



RBC Newsletter

July/August 2026

Dear Church Family,

After a sweltering June, we look forward to a July with, hopefully, more normal summer weather. July promises to be a busy month with lots going on in church life, beginning with our Church Anniversary Gift Day Celebrations, and continuing with Messy Church, an open-air service for Sea Sunday, and then a Church Meeting, alongside all the usual activities, such as Foodbank; Butterflies Toddler group; Coffee Plus; house-groups; and Engage /Connect – not forgetting Sunday morning worship gatherings, of course. Then in August things will slow down a little as, with the exception of Coffee Plus, Foodbank and Sunday worship, all other church activities will take a break for a month, to give leaders a rest before everything starts up again in September. We are, however, planning to have our annual Songs of Praise Open-air worship service in the Peace Garden on Sunday 30th August at 6.30pm.

This year our church celebrates 276 years of Baptist Ministry in Rye, and 116 years in our current building. The Rye Baptists came together to form a church in 1750 and within three years had bought their first building in Mermaid Street, formerly a rundown Quaker meeting house, and now known as Jeake's House. The church had its own garden and burial ground, which we still own and which is now open to the public as a Peace Garden, where people can take time for reflection and relaxation. The church flourished and expanded into the house next door to provide space for the huge Sunday School which at one time had 200 young people attending regularly. By the early 1900s the fellowship realised they needed new premises and through the sacrificial giving of the members over a number of years, they had the vision and opportunity to purchase the site of the Old Playhouse in Cinque Ports Street, where they built our current church building, and moved in for worship in 1910. And Baptist ministry has continued from this building ever since, serving the community and endeavouring to witness to our faith in a variety of different ways. A few years ago our Trustees came up with a new mission statement which I think sums up the heart of all our forefathers as well,- that we seek to be:-

Real People bringing the Real Jesus to the Real World.

We continue in that quest today, as we think about new ways to reach out to our community and plan for the ecumenical Alpha course in September. So I do encourage you over the summer to continue to pray for the following items in our Prayer Focus below..

Prayer Focus

- **Ask God to place on your heart the names of two or three people who don't know Jesus yet, and pray for Him to bring them to faith.**

- **Pray for the planning and preparation of the ecumenical Alpha Course.**
- **Pray about who you could invite to church and/or Alpha.**
- **Pray for God to build His church in Rye (RBC and the other Rye Churches) by bringing in new and younger people.**

Some dates for your diaries:-

The monthly **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 4th July**. Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.

On **Sunday July 5th** we will celebrate our **Church Anniversary** with an **Anniversary Gift Day Service** followed by a **BBQ fellowship lunch**.

Please join us for Our **Encountering God** evening on **Tuesday 7th July 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.

Our next Messy Church session will take place on **Sat 11th July** from **2-4pm**. Please do invite along any families you know, and please let Marguerite know as soon as possible if you can be there to help on the day, or in advance with cutting out and other preparation tasks.

After our usual morning worship service on **Sunday 12th July** we will be celebrating **Sea Sunday** with **Rye Churches Together** in an open air service on the bank at Rye Harbour, just past the William the Conqueror pub. Do bring a chair and a picnic lunch. Picnic from 1pm - service at 1.30pm. If wet, the service will be in the Church of the Holy Spirit at Rye Harbour.

Engage/Connect (our pub fellowship meals for men and ladies) will take place this month on **Thursday 16th July at 7pm**. Connect ladies will meet at the King's Head, Udimore, and Engage men at the Robin Hood, Icklesham. Please give your names to Ian or Penny if you would like to attend.

Monday 20th July 7.30pm Church Meeting – Please book the date and plan to attend, as we share important information and updates on church life and plans for the future.

Sun 30th August 6.30pm Open air **Songs of Praise Service** in the **Peace Garden**. Please bring a chair or a rug.

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**