



RBC NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2018

Dear Church Family,

This year the first week of December also heralds the **beginning of the Advent Season**- that time of preparation, counting down the weeks to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus, through whom we can experience the wonderful hope, peace, joy and love that we focus on in this season. The word "Advent" means 'coming' and during this season in the Christian calendar we traditionally think about both Jesus' first coming as a baby to this earth; and we anticipate too His promised Second Coming at the end of time, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we start this month of celebration, our special events begin with our **Christingle service on 2nd Dec**, at which we are delighted to welcome the family and friends of Samantha and Nicholas MacGregor as they bring their daughter Bethany for **blessing and dedication**.

On **Saturday 8th**, we join in with **Rye Town's Christmas Festival**, as we open our doors to welcome people into a **family chill-out and refreshments area**, where parents can enjoy a hot drink and somewhere to sit down, while the children enjoy the toys and bouncy castle. This year we have special **Christmas party bags** to give away to visiting families, containing some free gifts, and information about all our Christmas services and about our all year round family activities too.

On **Saturday 15th**, we hold our usual ecumenical prayer breakfast at 8 am to pray for our community, and then at **2pm** the **Thanksgiving Service for the life of Sid Vincett** will take place in the church, led by **Revd Stuart Davison** (SEBA's lead regional minister and former minister of this church). Sid was Church Secretary here for many years, and kept in touch with us, coming back for special events after he moved away. His family will be delighted to meet up again with old friends at this celebration of Sid's life. All are welcome.

On **Saturday 22nd**, at **7 for 7.30pm** we are all invited to the **Church Fellowship Christmas meal** – always a great event!. Do look out for the list to put your name down on, and feel free to invite one or two guests along too.

On **every Sunday** during this month we will be counting down the weeks of Advent with **Advent themed praise and worship at 10.45 am**, then on **Sunday 23rd at 6.30pm** we also have our traditional **Carols by Candlelight** service, followed by coffee and mince pies.

Then on **Christmas Day** we come together to celebrate Jesus' birth in our **Family Celebration service at 10.30am**. The "reason for the season" - the birth of Immanuel – "God with us" - the *real* meaning of Christmas. I do hope you can join with us at this very special time.

This Christmas, (as Paul says in Romans 15) "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*".

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

Christmas Dates

Sun 2nd – 10.45-Christingle Service

Sat 8th – 10.30-4.00 Rye Christmas Festival

Mon 10th - "The Well" Christmas Lunch

Sat 15th – 2 pm -Sid Vincett's Thanksgiving Service

Sat 22nd 7.30 -Fellowship Christmas Meal

Sun 23rd 6.30 -Carols by Candlelight

Tues 25th – 10.30am Christmas Day Family Celebration

Thanksgiving Service for the Life of Sid

Vincett

*Sid Vincett was Church Secretary and a dedicated member of RBC for many years. His **thanksgiving** and memorial service will take place here **at RBC at 2pm** on **Saturday 15th December**. The service will be led by Revd. Stuart Davison (Regional Minister and former minister of RBC)All welcome.*

The service will be followed by refreshments in the downstairs hall. The refreshments are being organised by Mary Austin, who will be grateful for any offers of help!

Rye Christmas Festival- Sat 8th Dec

This year we are again providing a family chill-out area with toys, bouncy castle and refreshments. Please see Penny if you can help for an hour or so with welcoming people and /or serving refreshments.

Gathering at "The Well"

The next meeting of "The Well" is a lunch at the Robin Hood in Icklesham 1 pm on **Monday 10th Dec** – booking essential. Please see Mary, or Teena.

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 15th December - 8am

Please join us 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.

"ENCOUNTERING GOD"

This month's 'Encountering God' evening will take place in church on **Wed 12th December at 7.30pm**. **All welcome**

Engage

No meeting this month - The next Engage (men's fellowship) meeting will take place in January.

Please help Foodbank by donating:

Cereal Soup Pasta / Rice
Pasta Sauce Beans Tinned Fruit
Tinned vegetables/Meat / Fish
Tea /Coffee Sugar UHT Milk
Toiletries Nappies
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.