



## RBC Newsletter

**December 2025**

Dear Church Family,

Advent is here and already we have lit the first Sunday's candle on the Advent wreath and begun the countdown to Christmas. The word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning 'coming' or 'arrival', and during the season of Advent, Christians are anticipating and waiting for not only the first coming of Jesus which we celebrate at Christmas, but also we are looking forward to His Second Coming in glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Advent, like Lent, is traditionally a time of spiritual reflection, searching our hearts and seeking to ensure we are in a right place with God, as we prepare ourselves to relive the events of the nativity stories and to welcome Jesus once again as the babe in the manger; as the Word made flesh; and as Immanuel (God with us.)

It's always a busy time, with all the decorations to put up, cards to write, presents to wrap; not to mention shopping and preparing for visitors. But amongst the stress for the adults and excitement for the children, I pray we might all have time to reflect on the wonder of the incarnation, how God "became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood" as The Message version of the Bible puts it. We plan to explore the Christmas story in a fun way for children at our Christmas Messy Church, and in a more traditional way with readings and carols at our Carols by Candlelight Service. Hoping you will be able to join us as we worship the Lord and celebrate the real 'reason for the season'.

Dates for your diary this month are as follows:-

- Our **Encountering God** evening will take place on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 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.
- Our **Church Christmas Fellowship Meal** will take place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December** at the Robin Hood, Icklesham. Hopefully all who wish to come will have booked and paid their deposit. Please don't forget to bring the balance, preferably in cash on the day. As we are joining together for the Christmas meal, there will be no Engage and Connect this month, or during the cold and dark months of January and February.
- The monthly **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. The Zoom link will be sent out by email as usual. All welcome. Please join us to pray for our Christmas events.

- On **13<sup>th</sup> December** from **2-4pm** we will be having our **Christmas Messy Church with Christingles and a pop up nativity**. Please do invite along any families with young children, and if you can help on the day, or with craft preparations in advance, then please let Marguerite know as soon as possible.
- Our **Carols by Candlelight Service** will take place on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4.30pm**. Please note that there will be no morning service that day, and this year there will also be no service on Christmas Day. Consequently our 'Carols by Candlelight' will be our main Christmas celebration, so please do come along and be part of this.
- On **Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>** we will be having our usual informal **Testimony and Praise service** to mark the end of 2025. We will look back over the year and there will be opportunities to share testimonies of God's goodness to you during the last twelve months.

*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.*

Praying that you all have a joy-filled Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year!

Your Pastor & sister in Christ,  
**Fiona**