



## **RBC Newsletter**

**April 2025**

Dear Church Family,

The season of Lent continues as April begins, with the countdown to the celebration of Easter - the most important festival in the Christian calendar. The world outside the church always makes more of Christmas, but for Christians, Easter is even more meaningful, as we recall the journey through Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to Easter Sunday.

In Holy Week we remember how in the space of just a few days the shouts of the crowd changed from "Hosanna!" to "Crucify Him!" We remember how Jesus voluntarily laid down His life for us, suffering the humiliation and indignity of a wrongful arrest, and unjust trial, and then the agony of flogging and crucifixion – which involved not just physical torture, but emotional and spiritual agony, as most of his friends denied him or ran away, and then as He bore our sins on the cross he suffered spiritual desolation too as His Father 'turned His face away.' All this for our sakes, taking the punishment we deserved, so we might be forgiven our sins and restored in our relationship to God.

But then after the sadness of Good Friday, on Easter Sunday a new day dawned, as Jesus was restored to life on the third day. His Resurrection demonstrated how He had conquered sin, death and evil, giving us (1) Hope of eternal Life and resurrected bodies; (2) an assurance of His everlasting spiritual presence with us in this life; and (3) a wonderful purpose to live for - to continue Jesus' mission and ministry to bring others into a saving knowledge of Him that might transform their lives. So much to celebrate on Easter Sunday! Please do come along over the Easter weekend to give thanks to God for all he has done for us in and through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Dates for your diary this month are as follows:-

Our **Encountering God** evening will take place on **Tuesday 1st at 7.30pm**. All are welcome to this lovely informal time of praise and prayer, and as usual, to prioritise attendance at this midweek gathering, we will have no house-groups this week."

The monthly **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April** Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.

Our next **Messy Church** takes place on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April** and will have an Easter theme. Please pray for the team who organise it; for all the volunteers who help, and most importantly for a good number of families to attend, to hear the Easter story and enjoy doing the craft activities together.

**Engage** for men and **Connect** for ladies (our pub fellowship meals) are planned for **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**, with the Ladies going to the Robin Hood at Icklesham and the men going to the King's Head at Udimore. Ladies, please speak to Penny Kingham, and men to Ian Gill, to book your place. Please do feel free to also book places for friends who may like to join you.

**Coffee Plus** opens again on **Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**, selling reasonably priced hot drinks and home-made cakes from 9.30am -12 noon, and offering a listening ear and prayer for anyone who would like that. Pray for the Team who run this, that they may show the love of Jesus to all who come in.

On **Good Friday** ( 18<sup>th</sup> April) we will have a **Reflective Service at 10am** to help us reflect on, and give thanks for, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross at Calvary. Afterwards there will be coffee and hot cross buns, and then from **12 noon** there will be an opportunity to join our brothers and sisters from the other churches in Rye for the **Churches Together Walk of Witness**, where we follow the cross through the streets of Rye, interspersed with dramatised readings, hymns and prayers at various locations.

On **Easter Sunday (20<sup>th</sup> April )** please join us for a joyous and uplifting Family celebration of Jesus' Resurrection, and the New Life and Hope that He brings to us. Everyone is welcome.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm** our **Oasis Bereavement Group** will be meeting from 2-4pm, to share together and receive comfort and support. All who have suffered significant loss are welcome.

On **28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** we will be having our **RBC AGM**, followed by a **Church Meeting**. **Church Members, please book this date** and plan to be there to vote for new Trustees and play your part in discerning the mind of Christ for the church.

Hoping to see you at some or all of the above events.

As you serve Him here, and out in the world,  
May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you,  
and to use us all for His glory.  
Your Pastor & sister in Christ,  
**Fiona**