



RBC Newsletter

May 2024

Dear Church Family,

In the Christian calendar we are still in the season of Easter – celebrating Jesus' Resurrection - but now we are in May we also look beyond that to celebrate firstly Jesus' Ascension to heaven, and secondly, His pouring out of His Spirit and the Birthday of the world-wide church at Pentecost. Both of these events are hugely important in God's salvation plan.

In practice, sadly, the Ascension is sometimes passed over in our Sunday services because Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday, and so we tend (in this church anyway) not to put on a special service on that day. However, the Ascension is a big moment in Christian history. It marks the end of Jesus' physical ministry on earth; the moment when He returned to the glory of heaven and was enthroned at the right hand of the Father, as King of kings and Lord of lords, because He had completed the mission he came to earth to carry out.

Before He ascended, though, Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift that had been promised. They obeyed and it must have been a strange time, waiting for those ten days and not knowing what would happen, but of course when it did take place it was dramatic and exciting!! Tongues of fire; divinely enabled speech and understanding of different languages; the breaking down of barriers between people groups; Peter's inspired sermon; and three thousand coming to faith in Jesus and being baptised! A day which changed everything for the disciples then, and for disciples ever since!

As people coming to faith in Jesus have been filled with the Holy Spirit, and discovered the amazing equipping, enabling and empowering power Jesus provides, so each of us experiences His presence within us, and are enabled to fulfil our calling to serve Him, and to share His love and the Good News of His saving grace with others. As a result over the centuries the Good News of Jesus has been passed on from the original first group of disciples, headed up by Peter and James and so on, to millions of people in countries all over the world. Of course the first part of that story is laid out in the New Testament, but the story is still continuing today as new people keep coming to faith and joining the world-wide church. And we play our part as well, of course. Individually, as we show God's love on our front-lines, speaking of our faith and church involvement with people we encounter day by day; and corporately too, in all of our church activities and events, most of which are mission-focussed and provide opportunities to each out to others in Jesus' Name. Of course every week we have our regular activities such as Food Bank on a Wednesday,

Coffee Plus on a Thursday, and Butterflies Carer and Toddler group on a Friday. Then other church events taking place in May are listed below.

This month's **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 4th May**. Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.

Our **Oasis Bereavement Support Group** will take place on **Tuesday 7th May at 2pm**. As well as sharing and mutual support for those going through the grief journey, we are following a course specially designed to help those who have been bereaved for a while and are still struggling to learn to live with the pain of loss. If this applies to you and you would like to meet others on the grief journey then do come along.

Encountering God will also be on **Tuesday 7th May 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 be back on the following week.

Our next **Breakfast meeting with a Speaker** is **for ladies**, and will take place on **Saturday 11th May at 9am**. **The Revd. Julie Shimizu** will be speaking and she has a fascinating testimony. Ladies, please do pray about who you could bring along to hear Julie's amazing story and also to enjoy a tasty breakfast!

Engage for men and **Connect** for ladies (our pub fellowship meals) will take place on **Thursday 16th at 7pm**. If you would like to come, ladies and men, please speak with Ian Gill, before Sunday 14th in order to book your place.

Sunday 19th May is Pentecost Sunday and we shall be celebrating the birthday of the world wide Church with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the other churches in Rye in a **United Morning service at 10.45 am at RBC**.

Hoping to see you at some or all of these events.

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

Your Pastor & sister in Christ,

Fiona