



RBC Newsletter

April 2024

Dear Church Family,

At the end of March we celebrated Jesus' Resurrection with an uplifting and joyful Easter Celebration, made extra special by the fact that we also baptised two ladies from our congregation. It might be tempting for some to say, "Well that's Easter done and dusted for this year", but of course Jesus' Resurrection has significance and meaning for us every day of our lives. Christians are "Easter People". The Resurrection is a key tenet of the Christian faith, and so really we celebrate it all year round! For the first disciples all those years ago, the Resurrection changed everything, and for us today as we start to, not just believe that it did happen, but to understand the importance of *why* it happened, then it gives our whole lives perspective and purpose. As I said on Easter Sunday the Resurrection enabled the first disciples to know the Presence of Christ with them again; the Peace of Christ – where they had been grieving, despairing and confused; the Hope of Christ – as they realised Good Friday was not the end of the story for Jesus or for them; and the Purpose of Christ, as Jesus gave them the task of passing on the Good News and taking the Gospel first to the immediate area, but then to the ends of the earth.

For us too, our lives are impacted by the Resurrection in similar ways. Because Jesus rose, we too can know the Presence of Christ by His Spirit wherever we go; We can know His peace that passes understanding when times are tough for us; we have a Hope and confident assurance, firstly that Jesus saved us, and that He has plans for our lives now, and that death is not the end for us - that we too will have a future existence with Him in eternity; and finally we understand that He has a Purpose for us too – that in His Great Commission He calls us all to share our faith and witness to the Gospel of salvation whenever we have the opportunity. As Easter People, we know Jesus didn't die in vain, and that His story has continued through the lives of generations of His disciples from that first Easter to today and beyond, until He returns again! So let's continue to celebrate His gift of life and love and Hope all through 2024!

Important events taking place in April at RBC -

This month's **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 6th April**. Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.

Our **Oasis Bereavement Support Group** will take place on **Tuesday 9th April at 2pm**. As well as sharing and mutual support for those going through the grief journey, we will be following a course specially designed to help those who have been bereaved for a while

and are still struggling to learn to live with the pain of loss. If this applies to you and you would like to meet others on the grief journey then do come along.

Encountering God will also be on **Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm**. All are welcome to this lovely informal time of praise and prayer, and as usual, we will have no house-groups that week. House-groups will be back on the following week.

Engage for men and **Connect** for ladies (our pub fellowship meals) will take place on **Thursday 18th at 7pm**. If you would like to come, ladies please speak with Penny Kingham, and men with Ian Gill, before Sunday 14th in order to book your place.

The RBC AGM and Church Members' Meeting will take place on **29th April at 7.30pm**. Church Members, please book the date and plan to be there as we together review 2023; prayerfully elect leaders for the coming year; and bring you important updates and information.

Finally an advance notice for next month: our next **Breakfast meeting with a Speaker** will take place on **Saturday 11th May at 9am and is for Ladies**. **The Revd Julie Shimizu** will be speaking and she has a fascinating testimony. Ladies, please do pray about who you could bring along to hear Julie's amazing story and also to enjoy a tasty breakfast!

May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you
as you serve Him here, and out in the world.

Your Pastor & sister in Christ,

Fiona