



Romford  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Grapevine



**Family Magazine**  
December 2024  
and  
January 2025  
**No. 229**



# From the Editor

As we look forward to the Christmas Season and all its celebrations, we have many opportunities to attend events, both at church and in the community. It is a time for family get-togethers, gift-giving, concerts and carol singing, to name but a few.

Giving gifts is a joy for both the giver and receiver, but let's remember the greatest gift of all:



*For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. John 3:16-17 (The Living Bible)*

So as we celebrate Christmas, may we be celebrating the true reason for the season, and offer ourselves as gifts to God, to serve Him in thankfulness for the eternal life we have through Jesus Christ Jesus.

I pray that the glory of our Saviour's birth will fill your heart with peace and love this Christmas, and into 2025 and beyond.

*Cheryl Schulte*

## Editorial Team

Cheryl Schulte	Editor
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Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
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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.

# Secretary's page

*"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"  
Ephesians 3 20-21*

This has been RBC's text for 2024 and over the last 3 weeks, this verse has popped up multiple times during my quiet time, and it's given me the opportunity to reflect on how this verse has spoken to me over this year and I've come to realise, as I look back over

thanks to God because for every situation encountered, God can bring us through them in ways that we couldn't **"imagine"** or to try and formulate the words to **"ask"** for help and He has done **"immeasurably more"** to let us know He's walking with us.

I hope that when we enter 2025 and we begin to focus on our new text for the year, we will allow ourselves to continue to grow with the verse and hope and expect God to teach us His word is relevant to every part of our lives.

Hayley Ayris  
Church Secretary

## 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



2024

2024, that I'm actually viewing it from a completely different perspective from when I read this verse at the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, and that God can speak to us in different ways through the same verse as time goes on.

I now look at this verse and give

## BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

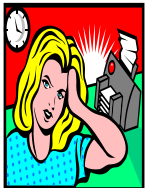
### Birthdays December 2024

- 1 Christine Wright



### Birthdays January 2025

- 5 Anne Barnes
- 16 Grace Bello
- 25 Janet Loveard



**The deadline for the February 2025/March 2025 edition of the Grapevine is**

**Sunday 12 January 2025**

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

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



# Baptisms 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024



**Sanu Olasebikan**

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

2 Thes 2:16-17

**Olasoji Olasebikan**

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Phil 1:6



**Ayopeju Olasebikan**

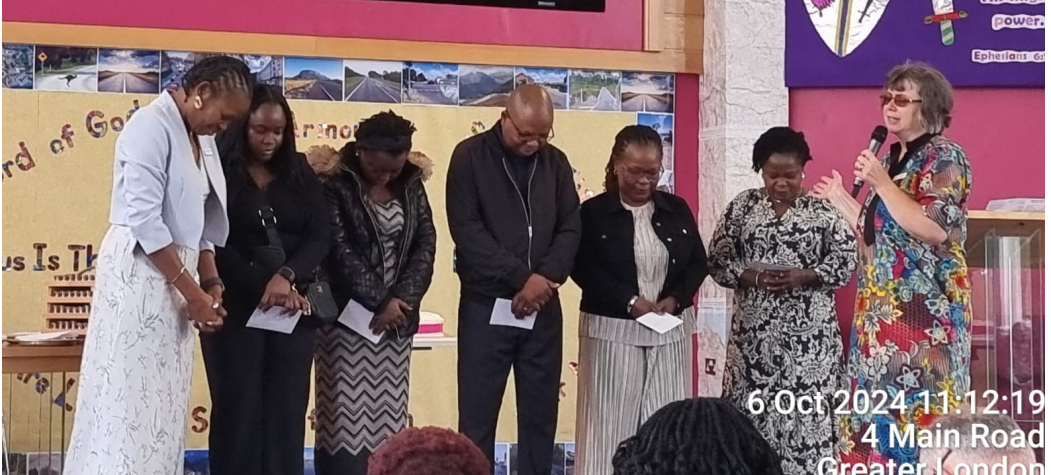
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Pro 3:5-6





## New Members



6 October 2024

Peju Owolabi, Jesutofunmi Omolade, Sanu Olasebikan, Temi Olasebikan and Florence Brantuo were welcomed by Jumoke Majekodumni and Vikki Bunce.

## New Members



3 November 2024

Jide Fawunmi and Jumoke Majekodumni welcomed Femi Olowe, John Nelson and Margaret Nelson into membership.

## Conserving energy at home

With the colder weather approaching, our attention should turn to how we can save the heat we generate in our homes, not only to save money but to help us to reduce our energy needs. Homes in the UK, especially those built before the 1970s, are likely to have solid walls and so are poorly insulated and, unless they have had replacement windows installed, will have single glazed windows. An estimated 25% of the heat generated by your boiler will escape a house via the roof. A further 35% will be lost via the walls and gaps around windows and doors, and approximately 10% will be lost via the floor.

There is a wealth of information available online for advice but I will summarise from the London Borough of Havering Energy Advice page which can be found here: <https://www.havering.gov.uk/environmental-issues/energy-advice>

Large projects such as installing loft insulation (at the right thickness of about 400mm to meet current standards) and wall insulation to suit your property are essential, but I suggest investigating this yourself, comparing the cost and benefits. The Government offers a number of grants and schemes to help with:

- fuel bills
- ensuring your home is more energy efficient
- installing energy efficient measures including heat pumps
- installing electric vehicle charging points

Here are some seasonal tips we all can consider, taken from Havering's website:



Have your gas boiler professionally serviced every 12 months – essential to ensure it is working effectively and to avoid problems with carbon monoxide build-up which can be fatal.



Draught-proofing is a cheap and effective way to prevent heat loss. You can buy proprietary strips to fit around windows, doors and letter boxes. Use a 'long sausage' at the bottom of doors.



Keep curtains shut – just like a coat for your windows, to help retain heat. You can buy thermal lining for curtains which helps further. I tuck my curtains onto the window ledge to prevent the radiator heat going behind the curtains!

Check the heat in your radiators is even, top and bottom. If the top is cooler than the bottom, you may need to bleed your radiators to improve how the water circulates around the system.

Modern radiators have thermostat valves so you can control the heat in each room. If you have a room not being used, turn the valve down low and keep the room door and curtains shut; if damp is a problem, do not turn the radiator off totally.



After using your oven, if it's safe to do so, open the oven door to trans-

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his granddaughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange." The little girl clapped her hands in joy. "Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and a mobile!"



\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas shopping



It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my

Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carolers sang and sang, and the man



looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

## Father Christmas



Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

\*\*\*\*\*

## Nativity scene

"Here's a king!" announced the five-year-old as he unwrapped a figurine from the Christmas decorations box. "Here's a donkey!" he added a moment later.



Then he removed the tissue from another figure, finding the infant Jesus moulded permanently into the little manger. The child exclaimed, "And here's Baby Jesus in his car seat!"

\*\*\*\*\*



## Snow

One snowman said sadly to the other, "All our friends are flakes."

# Prayer Diary 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Date	People to pray for	Other events
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	OKORIE, Johnson, CHUKUWU-OKORIE Gracious, OKORIE <i>Hana</i>	Pray for the Church leaders.
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	OKORJI, Christian Felicia, Honour, Favor	Pray for children and young children in the church and wider community.
Tue 10 <sup>th</sup>	OLADAPO-AKINRULI, Olayemi	Pray for Treasure Times as they participate in Christmas activities.
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	OLAWUYI (LAWRENCE), Anne	Pray for Small Groups as they meet in various places.
Thu 12 <sup>th</sup>	OLASEBIKAN, Sanu, Temi, Olasoji, Peju	Pray for those who gather to chat and spend time together in the Meeting Place.
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	OLIVER, Iris	Pray for the Rise Park Carol Services happening at RBC today and on Monday
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	OLOFINJANA, Bunmi, Tobi, Dianne, <i>Feyi (Bankole)</i>	Pray for those who support our community all year, particularly our emergency services that are at full stretch.
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	OLOKO, Mimi	Pray for the All-age Nativity taking place today
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	OLOWE, R'Femi	Pray for those who find Christmas hard or have lost a loved one.
Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	OLUFEMI, Ola, Funmilayo Esther, Emmanuel Jemimah & David	Pray for those who will visit the Christmas Tree Festival this week
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	OLUOHA, Chidi	Pray for the Parkside Carol Service taking place this afternoon
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	OLUWASEMILORE, Daniel, Josephine & <i>Caleb</i>	Pray for the Carols in the Café event happening today.
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	OLUWOLE, Samuel & Elizabeth, Olawale, Ekene, <i>Fiyin, Samuel</i>	Pray for all the staff in the Meeting Place
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	OSENI, Lara	Pray for safe travelling during the holidays.
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	OMOTOYIMBO, Margaret	Pray for those who come to the Carols by Lamplight service this evening



# Prayer Diary 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Date	People to pray for	Other events
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	OPOKU, Peace, Nicholas, Victoria, <i>Caroline &amp; Aviel (Tetteh)</i>	Pray for the Foodbank volunteers as they help make Christmas better for others.
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	OTCHERE-WILLIAMS, Edwards, Doreen & <i>Daniela, Gabriela</i>	Pray for our friends and families who are not able to spend Christmas with us.
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	OWOLABI, Peju (Patricia Adepeju)	We pray for the Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	OWOYEMI, Idowu, Yetunde & Bibooluwa	Pray for the Parkside staff team.
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	PALMER, Gordon	Pray for the Craft Group as they meet in the Meeting Place today
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	PARKINSON, Iris	Pray for Starshine and all those who are connected to it
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup>	PEDRO, Greyba	Pray for all those with long-term health conditions
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	PIDGEON, Mel, Greg, James, Elizabeth	Pray for the Street Sleepers group; both the volunteers and those they help.
Tue 31 <sup>st</sup>	PIM-WUSU, Jennifer	Pray for the Crossover Service to-night.
<b>2025</b> <b>Wed</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	POMEROY, Kathy	Thank God for the New Year and the blessings it brings.
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	POON, Frank	At least 150 churches are seeking new pastors at the moment within the Baptist Union. Please pray for God's leading.
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	SUI, Sylvia	Pray for all those at university and undertaking further studies
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	POULTNEY, Arthur & Mavis	Pray for BMS and our mission partners Peter and Louise
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	RAHMATI NEEK, Shahriyar	Pray for those who adopt and foster children in the borough
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	RAMDHANSINGH, Clarence & Sushie	Pray for The Meeting Place as it reopens for the year. May God bless all who come in.
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup>	RAMNAN, Utena	Pray for the work of Spurgeon's College as the new year begins, particularly our two Ministers in Training, Jide and Andy



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



(Continued from page 6)

fer the heat to your kitchen. When cooking on the stove, use the right sized gas or electric ring for your pan to direct heat to the pan base only. Use the correct lid to retain heat, which will enable you to reduce the heat setting and prevent moisture escaping. While cooking, either use an extractor fan or open a window to remove excess steam.



Even on cold days, I like to put my laundry on the line in the garden to expose it to sunlight, even on a dull day it has a bleaching effect. It may only partially dry but I can then finish it off indoors or in the tumble drier.



With the windows shut and draughts excluded, drying laundry indoors without adequate ventilation and water escaping from cooking leads to a build-up of moisture resulting in mould on cold surfaces such as uninsulated walls and ceilings. This black mould can cause respiratory and allergic reactions so should not be allowed to build up. It can be removed by mixing a solution of one part bleach and four parts water. With a cloth, wipe this solution across the wall, scrubbing gently until the mould has been removed. Then wipe the bleach away and dry the area using a separate cloth.

As I draw to a close, behind my curtain, I encourage you to investigate how you can improve your ways of conserving God's Earth's precious resources.

*Nicola Childs*

## Smile Lines

### What would you like for Christmas?



A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared 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.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Church rules

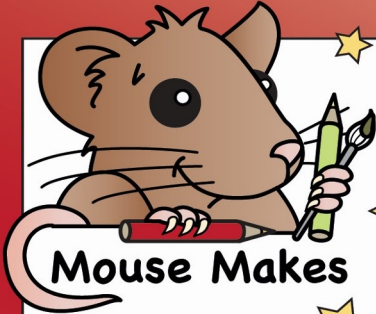


Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

(Continued on page 7)



# Mouse Makes

"The child to be born  
will be called  
H \_\_\_\_\_, the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_"  
*Luke 1:35*

## THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,  
and shall call his name  
\_\_\_\_\_ for he will save his  
people from their sins."  
*Matthew 1:21*

"Jesus said,  
I am the \_\_\_\_\_ Y  
and the \_\_\_\_\_ U  
and the \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_.  
No one comes to the Father  
except through me."  
*John 14:6*

"For unto you is born  
this day a  
S \_\_\_\_\_ who is  
\_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_"  
*Luke 2:11*

"Jesus said,  
I am the  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the life."  
*John 11:25*

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

**JESUS**  
—  
**THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!**

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

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD  
SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER  
LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • LAMB • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

## REMINDER

Clean aluminium foil such as pie dishes, etc can be recycled, and Barbara G still collects it (clean and as tightly squashed together as possible). This is then sold and the money given to St Francis Hospice.

You can give it direct to Barbara or leave at the office.

Every little counts.  
Thank you.



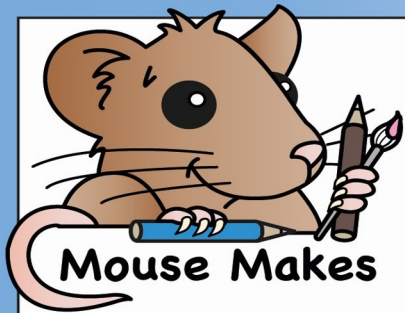
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## The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me  
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.  
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey - a most delicious bird.  
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.  
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old  
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.  
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey carried.  
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered - we had the turkey rissoles fried.  
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.  
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,  
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.  
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,  
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.  
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,  
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.  
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.  
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too - WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.







**EPIPHANY** is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

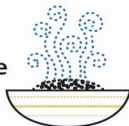


Where was Jesus born?

-----  
 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



-----  
 and -----  
 Luke 2:11



Who was the king?

-----  
 Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?

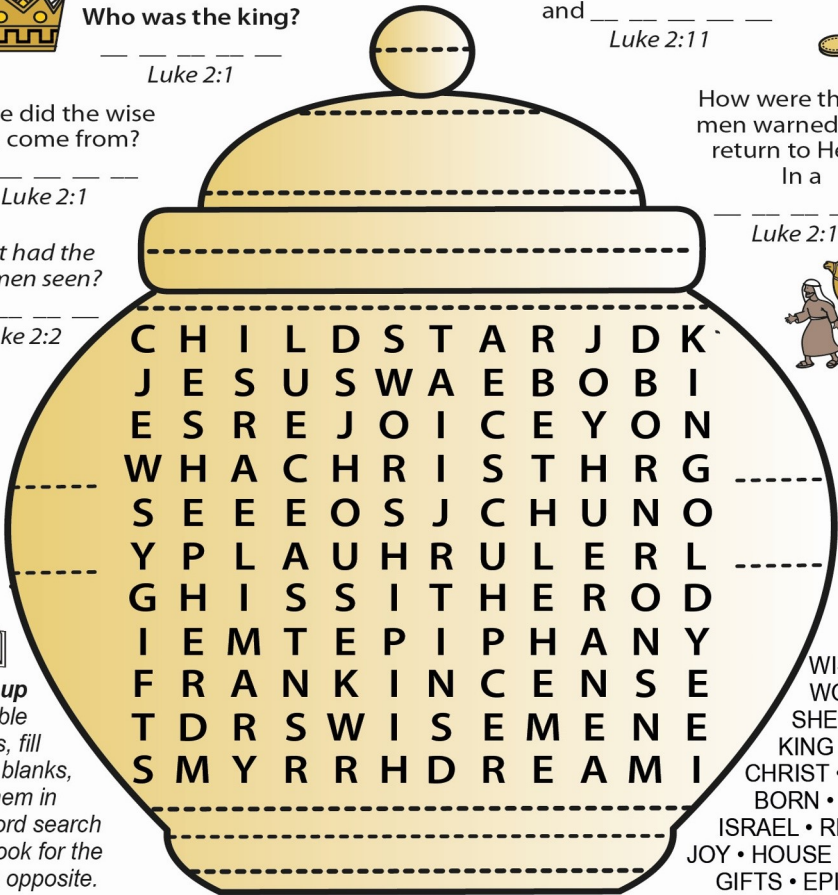
the -----  
 Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?

In a -----  
 Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----  
 Luke 2:2



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

JESUS  
 WISEMEN  
 WORSHIP  
 SHEPHERD  
 KING • JEWS  
 CHRIST • CHILD  
 BORN • RULER  
 ISRAEL • REJOICE  
 JOY • HOUSE • MARY  
 GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?





# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

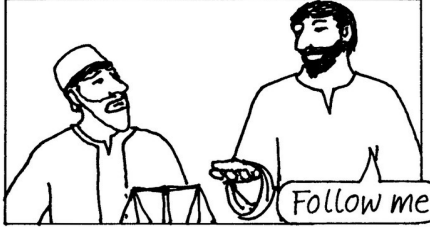
It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



Matthew had his tax office by Lake Galilee.

Jesus walked past, and said



Matthew left everything and went with Jesus.

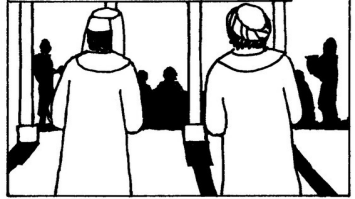


Matthew held a big feast and invited his friends so they could meet Jesus.



They were other tax collectors and bad people

The Pharisees saw Jesus eating with them.



They grumbled to Jesus' disciples.



Jesus heard them and said



Try reading 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness.' \*



\*Hosea 6:6

Hosea was talking about people who looked like they were following God's rules but were bad inside.



I have come for the people who need my help.





## 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

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', 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

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.

