



RBC Newsletter

February 2026

Dear Church Family,

This month we say farewell to one of our oldest members. **Joan Powell** was 91 when she went to be with the Lord on 2nd January 2026. A **Committal service** will take place at **Hastings Crematorium on Friday 6th February at 1.15pm** and the **Thanksgiving Service for her life** will be at **Rye Baptist Church on Monday 16th February at 2.30pm**, followed by refreshments in the downstairs hall. Joan was already in her 80s when she became a member of Rye Baptist Church. She was a faithful member of the Tuesday morning house-group, and a regular on Sunday mornings until she became ill last autumn.

Many will remember her as a strong character, with a soft heart. She was a Scotswoman – a proud member of the Sutherland clan, who loved to return to Scotland to the annual Gathering of the Clan when she was able. A devout Christian, she had devoted her life to helping others. Her nursing career included pioneering roles in the NHS. After qualifying, and quickly going up through the ranks to become a ward sister and theatre nurse, she also worked for years as a community midwife in London, riding her bicycle round to her patients and delivering many babies, just like the midwives on the TV series many of us enjoy. She later returned to college to acquire a teaching qualification and then began training nurses and passing on her wisdom and skills. Later on she ran a charity near London Bridge, which sought to provide help and support for the homeless and rootless, and once she moved here to Rye, became very involved with the Women's Institute. Even in her later years, helping people was a main focus of her life, as she was often found driving her neighbours to hospital appointments and the like. She is missed by us all, and of course by her family of four children and two grandchildren. If you are able, please do come along to one or both of her funeral services and join us in giving thanks to God for the life of this faithful Christian.

As we reflect on Joan's life, may her example of helping others be something that also "spurs us on towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10.24), remembering that Jesus said, that whatever we do for others, it is as though we have done it for Him. (Matthew 25: 35-40) May Joan rest in peace and rise in glory.

Here are some other dates for your diary:-

Please note that the new flooring and carpet for the downstairs halls will be being laid on **Mon 2nd; Tues 3rd; Mon 9th and Tuesday 10th February**. Access to the back hall will be limited on the first two of these dates, and to the main hall on the second two dates.

Our **Encountering God** evening will take place on **Tuesday 3rd February 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 re-start the following week.

The monthly **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 6th February**. Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.

On **Sunday 22nd** there will be a **Churches Together United morning service at St Mary's at 10.30 am**. Do come along and enjoy worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters from the other congregations in Rye, and please don't be tempted to treat this as a Sunday off, as there will be no morning service at RBC that day.

Please note, there will be no Engage/Connect this month.

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

Your Pastor & sister in Christ,

Fiona