



Romford
BAPTIST CHURCH

G r a p e v i n e



From the Editor

In Matthew 25, Jesus answered those followers who were confused when He said that they had fed Him when hungry, had clothed Him when he needed it, and generally cared for Him. Extracts from the thought-provoking passage go as follows (v37&40):

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

In this edition of Grapevine, we read about ways that many are serving Jesus while helping others, and being there for them. We can be inspired to declare that we are followers of Jesus publicly, and also help others in practical ways too, thereby showing our faith in action.

May we seek to be a blessing to others, so that they will encounter Jesus shining through our lives.

*Make me a blessing ... Out of my life
may Jesus shine!*

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**

Hope in Action: Ukraine 2026

As in most places our eyes witness the luscious green and blossoming of Spring, **we would like to look back and say thank you.**

During a harsh winter once again through your faithful support for the EBF Hope Heats Ukraine Appeal many have witnessed the faithfulness of God.

Although the audit of the project is still ongoing, **we would love to share some important outcomes:**

💰 **A total of 800 000 euros collected**

🏡 **A total of 379 churches supported**

👥 **A total of 85 Ukrainian churches twinned with other churches all across the globe**

📱 **The latest updates:**

[Here is the report of February that includes some important figures and stories from the Appeal. And here you can access the updates for March and April from all across Ukraine.](#) how churches, volunteers and the Ukrainian Baptist Union keep doing the good work.

🙏 **These do include prayer needs at the very end!**

We will get back to you once the audit comes through.

Thank you so much for your genuine care and generosity with your gifts and prayers.

With every blessing,

*On behalf of the EBF Team,
Dana*

A very much combined and severely edited version of all the document linked above is given below.

⚡ ❄️ 🌱 — **From Winter Hardship to Spring Hope —**
🌱 ❄️ ⚡

Across the early months of 2026, Ukraine's story is one of resilience, service, and enduring hope. Despite ongoing war, harsh winter conditions, and widespread uncertainty, communities and churches continue to stand as beacons of light—meeting needs both practical and spiritual.

The year began with one of the toughest winters in recent memory. Freezing temperatures combined with attacks on energy infrastructure left thousands without heat or electricity. In response, an extraordinary effort known as "Hope Heats Ukraine" mobilized hundreds of churches. Together, they provided warmth, shelter, and critical aid to

nearly 300,000 people. Churches became more than places of worship—they became safe havens where families could warm up, share meals, and find comfort.

✳️ Fun Fact: Over \$600,000 was spent simply helping communities stay warm!

As winter gave way to spring, a shift in spirit began to emerge. While hardship remains constant, hope continues to grow. Communities are rebuilding homes, restoring roads, and, perhaps most importantly, renewing hearts. Even in frontline regions, churches are active—organizing humanitarian aid, running children's programs, and supporting soldiers and their families.

🌱 Did you know? Displaced communities have started at least 14 new churches—turning loss into new beginnings.

Life in Ukraine remains uncertain. Civilian casualties have risen, and daily threats persist from drones and missiles. Yet, in this uncertainty, many are rediscovering faith and purpose. Chaplains report a growing demand for Bibles and prayer materials, showing a deep hunger for spiritual hope amid crisis.

💡 Insight: In times of instability, people often turn toward meaning, connection, and faith.

At the same time, remarkable individual stories highlight the power of compassion. Families near the front lines have served thousands of soldiers by offering simple acts of care—warm meals, clean clothes, and a place to rest. Rehabilitation centres are helping people overcome addiction, rebuilding lives and restoring dignity.

❤️ Impact Highlight: More than 70 rehabilitation centres are actively transforming lives.

Beyond emergency relief, communities are also investing in the future. Youth programs, leadership conferences, and support groups for families affected by war provide long-term stability and emotional healing. These efforts show that even in the midst of conflict, growth and development continue.

✨ The Big Picture: From winter survival to spring renewal, Ukraine's journey in 2026 reveals a powerful truth—hope is not passive. It is built through action, community, and faith.

As the months progress, one message stands out clearly: even the smallest act of kindness—a warm room, a shared meal, a listening ear—can become a source of light. And in a time of darkness, these small lights together are transforming lives.

What Shapes Me?

I don't know about you, but when I see a mannequin wearing an outfit, I try to imagine what that clothing would look like on me. Is it my style? My colour? Will it fit my body shape? (Which, if I'm honest, is usually not the same shape as the mannequin!).



A piece of clothing is displayed in the shop or in a catalogue to show its very best qualities so it will sell. If the dress in the picture were in a heap on the floor, I wouldn't be able to tell its shape or style. Clothing only has form and function when there is a person inside it. The clothing takes on the shape of the person wearing that garment.

When Christ lives within us, He inhabits our very being. Ephesians 3 verse 16 says *"I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being."* I pray often that my outward appearance and attitude are shaped by Christ living within me. Is He truly my spiritual mannequin, shaping me? Although my mortal body looks the way it does, if Christ

inhabits my inner being, then surely His presence should shape who I am too? In the same way a mannequin shapes a piece of clothing on a shop display, so Christ living in me should shape me also? I know when I put on a special outfit, it makes me feel different; confident and comfortable. With Christ living in my very being, I should feel that way too. I want my outer appearance to be shaped by the Holy Spirit which lives within me.

Pastor Ian Bunce once said "We are a free sample of Jesus to this world." We might be the only 'Jesus' some people experience. If Christ is living within me day by day, then surely that should shape my appearance, expression and my personality. Just as a mannequin shapes a dress, so Jesus should shape me as he dwells within my heart. As I've journeyed with God since giving my life to Him aged 11, responding as Christ instructed has become easier to navigate over the years. It does take practice. It's hard to leave behind my human responses, especially when revenge or reprisal seem justified. I'm not perfect at this skill by any means, but I've seen over the years how some Jesus-like responses have become a more natural part of my personality. I thank God for that, because it's only through His guidance, His Word, His strength, His

forgiveness and His perseverance with me that it's happening.

My prayer today is this. "Lord, please shape me. May Your presence within me reveal Your love and attitudes to those I meet." My physical body is still Sarah but I desire for Christ to be my

mannequin and shape me into the person he designed me to be.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." Galatians 2 verse 20.

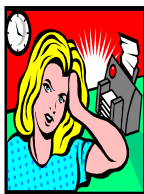
Sarah Jenkin

Working Party

We are grateful to all those who came to assist bringing down the folding Willow Hall doors and grateful to God both for safety on the night and the timeliness of the replacement doors. It was apparent just how urgent and necessary it was to remove them before they fell down and caused a major incident. God is good!



Rev Vikki Bunce



The deadline for the
October 2026/November 2026 edition of the
Grapevine is
Sunday 14 September 2026

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

grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk



BMS Birthday Scheme

Birthdays: August 2026

Bree Hacker



Birthdays: September 2026

Iris Hooper
Sue Sharp



Smile Lines

Flight path

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow Airport. While a group of tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"



Lists

I love to make a list. When I get to the shops and find that I have left it behind on the kitchen counter, I like to try and guess what I put onto it.



Bucket list

I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.



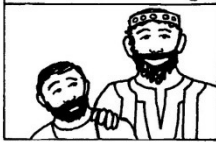
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

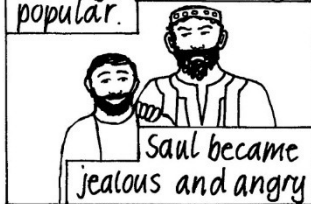
It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel,
but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said
that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know
that God had
chosen David to
be the next king.



David was very successful
as a fighter and very
popular.



Saul became
jealous and angry

David had to go on the run and
hide.



When he
wasn't fighting the Philistines,
Saul tried to catch David.

One day, Saul
and his army
were in En-Gedi.
Saul needed to
pee, so he went
into a sheep
fold built next
to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the
back of the cave!



God has given you
a chance to kill him!

David crept over and
cut a piece off Saul's
robe.



Saul didn't notice.

Then David felt bad.



He is
God's chosen
king. Having the
chance to do something
doesn't make it right.

David waited until Saul
was far enough away
then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have
killed you today, but I
knew it was wrong. I want
to prove to you I'm not
trying to harm you.



David, you are better than
me. I would have killed you
but you were kind.



Now I know you will be
the next king, but please
look after my family.

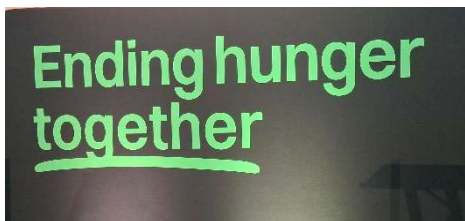


David promised, and
Saul and his army
went home.



Trussell Foodbank Rolling Roadshow 2026

Dignity in Action

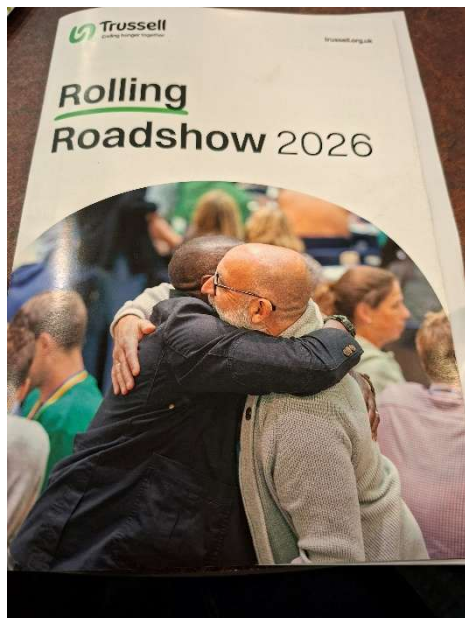


On Thursday 21st May, Alison, Ian and I attended the yearly Trussell Foodbank Roadshow which is an opportunity to meet with other Foodbanks and hear of what Trussell is doing nationally to raise the profile of Foodbanks to Central Government.

The theme of this year's day was "Dignity in Action" with the encouragement that when we meet and talk to those who attend our Foodbank sessions, to make sure they know *"you matter, you have worth, you are human"*.

Alison and the Foodbank Team have been working hard to ensure that those who attend have a warm welcome, they are in a non-judgmental atmosphere and that it's a safe space to share. We were reminded on the day that hardship teaches people to apologize for existing, Foodbanks can help break that mindset. On the day we heard testimony from a Foodbank Volunteer who was once a customer

of the Foodbank, but because of the way she was treated (in a respectful way, treated with dignity) she was able to access support she needed and, as mentioned, now serves as a volunteer.



Now that I am back home from the event and I look to our Foodbank and think "How can we get involved?", I was reminded of the verse Micah 6v8 *"And what does the Lord require of you, to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"*

Since 2019, the average increase across the nation in terms of usage of Foodbanks has been 56% - that in

itself is sad and shocking, however, in terms of the Romford and Collier Row Foodbank, the increase of usage since 2019 has been 190%!! This is where the Micah verse comes in – we need to act, love and walk to support the foodbank.

The ways you can do that:

- Pray for those who attend the Foodbank and those who serve there
- Follow the work that Trussell does nationally and their lobbying to those in authority (and if you can get involved do so)
- Each week the notice sheet lets us know what food the foodbank needs, at the time of writing this article, each of this week's items can be purchased for a £1 or under (supermarket own version), can you add one item per week to your shopping list?
- Donate £1 per week (£4 per month) to the Foodbank, that can be done either via the offering bags, the card machine or bank transfer. All of this week's items (supermarket version) can (in total) be bought for under £4.00 (£3.26 to be precise!)
- Does your workplace do volunteer/ charity days whereby you can work for a local charity for a day? If so, could you come and

volunteer for a day for the Foodbank?

- When we hold our Lent/ Harvest/ Christmas appeals, can you share the list with your work colleagues/ family/ friends?
- The next time we hold a collection day in one of the local supermarkets, can you and your friends/ small group volunteer for an hour to help collect donations?



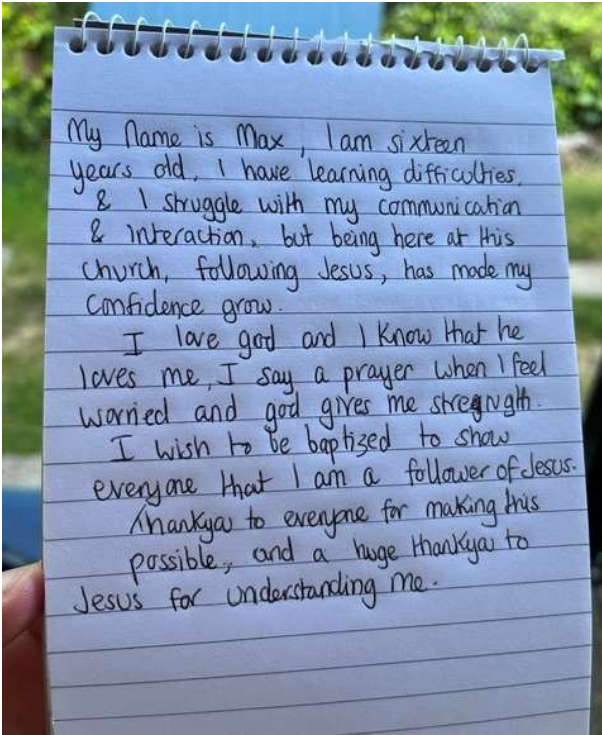
One final thought from the day was, we were reminded, when we look at the customers of the foodbank – it could so easily be one of us, and if it was? I would want to be helped by someone who acted justly, loved mercy and walked humbly with my God.

Hayley Ayris

Through the Waters of Baptism

28 June 2026

Max Adam



My Name is Max, I am sixteen years old, I have learning difficulties & I struggle with my communication & interaction, but being here at this church, following Jesus, has made my confidence grow.

I love god and I know that he loves me, I say a prayer when I feel worried and god gives me strength.

I wish to be baptized to show everyone that I am a follower of Jesus. Thankya to everyone for making this possible, and a huge Thankya to Jesus for understanding me.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17



Lena da Silva



"Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:30-31

Angelica da Silva



"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

1 Timothy 4:14



Congratulations to David and Colleen Thompson on their 55th Wedding Anniversary



The tale of the Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS

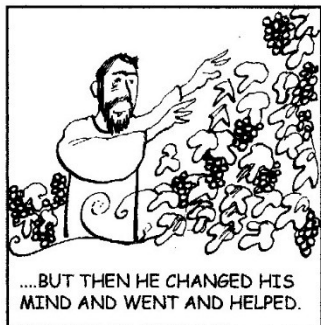


HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

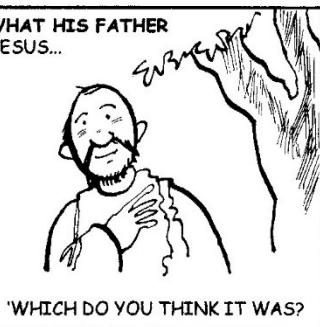


'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

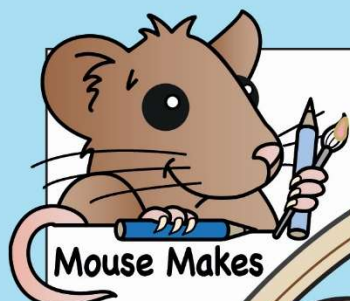
...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?



"May the grace of the Lord
JESUS CHRIST and the
love of **GOD** and the
fellowship of the
HOLY SPIRIT be
with you all."

2 Corinthians
13:14



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

JESUS • CHRIST
SON • SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL • MESSIAH
SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY
TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR
BREAD • WORD • HEALER
VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA

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

GOD • FATHER
ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH
YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY
HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR
ETERNAL • CREATOR
KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE
SHIELD • ROCK • I AM

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

HOLY SPIRIT
GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS
COMFORTER • GUIDE
ADVOCATE • WISDOM
POWER • TRUTH • BREATH
LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE
WIND • FIRE • TEACHER



Current Church Activities

Monday

12:00-2:00pm Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

Tuesday

10:00am Needlecraft Group

10:30am Amaze Adults

2:00-3.30pm Treasure Times

8:00pm Prayer meeting on Zoom

7:45pm RBC Worship Team meet

Wednesday

10:00-11:30am Parent and Toddlers

12:00-2:00pm Foodbank (donations can be dropped off at other times)

12:45pm Prayer

7:45pm Life Groups

Thursday

10:00am Thursday morning Life Group, alternate Thursdays
(please call church office for dates)

11:00-3:00pm Holiday at Home – for over 65s, usually termly

Friday

10:00am Craft Group in the Meeting Place

7:30-9:00pm Youth Club (Years 7 – 13, term time only)

Sunday

10:00-10:20am Powerhouse prayer

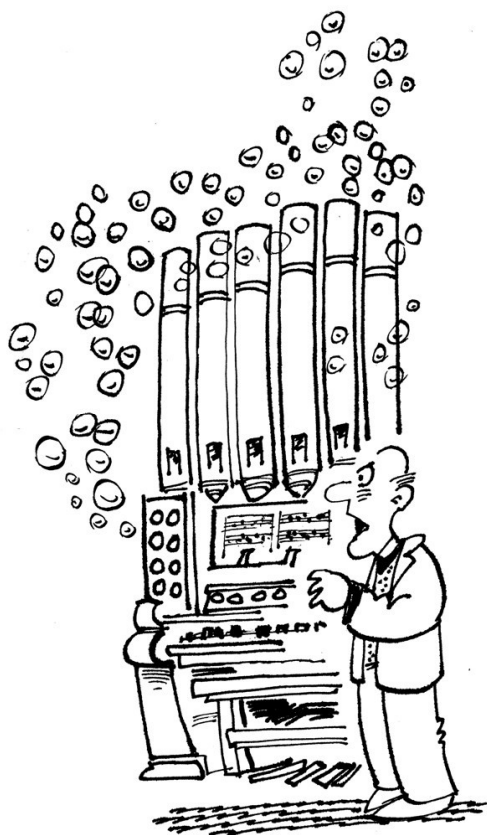
10:30am Morning Worship in the building and online

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.





I cleaned the organ!!

