



RBC NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2018

Dear Church Family,

Now the clocks have gone back, the evenings are darker, and the weather has turned cold, we know that November is here. And November brings the season of remembering...

First Bonfire Night – *Remember, remember the 5th of November with gunpowder, treason and plot...* of course here in Rye we celebrate Bonfire Night a little later – this year on **10th November**. **Rye Bonfire** is always a big event for the town, and we like to get involved too. It can be quite unnerving the first time you experience the processions of flaming torches and drumming, and people with their traditional make-up and costumes – the whole thing seems quite dark and pagan. But at RBC we seek to do our bit to bring Jesus' light into the darkness. Firstly, we reach out to the crowds and onlookers by offering **free bottles of water and jam doughnuts**, along with a leaflet explaining why we are doing this. People are usually surprised but delighted and grateful. Last year 200 doughnuts and nearly as many bottles of water were gratefully consumed in less than an hour! Please do come along and help us this year! After giving out refreshments there is then plenty of opportunity to watch the procession and fireworks afterwards. Also at RBC during Rye Bonfire, we are the base from which **Rye & District Street Pastors** go out on the streets to listen, care and help the general public on what is Rye's busiest night of the year. Prayer Pastors are equally busy at base all evening praying for peace, safety and protection over the whole town. Please pray for them all that God will both watch over and use them all for His glory.

The next day is of course **Remembrance Sunday** – a very special one this year as it is the **Centenary celebration of the Armistice of World War 1**. After four years of war, incurring massive numbers of casualties on all sides, this agreement between Britain, France and Germany to end fighting as a prelude to the peace negotiations, was greeted with great rejoicing on the streets throughout Europe. One newspaper of the time described it like this, *"bells burst forth in joyful chimes; maroons were exploded, bands paraded the streets followed by cheering crowds of soldiers and civilians as the country gave itself up wholeheartedly to rejoicing.* WW1 was at an end; it had brought terrible cost; and society would never be the same again, but that longed-for peace was celebrated and valued, despite the horrors and bereavements so many had experienced. That **peace was a huge answer to prayer** too, as back in the August of 1918 King George V had called the nation to a Day of Prayer. 100 days later, the Armistice was signed, and God brought the peace everyone had prayed for. This Remembrance Sunday as we remember that Armistice, and all those who gave their lives for their country, we at RBC will be joining with the mayor, town council, and uniformed organisations of the town, for a United service at St Mary's. I will be preaching this year and do encourage you all to attend. The service starts at 10.55am just before the 2 minute silence, but you are encouraged to arrive early (probably by 10.30) in order to get a good seat.

During the rest of November all our regular activities continue(see overleaf.) I pray that the Lord will continue to bless each one of you as you serve Him at RBC and in your daily lives,

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

Advance Notice for December!

Our Advent 'Christingle' service will take place on Sunday 2nd December!!

An all age service suitable for all the family. Ideal for inviting your friends, neighbours and family along. Have fun worshipping God, assembling Christingles, and thinking about the symbolism of these traditional Advent decorations. (Fiona would also much appreciate help to put the Christingle packs together on Friday 30th at 2.30pm)

"ENCOUNTERING GOD" EVENING

Following the popularity of the **worship and prayer evenings** during our week of mission, these are going to continue on a once a month basis, on a house-group evening, so some house-group members can benefit, without having to go out on an extra evening. However, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

This month's '**Encountering God' evening** will take place in church on **Friday 9th November at 7.30pm.**

Engage

The next Engage (men's fellowship) meeting will take place on **Thursday 15th November 7.30pm @ the Bell at Iden.** All (men) welcome. Please let Ian Gill know if you are coming.

ALPHA COURSE – please pray!

Our current Alpha course began in September, and is going well.

Please pray for all those attending , helping and catering, for God's blessing, and for people to come to faith, or deepen their faith.

Please pray also for God's blessing on our Holy Spirit Day to be held on Sat. Nov 17th

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 17th November - 8am

We are continuing our monthly ecumenical gatherings to pray for blessing on our community, and for an openness to the Gospel. All welcome! Breakfast at 8am and prayer at prayer stations for half an hour. This month to be led by Fiona.

Gathering at "The Well"

The next meeting of "The Well" is on **Monday 12th Nov at 2pm – tea, cakes and chat in RBC downstairs hall -all (Ladies) welcome.**

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
Household cleaning materials
Pet food

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

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.