



# Romford Baptist Church

# Grapevine

## *Beyond imagination*

Now to him who is able to do  
immeasurably more than all we ask or  
imagine, according to his power that is  
at work within us, to him be glory.

EPH 3-20-21



**Family Magazine**

February 2024

and

March 2024

**No. 224**



# From the Editor

One of my colleagues likes to encourage us to “*Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow.*”, especially when we are nearing the end of the day and trying to do one more thing before leaving the office.

This is a deliberate misquote of Benjamin Franklin’s “*Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today.*” Or possibly a paraphrase of Mark Twain’s version, “*Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.*” I can relate to this adage, even though I recognise the wisdom of not putting off those tasks - it’s so easy to procrastinate!

As the first month of 2024 draws to a close, we may be finding that some of our New Year’s Resolutions have been abandoned, or at least put off until tomorrow.

The Bible reminds us: *Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity* (Ephesians 5:15,16b NIV).

So let’s remember to make the most of every opportunity we encounter, especially in our walks with Jesus. May we seek to be channels of God’s peace, to share His love and to serve Him throughout the year, starting today, not tomorrow.

*Cheryl Schulte*

## Editorial Team

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

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

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Rev. Vikki Bunce

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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*

In over 14,100 days of knowing each other, nearly 13,000 days of married life and some 30+ years of working in ministry together, there is something that Vikki and I cannot do at the same time, that is be in the kitchen and cook together. It just does not work.

I am blessed being married to an amazing cook, and a couple of times a week I also cook the main meal. This is something I enjoy, and yes, it is edible. However, we learnt early in our relationship that in all things culinary, we are incompatible. Whether I am cooking a full roast (yes, I can) or something simpler, I can only do so if Vikki is out of the kitchen.

Why? Well, that is where we get to the core issue. We do it differently. For some people it is the loading of the dishwasher that causes the problem, for others it is what mug to use (or not) for us it is simply we are totally different in our cooking methods. Vikki is incredible, she will start cooking and continue to prepare the vegetables and other things as she goes along. Me, I must get everything out on the side, then prepare everything and only then, when it is all ready can I start to cook. The result is that Vikki cooks a meal far more efficiently and quickly than I do, but when I cook, she gets a longer rest (and is really hungry) before the food arrives. As I said, we learnt this early in our relationship and we are totally chilled with it. But this is one way in which we are very different. Different is not a bad thing, we deeply appreciate one another's style, and the outcome from both is good!

I can imagine now, the readers will be in either Vikki's camp or my camp... but

the point is that we are all different, we all have different ways of doing the same things, and different is not wrong, it is simply, well..... what is the word I am struggling for? Oh yes, "different".

In church we are blessed to have people who are so different from one another, and our difference is shown by the way we do things, we worship differently, pray differently, talk differently, and eat different food and wear different clothes. Some like to sit upstairs and others like the downstairs. Some like to sit at the back, others in the middle, and some even like the front row. In so many other ways our diversity is shown.

In Galatians 3:28 it says 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus'.

So, our challenge is not to question or criticise people who are different from us and behave differently. It is not to try and get people to be like us and do it our way. No, I sense that part of our life in 2024 is to celebrate our diversity, not tolerate, or question, but to truly celebrate and allow all to follow Jesus in their own style, while remaining covenanted together as brothers and sisters in Christ. In doing so we will discover a richness of blessing as we benefit from the fruits of one another's uniqueness.

Anyway, I must go, I am cooking tonight, and Vikki wants to eat in the next 2 hours!!

*Ian Bunce  
Team Leader*



## **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME**

### **Birthdays February 2024**

19<sup>th</sup> Becki Swindale  
26<sup>th</sup> Margaret Coles

### **Birthdays March 2024**

3<sup>rd</sup> Glynis Brown  
7<sup>th</sup> Don May  
18<sup>th</sup> Keith Carter

For those who are not aware of the Scheme, it is organised by the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) World Mission in order to support various projects:-

'From getting vital healthcare to remote communities in Nepal, to providing education for refugees from Syria' your gifts are helping to make a difference where it is needed most.

By committing to giving a gift on your birthday, of any amount, you will be 'choosing to bless others'. (Birthday Scheme New Bulletin 2024)

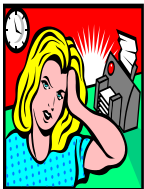
If anyone is interested in knowing more about the scheme, I will be happy to provide you with further details.

Thank you again on behalf of BMS, and best wishes to you all for 2024.

*Christine Brown*

## **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME**

Thank you very much to all those who have given a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme on your birthday during 2023, raising a total of £1271.00 including Gift Aid. Additional gifts have also been sent directly to BMS online and all your gifts are greatly appreciated.



**The deadline for the April/May 2024 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 10 March 2024**

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

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



# 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...

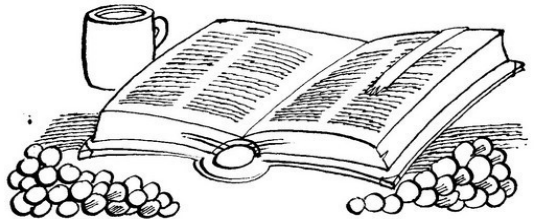


...OR NO FRUIT AT  
ALL...



...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.

## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>People to pray for</b>	<b>Event or other to pray for</b>
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	BARNES, Anne	Pray for the older generation in the church.
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	BARNES, Joanna, Katie & <i>Matthew</i>	Pray for the youth in our church.
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	BARRETT, Simon & Debbie	Pray for the CMA team and the debt clients.
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	BELLO, (F) Grace	Pray for the Meeting Place and all who come in for coffee, a meeting or help.
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	BENJAMIN, Michael & Michelle, <i>Luke &amp; Sophia</i>	Pray for all those who volunteer or work for the Foodbank and the clients who attend.
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	BIGGS, Frances	Pray for Needlecraft who meet to knit (or crochet) and natter, most Tuesdays in the year.
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	BITAGA, Dougan,	Parent and Toddlers meet today, Small Groups today.
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	BITAGA, Jiela	Pray for the Thursday Small Group that meet in the church building and the Wednesday Daytime Group that meet in a home.
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	BRETT, Brenda	Pray for the emergency services.
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	BROWN, Christine	Pray for the children in our church.
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	BROWN, Evelyn	Pray for the church staff team.
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	BUNCE, Ian & Vikki	The leadership meet tonight, pray as they listen to God's leading and make decisions.
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	BURLAND, Elaine (Mrs)	Pray for Amaze and Treasure Times as they meet again today.
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	BURRAGE, Reg	Starshine use the building as normal today.
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	BUTLER, Stephen	NELFT use the building today.
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup>	BVUMBE, Ella, <i>Ronke, Oladeji</i>	Pray for teachers and teaching staff as the next half term is about to begin.
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	CALLENDER, Elizabeth	Pray for the residents and team at Parkside.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>People to pray for</b>	<b>Event or other to pray for</b>
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	CARTER, Keith	Causeway service this afternoon for those with additional needs and their carers.
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	CHATRADI, Satya Srikanth & MALLELA, Chris Prajwali; <i>Shanmika (Chatradi)</i>	Monday is a busy day in the building, pray for all the regular Monday bookings.
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	CHILDS, Nicola & Dave; Lorna, <i>Amelia &amp; Felicity</i>	Havering Carers hub use the building today.
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	COLLINS, Sally	Parksiders meet today for fellowship.
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	COX, Nettie	M & S retirees 'Brewers' group use the hall today.
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	CROSSDALE, Winston & Sibongile Khumbula (Miss), <i>Alicia &amp; Eryka</i>	Pray for the youth and children's work in the church and Andy as he leads it.
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	CULL, Sheila	Pray for the government.
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	CUTHBERT, William & Lin	Pray for the hotspots around the world, whether they are currently in the news or not.
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	DADA, Johnson & Abigail	Amaze support group meet today in the Meeting Place.
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	DALY, Richard & Sylvia	Pray for the band as they meet to practice and for fellowship tonight.
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	DA SILVA, Luis, Rosantina; <i>Maica, Formoso, Lena, Angelica</i>	U3A use the building today.
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Gardens Baptist Church, Canvey Island	The Blood Donation Service use the building today.



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



# Baptisms 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**Mojtaba Soltanoghliaghdam**

Isaiah 40:31 "...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."



**Shahriyar Rahmatineek**

Psalms 31:1-2 "In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me."





## R'femi Olowe

John 15:4 "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

## Smile Lines

### Romance, love, marriage and all that stuff -

*the way children see it....*

#### ***How do you decide who to marry?***

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

#### ***What is the right age to get married?***

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

#### ***How can a stranger tell if two people are married?***

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

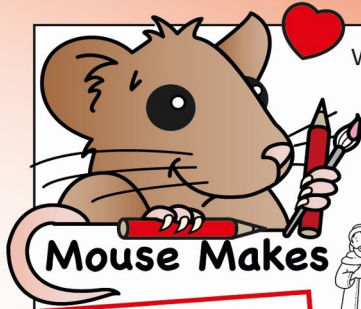
#### ***What do you think your mum and dad have in common?***

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

#### ***What do most people do on a date?***

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. - Martin, age 10



# Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 1:5



Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

## FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
 MFU OPU NBO  
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
 UFO WFSTF  
 OJOF

## DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

ABRAHAM  
 ADAM • AQUILA  
 BOAZ • ELKANAH  
 ELIZABETH  
 EVE • HANNAH  
 ISAAC • JACOB  
 JOSEPH • MARY  
 PRISCILLA  
 RACHEL  
 REBEKAH • RUTH  
 SARAH  
 ZECHARIAH



## 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)

12:00-2:00pm

Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

### **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', 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

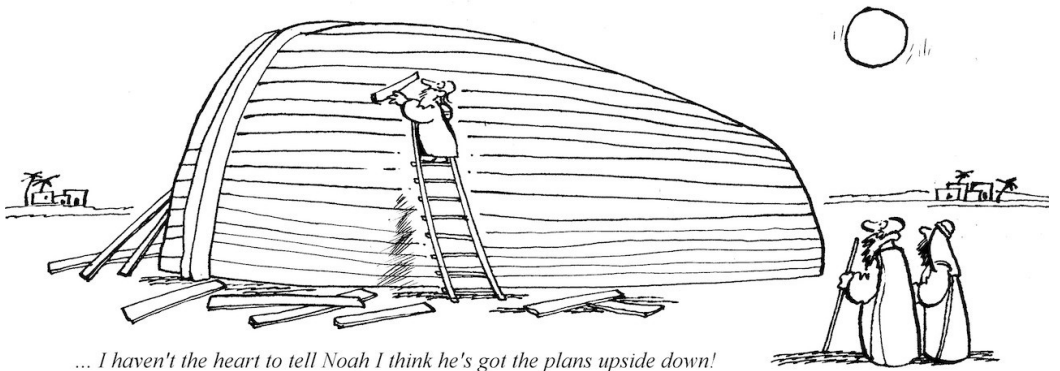
12:15-2:00pm

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.



*... I haven't the heart to tell Noah I think he's got the plans upside down!*

