



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind



**Romford**  
Baptist Church

# Grapevine



**Family Magazine**  
June 2024  
and  
July 2024  
No. 226



## From the Editor

This edition of Grapevine seems to have a thread running through it, about change and new beginnings. Whether making changes in the garden, changing career, changing the way we treat the environment or changing our perspective by looking up, change can be imposed on us or chosen by us. Either way, it can still feel both exciting and daunting.

The Bible talks about new starts too, for example, 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"

In Lamentations 3:22-23 we read. "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

There are many songs based on these verses, including "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and "The Steadfast Love of the Lord". Although things around us may be changing, and we may feel unsettled, we can rest well in the knowledge that God doesn't change, and neither does His love for us.

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,*

*His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning,  
New every morning,*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord.  
Great is Thy faithfulness!*

*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

## Team Leader

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

## Church Office

Main Road  
Romford  
RM1 3BL  
Tel 01708 743382  
[www.romfordbaptist.org.uk](http://www.romfordbaptist.org.uk)  
[office@romfordbaptist.org.uk](mailto:office@romfordbaptist.org.uk)



## 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)  
Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

12:00-2:00pm

### Tuesday

10:00am

Needlecraft Group  
Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs

10.30am

2:00-3.30pm

Treasure Times  
Prayer meeting on Zoom  
RBC Worship Team meet

8:00pm

7:45pm

### Wednesday

9:45-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers  
Prayer  
Wednesdays @ RBC

12:45pm

7:45pm

### 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

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

12:15-2:00pm

6:00pm

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.

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Ex.19:3-9,20:1-21,24:7,12-18,32:1-25,34:1-9

God rescued the Hebrew people from Egypt and led them to Sinai mountain. There He offered them a contract....



## Pastor's page

Well, here it is, my final GV as Minister at RBC - and what a journey it has been! God used a time of sickness in my life to steer me into position so that I could begin serving RBC, keeping the "youth work going" whilst the church sought God's leading for a new youth pastor, little knowing that God would soon be calling me to this role. 18 years on and I have served as youth, children's, and families Minister, moving on to becoming the Minister with a focus on the community.

Back in 2006, struggling with M.E., I never thought that this horrible, debilitating illness could be used by God. But looking back now from this perspective I can see that God was working in all things in my life to bring glory to His name (Romans 8:28), the good and the bad, the happy and the sad, the mountains and the valleys. It's all about trust isn't it? That Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him - having faith in our God who never lets us down, who is always faithful.

I know I would never have chosen to be ill and yet it was directly as a result that I began serving God in RBC... God's ways are certainly beyond our ways, but as we know, God sees the beginning from the end, He knows the paths we will take, and He offers to be our Shepherd, to guide us every step of the way - that is the most wonderful, freeing, truth that we need to hold on to with both hands especially when the path is tough.

So, I wonder why we often find it so hard to trust God? We say we do, but our reality is often quite different - we worry, we are afraid, we try to take

charge, we seek out our own answers, and make decisions from human wisdom rather than waiting on God. We ask the unfathomable "why" for which we know there is no answer this side of heaven. Why does God allow such terrible suffering? Why do people have to suffer such pain? Why are the innocent abused and discarded? Why...? We have so many questions, for which I have no answer except this one - my Father God is good, He has never let any single one of His children down, He has never got up and walked away, He never leaves us alone, His ways might not be our ways, but God, my God is love, He has proved Himself always faithful throughout history, He invites us to build our lives on Him as our solid foundation, our rock, our hope, our salvation.

I pray today that you too might find this hope in our faithful Father wherever life's paths may be taking you. My journey over the past 18 years at RBC has been full of highs and lows, but looking back my biggest emotion is one of humble thanks and praise to God for allowing me to serve Him here, amongst you. It's been a wonderful journey, my faith has grown, and I hope in some small way I have been able to encourage some of you on your own journey of faith too. What a privilege! Thank you!

And so may I finish with those wonderful words from Romans 8 as we have been studying this book together this year:

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to*

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 3)

His purpose...If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

HALLELUJAH!

Rev. Jan Loveard  
Team Minister  
(With focus on community and social action)



## BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

### Birthdays June 2024

- 6<sup>th</sup> Bren McSweeney
- 19<sup>th</sup> Colleen Thompson
- 21<sup>st</sup> David Thompson
- 24<sup>th</sup> John Brown
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christine Brown



### Birthdays July 2024

- 8<sup>th</sup> Gordon Palmer

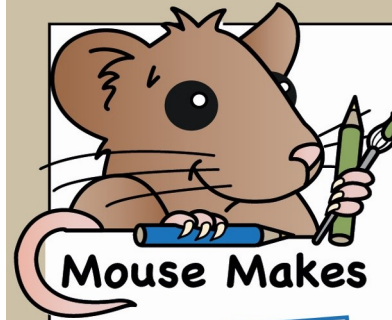


## Smile Lines

### Techie trouble

The minister at a local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."



## Mouse Makes

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

TFF XIBU LJOE PG  
MPWF UIF GBUIFS  
IBT HJWFO UP VT  
UIBU XF TIPVME  
CF DBMMFE  
DIJMESFO PG HPE  
POF KPUI UISFF: POF

### WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

— — — — —  
Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

— — — — —  
Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

— — — — —  
Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

— — — — —  
Genesis 37:2-3

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

— — — — —  
1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

— — — — —  
Mark 5:21

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

This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates: "Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

R O T A S  
O P E R A  
T E N E T  
A R E P O  
S A T O R

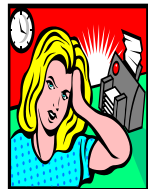
If you rearrange the letters it can spell PATER NOSTER which means "Our Father".

A  
P  
A  
T  
E  
R  
N  
O  
S  
T  
E  
R  
O



Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

- FATHER • GOD
- SON • DAUGHTER
- JOSEPH • ISAAC
- MOSES • JOB
- SOLOMON
- ZECHARIAH
- ZEBEDEE



The deadline for the August /September 2024 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 29 June 2024

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

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



## Giving wildlife a helping hand from our doorstep

I've just been enjoying the evening sun in my small garden and it gives me an enormous sense of joy and wellbeing. Last week, great tits fledged from their box and sparrows are nesting in a small 'colony' box. I also saw a frog (or toad as I can't tell the difference!). However, I'm also plagued with snails that are eating my vegetable seedlings (but also the dying vegetation, so that's good!). The wildlife in my garden is certainly hard at work but it needs a helping hand. For example, so many driveways are covered in hard paving; many lawns are covered in plastic grass; some gardens are kept so pristine, there is not much that is 'natural' about them and our fences prevent hedgehogs roaming to feed.

As I said last time, even the smallest patch can make a contribution. Here are some ideas for you to help the wildlife that wants to be in your garden, balcony or window box:



Make a 'bug' hotel by tying a bundle of twigs together with smaller twigs and dead leaves stuffed in between and cover with an old roof tile. Place in an undisturbed sheltered spot to create a space for solitary bees, spiders and woodlice etc. You will benefit from nurturing an environment for bugs as they will prey on pests.



Buy a birdbox, perhaps from the RSPB where you can get advice on different types of boxes and preferred locations. Birds visiting and nesting in your garden space can then feed on some of your 'hotel' residents!



Create a water feature. This can be a saucer of water filled with marbles so bees and birds can come to drink, especially on extremely hot days. Or, sink a waterproof container or old sink and fill with some rocks and an access ramp for amphibians to get in and out. Then, preferably fill with rainwater. Purchase some plants to suit the size of your feature. Then wait and see what arrives over the next few months!



Don't be tempted to keep your flower beds too tidy. Fallen leaves and petals can help increase organic matter in your soil to aid water retention and prevent weed growth. A variety of flowers that flower at different times of the year are not only beautiful to look at but also offer pollinators essential sources of food.



Consider giving a patch of lawn to wildflowers that attract pollinating insects (not just bees). Simply stop mowing the lawn to see what wild flowers grow or remove an area of grass and sow a wildflower seed mix. An organisation called Plantlife has created a movement called #NoMowMay: *Don't mow this May and let it grow! Provide a feast for pollinators, tackle pollution, reduce urban heat extremes and lock away atmospheric carbon below ground.*



I'd love to hear your 'green' stories and ideas. Find me on a Sunday morning and I would love to chat all things eco!

Happy re-wilding!!

Nicola Childs



### Look Up by Lucy Wall

Look up I say! Look up and see the Saviour on the Tree,  
The Man who hangs between two thieves and dies for you and me.  
Look up and view His beaten form and grasp what sin has done.  
Look up and see your punishment inflicted on God's Son!

Turn not your eyes away from Him, do not avert your gaze,  
Look upon His bloodied face and see the price He pays.  
His suffering will clear the debt acquired through the ages  
So look and see the cost of love as Jesus pays sin's wages!

Forsaken by the Father for a moment on the Tree  
So we won't be forsaken for all eternity!  
Make no claim of innocence, remove all pomp and pride,  
The Saviour dies to save your soul so do not turn aside.

This scene of gruesome horror has been met for me and you,  
Look up and give our mighty God the honour He is due.  
Becoming sin for us, so we may be viewed as holy.  
Bound willingly by chords of love, behold the King of Glory!

Observe the thieves on either side, both struggling for breath;  
Both convicted criminals and both condemned to death.  
Equal in position as they pay for what they've done,  
Yet far apart in views as they now look upon God's Son.

One curses and reviles Him, rejects His Holy name,  
Determined he will face his death still cloaked in sin and shame.  
The other sees Divinity upon the Saviour's face,  
Acknowledging Christ's Godship, he receives the gift of grace!

One condemns himself to death despite Christ's sacrifice,  
The other has eternal life to dwell in Paradise!  
Look up and see the choices made, though they be far apart  
And ask which one now represents the choice made in your heart.



(Continued from page 5)

Consider now your options and respond to Jesus' call,  
Look up and see the Cross of Christ, provision made for all!  
What wonderful assurance to know we are forgiven!  
Deserving not His grace and yet this gift we have been given.

Look up I say and praise Him for His mercy and His power!  
Sing about the God of strength who helps us every hour.  
Glorify His mighty name, the King of our defence,  
Salvation and redemption have been bought at Christ's expense!

Nothing we have done will let us enter Heaven's Gate,  
"Good deeds" will build a stairway but it can never hold sin's weight.  
Trust in Jesus' sacrifice and trust His work alone,  
Look up to realms of Heaven, He now sits upon His Throne!

He said that "It is finished!" and so now the work is done,  
Deliverance defines those who will praise the Risen Son!  
Considering what Christ endured to tear death's jaws apart;  
This Man who died between two thieves will steal your very heart!

Let the God who came as Man astound you every day,  
He'll fill your life with wonder and He'll steal your breath away.  
Look up as we anticipate the next part of the story!  
Look up and see the Risen King returning in His glory!

<https://www.lucywallpoetry.co.uk/2019/07/look-up.html?m=1>



*My poem "Look Up!" had been forming in my heart and mind for several months before I finally found the angle I wanted to write it from. I had the desire to create a poem that would be appropriate for Good Friday as every year in the lead up to Easter I hear people questioning the significance of this special day and what it is Christians actually commemorate.*

*Having already written one poem called "The Meaning Of Easter" and another called "Resurrection Day," I felt I wanted to have a poem that focused entirely on Good Friday itself and the depth of what Jesus really achieved for us that day.*

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 10)

*because we believe the material world has a future, we should be fully invested in the present.*

*Motivated by hope, Christians have done incredible things down through the ages to take on terrible evils including slavery, child poverty and racism. Well, today one of the needs of the hour is creation care.'*

Peter Feinson

(Continued from page 7)

always seem to be Christian players in the squad and so pre-match prayers before a home game have become a part of the regular routine for those wanting it. When we have had players of other faiths a room has also been made available for prayers for them as well."

Matt loves his role. He tells me: "I'm a people person so I love being around staff and players, getting to know them, listening and helping to support wherever I can. It's a tremendous privilege to be a chaplain at a football club and I never take that lightly."

Many churches have local football and other sporting clubs on their doorsteps and may want to see if a chaplaincy might be possible. What would Matt's advice be to Christians wanting to make the connection?

He tells me, "Get in touch with us at Sports Chaplaincy UK. Depending on an individual's location and sport we can advise on any vacancies we are aware of, guide them through any openings and offer the relevant sports chaplaincy training and support."

Revd Peter Crumpler,  
Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts



## Study for all

Spurgeon's College is the premier training college for Baptist Ministers in the country. It has also recently become the first Christian University in the country. They run an amazing number of course from Diploma right up to PhD studies.

Alongside all the high academic they also have a series of courses they call "Church Training Initiatives." This is a range of accessible online courses that anyone can get involved in for a very low cost. Only £4.99 per module, you can add an additional £5 if you would like it marked in order to do a number towards a commendation. Have a look at what is offered and maybe try one, better still see if anyone would like to study alongside you.

The information and sign up can be seen at <https://www.spurgeons.ac.uk/church-training-initiative>

## Smile Lines

### Maths lesson

The only place where you can buy 64 avocados without anyone wondering why.



## Romans Chapter 8 and the Environment

On Wednesday evenings this year we have been studying Paul's letter to the Romans, using a study guide produced by the Bible Society and presented by Andrew Ollerton. So far much of it has been a more detailed look at a number of themes that are moderately familiar. When we look at chapter 8 of Romans, we encounter some ideas which we do not usually hear about in church. We meet Paul's ideas about our future resurrection, as bodies, not just spirits. We find that Paul expects the whole of creation, ie the whole universe, to be renewed, 'and come into the freedom of the children of God' when Jesus returns. This leads Andrew Ollerton to say, among many other things, that we need to be involved in caring for the environment. Below are some extracts from Andrew Ollerton's presentation of Romans 8:

*'Paul describes our future hope in vivid colour.*

*It's so much more material and physical than we have perhaps dared to imagine – it's not souls wafting in the clouds, it's about bones and bodies being resurrected like Jesus, and then enjoying a beautifully restored new creation.*

*So (when) the early Christians buried martyrs and loved ones, they wrapped them in linen cloth imitating the burial of Jesus, and anticipating their resurrection to be with Jesus. What a prospect! As Paul says in Romans Chapter 8, 'in this hope we were saved!'*

*'So what do we have to look forward to according to Romans 8? Well Paul highlights two amazing aspects:*

*A new creation  
- and a new body*

*One of the most striking features of Romans 8 is the close relationship between humans and the natural environment.*

*We (humans) were originally entrusted with the task of stewarding the world to the glory of God. According to the Bible it's our selfishness and greed that has resulted in so much damage, including floods and droughts, global warming and plastic waste.*

*However, follow the logic in the opposite direction. What if a new humanity could emerge, who were purged of sin and perfectly reflecting God's image. Then the entire planet could flourish once more. Romans 8 has this hope in mind. Paul is fundamentally positive about the future of planet earth because God's grace will ultimately triumph over human sin.*

*After all, that's the Gospel, and it works on a personal level ('I'm saved!'), on a social level ('we're reunited') and also on a cosmic level ('creation itself will be liberated'). God's work is not limited to just 'spiritual things'. Redemption includes dolphins and daisies and deserts. So with this hope in mind Paul reinterprets the trauma of the natural world: 'the whole of creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth'. (Romans 8:22)*

*As a pregnant woman labours to deliver something beautiful, so the current challenges of the natural environment are re-framed by the hope of Romans 8. One day God will renew the entire world and it will flourish once more.*

*This hope should motivate us to be better stewards of planet earth now. Precisely*

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 6)

*It seems to me that the true meaning of Easter has sadly been lost somewhat over the years. For many it's become nothing more than a two week holiday where we're inundated with chocolate eggs, easter chicks and fluffy bunnies! Easter is of course one of the most important dates on the Christian calendar however so this inspired a scene in my mind's eye to take place as I pictured someone coming to me and asking,*

*"What's Good Friday all about?" In response my reply would be,*

*"Come with me, I'll show you."*

*I've written this poem from the point of view that I'm literally bringing someone to the foot of the Cross and asking them to look up at their Saviour as He dies to pay for the sins of the world.*

*Ultimately I pray this poem can be used many times to share the true meaning of Good Friday and how deeply important Christ's sacrifice was. I hope it can inspire the non-believer to really consider where they stand with Jesus in their heart. Knowing that He laid down His life to pay for their sin I hope this poem helps each soul to see how much God loves them so that they might come to know and love their Saviour personally.*

*I also pray that these words can inspire those who already know Christ as their Saviour to give thanks once again for the incredible work He did on the Cross on Crucifixion Day. Whether it's Good Friday or any other day of the year, I hope this poem can inspire us all to fix our eyes on Jesus and look up!*

Lucy Wall

## Chaplains keep faith in football



Chaplains are playing a vital role in the Premier League and other leagues across the UK.

Currently 11 English Premier League clubs and 55 Football League clubs have chaplains, with some clubs having more than one. There are also chaplains throughout the National League and in lower league clubs. The growth in women's football has led to more chaplains being appointed to serve women's teams.

Matt Baker is National Director for England overseeing all of English Sport for Sports Chaplaincy UK. He combines the role with being chaplain at London's Charlton Athletic, a position he has held since March 2000.

He explains: "The role of the chaplain is to be pastorally proactive and spiritually reactive. This means being regularly present, listening and supporting people whether they have a faith or not.

"From a spiritual perspective an example of this was when a player asked me 15 years ago whether I would pray with him before a game. On the first occasion there were a couple of players and we prayed together before every game for the rest of that season.

"This has continued ever since as there

(Continued on page 11)

## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	PARKINSON, Iris	Continue to pray for Jan as she transitions to her new role soon
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	PEDRO, Greyba	Pray for the church meeting today
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	PIDGEON, Mel & Greg, James & Elizabeth	Pray for the leadership as they meet tonight
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	POMEROY, Kathy	Pray for the Needlecraft group
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	POULTNEY, Arthur & Mavis	Pray for Parent and Toddlers
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	RAMDHANSINGH, Clarence & Sushie	Havering carers hub use the building today
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	RAMNAN, Utena	Alison has worked at RBC for 6 years today, pray for her and the ministries she runs
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	READ, Brian & Pauline	Starshine use the building today
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	ROBERTS, Sheila	Pray for all men in our church on Father's day and also pray for anyone who finds this day difficult
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	ROMAIN, Steve	Pray for the many regular Monday bookings we have and for the Foodbank too
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	RONALD, Josie	Pray for Holiday at Home this week
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	ROSE, Jacque	Pray for the London Baptist Ministers as they meet today
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	ROSE-GREEN, Ossie & Evelyn, Junior, & Hannah	Pray for all the Amaze ministries
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	SALAU, Chelsea, Feyisola & Princess (sisters)	Pray for our students at university or returning home for the summer
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	SALISBURY, Ian & Hilary	Pray for the residents and the team at Parkside

## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> June – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	SALTER, Mark & Laura; Noah & Lois	Causeway service this afternoon and cream tea to learn about Parkside's history
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	SARKODIE, Gertrude Emma	Pray for the Parkside Trustees as they meet tonight
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	SAVINE, Alex & Alison; Jonathan & Eleanor	Pray for the music group as they meet most Tuesday evenings
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	SCHILD, Pamela	Local church leaders meet today
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	SCHULTE, Bernd & Cheryl	Brewers group and NEFLT use the building today
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	SHAKES, Florence	Pray for the older generation in our church
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	SHARP, Brian & Sue	Pray for the leadership as they meet for an awayday today
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	SHERMAN, Sylvia	Pray for all teachers and school staff as the term and school year start to wind down
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Jul	SIMPSON, Mike & Becky; & James	Pray for Ian and Vikki as they have been at RBC for 9 years, pray for them and their ministries
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SITHOLE, Thulisa; & Innocent (Chumunhu)	Pray for Treasure Times as they meet today
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SMITH, David & Helen	Pray for the small groups
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	SMITH, Maureen; & Daniel	Pray for the job fair in the hall today
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	SOSINA, Jessica	Pray for the U3A bookings today
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	SOSINA, Samuel	Pray for the emergency services
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Gardens Baptist Church, Canvey Island	Pray for our youth and children as they go into their last few weeks of term

