



RBC Newsletter: January 2019

Dear Church Family,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for the amazing Christmas present you gave Ian and me. We were, once again, overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. **Thank you so much!!!** As this is the first RBC newsletter of 2019, I wish you all a very **Happy and Blessed New Year!** 2018 brought us many blessings, and some surprises as God guided us through, and we can be confident as we step out into this new year that if we stay close to Him, He will stay close to us. We can “stand on every promise in His Word”, as the song says, and be confident that He has our future in His hands, and that He will never leave us or forsake us. Despite all the uncertainties of what will happen with Brexit, and any other personal concerns for our own futures too, we can know that the God who is “the same yesterday, today and forever” will carry us through, watch over and help us as we face and negotiate whatever hurdles this year has in store for us.

2019 is a special year for me, as this month brings the **10th anniversary of my Ordination**, and therefore also means I have been pastor here for 10 years! It seems unbelievable as the time has passed so fast, and yet so much has happened. It has been such a joy and a privilege to be serving Jesus and His Church here in Rye. I have learned so much from all of you, and am so grateful to have been called to such a loving, caring and encouraging fellowship. Thank you for walking with me and putting up with me through the joys, and the sorrows; the struggles and the achievements of the last 10 years. It has not always been easy, but I am thrilled and amazed to look back and see all that God has done here through us all in that time. That encouragement makes me excited as I look forward in anticipation of all He has for us in the future!

My 10 year anniversary happens, strangely, to coincide with a bigger anniversary for the Baptist Union of Great Britain. **2019 marks 100 years of Women Baptist Ministers in the BU.** 100 years ago Edith Gates was called to a church as the first woman minister, and in 1919 Violet Hedger was the first woman to enter a Baptist College for ministerial training – the same college Molly is training in now! The journey for women in ministry since 1919 has not been easy, but God has clearly blessed it, and I feel honoured to be serving as one of 190 Fully Accredited Women Baptist Ministers in the UK, and helping out a few of the approximately 100 others at different stages on the journey. (We are the sending church of another female Minister in Training, and I am currently enjoying mentoring two other lady ministers - (one MIT and the other a NAM (Newly Accredited Minister.))

This month, most of our **regular activities at RBC recommence**, apart from The Well (starting again in February) and Coffee Plus (taking a well-earned break till April). The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** takes place this month (venues and times overleaf) and includes our **next United Service on 20th at 10.30am at the Methodist Church.** Please do come along and enjoy worship that day with our brothers and sisters from the Anglican and Methodist churches. Praying for God's richest blessings on you all as you continue to serve Him,

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

Reminder: Our next Church Members' Meeting is on
Monday 21st January at 7.30pm
Please book the date and plan to be there!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sat 19th - RBC 8am *Prayer Breakfast*

**Sun 20th -Methodist Church 10.30am
*United Service***

Mon 21st -10am Methodist Church

**Tues 22nd – 10am Methodist Church (led
by the Friends)**

Wed 23rd - 10am Camber Church

**Thurs 24th – 10am St Mary's
(Communion)**

Friday 25th – 10am St. Anthony's

"ENCOUNTERING GOD"

This month's '**Encountering God'**
evening will take place in church on
Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm.
All welcome

Engage

The next Engage (men's fellowship)
meeting will take place at **The Robin
Hood at Icklesham on Thursday 17th
January at 7.30pm.** All (men) welcome.
Please let Ian Gill know that you will be
coming.

Gathering at "The Well"

"The Well" (Ladies fellowship group) will
be taking a break in January.

Next meeting Monday February 11th

**Additional Help needed for Foodbank
and Street Pastors**

If you have a calling to prayer or to serve
the community in some new way, Food
bank needs more volunteer helpers, and
Street Pastors are in need of some new
Prayer Pastors. Please speak to Fiona or
one of the Foodbank/ Street Pastors team
if you would like to find out more.

Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

Saturday 19th 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.

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.