



RBC Newsletter

August 2024

Dear Church Family,

A big thank you to everyone who helped at or prayed for our very first “Messy Church” last weekend. It was a great success – as 19 children and their parents, grandparents or carers came along and enjoyed action songs, videos and a short talk, lots of craft activities and some delicious food, all planned around the theme of being “*Wonderfully Made.*” The feedback was really positive with lots of families going away saying they had had a great time and are really looking forward to next time. Well done to Marguerite who had the vision for us doing this, and also to everyone on the team who planned, prayed, helped behind the scenes, and ran the afternoon! It is so encouraging to run a worship and outreach activity like this and see such a lovely and positive response. We give thanks to God for His blessing on this initiative and for His goodness to us.

Our leaders were recently reflecting on John 21 - the scripture where Jesus asked Peter “Do you love me?” three times, and followed up each time with commands to “feed my lambs”; “Take care of my sheep” and “feed my sheep.” These commands for Peter who led the first church, are also applicable to church leaders through the ages, and of course to us today. Our Messy Church was certainly aiming to feed, (both spiritually and literally!), and to look after some ‘sheep and lambs’ that had probably never attended church before. We pray that some of what they read, heard and experienced will stay with them and draw them back again.

The Bible is clear on its advice to follow the Sabbath principle – that just as God took a day to rest after He created the world, and Jesus took regular breaks to rest and pray during His ministry, that so should we take regular days off and breaks in our lives. Hence we encourage our house-group leaders to take the month off in August, and most of our other regular activities also cease for a month so everyone can have time to rest and be refreshed. It can be valuable time to enjoy God’s creation, to enjoy time to relax and meditate in God’s presence; or time to read His Word or that Christian book you have been meaning to dig into for a while.

Of course, **Sunday worship** continues over the summer, as does **Coffee Plus** on a Thursday. **Saturday Prayers on Zoom** will take place on **Sat 3rd August at 9am**. Our **Bereavement Support Group “Oasis”** is meeting on **Tuesday 13th at 2pm**, and on **Sunday 25th August at 6.30pm** we are planning an **open air Songs of Praise Service in our Community Peace Garden** (weather permitting, of course). Do come along, and bring a rug or a chair to sit on as there are not many benches.

Finally, here is an extract from a prophetic word given to the Church in 2012, which seems to have relevance to our current season. I hope you will find it encouraging, and something to ponder over the summer.

*If you only knew how much I love you. If you only knew how much I love you...
You must treasure truth. My love is truth...*

Truth is a soft thing, a thing of wonder and beauty. Truth is what I breathe into your soul when you linger in My Presence. Truth is like a misty morning, some things clear and distinct, and some things shrouded so finely and beautifully that it makes the heart ache. And as you stay in My Presence you will see the mists move and beauty revealed, and you will understand. I know what you can bear...

Take hold of what Scripture says to you, personally, and revere it. Spend time with it. It is a close companion for you – one which will provide comfort, solace, inspiration and understanding...

Be very tender with each other... think softly and gently, always seeking and treasuring the good in others, always encouraging each other to draw close to Me, and never judging. Many in the world value and prize youth, and you would be right to value youth's openness and energy and opportunity but I tell you that your life grows brighter and more powerful with your age if you dwell with Me. Treasure the wisdom of age, treat it reverently and gently, it is precious...

You are doing so well. I step into your lives shaped and characterised as Love, and as you are loving and gentle with others, you are spreading my Gospel. Be committed to friendship and unity...Ask Me to walk with you with an open heart and I will, gladly...

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