



## RBC Newsletter

May 2022

Dear Church Family,

Sadly the war is still continuing to rage in the Ukraine, and our hearts go out to the millions of poor Ukrainians who have had to flee their homes. We continue to pray for their protection, and for peace to come to their country. In the meantime it is good to know we have been able to do something to help by means of the money we have sent to BMS and to Angelika's church in Poland. She has sent me several emails thanking us profusely for our help. and including photos of some of the people they have helped.

I have heard this week that **Ukrainian guests are beginning to arrive** and settle in, **in the Rye area**, and we want to help and support them, so we have offered our hall as a meeting place for both hosts and guests. Of course we will also be delighted to welcome them to any of our worship services or regular activities. Please do pray for both hosts and guests as they settle in, for God's blessing, and healing, especially for those who have been traumatised by their experiences in the war-torn areas.

Prayer is a vital aspect of the Christian life, and it makes a difference to a whole variety of situations -for those we love and are concerned about, and for ourselves. As such, I would like to remind you all about our prayer text ministry. **T4P (Text for Prayer)** is an opportunity to get a whole band of prayer warriors praying confidentially for you and your loved ones. It really does make a difference and can bring you such peace, knowing others are praying for the things that you are worried about. Just **text a brief prayer request to 07789 079405** ( just use an initial if you don't wish to share any names involved) and your message will be passed on to our team of Pray-ers, who will get praying as soon as they read the request. It doesn't have to be a big concern either – our pray-ers will pray about big matters and small ones – the more things we are praying, about the more answers we will see, and the more testimonies can be given about what a difference prayer can make!

I am encouraged that some conversations about **believers' baptism** have led to a group of people signing up for a **short course** on what baptism is all about. If you too might be interested in coming along and finding out more about this important step of faith, then please do contact me to join the group.

Our next **Encounter evening** will take place on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm** in the church. Please do come along for a lovely time of informal worship and waiting on God. No housegroups that week, so we can prioritise being all together. May I suggest that you take some time to pray and seek God in advance for that evening, and ask Him to show you what He would like you to contribute by way of a reading, prayer, picture or word. Let's

gather in anticipation of truly encountering God through the worship, the Word, and through spiritual gifts.

On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May**, we are planning the next **“Engage” for men, and “Connect” for ladies**- our pub social evenings, a relaxed evening getting together for a pub meal and a chat. Please speak to Ian Gill, if you would like to be included on the men’s list for “Engage”, and to Penny Kingham, for the ladies’ list for “Connect”.

On the last Sunday of the month, **May 29<sup>th</sup>**, we are going to have a United morning service at St. Mary’s. It’s an opportunity to join together in worship and Communion with our Christian brothers and sisters from the other churches, and also to hear a sermon from Rev Paul White – the new rector at St Mary’s. After the service, there will be a very, very brief AGM for Churches Together in Rye & District before refreshments are served. There will be no service at RBC that day, so please *do* come along and join us at St. Mary’s – please don’t treat this as a Sunday off!!

The following weekend in June is of course the Jubilee weekend to celebrate Her Majesty the **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**. On **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June** there will be a special **service at St Mary’s at 5pm**, to which all are welcome. But that Sunday is also **Pentecost**, the birthday of the worldwide church, and so in the morning at **10.45am** we will also celebrate RBC’s birthday, our 272<sup>nd</sup> **Church Anniversary**, with a **Gift Day Celebration Service, followed by a church barbecue** to mark this unique triple celebration (The Jubilee, Pentecost & RBC Church Anniversary).

So 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***