



## RBC Newsletter

June 2022

Dear Church Family,

This month we join the rest of the nation in celebrating the **Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**. Jubilee weekend is the first weekend in June, and happens to fall on **Pentecost Sunday**, which is of course the **birthday of the world wide church** – when we remember how on the Jewish festival of Pentecost that came after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, God poured out the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples, who were gathered together in an upper room. This manifestation of the Holy Spirit– appearing like tongues of fire resting upon the disciples' heads, and enabling them to praise God in different languages, propelled the disciples out onto the streets of Jerusalem, where Peter was inspired to preach an amazing sermon, which resulted in 3000 people coming to faith in Jesus. Thus, the Christian church was born. So on 5<sup>th</sup> June we will celebrate the Jubilee, and Pentecost, and that weekend we will also celebrate our **Church Anniversary – 272 years** since RBC began in 1750, and 112 years in our present building! It will be a triple celebration, and so, **on 5th June**, we are planning to have a **Jubilee + Anniversary Gift Day Service at 10.45 am followed by a fellowship BBQ lunch**. I am sure we all have much for which we can give thanks to God, and so perhaps you might like to pray about whether you might thank God for His blessings to you over the last year, by making a special Gift offering. We know you have all been so generous this year already in giving to special offerings such as that for Ukraine, but a special offering to the church would be immensely helpful to our outreach and ministry, as well as helping with the ongoing costs of upkeep of our buildings.

Also this month, our next **Encounter** evening will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**. The last meeting in May was so encouraging and we were blessed with a really tangible sense of God's presence and a number of helpful words, pictures etc were brought. At one point we prayed for non-Christians we knew to come to faith; then for those who were sick; and then for the prodigals in our families - and a picture was then shared whereby as we prayed for these things, sparks of light and power sparked out into the darkness in all different directions. Two prophetic words were brought, which I reproduce below for your encouragement - a reminder that God knows the secrets of our hearts, and has compassion for our struggles and sadness:-

1. *"I am the One who hears.  
I am the One who hears your thoughts.  
I am the One who hears the scream of your mind.  
I am the One who hears the crying of your heart.  
I am the one who hears the whisper of your soul."*

2. *“You live in turbulent and difficult times.  
And you lament the fact that you can do little.  
That the power to change things is vested in the hands of others,  
and that your say, your view, is of no account.  
But that would be so wrong.  
The power to change things is in YOUR hands.  
The opportunities for you to arise as an army glorious in power have never been greater.  
Never stop praying; never stop believing;  
stop doubt in its tracks – it weakens prayer.  
You will encounter people in despair, in poverty,  
many of these are close to me.  
Remember that I will send them to you.  
Speak to them with confidence of the Hope I give.  
Share tears and joys.  
Live each day knowing that the end is near.  
Knowing that you are loved beyond anything that you can imagine.  
Be blessed.”*

Last month's **Engage for Men and Connect for Ladies** attracted record numbers. (21 ladies and 17 men attended their respective pub fellowship meals.) This month's **Engage & Connect** will take place on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June**. Please let Ian Gill or Penny Kingham know if you would like to be booked in, and why not consider bringing a friend along too?

So we have lots to look forward to in the coming weeks. Hoping to see you at most of these events.

Praying for His richest blessing on you all as you continue to love and serve our Lord Jesus,

Your pastor and sister in Christ,

**Fiona**