



## RBC NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2018

Dear Church Family,

### ***Happy Easter to you all!***

Easter Sunday falls this year on the very first day of April, and to many people it might therefore seem to be done and dusted by the time we really get into this month. But in the traditional church calendar the Easter season goes on right up to Pentecost. This marks the period of time after that first Easter when Jesus' resurrection appearances continued over forty-plus days right up to his Ascension to heaven, which was shortly followed by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar and although the Easter season officially lasts just a few weeks, in reality we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection every week of the year- all year round! For Christians are "Easter People!" - We are defined by our belief and trust in a Saviour who died for us *and then rose again* – defeating death, sin and evil. That wonderful truth and the difference it makes to our lives is unique to the Christian faith. No other religion has a god or figurehead who rose from death. So we Easter People relate to a Risen Lord, the One who loves us unconditionally and individually, the One who has a plan for our lives and who imparts His Spirit to us to help us grow to be like Him, and to enable and equip us to be His people out on the front-lines of our lives.

The Resurrection is a mystery – a wonderful miracle brought about by the power of God -a miracle which has brought us Hope – New Life - a promise of eternal life beyond the grave – a purpose for life today, and an assurance that God is with us. When Jesus met with his disciples and with many other witnesses over those weeks, he brought them new faith and assurance that the crucifixion had not been the end. On the contrary, the Resurrection marked something completely new - a turning point in history. From then on nothing would ever be the same again. Every resurrection encounter with Jesus that we read about in the Gospels brought transformation, healing, hope, wonder, a new sense of purpose. After the crucifixion Jesus' friends and followers were grieving, fearful, and confused. Yet an encounter with the risen Lord changed everything – their burdens were lifted as they started to comprehend what it all meant - that their discipleship of Jesus would actually be continuing but in a very different way.

The Resurrection brought them great joy – and so it should each of us, as we take up the baton as disciples in turn, knowing we serve a Risen Lord, who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who loves us, and who has a plan and purpose for each one of us. Jesus, through His Spirit, is still doing that same transforming work- meeting people in their grief; fear; doubts and shame, lifting burdens and ministering joy, peace, purpose and hope. So we Easter People have something wonderful to celebrate – not just for a week or two, but all year round. *He is Risen! Jesus is Alive! Hallelujah!*

May he bring you His peace and blessing especially in this Easter season.

Your pastor and sister in Christ, ***Fiona***

**Church Members – reminder!**

**Our AGM & Church Meeting will take place on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.****

Please book the date and plan to be there – we have some important information to bring to you!

**Gathering at “The Well”**

The next meeting of The Well is on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April at RBC hall from 2-4pm** -all (Ladies) welcome, for tea, cakes and a chat.

**Engage**

Our next Men's Fellowship gathering for a meal and chat will take place at the **Gourmet Pie and Burger Bar in Wittersham on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm.** All (men) welcome. Please let Ian Gill know if you would like to come.

**Thank you from the Foodbank team!**

The last two Sunday Foodbank collections totalled 48.6kg and 48 kg. Foodbank continues to be busy and some weeks food is given out to feed around 40 people. We could not do this without your generous donations month by month which are gratefully received and hugely needed. Many thanks to you all.

**Please help Foodbank by donating:**

Cereal    Soup    Pasta / Rice  
Pasta Sauce    Beans    Tinned  
Fruit  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned Meat / Fish  
Tea /Coffee    Sugar  
Toiletries    Nappies    UHT Milk  
Gluten- Free Foods

NB. All items to have at least 3 months till use-by date, and tins to be in good condition (no dents!) please!

**Thinking about Baptism or Church Membership?**

If you are feeling called to be baptised, or to become a church member, (or if you just want to find out more about what these might mean) then please do speak to Fiona. She will be delighted to explain, and/or help you explore whether God might be calling you to take this new step of faith at this time.

**Our next Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast – to pray for our community is on Sat. 21st April at 8am – this time led by Revd Ian Pruden. All welcome!**

@ RBC downstairs hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month – 8-9am. A simple breakfast, and time to pray for blessing on our community, and for a spiritual harvest of people coming to faith and seeing their lives transformed through knowing Jesus.

- As preparation for 'The Turning' mission, and to undergird all that our churches do together and separately in ministry and mission, please come along and pray with us for the Rye & District community.

**Gardening help needed!**

If you know of anyone who would like to do a couple of hours gardening per week for a small remuneration, please speak to Fiona, or one of the leadership team, as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Prayer Corner**

Although, due to changes in the laws for data protection, we will no longer be listing specific people's names for prayer on this newsletter, please do continue to pray for your church family and their families, especially where you are aware of specific needs. Every prayer counts and makes a difference, and all are much appreciated by those prayed for.