



RBC Newsletter

May 2021

Dear Church Family,

It was lovely to actually see many of you in person last week when we were back worshipping together in church for the first time since before Christmas! I am sure we are all praying that the restriction easing continues as planned, so that we can soon have fellowship times, and maybe be able to sing out loud again!

May is always when the **Baptist Union** hold their **Annual Assembly**, and this year it is planned as a virtual (online) event. There are some interesting seminars and worship/teaching events over the weekend 13th-16th May, and anyone can register to participate. Just go to the Baptist Union website (baptist.org.uk) and follow the links to the Baptist Assembly registration. They are asking for a voluntary donation of £10 for individuals to help cover costs, but it's not compulsory. This year they are also streaming their Sunday morning service and are hoping that many Baptist churches across the country will show this service in place of their normal worship, so worshippers who have never attended the Assembly can get a flavour for what it is like. We at RBC have registered to do this, and so please note that **on Sunday 16th May our service will be commencing at 10.30am(!!!)** . So you will need to get to church and be seated and ready before then! The keynote speaker at this year's Assembly will be **Shane Claiborne**, a prominent speaker, activist and best selling author, who has worked with Mother Teresa, heads up Red Letter Christians, and whose advocating for grace has taken him all over the world. You can see a trailer and read more about him on the BU website (baptist.org.uk). The theme for the weekend, which I am sure will also be the theme for the Sunday worship is "*Heal our hearts; heal our Streets; heal our world!*" Something different to look forward to!

A more regular thing in May for us, as part of Churches Together in Rye & District is **Christian Aid Week**. This year it is **10th-16th May**, and although we won't be doing any door to door collections, all the Rye Churches will have some collecting baskets and envelopes available should you like to donate to this very worthwhile cause, which this year is focussing particularly on the way the climate crisis is affecting poorer countries, whether with droughts or flooding.

Pentecost Sunday falls on **May 23rd** this year and of course in our worship that day we shall be celebrating the birthday of the world wide church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

In the week leading up to Pentecost, however, Churches Together are going to hold the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. This year due to pandemic restrictions we shall hold our **prayer meetings via Zoom at 9 am for just half an hour, each day from Monday 17th to Friday 21st**. Each day will be led by a different member of the local clergy/CTRD Standing Committee. Just before the week commences I shall send out the Zoom links and pre-prepared handouts for each day, and we would be thrilled to see a good number joining us on one or more mornings and participating. We will be using the WPCU resources from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and the material this year has a contemplative flavour with the theme, "Abiding in Christ."

Church members, please note that we need to have a very brief **Special Church Meeting** in connection with the CIO business agreed at the recent AGM. We plan to hold this in the church after the service on **May 16th**.

It will be good to have some rather different things to participate in this month after the sameness of four months of lockdown. This rather different month will conclude with our friend **Canon David Frost** joining us as **guest preacher on Sunday May 30th**. Something else to look forward to as we hopefully move towards a little more 'normality' in church life.

May God bless you richly as You continue to serve Him ,
May He keep you safe and well in His loving care, and may He provide for all your
needs.

Your Pastor and sister in Christ,

Fiona

Summary of Dates for your Diary

10th-16th May - Christian Aid Week

***Sunday 16th - 10.30 am Service from Baptist Assembly
- followed by brief Special Church Meeting***

***Mon 17th - Fri 21st - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- daily prayer meetings @ 9am on Zoom***

Sunday 23rd - Pentecost Celebration

Sunday 30th – Guest Preacher - Canon David Frost