

# HARVEST FESTIVAL



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!



Romford  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Grapevine



Family Magazine

October 2026

and

November 2026

No. 240

## From the Editor

As summer draws to an end, days get shorter and the clocks go back, it seems a good time to reflect on the blessings we have experienced over the recent months, and also look forward to all that the rest of the year has in store for us.

Some of us have had a restful break, and "recharged our batteries" while others have packed in a lot of activity and are now ready for a break. Whichever our situation, we can rely on our Lord to strengthen and sustain us.

*He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the  
weak.*

*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 40:29-31*

As we read this edition of Grapevine, let us pray for renewal and strength to continue living for Jesus in all circumstances.

**Cheryl Schulte**

## Editorial Team

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
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| Kathy Pomeroy       | Proof Reader             |
| Ruth Lu             | Printing                 |
| Gill Ayris          | Collation                |
| Alex Savine         | Photos                   |
| J. Giwa-Majekodunmi | Photos                   |
| D. Majekodunmi      | Photos                   |

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Rev. Vikki Bunce



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## 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.



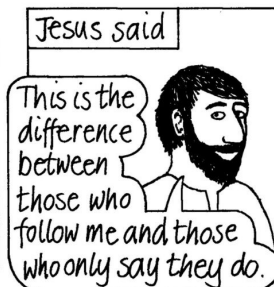
**Our purpose is to take the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to all,  
with the goal that they become his loyal disciples**

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12: 40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always ready for his return at the end of time by telling the story of two servants



## Pastor's Page

At this time of year we naturally shift in our thinking towards change and transition. Coming to the end of the summer, the weather often begins to change and at the start of a new academic year we also begin to focus our thoughts and prayers on those we know who are moving into a new year group, new school or new job. Transition is a part of our lives, whether we like change or not, ironically, it's here to stay.

We all face change in our lives, sometimes we see it coming, sometimes it comes out of the blue and takes us completely off guard. Whether we can see change on the horizon for us or our loved ones, or whether it comes to us unexpectedly, there is one thing that can keep us grounded amidst the uncertainty. Our God does not change. The scriptures reveal to us that God is the same yesterday, today and forever, He is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. He declares the end from the beginning.

He knows the words we will speak before they are even on our lips.

Although we can often struggle with change in our lives, we worship the One who is never surprised. What an anchor that is for us in the midst of an ever-changing world, but there is more. God came and dwelt amongst us, he took on our frailty and experienced what it is to be human. He knows perfectly what we experience and so we can, with full confidence put our total trust in Him, even when we face changes that we would rather not. Even when we don't know how things will work out, God walks with us.

So let us step boldly into what stands before us, the changes, the unknown, not because we have it all together or are strong enough to make it on our own, but because the One who is, goes with us and will carry us through.

Amen  
Andy Stannard  
Minister in Training



The deadline for the  
December 2026/January 2027 edition of the  
Grapevine is  
Sunday 6 November 2026  
Please give any items to Cheryl Schulte, or email them to  
Cheryl at:  
[grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk](mailto:grapevine@romfordbaptist.org.uk)



## An Anywhere Witness

Whilst paying in Asda's car park recently, a lady approached me and handed me a receipt. "This gives you free parking. It's from Asda", she said. I smiled and replied "Thanks, but I haven't shopped in Asda today". She responded "Who cares? It's free parking." I said "As a Christian that would be dishonest as I haven't shopped there but I appreciate the offer, thank you." I then paid for my parking in the usual way. She pulled a puzzled face and we both went on our way.



Another time in Sainsbury's, the till lady forgot to scan a DVD I was buying. I realised my total to pay did not reflect my purchases, so I said "I'm not sure the DVD was scanned" – which it hadn't been. She was stunned. "You could have got a free DVD as it was my fault". Again I explained I was a Christian and it would be dishonest. She said poignantly "That doesn't happen much these days."

And perhaps that's the point. It has become the social norm to get

whatever we can get away with, even though it's dishonest or just a 'little bit wrong'. But Christ requires me to live to a higher standard in my everyday life. That's hard for me sometimes, especially when I see other people getting away with things. I'm not talking about the big stuff, just the little bits here and there. But I've realised a few things when I have this attitude. First, it's a slippery slope. If one thing is justified in my mind, the next is easier to let slide. I've also discovered I have more peace when I know I've done the right thing. A clear conscience. Not because of me being a good girl, but because of Christ's forgiveness and His spiritual prompt.

Last year our church annual text was *"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."* *Philippians 1 verse 27*. I keep reminding myself – Would I do that if Jesus were watching over my shoulder? Not in a condemning way, but as a reminder to just do the right thing.

I have discovered in my Christian journey over the years how releasing it is when I ask God to show me what needs to change. Jesus didn't come to this earth to condemn; He always showed compassion. But I want to live the best way I can for Him so I've asked for Him to reveal what needs to

and Chad. From both, I have been enthralled by God's faithfulness, either in the miraculous provision of needed ministry equipment for those in desperate physical need or in whole villages eagerly seeking to know Jesus and submit to Him. There is no people group on this planet which God does not care for but yet so many are still to hear of His

name. I have recently been reminded of Chris Tomlin's song (inspired by John 14:12) that "greater things are yet to come" - over the years as I have sung this, I am moved once more to the challenge of taking part in God's mission.

*Rianna Stannard*  
*Mission Secretary*

## Farewell to the Waldens after many years at RBC



We said goodbye to Neil and Janet Walden over the summer. Neil was a member of RBC for 56 years, from September 1970, and Jan became a member in 1983 so she was part of our church for 43 years. They were married at RBC on August 4th 1984. They have been a valued part of our fellowship and we will miss them. We wish them every blessing as they move away from Romford and begin this new phase in their lives.

Benue and other states, where many Christians have lost their farms and their primary means of livelihood. As a result, numerous families face desperate food insecurity, while others struggle under the burden of debt after borrowing money to invest in their farming activities. The radicalised Fulani seem to act with impunity.

**Please pray:**

» For Christian communities facing persecution, asking God to

strengthen them and help them remain steadfast in their faith  
» For those like Rev. Sabo who've lost their livelihoods, that God will provide for their needs  
» For the protection of those who continue to work on their farms in vulnerable communities, asking God to keep them safe from harm.

*Printed with permission from Open Doors*

## **What a fabulous mission-packed summer we have had at RBC!**



A group of us thoroughly enjoyed a day trip together to London for a guided tour of Operation Mobilisation's Logos Hope ship. We tried on the captain's hat, learned of their meticulous procedures and saw their passion for sharing the gospel world-wide. We finished the tour, like all visitors, in the book shop which provides affordable Christian literature. The significance of the ministry was not lost on me as I stood

in line, in front of a Muslim family. Others were motivated to see how first-hand involvement in world missions is something which can be done at all stages of life, since young families serve on-board together and partake in the ship's school classes, or others who join the crew after retirement. It has been about 20 years since the Ship's last trip to the UK so we pray for its continued journey around western Europe and the globe.

Alas, as one thing ends, another begins - as has been the case with our BMS missionary partners. This summer both partners have visited us during our services and many have shared afterwards about how inspiring their work is in Bangladesh

be different in me. Sometimes I don't like the answer, it's true!

Now, it's unlikely I will become a preacher in a pulpit anytime soon. Not many people are blessed with that skill and I suspect that probably applies to you too. But I can be a witness in the everyday stuff - 'Conducting myself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ'. I want to maintain Christ's standards in a world which seems to abandon His values more and more. That's not to say I'm showing off or pretending I'm better than anyone else. God above knows that's not true!

If you can bear with me for one final tale – at work the staff decided to play "Traitors" as an ongoing game for a month or so with staff 'mug shots' on our staff room wall. We were all asked if we wanted to join in. I politely refused and someone asked me why. "It's only a bit of fun" they said. I

explained, "As a Christian, I want to tell the truth. If I lie in order to join in with this game, would anyone believe anything I ever said again?" I was not prepared to compromise my faith, honesty or integrity for this game. I felt it was wrong and I just didn't get a good feeling about it. I believe that was the Holy Spirit's prompt.

We can all be a witness without uttering a Bible verse or preaching to someone about Jesus. The Bible says we are in this world but not part of it. Romans 12 verse 2 says "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*". Dear Lord, please help me not to conform to this world, but instead to listen to Your voice, Your prompting and stand firm on Your values. Help me to do this with a quiet heart and humble attitude.

Amen.

*Sarah Jenkin*

## **BMS Birthday Scheme**

### **Birthdays: October 2026**

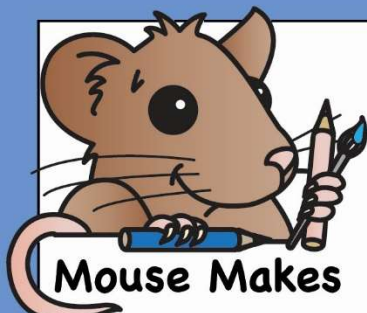
Cheryl Schulte  
Sheila Roberts



### **Birthdays: November 2026**

Olive Wenborn





**Mouse Makes**

The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.




2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?



1. How many books are there in the New Testament?



4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.



5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like? A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_  
*Psalm 119:105*



8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?



13. The Bible is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.  
*Hebrews 4:12*

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman




**BIBLESUNDAY**

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged sword  
*Hebrews 4:12*

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

13

14

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## Pray with them

### Pray with Justina

Where Justina lives, in Taraba State, north east Nigeria, most of the population are Christian. For years, militant members of the Fulani people group have targeted Christian communities: many have lost their homes, livelihoods and even their lives.

Justina's husband was among the men taking turns sleeping in their local church, to protect it from attacks. On 14 June 2014, he was murdered while defending the church. Justina was left to care for their seven children without him.

Local Open Doors partners came and trained 30 widows in business skills, such as farming and agriculture. With her new skills and some financial support, Justina started a catering business. She has paid her children's school fees and helped her daughter through university, thanks to help like yours. "If not for this help, we would have been doomed," she says. "Before, when my husband died, I was suffering and thinking, how will I care for my seven children? But now,

we do not sleep hungry. There is nothing I cannot handle."

### Please pray:

- » Thank God for His provision and the success of Justina's business
- » For other widows to be equipped to support their families
- » For an end to violence against Christians in Nigeria.

### Pray with Rev. Sabo

Two years in a row, Rev. Sabo D. Mwari's crops have been destroyed by radicalised Fulani. He is a retired clergyman in Bauchi State and relies on his crops for his livelihood. But, as often happens to Christians in the area, radicalised Fulani ravaged the crops by grazing their cattle on his farmland.

"I had to sell my car and motorbike because I borrowed money to invest in my farm and all was lost," shares Rev. Sabo. "The [radicalised] Fulanis take advantage of Sundays when people are in church. When you talk to them, they will turn a deaf ear, and they sometimes kill people who try to stop them."

This situation is not limited to Bauchi State. Similar extremist incidents are reported in parts of Plateau, Kaduna,



## New Day Youth Festival



## Global Heating and COP31

The 31<sup>st</sup> international climate change meeting (COP31) organised by the United Nations will take place 9-20 November. Its importance has surely been underlined this year by dangerous heatwaves, wildfires, and the glacier collapse in Nepal. Whilst much of the discussions will be very technical, they will include efforts to achieve international agreement and action on:



- A global shift away from fossil fuel energy to using electricity
- Reducing methane emissions, which are many times worse than carbon dioxide for causing global heating

- Halving the amount of waste worldwide
- Raising money from international financial institutions to help poor countries adapt to threats from global heating (e.g. floods and droughts)

The meeting will also try to draw attention to the threat of sea-level rise to low-lying island nations.

Ultimately, many of the effects of global heating hurt people in poor countries (not least those who are seeing some of their land washed away by sea-level rise). We should also think of the effects on our children in future if things continue to get worse. These should be reasons to pray for the meeting, and to write to our MPs so that they know we care about this.

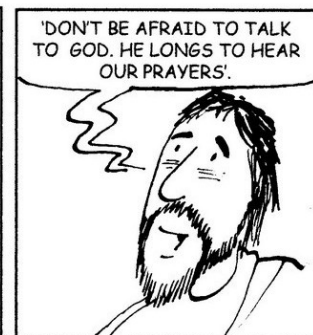
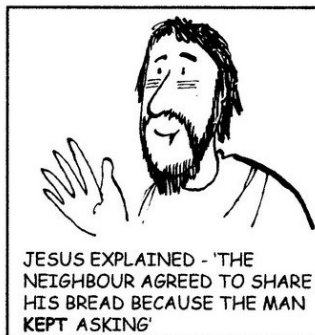
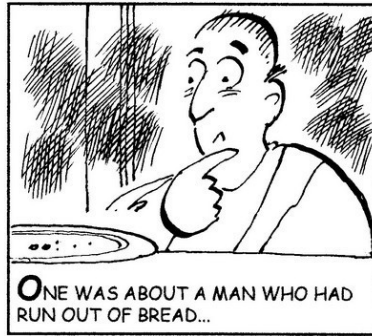
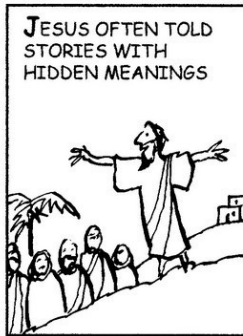
*Peter Feinson*



## New Deacons Welcomed 14 September 2026

Rev. Ian Bunce prayed for the new deacons, Bernd Schulte and Clarence Ramdhansingh.

# The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



## Testimony to God's goodness and faithfulness (from a 93-year-young person!)

A week or two ago I spent an unexpected night in A&E, not an experience I would want to repeat anytime soon!

I arrived by ambulance at about 11.45pm and, after tests, was wheeled into the main A&E. At the age of 93 and on my own, I wondered how I would cope.

However, as I've found so many times in my life, our Father always makes provision for us. Sitting next to me was a couple whose teenage son had experienced a severe, sudden seizure and they were waiting for the results of his brain scan. When they realised I was on my own, they took such care

of me. The wife went and found a blanket to go around my shoulders, the husband offered to get me a coffee and they both listened out for my name to be called. Ten hours later, they were still sitting there when I was transferred to an assessment ward.

I so wish that I could thank them properly but I thank our Father for them and pray that He will bless them in some way that I shall probably never know.

*Submitted with permission by  
Revd Vikki Bunce*

*Team Minister - with a focus on the  
older generation*

## New Members were Welcomed on 19 July 2026



L-R: Henja (with baby Caroline) & Cicy Ihouvum, Onyema Ogbechie & Grace Dakoh.