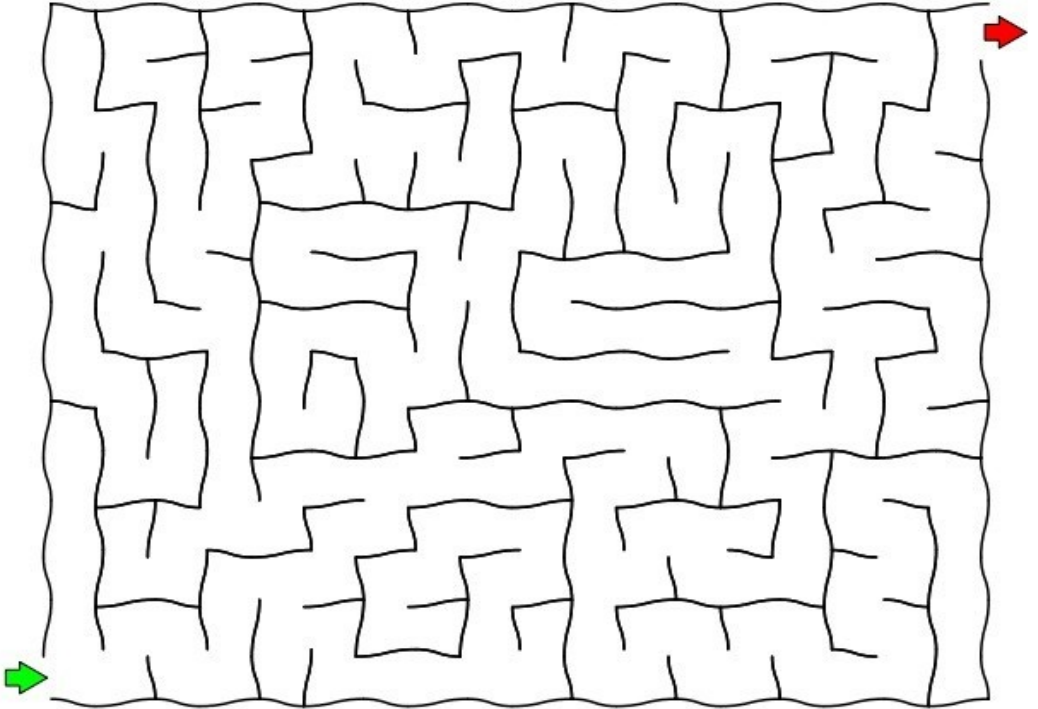
Sadly, we all know that her beloved bungalow caught fire a few years ago, resulting in her needing to move into Parkside Residential Home, which is part of the church. She lived there until it was made fit for purpose again, supported by many people. It was possibly a mixture of the fire and the pandemic that caused Beryl to start to struggle, and the closing of her hairdressers, where she had gone every Friday for 30 years, was another example of how life for her had changed and this wasn't helped when she fell and broke her hip. Huge thanks need to be expressed to all those who supported her in the intervening months, like Liz who did her shopping, her neighbours who kept an eye on her and the many friends who popped in and gave her practical assistance. However, her declining health meant that she returned to Parkside for her last few months, where she met up with some of those she knew from her previous stay.

Rest in peace Beryl

Revd Vikki Bunce

18 June 2023

Dedication of Theodore Robert John Stannard



Celebrating 30 years of Ordained ministry



Ian was only 20 when he began his ministerial training at Mathersey Hall Bible College



After training there needed to be a willingness to go where God was leading...

⁷ But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

Jer 1:7-8



Ministry began in 1990 in a pub as Mexborough Baptist Church did not have it's own building



As well as keeping busy planting a church once it got it's temporary portacabin building...

MEXBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH



SCALLYWAGS PLAYGROUP



....he was also church planting in a school in Maltby...



...and working 1 day a week with the Yorkshire Baptist Church heading up it's youth work



It was on 5 June 1993 Ian was ordained as a Baptist minister



And just a few months later Mexborough Baptist Church opened it's permanent building



Ian began as the minister at Tamworth Baptist Church on 3 February 1996....



...and worked with 30+ church leaders to sign a townwide covenant to celebrate the millennium which is still in action today



Celebrating our unity
recognising our diversity

...And hello Eastern Baptist Association as he became the Regional Minister for Mission....



....and he headed up the planting of another congregation plant in neighbouring Dosthill....



In 2001 it was time to say farewell to Tamworth...



...working across the Association and with many organisations aimed at sharing the Christian faith



TIME TO GO
enabling relevant action



Green Shorts

...which later saw God lead him to head up the team as BUGB Head of Mission in 2006...



...working nationally...



GOVERNMENT
MIGHT
SHOULD
BE
PEACE
HUMILITY
SERVICAL



....internationally and representing BUGB in the UK and across the world



But God still had plans for him and in 2015....



....he became the Minister Team Leader at
Romford Baptist Church

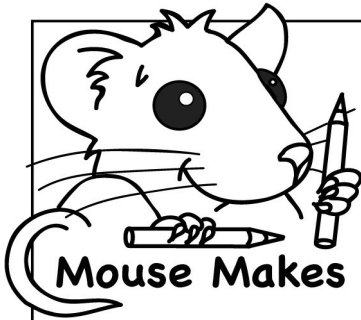


Give glory to God for the years gone past and
for the years still to come

**"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





Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself. Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27,*
Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21

What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 14:23

What was the boat struggling against?

The ----- and
the -----

Matthew 14:24



What did Jesus say to his disciples?

Do not be

Matthew 14:27

What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?

A -----

Matthew 14:26

Who walked out on the water to Jesus?

Matthew 14:29

What did Jesus say to Peter?

Oh you of little -----
why do you -----

Matthew 14:31

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

JESUS • DISCIPLES • BOAT • OTHER SIDE • CROWDS • MOUNTAIN • EVENING • ALONE • LAND • NIGHT • SEA
WALKING • TERRIFIED • FEAR • COME • WATER • SINK • SAVE • INTO • CEASED • WORSHIPED • SON OF GOD

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

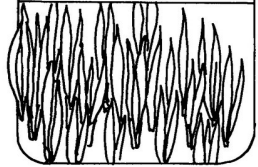
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew chapter 13: 24-30, 36-43

Jesus told this story to help explain
what his Kingdom, the Kingdom of
Heaven, is like...

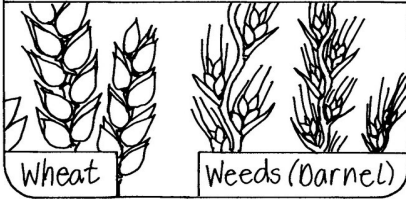
A farmer's workers sowed
good wheat seed in his field.



When the seeds
sprouted they
looked the same



When the plants grew bigger
the workers spotted the weeds



They asked the farmer



An enemy did this



No, you might pull up
some wheat with them.
Wait until harvest time



You will be able to sort them
out, and put the wheat in the
barn ... and burn the weeds



People asked



The field is the world
and the good seeds are
the good people



The weed seeds
are the evil people. At the end
of time they will be separated.

The angels will bring
the good people to me
in heaven.





Current Church Activities

Monday

9:30am

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1st Monday in the month)

9:45am

Morning Wellbeing Walk (usually 3rd Thursday in the month)

12:00-2:00pm

Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

1:00-3:00pm

Friendly Faces

Tuesday

10:00am

Needlecraft Group

10.30am

Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs

2:00-3.30pm

Treasure Times

8:00pm

Prayer meeting on Zoom

8:00pm

RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

9:45-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers

12:45pm

Prayer

7:45pm

Wednesdays @ RBC

Thursday

10:00am

Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)

10:00-11:00am

'Come and join us for a chat', 1st and 3rd Thursdays

11:00am-3:00pm

Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly

7:30-9:00pm

Youth Club (alternate weeks)

Friday

10:00am

Craft Group in the Meeting Place

Sunday

10:30am

Morning Worship in the building and online

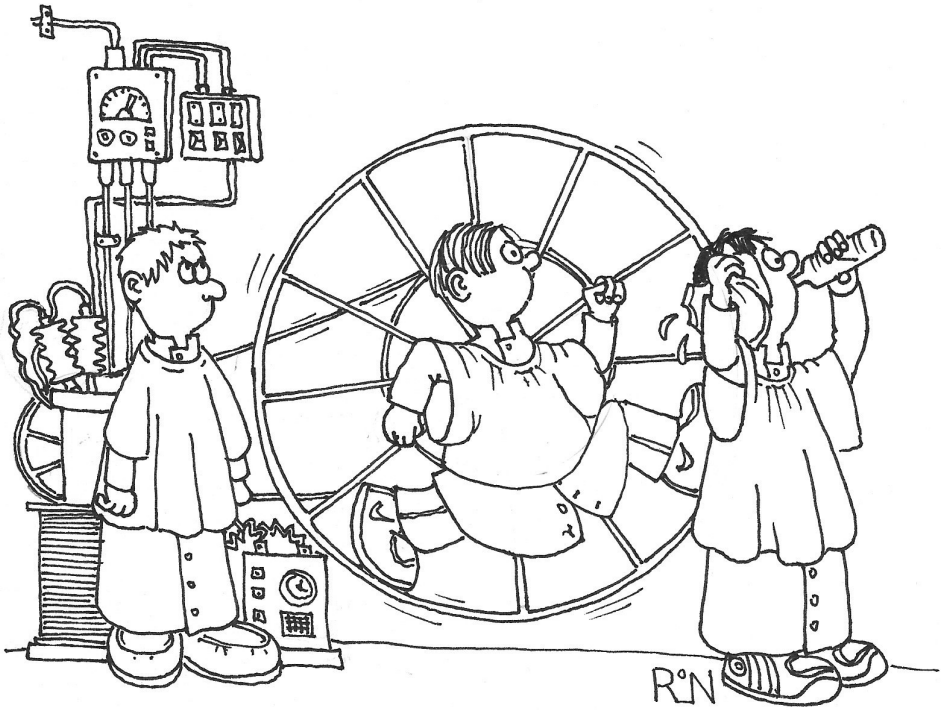
12:15-2:00pm

Student Social (alternate weeks as announced)

6:00pm

Evening Worship in the building and online

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



When the solar panels weren't working,
there was Plan "B"

