



Romford
BAPTIST CHURCH

G r a p e v i n e



From the Editor

I really enjoy a jigsaw puzzle, however I don't often get to do one. It's something we used to do on New Year's Eve, while waiting for midnight. This made me think about how sometimes life feels like a puzzle. When I look at my diary, there are so many activities, responsibilities and deadlines, and I find myself trying to fit all the pieces together. Sometimes pieces are forced in, even though they are not quite right, and they have to be changed later, in order for the big picture to be right.

As we approach Christmas, it can really feel quite challenging to fit everything in the right places, and the busyness of it all can be quite exhausting.

My prayer, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is that we will take the time to carefully examine every "piece" of our days, so that as we join them all up, we will be able to be the big picture that He wants us to be.

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**

Secretary's Page

Deuteronomy 30 verse 20 *"and the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."*

Did I think a few months ago I would be using Deuteronomy as a Bible verse to focus this section of the Grapevine on – no I didn't.

However, over this autumn/winter term in Small Groups we have been doing an overview of books from the Old Testament, with the aim not to have the unrealistic target of reading and studying the whole book in one session, but allow us to look at books that are sometimes more difficult to understand and to see how the books are linked. I know in our Small Group we've gone away each week with a different outlook on each book of the Bible we have looked at and have wanted to get deeper into that book.

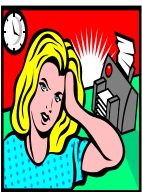
This verse stood out to me as I prepared this week's Small Group

study - "The Lord is your life...." just 6 words, but what a challenge! How is The Lord your life? Is He in the words that you speak, would He be happy with the words you speak? Is He in the way you help or treat others? It's provided me with a challenge that I maybe had not recognised if we had not been studying this book.

The book of Deuteronomy is the "final" part of the Israelites' journey from where in Exodus they left Egypt and the Promised Land was in sight, as we go on to see in the book of Joshua. God wanted to so much in their life, and He wants to be in our lives too.

Next time you maybe meet with friends, go for walk in the stunning autumn season, serve or volunteer at RBC or elsewhere, remember God is your life, take a moment to make sure He is there.

Hayley Ayris
Church Secretary



**The deadline for the
February 2026/March 2026 edition of the
Grapevine is
Sunday 11 January 2026**

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

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



Skillful Writing

I understand that one of the reasons for the proposed cuts in our postal deliveries is that not nearly so many people write letters or send cards. These days there is such a variety of ways to communicate – emails, text messages, WhatsApp and others that I probably know nothing about!

There is a verse in the Psalms about writing which has always intrigued me. Psalm 45 v1 reads, “My tongue is the pen of a skillful writer”.

I’ve written with chalk on blackboards, I’ve used felt pens, fountain pens and biros, but writing with my tongue? Never! Some Bible scholars say that David wrote this



Psalm to celebrate the wedding of a king. He describes him as “the most excellent of men”. It made me wonder whether this

is the way I use my tongue. Do I use it to say good things about people, to encourage and build them up? If I’m honest, that’s not always so. At times my tongue gets critical or says things

which would be better left unsaid. How careful we should be, because once the words leave our mouth, it’s almost impossible to take them back.

But it’s not just what we say that matters. The Apostle Paul writing to the church at Corinth said that their lives were like “letters of recommendation, not written with ink, but the Spirit of God which were known and read by everyone.” Letters of recommendation were not uncommon in the New Testament days. Paul commends Phoebe to the church at Rome saying what a help she had been to many people including himself (Romans 16 v1). There is also that wonderful letter Paul wrote to Philemon pleading with him to take back his runaway slave, Onesimus and to accept him as a ‘brother in Christ’.

Paul’s credentials were not just ‘ink on paper’, but verified in the way the lives of people had been transformed by God’s Spirit. So it’s not just what we say that matters, but by the way we live our everyday lives. They too must recommend others to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Are our tongues skillful writers encouraging others rather than being critical and judgemental? Are our

lives good recommendations of what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

I love Charles Wesley's hymn 'O for a thousand tongues to sing my Great Redeemer's praise'. We only have one

tongue and one life, so we need to make sure we use them for His glory.

As people used to say, 'we must practice what we preach.'

Anne Barnes

Baptism

Damilola Adetola

12th October 2025

Baptism verse: Philippians 1:6
"...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."

Good Morning, Church. My name is Dami, I'm sixteen years old, and I've been part of RBC for many years now. I've grown up in a Christian home, surrounded by a family who has always shown me the importance and joy of worshipping and serving God.

From a young age, my family and the church have both played a big role in teaching me what it means to walk with God. At RBC, I learned so much through Bible readings, lessons, and activities that helped me understand and apply Biblical principles to my life. I'm truly grateful to RBC for creating such a strong foundation for my faith.



As I got older, what started as simply learning about God and believing what I was taught began to grow into something deeper. I became more curious and intentional about my relationship with Him. I started reading the Bible on my own, praying for understanding, and asking the Holy Spirit to guide me in what I read

- helping me see how to live out God's Word in my daily life. Through that journey, I realised that faith isn't just about believing, it's about following Christ wholeheartedly. I came to understand the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and accepted His gift of salvation, knowing it was God's plan to restore us to Him.

For quite some time, I've felt the desire to take the next step and be baptised. That desire grew even stronger this summer when I went with my youth group to a Christian

festival called NewDay. During one of the worship sessions, a preacher spoke about baptism, encouraging those who had been thinking about it for a while to take that step of faith and speak to their leaders. His words really spoke to me. I spoke to my youth leader, Andy, about wanting to be baptised, and at that moment, I knew I was ready to take that step.

So today, I'm standing here, ready to publicly declare my faith in Jesus Christ and to follow Him with all my heart.

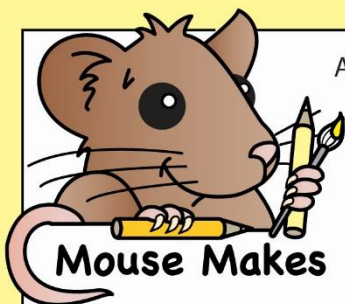
Baptism

Demmie Laing

12th October 2025

Demmie shared that she'd gone to church as a child and grew up knowing that God loved her but, because of things that had happened in her life, she moved away from God. However, over the past period of time she really felt God talking to her and it's this which has led her to being baptised, with certainty that this is the next step for her. Her baptismal verse is 1 Peter 5:6-7, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."





At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....
read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

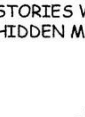
Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÏDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

The tale of
the
Wheat
and the
Weeds

JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



THE SEED TOOK ROOT, AND SOON STRONG PLANTS BEGAN TO GROW.

BUT ONE NIGHT, WHEN EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP...



... AN ENEMY OF THE MAN, CRYPT
 INTO THE FIELD, AND SOWED
 SEEDS AMONGST THE WHEAT.

AS THE WHEAT BEGAN
TO GROW, SO DID THE
WEEDS.

A black and white line drawing of a field. In the foreground, there is a horizontal line representing the ground, with several small circles scattered below it, possibly representing seeds or stones. From this ground, several wheat stalks and weeds are growing. The wheat stalks are tall and thin, with small heads at the top. The weeds are shorter and more bushy, with multiple small leaves. The drawing is simple and uses only black lines on a white background.

WHEN THE SERVANTS SAW THE WEEDS
THEY SUGGESTED RIPPING THEM OUT.

NO, LET'S LEAVE THEM UNTIL HARVEST TIME!

IF YOU PULL THEM UP NOW,
YOU MIGHT KILL THE WHEAT
TOO. WE'LL SORT THEM OUT AT
HARVEST.



WHEN THE WHEAT WAS READY, IT WAS HARVESTED INTO HUGE BUNDLES.

BUT THE WEEDS WERE
BURNED IN A LARGE FIRE.



THE PARABLE TELLS US THAT
ALTHOUGH WE LIVE
ALONGSIDE BADNESS, WE
CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT.

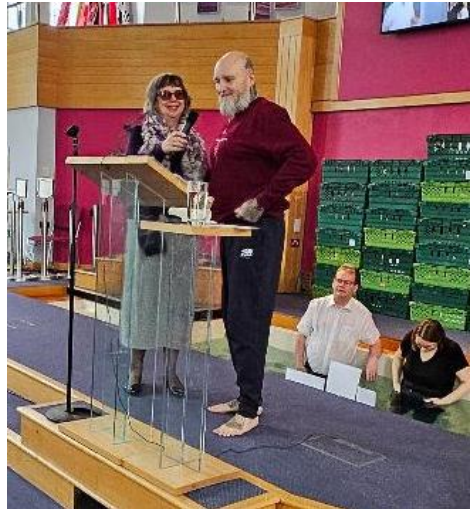
THE PARABLE TELLS US THAT
ALTHOUGH WE LIVE
ALONGSIDE BADNESS, WE
CAN KEEP SEPARATE FROM IT.

Baptism
John Brannon
12th October 2025

Baptism verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 *"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."*

Testimony:

Before I found Jesus my life felt lost. I looked for fulfilment in all the wrong places with the wrong people. At the lowest point in my life I would cry out to Jesus and I finally surrendered to him. That's when I realised that his love and grace, not my works, is what saves me. I am thankful for his healing and forgiveness. My Baptism



is my way of declaring that Jesus is my Lord and Saviour.

Baptism
Weeda Tokhi
12th October 2025

Baptism verse: Zephaniah 3:17 *"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*

My Testimony - How Jesus Changed

My Life: I was born a Muslim, and when I married my Christian

husband, I never believed in Jesus Christ. I thought He was just another name in a story. But my husband always spoke about His love, His mercy, and how He changes lives.

One day, I went to church just to see. The people there welcomed me with open arms and pure kindness – and



something inside me began to change.

Later, I faced a very difficult time in my life. I felt lost, broken, and without hope. My husband said, "Pray to Jesus, just once, with all your heart." So I did — I cried, I prayed, and I asked Him for help. And He heard me. My prayer was answered. He brought light into my darkness and peace into my heart.

Now I know — Jesus Christ is real.

He is the light of my life, my Savior, and the One I will follow forever.

Stuck in A Rut

I am a creature of habit. I like to plan ahead, arrive early for things and pretty much know what's going to happen. I have no desire to travel the

to have a rhythm; a pattern. I find it comforting, secure. Some practices are good to maintain. A routine can help solidify a way of life where we make good choices out of habit without having to think too much about it. Actions become a way of life, part of who we are. That's not to say I don't act spontaneously at times, but mostly my day-to-day life runs on a well-rehearsed routine interspersed with anticipated school uniform wash loads and shopping orders.



world to 'find myself'. I've lived in the same home for 27 years. I like things

My weekly shopping order is usually a click and collect from Tesco at Gallows Corner. Unfortunately, my diverted journey to collect shopping has taken considerably longer during the Gallows Corner flyover works in the last few months. I've tried to see the positive in these extended Saturday morning journeys by listening to Joyce Meyer's sermons on YouTube and using the opportunity as a 'quiet time' - listening, learning and being blessed. However, this week, God used a mundane situation to show me a lesson once again. It occurred to me the other day that I could place my order with the Hornchurch branch of Tesco which would be a shorter journey from my home in Gidea Park, avoiding the diversion and traffic jams. Why had this not occurred to me before? Although the traffic jams have proved beneficial in learning more about God because I made the best of things and had more time, why has it taken nearly four months for me to realise the Hornchurch branch is closer? Why? Simply because of habit. I'd just always shopped at the Gallows Corner branch, when all the time there was an obvious solution to the traffic jam problem. I'd continued to use Gallows Corner Tesco simply because it's what I'd always done. I felt such a fool.

Now, I've been a Christian all my life, making my own declaration in January 1979. Over that time, my outlook on life's daily situations has changed, thanks to Christ's teachings, experience and advice. I used to always be keen on a sarcastic quip. Not to necessarily undermine someone (although often it did), but because I thought it would be funny. This is one habit God has shown me needed changing. Use encouraging words instead. It didn't happen overnight. I still trip up even now. But it was a habit which needed breaking; a habit that Jesus didn't want. As I have continued to invite the Holy Spirit to be part of my inherent being over the years, Christ has revealed things which needed to change. He never stopped loving me when I got it wrong, but made it clear that some of my behaviours needed to change or stop. As I become closer to God, I find myself wanting to change the things which are not Christ-like. I ask Him to reveal these things to me because I want people to see Christ in me. As someone once said, we are the world's 'free sample' of Jesus. That's not a great example if I'm putting someone down with sarcastic ridicule.

2 Corinthians 5, verse 17 says *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."* That means my old self has gone and I am now filled with the

mindset of Jesus instead. Some people experience such a transformation that giving up old ways is easy. For me, it takes perseverance, determination and time. *'Get thee behind me Satan'* when I want to do what I've always done. Thankfully, with Jesus in my life it's like having a little tap on the shoulder when temptation arises. Just that whisper in my ear; a gentle reminder. Not commenting sarcastically on a situation. Not answering back and needing to have the last word. Not having to vindicate myself (That's God's job). Walking out of the staff room at work when gossip starts so I'm not tempted to join in just so I'll fit in with everyone else. And surely that's the point? As Christians we are not supposed to 'fit in'. Paul the apostle urges believers not to *'conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of their minds.'* (Romans 12 verse 2). That's

what I desire. To be transformed. For my mindset to be renewed. I don't want to be stuck in the behavioural ruts of my past just because it's what I've always done. Of course, I won't be perfect until I reach heaven and see Jesus. My earthly life will always be an ongoing work in process. But I look back and do see differences and thank God He gave me strength and wisdom to make a better choice.

Dear God, please give me Your mindset. Please continue to place on my heart those traits which need changing. Help me to listen to Your voice. Please change those habitual behaviours which are not pleasing to you. Please help me to be happy about acting in a way that shows Jesus to people around me. Please help me to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Sarah Jenkin

BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays December 2025

1st Christine Wright



Birthdays January 2026

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

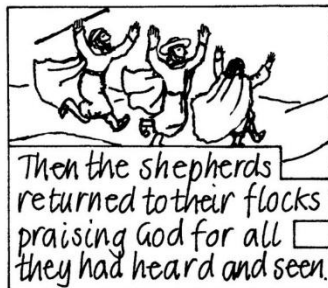
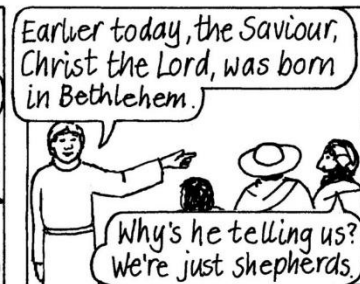


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks
out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough,
they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:5-13

To teach about praying, and God's good gifts, Jesus told this story - 'If you have a visitor arrive in the middle of the night..'

Oh no! I have no bread to feed him! I am so ashamed! What can I do?... I know!



'You would go round to a friend's house.'



I really, really need some bread for a visitor.



I need that bread!



Jesus concluded...

So keep on asking and it will be given, seeking and you will find, knocking and it will be opened. ... And parents, if your hungry child asks for bread,

'..would you give them a stone?'



'And if they asked for a fish...'



'..would you give them a snake?'



'Or if they asked for an egg...'



'you'd give a scorpion?'



If you, who aren't perfect parents, give good gifts to your children, then don't you think that gifts from your perfect Father, God, will be even better?

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
- 11:00-3:00pm 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.





Sara preferred to let people work
out the hymns for themselves

