




*Sara preferred to let people work out the hymns for themselves*



# Romford Baptist Church

# Grapevine



**Family Magazine**  
 December 2023  
 and  
 January 2024  
 No. 223



## From the Editor

Already we are starting to see Christmas lights and decorations going up. Christmas is a time of wonder and celebration. While we enjoy all those lights, may we be reminded that Jesus is the Light of the World.

<sup>4</sup> *In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

<sup>5</sup> *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*  
1 John 1:4-5 NIV

During this time of Advent, leading up to Christmas, let's remember the reason we celebrate – Jesus was born to bring us salvation.

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.* Matthew 1:21 NIV

So, when reading through this edition of Grapevine, may we be inspired as we celebrate the faith of our RBC community. We rejoice as we read of personal faith lived out in daily life, of activities bringing fun and fellowship to so many, and endeavours to share the love of

Jesus with others in our wider community.

Christmas Blessings to all!

*Cheryl Schulte*

## Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte	Editor
Barbara Gatherum	Missionary Page
Bernd Schulte	Layout and Production
Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
Ruth Lu	Printing
Gill Ayris	Collation
Alex Savine	Photos

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Rev. Ian Bunce

## Team Minister (With focus on community and social action)

Rev. Jan Loveard

## Team Minister (With focus on the older generation)

Rev. Vikki Bunce

## Minister in Training

Mr Andy Stannard

## Team Pastor

Mr Jide Fawunmi

## Church Secretary

Miss Hayley Ayris

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## Current Church Activities



### Monday

9:30am

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in the month)  
Morning Wellbeing Walk (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month)  
Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)  
Friendly Faces

9:45am

12:00-2:00pm

1:00-3:00pm

### Tuesday

10:00am

10.30am

Needlecraft Group  
Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs  
Treasure Times  
Prayer meeting on Zoom  
RBC Worship Team meet

2:00-3.30pm

8:00pm

8:00pm

### Wednesday

9:45-11:15am

12:45pm

7:45pm

Parent and Toddlers  
Prayer  
Wednesdays @ RBC

### Thursday

10:00am

Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)  
'Come and join us for a chat', 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly  
Youth Club (alternate weeks)

10:00-11:00am

11:00am-3:00pm

7:30-9:00pm

### Friday

10:00am

Craft Group in the Meeting Place

### Sunday

10:30am

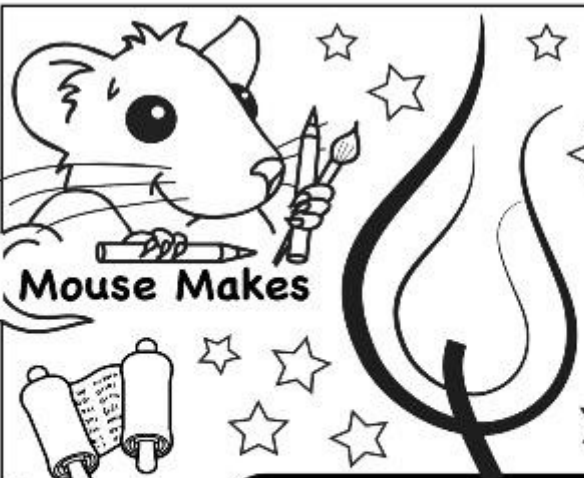
12:15-2:00pm

6:00pm

Morning Worship in the building and online  
Student Social (alternate weeks as announced)  
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.

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



**Mouse Makes**



**GOD'S PROMISE**

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



**AN ANGEL MESSENGER**

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD

**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.

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



**A LONG JOURNEY**

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



**THE BEST GIFT OF ALL**

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

**Secretary's page**

*"Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'"*

Matthew 25:40 (The Message)

People who know me well know that I try and spend my spare time at the theatre. Recently I watched a new show called "The Little Big Things" which is a musical based on the true story of Henry Fraser, who in 2009 at



the age of 17 was in an accident that left him paralyzed from the shoulders down. He is now a successful mouth artist, and part of the aim of the musical is to look at the "little big things" in every day life.

How does that link to the above verse? It got me thinking, we have the opportunity to create and receive "little big things" in our everyday lives.

It can be saying hello and asking someone how their week has gone - you could be the first person to ask them that week, saying thank you to the bus driver as you get off the bus,

sending a text/email/card to someone letting them know you're thinking of them.

Can you remember a time when your phone buzzed and it was a message from someone saying "just to let you know I am praying for you" or your phone rings and it's a friend calling for a chat, or it can even be someone holding the door open for you in the shop - all "little" things that can make a "big" difference to your everyday life.

As we lead up to Christmas we tend to try and do the above, send Christmas greetings, arrange to meet up with friends - but then come the New Year we get back into our everyday lives again. Wouldn't it be great if we could try and implement into our everyday lives "The Little Big Things".

*Hayley Ayris  
Church Secretary*

**BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME**

**Birthdays December 2023**

1<sup>st</sup> Christine Wright

**Birthdays January 2024**

5<sup>th</sup> Anne Barnes  
16<sup>th</sup> Grace Bello  
25<sup>th</sup> Janet Loveard



Colour in one star each day until Christmas

Dec23 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## Eulogy for Doris Norman - 21/09/2023



Doris was born in April 1939, just a few months before the outbreak of WW2. The family lived in the East End of London at the time and it wasn't long before

the family were evacuated away for their safety. The first part of the war Doris was evacuated with her Mum, older sister Iris and brothers Arthur and Alf. Although unsettling, the family were together, apart from their father, who remained in London as he had a reserved occupation. However later in the war Doris Iris and Alf were evacuated to another place without their mother or older brother. Some of this time was ok but one particular home where they were housed was not a happy one and this experience was to forge a strong bond between them which lasted the rest of their lives together.

Doris was always a very central part of our family. She spent all of her Christmases with us and I have many happy memories of time spent with her. One memory that comes to mind is when we would play a game called beat the black ball. Doris would get so excited and scream when her ball was almost caught by the black ball.

Doris was a very positive and happy person; I rarely saw her down apart from when her very close friend Liam died 9 years ago. She always had a smile and was quite laid back and didn't let anything faze her.

Doris was a passionate animal lover and supported many animal charities, especially those supporting animal welfare and rescue centres. She herself adopted many cats from rescue centres and in recent years these were older cats that no-one else wanted. The last of which, Mitzie, is now finishing her final years living with my Mum. Doris trained in shorthand and copy typing and we recently found her school certificate which showed she got 98% in her exams. No surprise then that Doris worked her whole life until retirement as a copy typist in central London.

In her twenties and thirties Doris was a keen Tennis player and this probably explained her love of the Wimbledon tournament. Each June everything went on hold as she avidly watched the matches.

Doris also loved cooking and we had many a chat about new recipes I had tried and she would copy the recipe to

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapters 41:46 - 45:28

Joseph: sold by his brothers, taken to Egypt, now in charge of the stored food as famine spreads through Egypt, and beyond...

Joseph's father sent 10 of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food.

To prove you are not spies, you must bring your other brother to me...

Joseph saw they did not recognise him. He wanted to see his little brother Benjamin.

They needed more food so they had to take Benjamin to Egypt.

Joseph gave them food... but to test them he had his cup put in Benjamin's sack.

Then as they went home...

Stop!

You have stolen my master's special cup.

The servant took them back to Joseph.

You are a thief and must stay as a slave.

But Judah said

It would break our father's heart. Let me take his place.

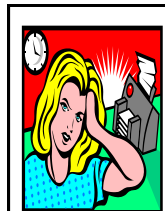
It was in Benjamin's sack.

Joseph saw that his brothers had changed.

I can look after you. Come and live with me.

So all of Joseph's family moved to Egypt.

I am your brother Joseph. You sold me but God sent me to Egypt.



**The deadline for the February /March 2024 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 14 January 2024**

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

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



(Continued from page 6)

## Stronger

Statistics prove we're all getting stronger. Fifty years ago, you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty-five years ago, it took two people to carry £30 worth of Christmas groceries - now a five-year-old can do it.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Santa

What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Snowman

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wise

A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"  
"What part?" asked his mother.

"I'm one of the three wise guys!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Christmas stars

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Runs over

A father gave his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. An hour later, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl went to visit Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and the question of what she would like for Christmas.

The little girl gasped and stared up at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

(Continued from page 4)

try herself. She loved food from different cultures and would jump at the chance of trying something new. A couple of months ago Doris and I went on a day trip by coach to Wroxham in the Norfolk broads. I suggested either fish and chips or Thai food for lunch. You can probably guess which she chose and she thoroughly enjoyed her meal in the Thai restaurant.

Doris was also a passionate Pescatarian choosing vegetarian or Fish over meat as she disagreed with modern farming methods. Doris loved a curry and if we went out for a meal and there was a veggie curry on the menu then she would choose it.

Doris also gave blood regularly up until retirement and clocked up 40 years of donating!

Not many people knew that in her younger years Doris also played the accordion and I understand she did a lot of crochet when I was young and I received several beautiful dresses she had crocheted for me.

In recent years, particularly since my husband Neil retired, we have enjoyed many great holidays together with Doris and Mum, a couple of times a year. This year in May we went to Suffolk and visited some of their favourite places like Southwold, Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Dedham and Flatford Mill. We had fabulous weather and this will be one of the good memories we can hold of Doris. We also spent valuable time with family members, Joanne and David who live near Colchester, and also on a day trip, spent time with Mike and Sue in Broadstairs. Doris loved the sea and would always jump at the chance of spending time at any seaside resort. She loved visiting my

friends' beach hut at Walton, where we celebrated several birthdays.

I have talked a lot about the things Doris loved and what was important to her but far and above all of the previous things I mentioned was Doris' faith in Christ.

She first heard about Jesus at a London City Mission children's week in Stratford. There she made a commitment to God and when the mission closed down she moved to a church in Canning Town which she attended with friends. A change of home prompted a move to Highway church in East Ham, where she was later baptised. Another change of home brought her to this church and she became a member in 2003. When searching for papers required by the solicitor, we came across a piece of paper with the following verse written out on it by Doris.

Psalms 61v1

*"When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I."*

Underneath she had written the following; When we know Jesus as our saviour, repented of our sins and asked him into our lives, then this life is not the end but just the beginning of a new life with HIM. None of us know what this life holds for us, but what we can know is that Jesus makes all the difference.

Today we say a final farewell to our Doris but if we know Christ, we know that we will meet her again in heaven one day. I thank God for her life and for all that she has meant to all the family over the years.

By Janet Walden  
Photo: by Neil Walden



## Graceworks

**GRACE WORKS** Graceworks has been providing and co-ordinating quality Christian schools work in Havering for over 30 years.

Since the end of the pandemic they have had growing opportunities to serve schools in Havering. Some of their activities include: Christian unions, after school clubs, mentoring, mission through sport activities, prayer spaces in schools and assemblies.

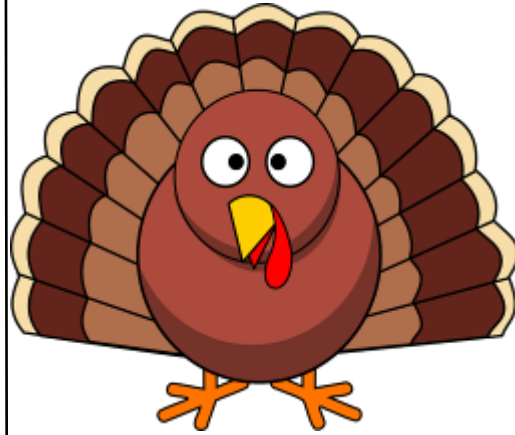
Graceworks' November prayer letter says,  
"We want to say a big thank you for all of you that have been praying for us over the last six months. God has been moving in some amazing ways and we are excited to see what He does next. We would love to explain deeper what God has been doing within the last six months and we would love for all of you to keep up to date more regularly with what Graceworks is doing around Havering. Please follow our Facebook '**Graceworks Trust**' for more regular updates.

We are having a Prayer Breakfast 9am on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January at Gidea Park Methodist Church, 398 Brentwood Rd, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. We would love if you could come and hear all that God has been doing within Havering. Please RSVP to [bradley@graceworkstrust.org](mailto:bradley@graceworkstrust.org)"

If you would like further information or inspiration about Graceworks, please speak to Barbara Gatherum who would be happy to talk to you.

*Barbara Gatherum*

## Smile Lines



### Turkey

He ate so much over the holidays that he decided to quit cold turkey.

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?  
The outside.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Sums up Christmas

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: 'Peace on Earth'; 'Goodwill to Men'; and 'Batteries not included'.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Red

What's red and white, red and white,  
and red and white?  
Father Christmas rolling down a hill.

\*\*\*\*\*

*(Continued on page 12)*

## New Members Welcomed 1 October 2023



On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, Rev Vikki Bunce welcomed Bree Hacker, Michelle Benjamin, Karen van Coevorden, and Marilyn van Coevorden into membership. We are thankful to God for you joining us.

## New Member Welcomed 12 November 2023



On the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Rev Jan Lovard and JJ Giwa-Majekodunmi welcomed Christa de Vries into membership. We are thankful to God for you joining us.



On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, we were led in song by the Adult Amaze group who signed "I'm special because God has loved me" during the service.

This group welcomes all adults who have additional needs. We meet each Tuesday at 10.30am in the Oak Room and enjoy an interactive time of worship, study, snacks, peer support and a LOT of fun.

For more details please contact Jan on [office@romfordbaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@romfordbaptist.org.uk).

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25

In Israel, about 2000 years ago, a young woman, Mary, was going to marry Joseph. The weddings were in two stages.

In one year we will complete our wedding

Then God's messenger angel came to see Mary.

You will have God's baby, and call him Jesus, 'God saves', because he will save people from what they do wrong.

Don't be afraid!

How can this happen?

Your cousin Elizabeth, who couldn't have children, is now 6 months pregnant.

Mary visited Elizabeth.

With God, nothing is impossible.

When Joseph heard that Mary was pregnant, he was very upset

This will bring shame on me and my family.

He always did what was right so he decided to end their marriage, but quietly.

CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE

But the angel came to him in a dream.

Don't be afraid to marry Mary. The baby is God's, and you will call him Jesus.

So Joseph and Mary completed their marriage.

## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	SMITH, David & Helen	Ashgate House use the building today
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	SMITH, Maureen; & Valerie & Daniel	Pray for the CMA team
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	SOSINA, Jessica	Pray for our university students
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	SOSINA, Samuel	Leadership team meet tonight
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	SPENCER, Pamela	Pray for the Amaze adults Christmas party today
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	SPRINGER, John & Angela	U3A use the building today and Parksiders is today
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	STANNARD, Andy, Rianna & Caleb	Pray for the Rise Park Carol services this week and blood donors using the building today
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	STANNARD, John & Christine	Havering Care Association use the building today
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	STANNARD, Matt & Heather, Theodore	RBC social afternoon today
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	STANNARD, Rachel	All-age Carol Service this morning and Carols by Candlelight this evening
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	STEPHENSON, Nadine, Gabrielle (Bourne)	Pray for those attending Remembering at Christmas today or watching it online
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	STEWART, John	Pray for our youth and children as the Christmas holidays start
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	SWINDALE, Ben & Becki, Hannah	Pray for all the bookings using the building in the lead up to Christmas
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	THOMAS-REID, Carmen	Pray for Carols in the Café today
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	THOMPSON, David & Colleen	Pray for the older generation or those who may be lonely at Christmas
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	TIDBURY, Pat	Pray for those in the emergency services working during this season
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	TIMOTHY, Kathy	Christmas Eve morning service and Carols and Readings at 6pm

## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	TIMOTHY, Neil & Charlotte	Pray for the Christmas Day Family Service
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	TOWNSON, Patricia	Pray for those who use the Foodbank as the opening times change during this season
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup>	TRAYANOVA, Vaska & Nicholas & Jason	Pray for the Meeting Place staff and volunteers as they have a break this week while the Meeting Place is closed.
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	TUNDE, BJ	Pray for the Parkside residents and staff
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	TUNDE, JJ	Pray for the regular bookings as they take a break
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	TUNDE, KJ	Pray for those who help the homeless in our area
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	TUNDE, Samuel & Lara	Morning Service at 10.30am and Cross-over Service at 10pm
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 24	TURNER, Colin & Irene	Bank Holiday today
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	TYLER, Joyce	Pray for all the church group as they start up again in the next week or so
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	URSACHE, Victoria, Flavius & Anastasia CATARAGA, Silvia	Pray for Starshine who use the building today
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	VAN COEVORDEN, Karen	Pray for teachers and school workers as school starts again
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	VAN COEVORDEN, Marilyn	Pray for the government
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	VEARES, Fay & Brian	Pray for the church staff team
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Peter and Louise Lynch, Bangladesh	Pray for the Amaze ministries

