



"It's not a new stained-glass window – the Youth Club put its skateboard ramp too close to the church's west wall!"



Romford
BAPTIST CHURCH

Grapevine



Family Magazine
August 2025
and
September 2025
No. 232

From the Editor

Reading through this edition of Grapevine, I have been struck by the impact and influence of individuals, both past and present. We as a fellowship benefit in so many ways, from the actions of people, without even realising it.

A song that meant so much to many of us during lockdown was The Blessing, which is based on the priestly blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

"The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace."

It also has another section:

May His favour be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children, and their children

Deuteronomy 9:9 says "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."

The vision of the founders of Romford Baptist Church, followed by faith and sacrifice to build such a large church in a prominent position has borne so much fruit over the past 90 years, and I pray that our vision and investments in terms of time, prayer, giving and dedication will continue to bear fruit into the future, as we love and follow Christ.

Cheryl Schulte

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Kathy Pomeroy	Proof Reader
Tanya Chingombe	Printing
Gill Ayris	Collation
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D.Majekodunmi	Photos

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Current Church Activities



Monday

9:30am

12:00-2:00pm

Amaze support group for parents and carers of children with additional needs (usually 1st Monday in the month)
Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

Tuesday

10:00am

10:30am

2:00-3.30pm

8:00pm

7:45pm

Needlecraft Group
Amaze Adults support group for adults with additional needs
Treasure Times
Prayer meeting on Zoom
RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

10:00-11:15am

12:45pm

7:45pm

Parent and Toddlers
Prayer
Life Groups

Thursday

10:00am

10:00-11:00am

11:00am-3:00pm

7:30-9:00pm

Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays (please call church office for dates)
'Come and join us for a chat', 1st and 3rd Thursdays
Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly
Youth Club (alternate weeks)

Friday

10:00am

Craft Group in the Meeting Place

Sunday

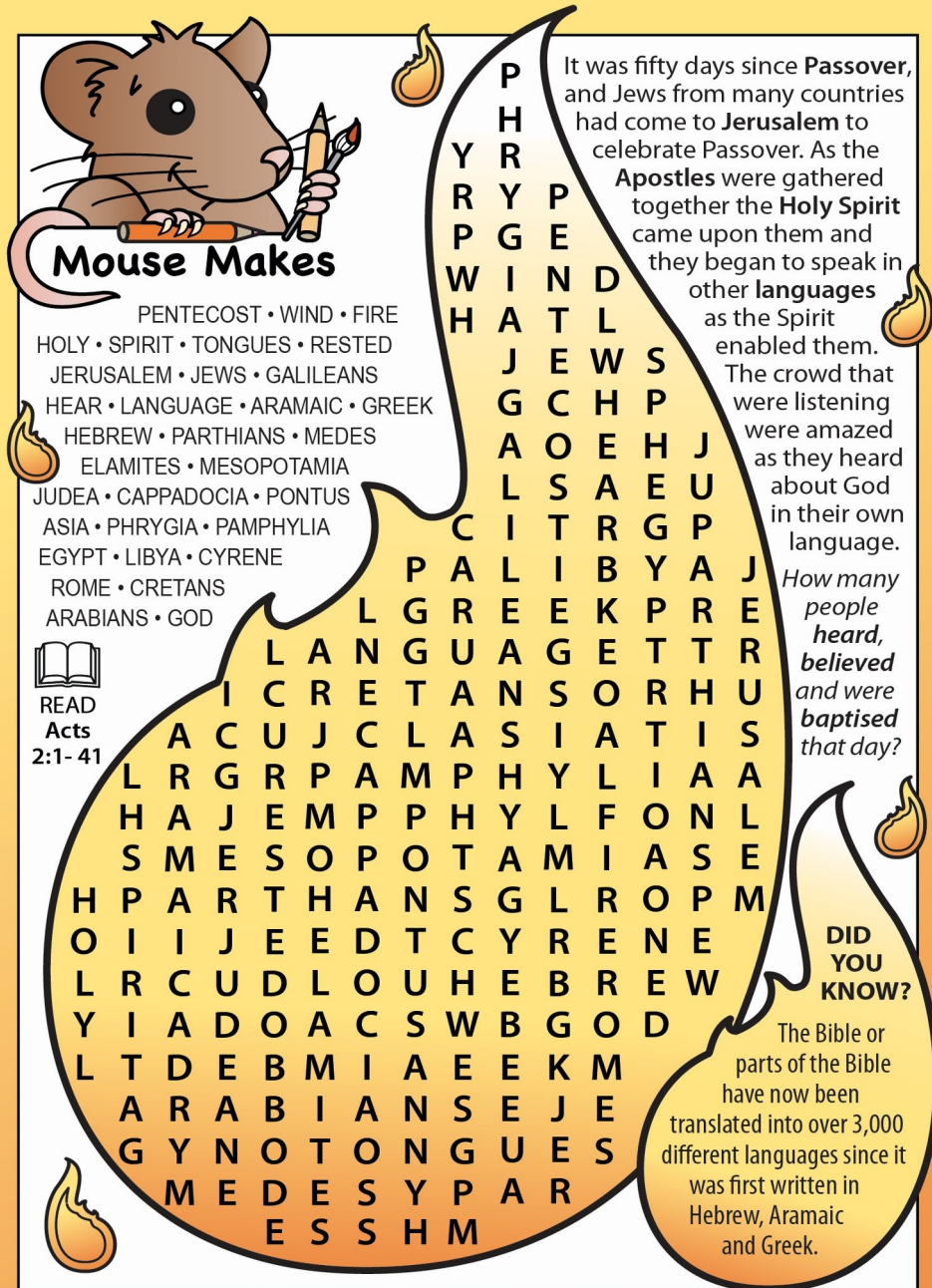
10:30am

6:00pm

Morning Worship in the building and online
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.

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



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Bernd's page

Reflections

As I reach the end of my second term as a deacon, I was thinking about all that we have lived through – world wide and within our Church. We have seen Britain leave Europe, witnessed President Trump come and go (and come again), endured a pandemic that introduced us to the joys and frustrations of Zoom – I had a about a 3 second “drive” to the Leadership Meetings. It is difficult to remember a time before Zoom.

Personally, I think one of the most profound changes has been that we stream our services; this has extended our Church's reach. What once was a broadcast for members alone has become a global ministry, open to anyone willing to watch. To date, our services have been viewed in over 50 countries, spanning continents and cultures. The thought that our message has touched lives from Australia to Zimbabwe reminds me that faith knows no borders.

One rather unexpected impact of our online presence came after the pandemic, when a former member now living in America cited our Church's example to justify communion without physical gathering. It is remarkable how far our practices and discussions can ripple outward, shaping conversations in ways we never imagined.

One of the unexpected joys of being a deacon has been the Leadership meetings. I'll admit, after a long day at work, the thought of yet another meeting rarely excites me. Yet, I have never once walked away thinking, well, that

was terrible. Quite the opposite - our meetings are warm, jovial, and filled with laughter (yes, even with agendas in hand). We receive our “party packs” of papers in advance. And while decisions are made, these meetings never fail to reinforce the friendship and unity that underpin our leadership.

I have often thought about the 90:10 rule - that in many churches, 90% of the work is carried by 10% of the people. Romford Baptist Church is no different. Let me be clear this is not meant to guilt trip anyone! Life is busy, circumstances vary, and not everyone can commit the time and reading. Serving on the Leadership Team is a time commitment.

So, what's next for me? Well, thankfully much like Jumoke, we haven't been cast out completely. I'll continue working on the Church website and on Grapevine. Assuming, of course, that the Editor doesn't decide my tenure should end there too!

As I step back from the Leadership Team, a role I took on willingly. I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to be a servant for Christ and a servant for and to Romford Baptist Church. Serving has been filled with lessons, laughter, and a deep sense of belonging. This Church is more than just a building - it is a family, bound by faith, friendship, and a shared mission.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

Bernd Schulte

Foodbank



Food bank

In 2024 our Foodbanks gave out 5144 parcels of food to residents within our community here. A "normal" reaction to that would be *"oh wow that's amazing?"*, and whilst it is great we have been able to provide that support, our reaction should be: *"What can we do to reduce and stop the need for foodbanks?"*.

That was the challenge and conversation of the day at Trussell's Rolling Roadshow for 2025. Alison and I spent a day with other Foodbanks looking at the challenges and opportunities for Foodbanks over the next 5 years. The day started with a time of prayer, which gave us the grounding for the day. We were encouraged, shared ideas and got to know others who had the same heart and compassion that we do for those in need of Foodbanks. We both left the day feeling and knowing we are part of a wider collection of people across the UK wanting to make a change.

There were two stand-out quotes of the day that have been left with me, one which was a quote from Desmond Tutu: *"We've got to stop fishing people out of the water, we need to go up stream and see why they are falling in"*. How does that relate to Foodbanks? The Foodbank can't be the solution, we need to see what is leading them to the foodbank and what can be done

to stop people needing the foodbanks.

That does seem very overwhelming against the contrast of life in 2025 and volume of people accessing foodbanks, but that also leads to my second quote: *"Stubborn hope - remain stubborn in your hope that things will change"*.

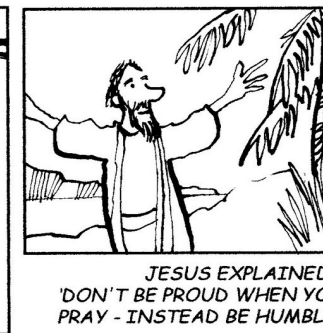
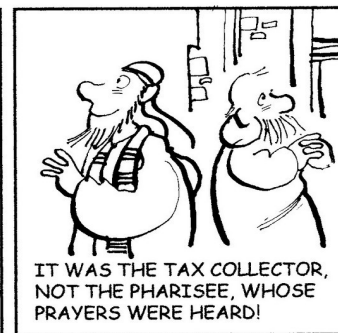
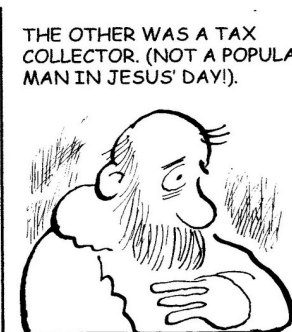
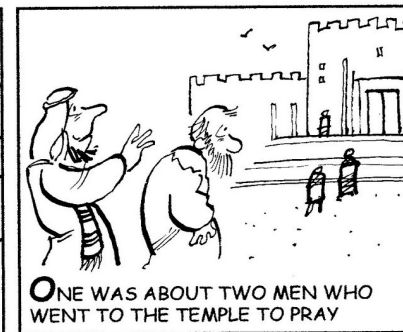
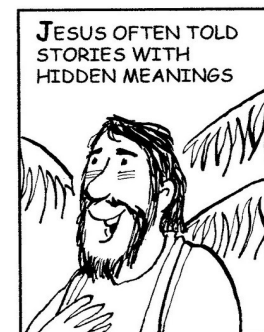
It's been nearly two years since the Collier Row and Romford Foodbanks moved under Romford Baptist Church Community Care (RBCCC) and we will be starting to look at the next stage of the foodbanks, i.e. a Foodbank is more than just the food, it is giving those who use them dignity, and support to deal with their everyday solutions.

You were all brilliant in responding to the Lent appeal, but we still ran out of certain foods just a few weeks later, which shows the need for support is ongoing. There are still regular ways you can get involved:

- Pray – our Foodbanks are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, please pray on those days, pray for the volunteers, pray for those who attend the foodbank and pray that the food doesn't run out.
- Please select an item from the foodbank list: the weekly notice sheet lists what essential items are needed that week. When you are shopping, please if you can select an item and bring it down to RBC.
- Alternatively, contribute a regular form of financial donation to the foodbank, either through the offering bags, the card machine in The

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The Tale of the TWO MEN SAYING THEIR PRAYERS



The doctor and the ill person



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!



"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ruth chapters 1 and 2

When famine came to Bethlehem, Elimelech took his family to the nearby country of Moab. The two sons married local girls.

But Elimelech and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth as widows.



Naomi told her daughters-in-law she was returning to Bethlehem.



Go back to your parents' homes.

The girls cried, and Orpah left, but Ruth stayed.



I will stay with you. Your people and your God will be mine.



So Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem.

Call me 'Mara' not 'Naomi' * because God has made my life bitter.



* 'Naomi' means 'Pleasant' 'Mara' means 'Bitter'

It was the start of the barley harvest. Poor people were allowed to glean - to pick up the ears of grain that had been dropped. Ruth went out to glean.



She picked a field, asked if she could glean, then worked hard



The field's owner, Boaz, arrived.

Who's that girl?



That's Ruth, who came from Moab with Naomi.



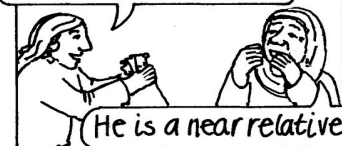
Boaz told Ruth she was welcome to work in his fields.

He told her to join his workers at lunch-time, and made sure she had more than enough to eat.



Ruth worked hard and took home a huge bag of grain.

I worked in Boaz's field.



He is a near relative!

Ruth worked all through the barley and wheat harvests in Boaz's fields.



(Continued from page 4)

Meeting Place or by standing order

- Speak to Alison about other ways you can help, volunteering either at one of the Foodbanks, helping with the dating and sorting of the donations and other tasks, including admin, that need to be done within the “background” of the Foodbanks

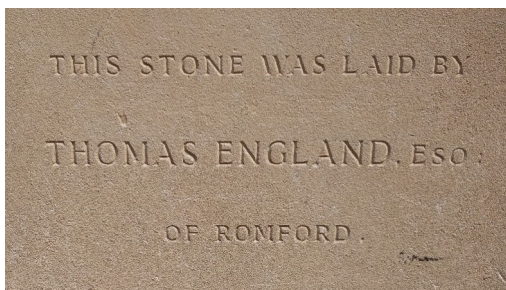
Why should you get involved? We read in the Bible: “Love your neighbour as yourself” - the people who use the Foodbank are our neighbours, in the same way we would hope and want someone to help us, we should show help to them.

Haley Ayris

Thomas England

Many of you will know that a group of rather ‘ancient’ Girl Guides are often gathered in ‘The Meeting Place’, so should not be surprised when the tracking skills of our founder B.P. recently found a useful occupation at Romford Baptist Church.

It all started when eagle-eyed Valerie spotted this foundation stone inserted in the outside right-hand wall of the church. After reporting her find to her Trefoil Guild friends, they then started on a quest which has revealed the sto-



ry of an interesting man - a discreet and amazingly generous Christian benefactor who has enriched the lives of many in Romford's past and, through his legacy, continues to do so today.



Born in Yorkshire, Thomas England came to Romford as a young man to work as a pharmacist in the shop on the corner opposite to the ‘Golden Lion’ on the High Street. He eventually

bought the shop and through his industry and acute business acumen, he was able to invest in land, which from the early 20th century he saw would become the drivers of profit. Of course, those instincts proved correct and becoming a very wealthy man, he then set about generously helping the local community.



For many years he gave his time either advising or formally serving on Romford Council when land for building

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Holiday at Home 17th to 19th June 2025

17-19th June 2025 saw over 70 of our older generation come together for three days of activities under the theme of ‘Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner’. From wonderful lunches, (although some weren't too sure about the hot eels and liquor that accompanied the pie and mash) to quizzes, learning about 3 Londoners who made a big difference to the lives of many others, and lots of time to chat, a good

time was had by all. The Pearly King and Queen, as well as the Deputy Lieutenant of Havering, were fascinating speakers and Martin led our final session together with a singalong, including London songs and old time favourites seeing some of those present getting up and dancing. Huge thanks to all involved who made it such a special time together.

Vikki Bunce



Wedding Blessing of John and Melanie Brannon 25 May 2025



Morning Church. Mel and I have been married for just under 3 years. In this short time, Mel has had a relationship breakdown with her parents and her eldest son, as well as other influences trying to break up our marriage. To add to this, I lost my mum to cancer, and last year I was diagnosed with prostate cancer myself. Thankfully I had major surgery and thanks to the Lord I was given a second chance of life. 19 months ago we moved to Collier Row from Leigh on Sea. I felt the Lord was behind our

decision to start afresh and start a new journey. Despite all the obstacles put in our way, our marriage has remained strong. We are here today to express gratitude for our union and specifically ask for divine guidance, love, patience, understanding, and strength to navigate life together. We're grateful that you are all here today in the house of the Lord to witness our blessing.

Thank you
John Brannon

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flourished between the wars. He also had a vision of green spaces stretching across the borough connecting Raphael Park to Bedfords Park; and this was fulfilled by Thomas England's donation of nearly 25 acres of land to create Rise Park - a walking corridor created in 1937 which has since been enjoyed by generations of many young people and happy families.

Fortunately, Thomas England and his wife Esther were a pair well suited. Working together, with Christian ideals as practicing Methodists, they used their good fortune for many causes besides parks, scout halls and new church buildings. They were always discreet, often their name was not given as the donor and even after death, it is not the name 'England' that is used for the continuance of their legacy.

Search out the name 'Norwood & Newton Settlement' and you will find just how many churches are the beneficiaries of their Christian generosity, for by using the maiden names of both their mothers, Thomas & Esther England continue to help churches in Havering and many out of the borough.

... and for the Trefoil Guild, well we are off to try to spot more evidence of similar good works.

Deirdre Marculescu
Romford Trefoil Guild.
15th June 2025

(Submitted by
Olive Wenborn)



Smile Lines

Day trip?

A north country choirmaster was rehearsing the hymns for Sunday, telling the choir the hymns they were to sing, and the tunes to which they were to sing them. He concluded the list and said, "Now then, 'Come ye that love the Lord', to Southport!"

A moment later a voice called out, "Where are you tekking t'rest of us then?"

Baptism

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

Vote carried

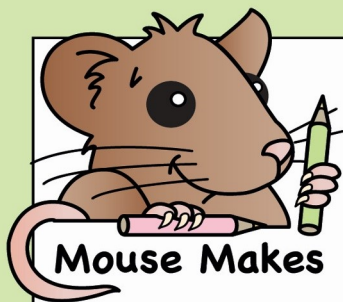


The vicar was ill in hospital and so the churchwarden went to visit. Trying to cheer him up, the churchwarden said: "We missed you at PCC last night. We even put forward a resolution to wish you a speedy recovery. It was passed by 14 votes to 12."

Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect

(Continued on page 9)



"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say...'"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.
Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

but _____
us from _____.
For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

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



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:

LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?

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Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



(Continued from page 7)

she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

No worries

A 102-year-old lady was asked if she had any worries about the future. She replied: "Not since I got my eldest son into an old people's home."

What exactly is 'a lie'?

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote: "A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble."

Open wide

A lady was very nervous about her ap-

pointment at the dentist. She sought courage from her Bible. The verse her finger landed on was Psalm 81:10: 'Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it.'



Vatican

Once asked how many people worked in the Vatican, Pope John XXIII replied: "Oh, about half."

Preaching hazards

Showing your new parish that you are a forceful preacher may not always be a good idea, as the Revd Sydney Smith found out when he first arrived at All Saints Church in Foston in 1806. "When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation."



**The deadline for the
October 2025/November 2025 edition of the
Grapevine is
Sunday 15 September 2025**

Please give any items to Cheryl Schulte, or email them to Cheryl at:
grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk

