



Romford Baptist Church

Grapevine



Family Magazine
October 2024
and
November 2024
No. 228

From the Editor

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:4&5

As we celebrate God's faithfulness through the past 90 Years at Romford Baptist Church, it is wonderful to be reminded of how people have impacted the church and how God has impacted people through the church. In this bumper edition of Grapevine we have a number of contributions sharing memories relating to their time at RBC.

We celebrate the present as we think of the recent series on Pilgrim's Progress which we enjoyed over the summer. We were reminded of the challenges facing Christians throughout their faith journey, and inspired to stand firm, based on the Word of God. We also celebrate milestones in many folks' lives too.

So now, as we look to the future, whether the next week, month, year or decade, may we be inspired to continue on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ, and be determined to serve Him faithfully, so that we can share his love with many more people, and they will be impacted to come to faith and continue in faith.

Praise God for His faithfulness which continues through all generations!

Cheryl Schulte

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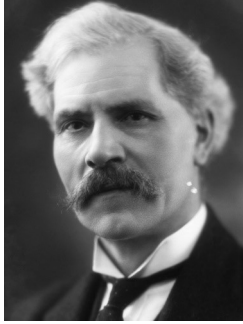
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Our purpose is to take the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to all, with the goal that they become His loyal disciples.

Pastor's page

In 1934 Ramsay MacDonald was the prime minister, we have had 19 since. George V was on the throne, we have had four other heads of state since (one was not actually crowned). In the 4700 Sundays since the opening of the church at Romford, there have been several ministers, a number of deacons, numerous worshippers, these are not worshippers of ministers or deacons, and not making idols in our mind of past or present leader, but worshipping just one God! The only God this church has ever had or will ever have in the future.



In Deuteronomy 6 we are told to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength". This is the core of being a church, this is the core of our Christian responsibilities.

Yes we are celebrating 90 years of the church, and God's faithfulness to it. The church, of course, is the people not the building. Our focus needs to be 90 years of putting God first, 90 years of loving God, not just when it is easy, but when we have to use our strength to do so.

And as a church, we pause and look forward to the next 520 weeks before the church celebrates its centenary, we need to afresh put God first.

Psalm 127 starts:

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain*

*Let us put God first, allow Him to lead
and worship Him only.*

*Team Leader
Rev. Ian Bunce*

GRACEWORKS

This Scripture Union work has been in Havering schools for over 20 years.

Bradley, the leader for the last 6 years has now joined the London City Mission



and Dupsy Adefioye will be working part time.

Please pray for her as she settles in and contact her if you can help in any way.

More information soon.

*Barabara Gatherum
(text and pictures)*

Memories of 90 Years at RBC

Apart from my time away at College, I have always attended RBC. I was baptised here in 1948, married here in 1955 and my daughter was dedicated here in 1958. Since then, Thanksgiving services were held both for my daughter, who died aged 14, and for my husband in 2021.

My brother, who is seven years older than me, remembers walking with my mother to the opening of the church. She was pushing me in the pram! So began my 90 years with this wonderful church.

However, my earliest recollection is when I was five years old. It was the day of the Sunday School Anniversary and I had to stand on the front pew, facing the congregation and sing the first verse of a children's hymn on my own, and I still remember the words! *God made little robin in the days of spring, 'Please' said little robin, 'when am I to sing? When am I to sing?'* I wouldn't do it now. Nor would you want to hear me!

Sunday School Anniversaries were always one of the highlights of the church year. For two or three weeks before the day, all the Sunday School Departments, except the youngest, came together as part of our afternoons, to practice special hymns to be sung on the Anniversary day. With the

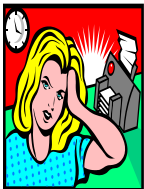
help of a very strict conductor, I think we made a joyful noise. I loved it, but not every child was of the same opinion! Usually there would be a special, visiting preacher and in the afternoon it was a tradition that many of us would go to tea with our Sunday School teachers, before returning to church for the evening service.

In those days, the evening services were the most well-attended. We didn't have a music group, but we did have a choir which sat on each side of the organ console, which was in the centre then. Sopranos and tenors sat to the right and bass and alto singers to the left. We were always interested to see what hats the ladies would be wearing. During the service, the choir sang an anthem and at Easter they usually 'performed' a cantata such as 'Olivet to Calvary'. At one time we had a men's group which was really excellent and made a recording of some of their music. Neil Walden will remember this and, I believe, he is the only one of the group still 'with us'.

War years:

These were of course difficult years, but as far as possible, Sunday services and other meetings and activities continued to take place. Air raids weren't as frequent in the daytime as at night,

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**The deadline for the
December 2024/January 2025 edition of the Grapevine is
Sunday 10 November 2024**

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

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk





German Prisoners of war and Main Road young people taken in Waverly 1947

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but I can remember on occasions if the siren went off, some of the women and children were ushered down into the boiler room, or the 'coal house' as we called it. There wasn't too much room down there, so I'm sure not everyone fitted in. I believe there was also an air raid shelter on the land now occupied by the DSS building.

In the winter, we had to put 'black-outs' up at the windows for the evening services or we could have been in trouble with the air raid warden and told to 'put that light out!' 'Black outs' were made of heavy black material which was attached to specially made wooden frames which were fitted to the windows. I can only imagine that a group of people came down before it got dark to put them up.

Every night there were volunteers who stayed in the building, ready with their

buckets of water, so that if an incendiary bomb fell on the church, they would be there to help extinguish any fire that might break out until the Fire Brigade arrived.

A large number of our young men and women were away in the armed forces on active service. Many of the members, including the pastor V.J. Smith, kept in touch with them regularly. Sadly, a number of them didn't return and their names are to be found on the brass plaque at the back of the church.

During the war years there was a German Prisoner of War camp, somewhere between Gallows Corner and Gubbins Lane. They came down to join us after the war had finished, while waiting for their repatriation. The prisoners were allowed a certain amount of freedom and at the invitation of Main Road Church (RBC), some of

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them came down and joined in the activities with YPF (Young Peoples' Fellowship). I can remember one occasion when we met together in the garden of a large house in Junction Road. I believe the house was called 'Waverley' and may have belonged to a lady called Nellie Sims who was a local florist. V.J. Smith also kept two or three of his beehives there.

There is a photo of this gathering (dated 1947) in Ken Duffin's book 'Fifty Years On'. I'm sitting in the first row! Some of the prisoners also attended the Sunday Services and were conspicuous by their prison uniforms. They were always made welcome! I wonder whether any of them are still alive and remember those days?

Evening services always concluded with the singing of a lovely hymn. One verse said:-

*God be with you till we meet again
When life's perils thick confound you
Put His arms securely round you
God be with you till we meet again.*

In such dangerous times, with bombs falling all around, none of us knew whether that would be here on Earth or in Heaven!

More recently:

One milestone in the life of RBC was that during the ministry of Norman Wright, he 'exchanged pulpits' with a pastor from Redlands California for three months or so. I think his name was Bob Wallace. Towards the end of his time here, he challenged us to try having some Home Groups. The following Wednesday, a number of members invited others to their homes for Bible Study, prayers and fellowship.

Such was their 'success' that to the best of my knowledge, they have continued in one form or another ever since.

There is so much more that I could tell, but just one more thing. I remember when the proposal for the extension to the front of the church was being discussed at a church meeting, one person stood up and said, "It would be an enormous waste of money. The space would hardly ever be used." Now, I don't know how we would manage without it, especially with the blessings The Meeting Place brings to so many different people.

I count it an enormous privilege to have lived through all the pastorates here at RBC, each one different, each one facing its own difficulties and challenges, each one so vital in the building up and reaching out of God's people here.

To God be the Glory.

Anne Barnes

Smile Lines

Retirement

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

Passwords

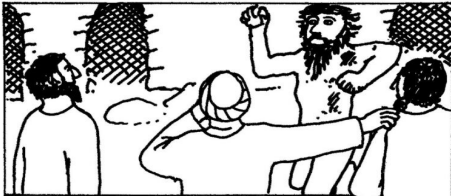
An elderly vicar got a call from a scammer who said, "I've got all of your passwords." The vicar replied: "Excellent! What are they? Just wait while I grab a pen."

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mk 5:1-17, Lk 8:26-39, Mt 8:28-34

In Gerasa was a man filled with demons. He tore off any clothes or chains put on him, and he lived in the graveyard.



Jesus and his disciples arrived and the man ran to him.

What do you want with me, Jesus?

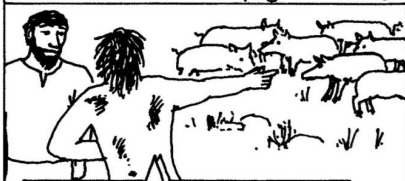


What is your name?



Legion, for there are many of us.

There were some pigs near by



Let us go into the pigs.

Go!



The demons left the man and went into the pigs.

The pigs stampeded over the cliff into the sea and drowned.



The pigherds ran to tell everyone near by.

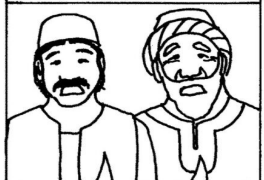


They came to see ...



...and were terrified.

They begged Jesus



Please! Leave! Now!

But the man begged Jesus ...



Can I come with you?

But Jesus said



Go home and tell everyone what happened.

So he did.



Fire Watching at Main Road Baptist Church

I started Fire Watching Duty jointly with Philip Harvey during Wednesday nights in 1943. That is a long time ago, and while most of what I have to relate is from memory, I still have letters I wrote to my girlfriend Joyce Gower which include references to incidents that occurred from time to time.

To get some idea of when my involvement with Fire Watching started, I must go back to my 16th Birthday (January 1942) when I was permitted to work on the night shift. This I did almost continually, first operating a capstan lathe, then later as the Chargehand in the Press Shop. I estimate that I returned to working the day shift by the end of April 1943 and would have been in a position to Fire Watch at night. I was surprised to find from the letters I wrote to Joyce, that I continued to attend until 16th May 1944.

I cannot remember to whom we were responsible or who gave us instructions, someone must have shown us how to get on to the church roof from inside because I cannot remember using a ladder externally. We slept, fully clothed on the floor in the Deacon's Vestry and that doesn't mean we had a mattress. If the air raid siren sounded we had to be up, awake and alert.

On the night of the 19th May 1943 both Philip and myself had attended an extended Prayer Meeting in the School Room so were late commencing our duties, nevertheless we had time to find a way to get on to the School Room roof without the aid of a ladder. As a result we were late getting to sleep, only to be woken up by the Air

Raid Siren. Fortunately the All Clear sounded soon after and we were asleep again. Consequently we didn't wake up until 06:45.

It is apparent from the letters that I called at Philip's home on my bicycle before we travelled together to the church. More often than not Philip would still be eating his supper and I would be invited to join him despite the fact that I'd already had mine. I vaguely remember that the nominal time to commence duty was 7pm but I don't think we were very prompt. Normally the rear of the church would be open, with people in attendance, but I can't remember what the arrangements were if we arrived later. Fast forward to the occasion I described in letter dated 26th April 1944 when I had this to say:-

"When we arrived on fire watch last night all the doors were locked and there were no keys to be found. We (probably me) got in through a window. As we knew where the other keys were kept we could open the door from inside",

Whilst that was an isolated occasion, it also indicates what the norm would have been. As far as the arrangement in the morning was concerned, it is possible that a Caretaker arrived before we were due to leave and was probably the person who woke us.

Returning to 1943, while it was still light on the 26th May we explored the roof of the church and reached the top of the highest part. Back on a level area we practiced using the Stirrup

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Pumps and found a way to refill the pails with water from the tank inside the roof. I don't think Philip and I had ever been involved with extinguishing an incendiary bomb but we knew the rules to obey. Fortunately we were not faced with that task while I was on duty at the church.

I clearly remember one occasion when we were on the roof in darkness during an air raid, when we could see what was going on in the region of Ilford. Multiple rockets were being launched near vertically, simultaneously and exploding at low altitude. We had heard later, on the "Grape vine", that the rockets were attached to a vast network of ironware which supported further explosive devices. It was obviously being used to defend some very important facility against low flying raiders. From where we were standing we could see it light up the night sky.

Few letters were written during the summer of 1943 but apart from the holiday I spent at Southwold, I would imagine that I went on fire watch a number of times during that period. The next reference was made in a letter dated 9th December 1943, when I remarked that it was midnight before we went to sleep but only because we had been 'fussing' around with our cycles.

References made in January 1944 not only imply that I was still firewatching, but on occasions it was on Tuesday night. In a letter dated 15th February 1944, I wrote:- "you should have seen my cycle when I was going down to firewatch. A good load on the back. I had my cape and pyjamas in the saddle bag, tin hat on top, and on one side

of the carrier a gas mask and on the other side my work overalls". It appears that I had refined my sleeping attire since the start!

Letters dated 7th & 30th March, 12th, 19th, and of course 26th April 1944 all indicate attendance at firewatching. During the night of the 3rd May 1944 very high winds caused the Blackout panels to fall off the windows and one knocked my tin hat down. It gave us quite a shock. I had never seen Philip get up so quickly.

The last recorded occasion was on 16th May 1944 when I wrote:- "I am on fire-watch tonight and we are going down early so we can get on the roof. Haven't been up there for months. Don't worry I shall see you before this gets to you." Joyce was in the WRNS then and I left home to join the RAF on the 13th June 1944.

Joyce and Don were married by 'VJ' Smith on 4 June 1949.

*Donald Eastaugh
7th October 2023*

Smile Lines

Car wash

Ever feel like life is a car wash and you're on a bicycle?

Stress

Reality is the leading cause of stress.

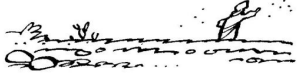
BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Birthdays October 2024

10th Cheryl Schulte



the
PARABLE
of the
SOWER



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A FARMER WHO
SOWED SOME SEEDS

MOST FARMERS DIDN'T BURY THEIR
SEEDS IN THE GROUND. INSTEAD THEY
THREW THEM IN THE AIR!

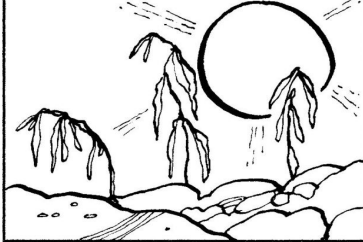


THE FARMER HOPED THEY WOULD TAKE ROOT JUST
WHERE THEY LANDED



BUT SOME SEED WAS
EATEN BY BIRDS!

SOME SEED FELL ON ROCKS, BUT
THE PLANTS DIED WHEN THE HOT
SUN SHONE DOWN



OTHER SEEDS TOOK ROOT,
BUT WERE QUICKLY
STRANGLD BY WEEDS



SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT
TOOK ROOT AND GREW AND GREW!

SOON THERE WAS A
FINE FIELD OF
WHEAT!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE
SEED ARE 'WORD OF GOD' AND
WE SHOULD LET THAT WORD
'GROW' IN OUR HEARTS, JUST
LIKE SEEDS IN GOOD SOIL.

Friday Morning Craft group at The Meeting Place.



Len Blow, one of the members of the Friday craft group in The Meeting Place was delighted to sell one of his paintings to another customer in the cafe in August.

New members are welcome to join us from 10am -12 noon. We are a mixed group and do several different crafts. Bring your own equipment and join us!

Neil Walden

Smile Lines

Lend

If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

**

Truth

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Happy 90th Birthday



'Having travelled along life's journey with a very loving loyal and faithful Friend since I was 15 years old, God has been very good to me. Yes, I have not been a perfect Christian but God has never let me down. All the things I have done in my life I would not have thought me capable of doing, thinking or saying. Whenever one door closed, God opened another.

I thank and praise God for all His leading, showing what He can do and what words to say.

Thank you RBC for the great help you have been to me.



Iris Hooper

Prayer Diary 8th October 2024 – 7th November 2024

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Tues 8 th	FAWUNMI, Jide & Yemi, <i>Fisayo</i>	Pray for Needlecraft as they meet today
Wed 9 th	FAWUNMI, Ayomide	Small Groups meet again tonight
Thurs 10 th	FAWUNMI, Ayoolamide	Pray for the Thursday morning Small Group
Fri 11 th	FAWUNMI, Favour	Pray for the U3A group meeting today in the building
Sat 12 th	FEINSON, Peter & Gill	Pray for our university students
Sun 13 th	FLACK, Ken	Baptisms today, pray for the candidates
Mon 14 th	GATHERUM, Barbara	Pray for the leadership team as they meet tonight
Tues 15 th	GEARING, Bert & Rita	Pray for Amaze as they meet today
Wed 16 th	GRIFFITHS, Margaret	Pray for the Parent and Toddler group and the school visit today
Thurs 17 th	HACKER, Bree	Pray for the various bookings in the building this week
Fri 18 th	HANYANA, Ngqabutho & Lolete, Khaya & Rebecca	Pray for the Job Fair in the building today and Youth Club tonight
Sat 19 th	HARDING, John & Sue	Pray for the Quiz tonight
Sun 20 th	HARRISON, John	Pray for the church staff team and the team at Parkside
Mon 21 st	HARVEY, Liz	Pray for those who use the Foodbank, and those who volunteer too
Tues 22 nd	HENNIKER, Joyce	Pray for Treasure Times
Wed 23 rd	HENSON, Ruth	Pray for the Meeting Place, the staff, volunteers and those who enter through the doors
Thurs 24 th	HIGGINS, Pauline & Kevin	Pray for the NELFT booking in the building today
Fri 25 th	HILLS, Yvonne	Pray for the young people as they attend the Youth Weekend away

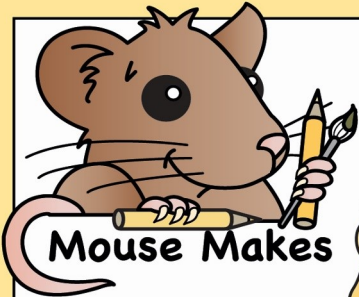
Prayer Diary 8th October 2024 – 7th November 2024

Date	People to pray for	Event or other to pray for
Sat 26 th	HODINITU, Nicolae & Natalia	Pray for the children and young people and teachers as the Half Term starts
Sun 27 th	HOLMAN, Jill	Pray for Causeway as they meet today
Mon 28 th	HOOPER, Iris	Pray for the booking in the building today
Tues 29 th	HUGHES, Brenda & Raymond	Pray for the Worship Team as they meet tonight
Wed 30 th	HUXTABLE, Janet	Parksiders meet today and Haver-ing Care Association use the building
Thursday 31 st	ILESANMI, Tolulope & Doyin, <i>Oluwatoofe & Oluwapemi</i>	Pray for the Brewers group using the building today
Fri 1 st Nov	ILO, Funmilola & Mayokun, <i>Omolola Catherine, Omolade Isaac & Omolayo Bella</i>	Pray for the Street Sleepers Support charity as they continue to help the homeless
Sat 2 nd	IZE, Christiane; <i>Saleem Mbiti (Kayibi)</i>	Pray for the older generation in our church
Sun 3 rd	JEGEDE, Olakunle & Bunmi, <i>Teniola, Bamidele, Dara & Naomi</i>	Pray for the emergency services
Mon 4 th	JENKIN, Richard & Sarah, <i>Peter & Matthew</i>	Pray for the 5 bookings in the building today
Tues 5 th	JOHN, Ademola & Zaina, <i>Damilola, Bukola, David, Daniel</i>	Pray for the Amaze groups
Wed 6 th	JOHNSON, Brian & Anne; <i>Matthew, Nathan & Reuben</i>	Pray for the Phonics Group in the building today
Thurs 7 th	Winter Gardens Baptist Church, Canvey Island	Pray for the Blood Donor session today



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





Mouse Makes

WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,
O Lord, that I would
walk in your _____."
Psalm 86:11

"For we **walk** by

not by sight."
2 Corinthians 5:7

"**Walk** by the

"."
Galatians 5:16



Jesus said:
"I am the light
of the world.
If you

me you won't
have to **walk**
in darkness
because
you have
the light
that leads
to life."
John 8:12



GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK

WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

"**Walk** in

as Christ loved
us and gave
himself up for us."
Ephesians 5:2

"**Walk** in
a manner
worthy of the
Lord, fully pleasing
to him, bearing

in every good work
and increasing in
the knowledge
of God"
John 8:12

_____ "
is everyone who
fears the Lord,
who **walks** in
his ways."
Psalm 128:1

Find the words from the questions too!

Memories of Romford Baptist Church

As Romford Baptist Church approaches another milestone I thought I'd share a handful of fond memories I have from a childhood that was very closely associated with the Church.

My mum took my two brothers & I from the late 1960s.

My earliest memory is when I was about 5 years old. Happily skipping down the aisle, mid service, to attend Sunday School. I would always dress as a cowboy and had great fun "shooting" the Rev Norman P Wright in his pulpit as I passed by on the way to the hall.

I loved Sunday school. I remember how busy it was with lots of children in attendance. We used to have a group address followed by independent smaller groups at tables. We used to get merit cards for achievements, which we could then spend on various items on the prize table.

Perhaps one of the clearest memories is when the tv programme "Morning Worship" came to do a live television broadcast of a service in the 70s. I remember choosing a seat on the aisle to be sure that I'd get on telly. With my best angelic face firmly fixed, I didn't have to wait long for a camera to pick me up and viewers across the uk saw me fill their screen for a good 7 seconds.

As I grew up, I attended the Boys Brigade. Firstly in the junior section and latterly the senior section. We were a well-attended company - The mighty 2nd Romford. It was there that I forged many great friends and learned



Photo is a still from the Morning Worship broadcast.

many a skill to carry forward in my life. I'll always remember the great leader Brian Little, assisted by John Wright and many others whose commitment to that company was second to none. The annual BB camps instilled both independence and comradeship based on the solid foundation of Christianity, even though the fun camp initiation ceremonies wouldn't comply with health and safety nowadays.)

As I got older, I recall having many a challenging discussion with others at Church Youth Group in the Youth Lounge, where topics from drug addiction to the second coming of Christ would be enthusiastically discussed, enlightening us and making us all more aware of things around us as we progressed in age.

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When I reached around the age of 19, like many others I guess, I drifted from the Church, more confident in the view that I was independent and wanted to make my own way in life. Here's where I find my Christian journey most interesting; for many years I didn't go to Church, didn't pray regularly and didn't consider myself a badge-wearing Christian. However, looking back on those years now - I know that the Lord was with me throughout at every point, helping me with important decisions and guiding me through. The strong influence of the fellowship and teaching that I got from my younger days at Romford Baptist Church had influenced my character, work ethics, and behaviour - even though I wasn't an "active" Christian.

Fast forward and I'm now 56 years young and have, for many years, been a member of my village Church in Orsett and have again been able to enjoy a wonderful Church family.

It just goes to show that things that are taught, activities hosted, outreach projects initiated and even just small chats to one another at Romford Baptist Church may not yield immediate visible results but can plant a tiny seed that yields fruit in the future. Many people that influenced my early life at RBC have since received their calling and wouldn't know the lasting impressions they left on me, and how I've used those teachings positively throughout my life.

Finally, I would like to mention Parkside. I was there when Rev Norman P Wright opened Parkside. I used to visit, with Sunday School and Boys Brigade, where we'd help out or sing a song to the residents. I also remember

my Mum making cakes for the residents and fundraisers with my Dad to help initially raise capital for Parkside (and Heathside).

When Norman Wright had his passionate vision for Parkside, all those years ago, I never really visualised both my Mum and Dad living there when they got old. Here I am today, with both of them happily living there. It's this that's helped me reconnect with my early Church roots too.

What started as Norman's vision - a Christian home where the elderly would be looked after in a comforting inclusive environment - is still going strong all these years later.

To me it's further proof that we, as Christians, may never see all the results of our actions - but we can be safe in the knowledge that anything we do, even the smallest things, may have a big influence, through Christ, on others - even long after we receive our calling.

Mark Willett

Smile Lines

Bug

Some days you are the bug; some days you are the windscreen.

Judge

Good judgement comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.

Quick

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.

Visits to Parkside and Heathside

In March 1996, at the end of one of the Thursday evening devotional meetings, one of the residents of Heathside asked if it was possible for people to come and read poetry, which was her particular interest. Six months later a group was formed and started visiting Parkside and Heathside for an hour or so every month.

Our aim was to get to know the residents and chat with them informally about anything which was of interest to them.

We have read stories and poems (Pam Ayres is a particular favourite) to them and they have shared poems with us, some written by members of their family and friends.

We have discussed all sorts of subjects such as entertainment past and present, quizzes, the origins of festivals such as May Day, historical events e.g. The Gunpowder Plot, what life was like when they were younger, and many other subjects. Sometimes we are asked to research particular topics of interest to them such as 'squirrels!

Audrey Gostling has joined us on occasions for a sing-song. At Christmas we celebrated our Lord's birthday with carols, readings, poems, games and a visit from Father Christmas.

All our visits aim to stimulate the residents and allow them to share things with us. We encourage them to participate as much as they feel able and we get so very much from them.

Not all of us can go every time, but do so as often as possible, and our thanks

go to Irene Bracken, Keith Carter, Beryl Curtis, Dougie Cresswell, Brian Loveard, Daphne May, Kathy Pomeroy and Maureen Smith for making time to visit our friends. We are touched by the frequent expressions of appreciation that we receive from so many of the residents.

We are convinced that God is in these activities, as both residents and visitors alike have been blessed by these evenings together.

*Sue Sharp
February 1998*

Smile Lines

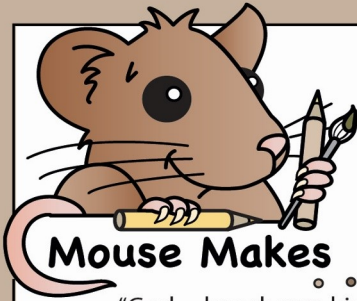
Fearless in the line of fire

A six-year-old girl was taken by her grannie to a very 'high' Anglican church. Afterwards she tried to explain to her father what it had been like. "They tried to run us out - they brought in a smoke bomb and shook it at all the people in the front row. But grannie wasn't scared one bit. We stayed until the very end."

No peace

Some years ago, a parish newsletter in a Surrey village announced: "Prayers for peace this month have been cancelled, because of the new vicar coming to St Christopher's."

We've got stained glass windows in our house. Stupid pigeons.



Mouse Makes

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples
 _____ you, O God!
 May all the peoples praise you!
 The land yields its harvest;
 God, our God blesses us."

Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

"God ... has shown kindness by
 giving you rain from heaven
 and crops in their seasons.
 He provides you with
 plenty of _____. He fills
 your hearts with joy."

Acts 14:16-17 NIV

"Honour the Lord with your wealth
 and the first part of your harvest."

Proverbs 3:9 ERV

"Let us fear and respect
 the Lord our God.

He gives us autumn and
 spring _____
 at the right time.

He makes sure that we
 have the harvest at
 just the right time."

Jeremiah 5:24 ERV

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

HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN
 NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE
 FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY
 BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

Find the words from the questions too!



Pilgrim's Progress

Every Sunday morning during the summer holidays, the Church enjoyed a dramatic reading from this beloved book.



After the reading, the young people took part in crafts.

The crafts were made into posters and hung up at the front of the church.



Creation Care Letter

Caring for the Planet: making a start

What can individuals and families do help care for God's earth? Two ideas are to do an 'audit' of your lifestyle and see where you can improve, and to write to your MP.



Creation Care

Encouraging households
to care for God's world

Lifestyle audit with Creation Care

Creation Care is a Christian environmental organisation which encourages people to make changes in their way of life in order to care better for God's earth.

The Creation Care scheme aims to encourage households to make changes to care for God's earth. Wherever households are on their creation care journey, we want to provide ideas for their next steps, and recognise progress that's made.

The scheme covers 7 areas of household life:

- Worship and prayer
- Home
- Garden
- Travel
- Food
- Possessions
- Community and global engagement

You can enter the scheme by completing a questionnaire that covers each of these areas. This will tell you how well your household is doing at each of these aspects of caring for creation, and hopefully give you ideas of ways you can improve.

Please see this link:

<https://creationcare.org.uk/>

(Please note: on the first page there are two videos: one is very short, the other goes on for nearly an hour.)



Letter-Writing Campaign with A Rocha

A Rocha is another Christian environmental organisation that seeks to help ordinary Christians make a difference in caring for God's earth. They are encouraging Christians to write to their MPs about conserving nature. Their website gives a lot of good information and advice on how to write to your MP – see this link:

<https://arocha.org.uk/get-involved/write-to-your-mp/>



Parkside

RESIDENTIAL HOME



John Stannard, who had been Chairman of the Parkside Home for the Elderly Board, stepped down. The Church and everyone in the Home thanks him for his many years of loyal service.



28 July 2024 Dedication



Kwafengue Lihongdene and Oligriv Santos dedicate themselves to bringing up Stephanie Santos in the way of the Lord.

Happy Anniversary



Congratulations to Neil and Janet Walden on their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

New Members



Jumoke Giwa-Majekodunmi and Andy Standard welcome Nicolae and Natalia Hodinitu into membership on 7 July 2024.

Front page of the 1984 Flower Festival and Crafts Exhibition programme.

ROMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH (MAIN ROAD)
GOLDEN JUBILEE 1934-1984
FLOWER FESTIVAL
&
CRAFTS EXHIBITION



FRIDAY August 31st 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

SATURDAY September 1st 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

SUNDAY September 2nd 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

MINISTER - REV. N. P. WRIGHT, M.A. Telephone Rom. 43068

ASST. MINISTER - REV. S. CHEVILL, M.A. Telephone Rom. 23238

(who are available to help you in any time of need)



Current Church Activities

Monday

9:30am

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1st 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

7:45pm

RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

10:00-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers

12:45pm

Prayer

7:45pm

Life Groups

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

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.



J E S U S
L O V E S Y O U



Wendy checked the message on her mobile

