



Romford
BAPTIST CHURCH

Grapevine



Family Magazine
October 2025
and
November 2025
No. 234



From the Editor

When we were in South Africa over the summer break (winter over there), I enjoyed some amazing sunrises, sunsets, landscapes and seascapes. Just looking at a beautiful sunset, or walking on an unspoilt beach enjoying the wide expanse of sky makes me feel very happy. Psalm 19 v1 says, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."*

Being able to see the stars in the sky at night was another treat. So many, so bright. Too many to count, especially in the Milky Way. It reminded me of the words in Psalm 8 v3-4, *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"*. Yet God is mindful of us, and does care for us.

Isn't it amazing how God speaks to us in so many different ways – through Scripture, thoughts, nature, books, testimonies, conversations and many more. In this edition of Grapevine we are able to read about some of these ways that God's voice has been heard. I pray that we will be open to hearing God's voice in the various ways He chooses to speak to us. May we be willing to follow Him as He guides us. May we be comforted, inspired or challenged in our lives. And may we strive to live a life worthy of Him, reflecting Jesus' love in all we say and do.

Cheryl Schulte

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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

Life is rarely straightforward. At the end of the summer term, I was looking ahead to the new academic year at Spurgeon's College. Now, I am trying to wrap my head around the implications of continuing my academic journey in a new place surrounded by new people, with Bristol Baptist College. At the same time, I think about all the preparations that families have been making in recent weeks as they get ready for the new school year. Younger children are starting school for the first time, moving up to a new year group and teacher or changing schools. Teenagers are progressing onto the next stage of their studies, thinking about their GCSE options, preparing for their exams and moving on to College and Sixth Form. For our young adults, many are off to Uni, perhaps for the first time. With all these things often come challenges or complications, both foreseen and unforeseen. These settings and

situations that our young people, particularly at this time of the year are facing, raise a question that is important to us all: how do we meet



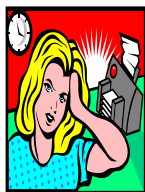
life's challenges? How do we respond to these complications?

Paul's words to the Philippians and our text for the year ring in my ears:

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil 1:27a.

However we usually respond, this is how we should respond. When we walk into the unknown, when we face foreseen or unforeseen challenges, circumstances and complications. Or as Paul puts it "whatever happens", may we with humility respond as people who have encountered and been transformed by King Jesus.

*Andy Stannard
Minister in Training*



**The deadline for the
December 2025/January 2026 edition of the
Grapevine is
Sunday 9 November 2025**

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

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



Shadows

I was turning out some papers and I came across a bookmark I had bought when my husband and I visited Biggin Hill Airfield. During the Second World War it was an RAF base for Spitfires and Hurricanes. We were able to look round the chapel and at one end there was an arch and written at the top were words from Psalm 63 (AV). "In the shadow of Thy wing will I rejoice". It seemed so appropriate as I believe the RAF badge is in the form of wings.

Shadows, or shade, can be such a blessing on a hot day when we need protection from the sun's blazing rays. However, if I want to sit in the shade in my garden, I have to keep changing my position because as the sun moves across, so the area of shade keeps changing too.

James, in his letter in the New Testament, describes God as 'the Father of Heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows' (James 1 v17). How reassuring this is. Our God is 'the same yesterday, today and forever'. He is always faithful. His love for us never changes, even when we forget about Him or let Him down.

In the scary world in which we live, where the news is changing almost by the minute, it is easy to become anxious and despondent. However, God is still in control of the world He created, even though we may not understand His plans or His ways. In the changing circumstances of our lives, our Father will stay close. In the shadow of His wings, His love and His mercy will give us the strength to cope when we are faced with difficult and bewildering experiences. I know this to be true.

However, shadows can be frightening. As a small child in the wartime when there was no street lighting, I used to be scared when the light from the moon cast shadows on my bedroom wall. In one of his books, the Scottish preacher John McNeil describes how he had to walk home from school through a wooded area. Odd shaped bushes and trees cast shadows as the sun began to set on winter afternoons. School friends tried to scare him with tales of robbers who they said lurked there waiting to attack him. On one particularly gloomy day, John thought he could see something or someone coming towards him. He was convinced it was one of the robbers the boys talked about. Then he heard a voice call his name. He stood paralysed with fear. This unknown person even knew his name! The voice called out again: "John, is that you?" With enormous relief, he realised it was his father who had come to meet him.

One translation of Psalm 23 v4 puts it like this: "Even when walking through the valley of the shadows, I will not be afraid for you are close beside me, guiding all the way."

The first verse of one of my favourite hymns written by Timothy Dudley-Smith, who died not so long ago, goes like this:

Safe in the shadow in the Lord
Beneath His hand and power
I trust in Him, I trust in Him
My fortress and my tower

Anne Barnes

Global climate change conference (CoP30)



This year's global climate change meeting (CoP 30 - '30th Conference of the Parties' to the UN framework convention on climate change) will be held in Belem, Brazil, from 10th to 21st November. Representatives of governments will also meet from 13th to 14th October in Brasilia to prepare for the main meeting.

The meeting is supposed to achieve agreements and commitments from - particularly - governments, to limit global heating. Usually countries and companies with vested interests in doing nothing try frustrate the meetings.

Issues on which the meeting needs to make progress include:

- ♦ Governments committing themselves to achieving substantial cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- ♦ Commitments to make 'adaptations' so that countries can cope with the effects of global heating (e.g. killer heatwaves,

wildfires, floods and droughts)

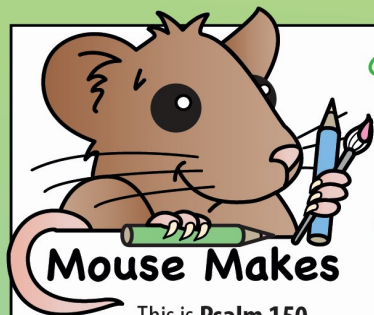
- ♦ Developed country governments promising funding for poor countries to help them take action against global heating
- ♦ Governments developing concrete plans to move away from the use of fossil fuels

This is a key opportunity for prayer. We can pray for God to guide and overrule the deliberations of officials and ministers as they negotiate with each other. We can ask God to give wisdom to diplomats so that they can find ways of achieving worthwhile agreements. We can pray that the voices of people whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate change will be heard, above the noise of lobbyists working for the oil companies etc. (For example, think of the people who live on low-lying islands which might be underwater in future years.)

We can also write to our MPs about this and let them know that we care about it, and that we want our government to play a constructive part.

We can play our part in a small way. Double-glazing and insulating our homes reduce our energy use, which in the long run saves money as well cutting our carbon dioxide emissions. Walking, cycling or using public transport also help. (Walking and cycling are good for our health as well.)

Peter Feinson



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.

*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him

with the sounding trumpet,

Praise Him

with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him

with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him

with the clash of cymbals,

Praise Him

with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath

PRAISE THE LORD!

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

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD



A Drop In The Ocean



Do you like watching nature programmes? Maybe (like me) you're a huge fan of David Attenborough's ground-breaking programmes, especially his 'Blue Planet' series? Amazing pictures of places we will probably never get to see. Incredible wild life, powerful weather, animals we didn't know even existed!

When I watch 'Blue Planet' I am always stunned and amazed about just how huge our oceans actually are. You probably already know that our oceans cover 70% of Earth's surface and contain 97% of all water on Earth. Did you also know they produce over half the oxygen we breathe too? Or that there are approximately 240,000 known species living there? Just incredible! My mind has trouble comprehending such vast number facts.

Which is why I also find it hard to comprehend the fact that my filthiest sin has been cast into the vastness of these great waters, never to be seen again. Many years ago, the Lord showed me a vision of myself standing on a sandy beach with a drop of water on my finger. I flicked the droplet off into the sea. God showed me that I would never again be able to locate and find that single drop. I could never get it back, it was hidden in the waters forever. He reminded me that once I'd

repented, my sin was cast into the sea, never to be found again. Micah 7 verse 19 says: "You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." You've probably heard the expression '*a drop in the ocean*'. Although not actually a Biblical quote, the essence of this phrase comes from this verse in Micah. I imagined my awful sin as a drop in the ocean once I'd asked God to forgive me. If He is loving enough to cast my sin into the ocean never to be seen again, why do I keep trying to find it or remember it? It was a difficult concept for me to understand, that I don't have to keep dwelling on my past or keep feeling guilty about it. Certainly I will consider my actions in the future and, with God's help, not make the same mistakes again. I find it helpful to recognise when similar feelings appear so I can make a better choice about my response next time or stay away from similar temptations in the first place.

As if the 320.3 cubic million miles of ocean wasn't enough to cover my sin, the Bible further reassures me about God's attitude to my past - Psalm 103 verse 12 says: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Consid-

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ering the diameter of earth is 7,926 miles wide, then surely God means what He says when He forgives us and promises to forget our sin?

We all have things which we need God to forgive. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3 verse 23). I can truly confess that I frequently fall short of God's standards. But God has also taught me to let go of my past sin and not to continue feeling guilty about it. After all, He has! Bless His name. That's why I now enjoy the '*Peace that passes all understanding*' (Philippians 4 verse 7). Something I could never achieve by my own actions.

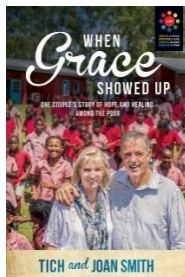
Every time I visit the seaside (often at Broadstairs), I love to stand and look out at the sea. I am in awe of the magnificence of His creation and the reassurance that, somewhere in those waves, my sin has been cast, never to be seen again!

Sarah Jenkin

Greetings From RBC Church Bookstall

As I write this article the season of Autumn has dawned, and a new academic year has begun. There is some exciting news from the bookstall that Annette and I wanted to share with the church's congregation.

Firstly, the bookstall wanted to raise awareness about sales: up to 50 percent reductions on older books currently selling at the stall. These books include "When Grace Showed up" by Tich and Joan Smith, "Home by Another Route" by Paul Bradbury, "By Searching" by Isobel Kuhn and "Through Gates of Splendour" by Elisabeth Eliot.



"When Grace Showed Up" by Tich and Joan Smith retells the amazing story of how God brought together Tich, a South African rugby player suffering from alcoholism, and Joan, who had lost her husband, to change their lives about to be missionaries in Uganda. God provided the couple with the drive and vision to establish Lungisisa Indela Village in Uganda. Through their faith in God, seeking His visions for them as missionaries, they enabled the village to both serve the orphaned and vulnerable children in their communities, also to fix and rebuild broken lives. I would highly recommend this Missionary book to take inspiration and evidence of how God is at work to renew and transform people's lives.

"Home by Another Route" by Paul Bradbury details how the Holy Spirit is

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

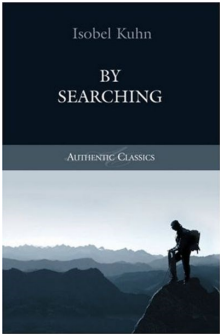
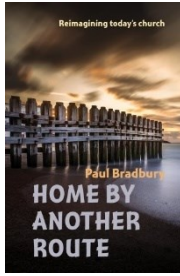
Birthdays October 2025

10th Cheryl Schulte



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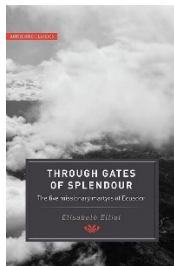
still relevant and at work in today's church. This book explains many different ways the Holy Spirit can use people of the church to renew and reform people's lives by finding practical ways to share God's love and compassion with everyone who we contact or engage with.



Isobel Kuhn's book titled "By Searching", is an autobiography about how Isobel left a life of comfort to become a missionary in the country of China. She served God to the Lisu people in the mountainous region of China with her continual perseverance in searching

for God's purpose and direction on how she should evangelize the Lisu people. This strengthened her faith in God and helped her explain the Bible to non-believers in this region. She experienced the challenge of how to live a life that is in total dependence on God's will.

"Through Gates of Splendour" by Elisabeth Eliot discusses story of five missionaries' journey to tell all about the Gospel to Inca Indians in the country of Ecuador, despite facing persecution and trials. This book gives a personal account of these men sharing God's grace in the Ecuador Jungle, where they were known to be resistant and hostile to



strangers.

Recently the bookstall has had new additions added to the stand, including You are "Never Alone" by Max Lucado, "Soul Fuel" by Bear Grylls, "Created to Dream" by Rick Warren and "Ace and the Animal Heroes" by JB Gill.



On Saturday 13th September, Romford Baptist Church were blessed to hear JB Gill from JLS speaking about his life story and testimony for the evening. It was a very exciting and informative event. He mentioned his new children's book "Ace and the Animal Heroes". JB Gill worked on a farm after JLS's first break from music in 2013, this helped JB Gill find the inspiration to write these books. JB Gill's children's books are available on the bookstall, and all his books on the stall are signed on the front cover page by the author.

I would like to thank everyone for their continual support for the Bookstall that operates after the Sunday morning and evening service every week. If you would like to discover any books on offer, please do take the opportunity to explore and ask questions about books available on offer.

Daniel Eborn

Guide to Accepting Second Hand "Gifts" In Church

You know how it is.

Mabel has just bought herself an exciting new toaster/set of dining chairs/kettle/vacuum cleaner. And she's wondering what to do with the old one. Which was old enough that she needed a new one. But not so old that she really wants to throw it away. Or, indeed, arrange for the council to collect it.

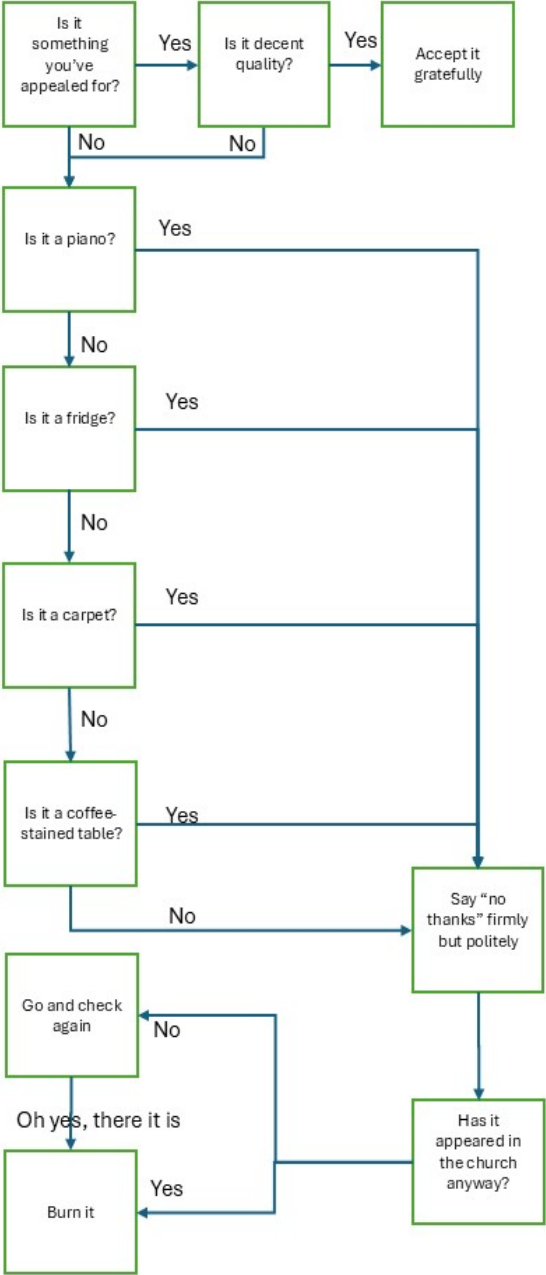
But then she remembers that what the church really needs is a second hand toaster/set of dining chairs/kettle/vacuum cleaner! And comes to you as pastor / vicar / minister / steward / churchwarden to ask if you would like the second hand item as a gift.

The first thing you should do is remember that, if it's electrical, it will be out of warranty. And the cost and effort of disposal when it breaks in the first week will be yours.

The second thing you should do is remind Mabel of Malachi 1:8. And suggest that, if Mabel thinks the church needs a toaster/set of dining chairs/kettle/vacuum cleaner, she could keep the old one and give the new one.

But that may sound like too much scripture to be quoting - and, let's face it, as liberal Anglicans that is a lot, a whole verse. While for some evangelicals it's a bit suss quoting the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament like that. So you may find a use for this helpful flowchart.

Quick guide to accepting 2nd hand "gifts" for the church



Welcome new Members



Rev Ian Bunce welcomed Judith and James Devney into membership with their family, Gerry and Mariam Fuller and Shiley Corns.(20 July 2025).



On 6 July 2025, Rev Jan Loveard and Jumoke Giwa-Majekodunmi welcomed Ekwitoziam Elizabeth Oluwole into membership.



Diamond Anniversary



Congratulation to Brian and Sue Sharp who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 18 September 2025.



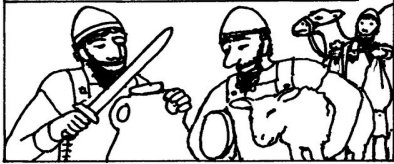
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

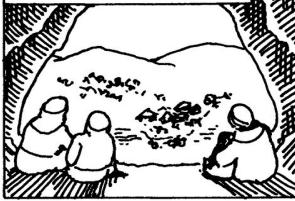
It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:1-7, 11-16, 25-35

Once the Israelites had moved into their
promised land, they obeyed God, but not for
long, so God let other countries invade.

The Midianites invaded every
year, and stole all the food
the Israelites had grown.



The Israelites had to
hide in the hills.



After 7 years,
the Israelites called
out to God for help.

Gideon was secretly
threshing wheat when
an angel arrived.



The Lord is helping you,
mighty warrior.



I don't
mean to be rude, but it
doesn't look like He is.

God said



I will give you the
power.



But my clan
is the weakest in our tribe and
I'm the weakest in my family.

I'll be helping you. Start by pulling
down the altar built for Baal and
build one for Me.



Gideon did as he was told (but he
waited and did it at night).



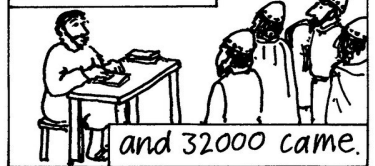
In the morning, people
came to complain to
Gideon's father



If Baal is upset, he
can take his own
revenge, can't he?



Gideon sent out messages
to call men to fight the
Midianites..



and 32000 came.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:36 - 7:8, 16 - 22

God had told Gideon he would drive the Midianite invaders out of His country. 32000 men had come to fight with Gideon.

Gideon asked God for proof.



God did as Gideon had asked.



Could you show me again, but with the wool dry and the ground wet?



God said
The army is too big. They will think that they beat the Midianites, not Me.



So Gideon sent home all who were afraid - 22000 of them



There were still too many, so Gideon told them to drink from the spring.



300 scooped up water to drink, and the rest were sent home.



Each man was given a jar with a lit torch in it and a horn.



That night they surrounded the Midianite camp.



At the signal, they blew the trumpets, smashed the jars and shouted a war cry



The Midianites were so shocked they attacked each other, and then ran



The Israelites won without having to do any fighting.



The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



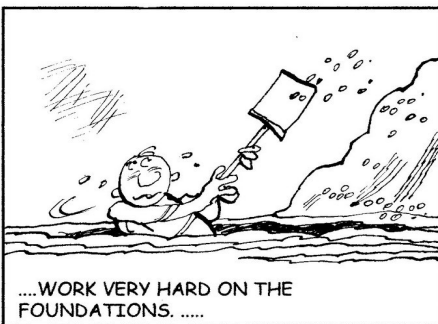
JESUS BEGAN, IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



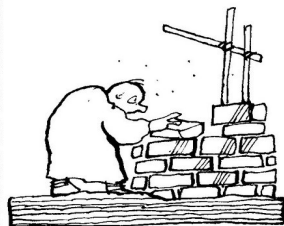
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

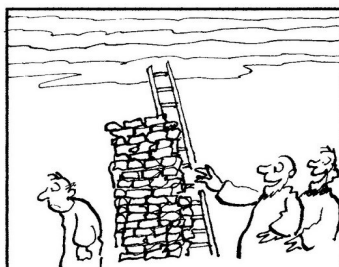
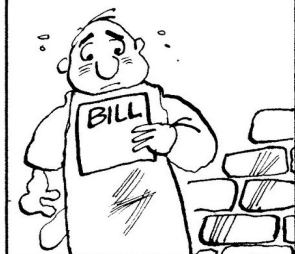


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



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.:0am

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.



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

