



RBC Newsletter

February 2025

Dear Church Family,

Although the weather is still cold, some spring flowers are starting to appear, and the days are getting longer, reminding us that Spring will be here soon. One highlight for some, in the middle of this month is St Valentine's Day. Traditionally, a time for celebrating romantic love, with flowers, cards, chocolates, and special meals - this has become hugely over-commercialised in the world. However, as Christians, we can always use this event to remind ourselves that **Love** is at the heart of the Christian message. The Bible tells us that it was because *God so Loved the world that he sent His only begotten Son* to live and die for our sakes so *that we would not perish but have everlasting Life!* Jesus told us that the Christian Life is about loving God with all our might, and loving our neighbour as ourselves. John's letters remind us that we only know what Love is, because God loved us first. And Paul wrote that famous passage in 1 Corinthians 13 which is so often read at weddings. A passage that reminds us that Love is not just a feeling or emotion, but is actually expressed through our actions and attitudes to others:-

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

So much wisdom in those beautiful words! I pray that in all our interactions with others, both within and outside the church, that through His Spirit within us, that God's love will flow through us and out to others, so that wherever we go, we can be a blessing and a channel of His Peace, Joy, Hope and Love.

This month, our next **Messy Church** takes place on **Sat 15th February** from 2 till 4pm, and all our crafts, activities, songs, etc. on that day will pick up on that theme of **God's Love** for each one of us, and how we should love our neighbours. Please do pray for a good number of families to come along on the day - also for those running the event, and helping - and if you can offer any help either on the day, or to help prepare crafts, or to help with setup on the day before, then please contact Marguerite who will be pleased to hear from you.

Dates for your diary this month are as follows:-

The monthly **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 1st February** Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.

Our **Encountering God** evening will take place on **Tuesday 4th 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 that week."

Engage for men and **Connect** for ladies (our pub fellowship meals) will take place on **Thursday 20th at 7pm**, with the men going to the Robin Hood at Icklesham and the ladies to the Cock Inn at Peasmarsh. If you would like to come, ladies please speak with Penny Kingham, and men with Ian Gill, by Sunday 16th in order to book your place.

All other church activities continue as normal, with the exception of Coffee Plus, where the team are taking a well-earned winter break till Easter.

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