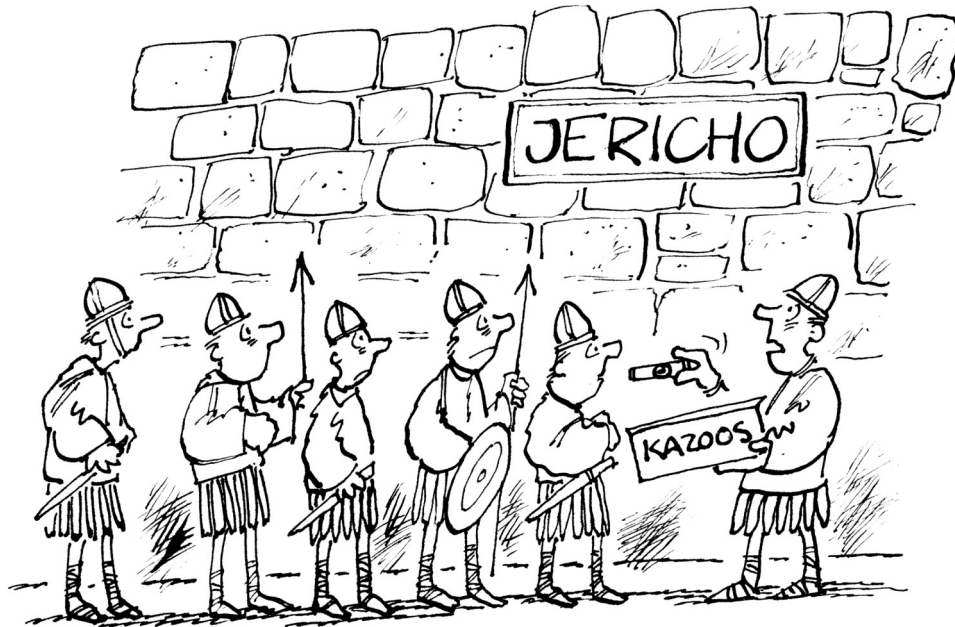




Romford  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Grapevine



...Joshua says he's very sorry - but it's something to do with the recent weapons procurement review...

Worthy of the Gospel

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

PHIL 1:27a

2025



Family Magazine  
February 2025  
and  
March 2025  
No. 230



## From the Editor

As we already approach the second month of 2025, back into the routines of daily life, I wonder how many of us are keeping all those well-intentioned new year resolutions, if we even made any.

It's so easy to make plans, and yet equally so easy to abandon them when we lose interest, or it seems that 'life gets in the way'.

In Proverbs 19:21 (NIV), we read,

*"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*

And, Proverbs 3:5,6 (NKJV) reminds us to:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."*

So, as 2025 gains momentum, let's remember to trust in God and give our plans over to Him, so that he can direct our footsteps on the right path. May we see the Lord's purpose prevail in our lives as we strive to act worthy of the Gospel of Christ, as our RBC text for the year encourages us to do.

*Cheryl Schulte*

## Editorial Team

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Gill Ayris	Collation
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## Current Church Activities



### Monday

9:30am

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in the month)  
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

10:00-11:15am

Parent and Toddlers  
Prayer  
Life Groups

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  
Evening Worship in the building and online

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

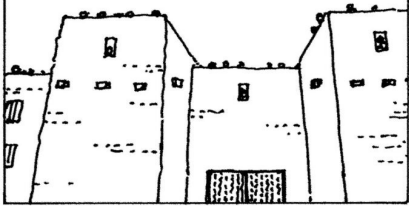
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



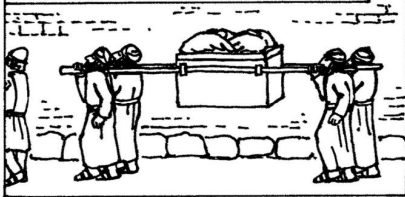
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



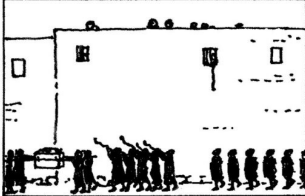
The army followed not saying a word.



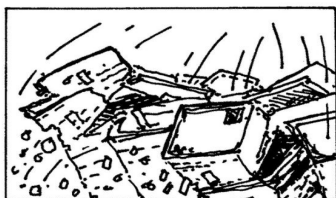
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

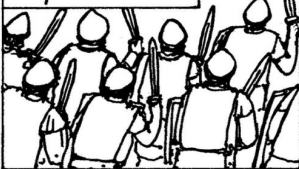


The army gave a victory shout!



The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

## Secretary's page

As I sit here writing this page, I am struck by how much will change before it is read by you.

You are reading what I wrote last month, indeed last year. Since it was written Christmas has come and gone and we have seen out 2024 and welcomed in, with new hope, 2025. We have watched many depressing news stories and the goings on with politicians, TV personalities and others. Two fights (at least) have occurred on Eastenders and Arsenal fans have been excited/upset (delete as appropriate) by the Christmas scores. The news has told of the disastrous Christmas sales in the shops and supermarkets, and possibly one big company has gone into receivership. All the above is guess work and you can now see how much I have got correct.

As we entered the New Year with its brand new 8760 hours, we do so with a sense of optimism, praying it will be a good year but also with some fear because we really do not know what the year will hold for us as individuals, for our wellbeing and health or our finances and relationships. This is true for the church too. So much that is unknown is before us.

Yes 2025 may be a great year where we see tremendous blessing and en-

couragement but it may also be a very hard year with much to fight. The year ahead we do not know and often we need to be reminded, even as Christians, that we are not promised an easy life.

King David, from the Old Testament, knew what it was to go through good times with victories and also hard times where he felt just like giving up. It was in one of these hard times that Psalm 31 was quilled.

*But I trust in you, Lord;  
I say, "You are my God."  
My times are in your hands; - Psalm  
31:14-15a*

Last Sunday, God willing, I preached on our theme text for the year. Taken from Philippians 1v27 it says:

*"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ"*

Let us resolve to do that which we can, whatever 2025 brings: good or bad, calm or storm, health or sickness, plenty or poor, feast or famine, let us be **worthy of the gospel of Christ!**

My prayer? That as a church and as individuals we will be able to say, we sought to be worthy.

Ian Bunce  
Team Leader



**The deadline for the April 2025/May 2025 edition of the Grapevine is Sunday 9 March 2025**

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

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



# Pruning My Sinful Brambles



During the Christmas holidays, I took on the daunting task of cutting back what felt like acres of vicious brambles which had taken hold of our little side garden. Intertwined with painful stinging nettles, it was an unenviable task! The overgrown jungle was so intertwined that it was hard to see where one thorny stem started or finished. The only option was to don a pair of sturdy gardening gloves and pull out shorter pieces, chopping them up and filling my green garden wheelie bin. It took hours! Little by little, cutting off a couple of feet at a time and snipping with secateurs. It took determination, motivation and patience to work my way through what seemed like an insurmountable job at the beginning.

While I was working and getting into some sort of slow-but-steady rhythm, God used this horrible task to teach me an important lesson. He showed me that sin, when left undealt with, simply works its way into every aspect of my life. Not really noticed at first, perhaps not even causing that much of a problem. But left untended and allowed to grow, it can impact me daily and give Satan a foothold.

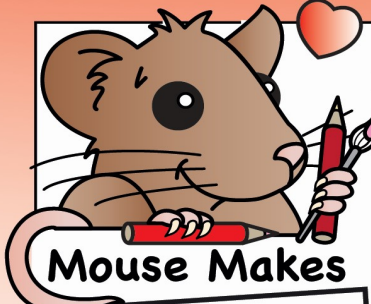
I'm not talking about the sins I consider 'huge' like murder and theft. I'm talking about those 'little' sins - like talking extra time for my break, or joining in with gossip. It's easy to validate these little things I come across day to day, especially when it feels justified. But on that day when my fingers and arms were constantly scratched and pierced with thorns, God revealed that these little things (which of course are not from Christ) can be spiritually pruned back, one small piece at a time.

Change is hard, especially when I'm influenced by those around me. In my staff room, I can find myself so easily drawn into discussions which are not Christ-like. Just like the brambles which creep up on my garden and work their way in between the trees and shed walls. Before I know it, I'm speaking about someone in a way I shouldn't. I've asked God to help me prune back this sinful bramble, even sometimes leaving the staff room so I cannot be tempted to join in. With God's help and strength, I try and make a conscious effort to see the good in the person I would otherwise speak of unkindly.

*'Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.'* Matthew 26:41

My sinful brambles keep on growing of course. I need God's daily forgiveness, grace and strength to help keep them at bay. I do see change, but it's not always in one big 'Damascus epiphany'. Sometimes it's just a little thing, like not yelling at the driver who cuts me

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is \_\_\_\_\_

It does not, \_\_\_\_\_

it does not \_\_\_\_\_

it is not \_\_\_\_\_

it does not \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ others, it is not self - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_

Love delights in \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ it always \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never \_\_\_\_\_;

His \_\_\_\_\_ never come to an end; they are new every \_\_\_\_\_.

*Lamentations 3:20-23*

♥

I pray... you will understand... the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_ and how \_\_\_\_\_ that **love** is.

*Ephesians 3:18-19*

♥

God is **love**.

whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in **love** \_\_\_\_\_ in God, and God \_\_\_\_\_ in them.

*1 John 4:16*

♥

Give \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, for He is \_\_\_\_\_ his steadfast **love** endures \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalms 136:1*

HOW DOES GOD **LOVE** ME?

**God sent me a saviour:** He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.

*1 John 4:9*

**God gave me His spirit:** He has given you the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His **love**.

*Romans 5:5*

**God called me His child:** See what great **love** the Father has for us that He would call us His children.

*1 John 1:3*

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:

**LOVE** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul** and with all your **mind**.

*Matthew 22:37*

**LOVE** your neighbour the same as you **love** yourself.

*Matthew 22:39*

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

GOD • **LOVE**

PATIENT • KIND

GRACIOUS • PEACE

JUST • TRUTHFUL

TRUSTING • LOYAL

HOPEFUL

PERSEVERES

ENDURES

HUMBLE

SELFLESS

PROTECTS • DEFENDS

## Date for your diary



Unlock London Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025 around the Battersea to Brixton area.

More information from Colin & Susan Young nearer the time.

## Smile Lines

### Hearing

A tiny lady was the guest preacher. A few minutes into her sermon, she paused and said: "Can you all hear me at the back?" A kind voice replied: "We can hear you fine. But sadly, we can't quite see you."

\*\*\*\*\*

### Visit

The new vicar was doing the rounds to meet his parishioners. At one house where he knocked, a woman inside called out: "Is that you, Angel?"

The vicar hesitated and then called back: "No, but I'm from the same department."

\*\*\*\*\*

### Chocolate

A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine's Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the

## Thank you and Goodbye



Ian Bunce bids a farewell to one of RBC's faithful members. Sam has been at the controls of the AV desk for many years. Sam was at the desk every Sunday during the pandemic. The Church wishes him well as he has moved away from Romford.

inscription: 'To Helen, with all my allowance.'

\*\*\*\*\*

### Father

My family was at the dinner table when my five-year-old daughter startled us all by announcing to my three-year-old son: "Dad is not your real father."

My son retorted: "Yes, he is!"

"No, he's not," she insisted. "God is your heavenly father." Then pointing to my husband, she added: "That's only our homely father!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Cleaning house with children at home is a lot like snow blowing during a blizzard.

*(Continued from page 4)*

up at Gallows Corner. I just thank God when a better choice has been made. It's a powerful witness, especially if there's someone else in the car and annoys the devil no end!



The thorns digging into my arms and fingers were a moving reminder of the thorns which pierced our dear Saviour's head, representing the brambles of sin in each of our lives which He bore on the cross.

At the end of my 5 hours work, the garden was clear, the wheelie bin was full and I felt happy that a horrible but needed job had been finished. But I know I'll need to revisit the garden soon, to trim back the regrowth before it gets out of hand; at least it should be an easier job if I do that. I need to maintain my own daily choices and prune back my sinful brambles. If I maintain those areas of my life where I know I'm weak then, within God's strength, I'll be less likely to succumb to temptation. But any gardener will tell you; it's a never-ending job. So, I'll continue asking God for help pruning them back, so they will not take hold in the same way. I want to leave room for flowers to bloom in my spiritual garden so His glory may shine.

*'He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities:  
the chastisement of our peace was upon Him;  
and with His stripes we are healed.'*  
Isaiah 53:5

Sarah Jenkins

## BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME



Thank you very much to all those who have given a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme on your birthday during 2024, raising a total of £925.00 including Gift Aid. Additional gifts have also been sent directly to BMS online and all your gifts are greatly appreciated.

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 India to Chad you've helped make a difference where it's been needed most. Thank you again for choosing to bless others on your special day.' (BMS News Bulletin 2025)

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 2025.

Christine Brown

## BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

### Birthdays February 2025

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



### Birthdays March 2025

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



## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Date	People to pray for	Other Events
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	STANNARD, Christine & John	<b>Alpha.</b> A description of Jesus to remind us He was first. Pray He is first in your life and the church.
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	STANNARD, Heather, Matt & <i>Theodore</i>	<b>Because</b> Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples of all nations. We have an opportunity to learn how to share the greatest message of all time. Jesus the hope for the nations. With Chris Duffett preaching today.
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	STANNARD, Rachel	<b>Come</b> Lord Jesus- pray we will be ready for His return.
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	STEPHENSON, Nadine & <i>BOURNE Gabrielle</i>	<b>Doubting.</b> Many of us struggle with doubt. Today focus our prayers on seeking more faith to overcome our doubts.
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	STEWART, John	<b>Emmanuel</b> - God with us. Spend some time knowing the presence of God with you today.
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup>	STRAIN, Laura, Olusoji Moses, <i>David &amp; Toluwalope</i>	<b>Fear.</b> Fear robs us of joy yet is a natural emotion. Today focus on the power of God to overcome our fears, maybe spending time listing your fears to God and handing them to Him.
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	STREET, Steve, Liz & <i>Hannah</i>	<b>Grateful.</b> Today pray prayers of gratefulness listing the blessings we have.
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	SWINDALE, Ben, Becki, <i>Hannah</i>	<b>How</b> lovely on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news. Today we have an opportunity to bring good news to the people of Romford.
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	THOMAS-REID, Carmen	<b>I</b> am. Spend some time focusing on who Jesus said He was.
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	THOMPSON, David & Colleen	<b>Jesus.</b> Spend some time today getting to know Jesus better.
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	TIDBURY, Pat	<b>Kingdom.</b> Pray for the kingdom of God to come in our lives.
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	TIMOTHY, Kathy	<b>Lord.</b> Make Jesus Lord of your life afresh.
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup>	TIMOTHY, Neil & Charlotte	<b>Manna.</b> The Israelites daily relied on God for their daily provisions. Seek God for your daily needs afresh.
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	TOWNSON, Patricia	<b>Nehemiah.</b> A prophet, an entrepreneur, a follower of God, through prayer, listening and obedience. Seek that we will hear God and seek the fulfilment of His calling on us.

## Prayer Diary 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Date	People to pray for	Other Events
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	TUNDE, Samuel (Oluwole), Lara (Omolara), BJ (Babajide), JJ (Fejjimi), KJ (Kolejo)	<b>Openness</b> to God's plan for our lives, even if it is outside of what we expect or want.
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	TURNER, Colin & Irene	<b>Purpose.</b> We are encouraged to find our purpose in God. Phil 3:12 For what purpose has God taken control of you?
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	TYLER, Joyce	<b>Quiet,</b> yes, stop talking to God today and listen. Speak Lord for your servant is listening.
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	URSACHE, Victoria, <i>Flavius &amp; Anastasia</i> , CATARAGA, Silvia	<b>Remember.</b> During communion we often use the phrase "in remembrance of me" (Jesus). Today spend time simply remembering what Jesus has done for you.
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	VAN-COEVORDEN, Marylin	<b>Sorry.</b> Dear God I am sorry for.....
Thu 27 <sup>th</sup>	VAN COEVORDEN, Karen	<b>Truth.</b> We live in a world where truth does not mean anything. Today take hold of the truth that will set you free. Maybe spend some time looking at what the Bible says about truth.
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	VARGHESE, Sony, SONY, Sheba & <i>Benjamin</i>	<b>Unexpected.</b> Are we open to God doing unexpected things in our lives, in His church? Have you got any small print in your contract with God that stops Him fully having His way?
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	VEARES, Brian & Fay	<b>Victory.</b> What victory are you seeking? Pray for God to have the victory for you.
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	VILJOEN, David & Carla	<b>Worship.</b> Spend your quiet time, not asking but worshipping our Lord.
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WAIGWA, Francis & Rebecca	<b>Xpect</b> - ok, we cheated here, but expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup>	WALDEN, Neil & Janet	<b>Yes,</b> and Amen. What does God want of you? Will you be like Mary in Luke 1 when she said "let it be to me according to your will? Or Amen let it be.
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	WARD, Roy	<b>Zephaniah</b> reminds us that God delights in us (Zeph 3:17). Know God's delight in you today.
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup>	WENBORN, Olive	<b>For</b> the Baptist churches across London and Great Britain.
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	WILKINSON, David & Margaret	<b>For</b> the work of BMS World Mission and their relief work across the UK.

