



## RBC Newsletter

**October 2025**

Dear Church Family,

Now that the nights are drawing in, the weather is getting cooler and the leaves are changing colour on the trees, it is evident to us all that autumn is definitely here. It is also the time of the year when we celebrate harvest – singing the familiar harvest songs and thanking God for His faithfulness to us, as the farmers have safely gathered in their crops for another year, and we recognize how God has provided for our needs.

Nowadays we don't tend to bring lots of fresh produce to church for a harvest display and auction or giveaway as used to happen. Instead at RBC we traditionally support the BMS Harvest Appeal with a financial offering to help their work overseas. This year the BMS Appeal is called "*Refugees Welcome*". The appeal is for financial support to help BMS work with refugees in the refugee centre in Cyprus.

Sadly, with so many people arriving illegally on our shores in small boats, many people in the UK are rather hostile to the idea of helping and providing for the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. But all through the Bible God reminds His people that they too were once foreigners and aliens as they wandered through the wilderness. Jesus too was once a refugee in Egypt, as his family fled there to escape Herod's murderous intentions. Because of this history, the appeal of Scripture is to be kind and hospitable to refugees and foreigners, remembering that the Church should be a place of welcome for all. Putting political arguments aside, let's remember, that refugees and asylum seekers may be displaced from their countries, but they should not be displaced from God's love, and the Church should embody and demonstrate that love, welcoming everyone with kindness and hospitality. One way we can extend some kindness to refugees is by supporting this year's Harvest Appeal, so that BMS can be even more effective in their work with the refugee centre in Cyprus, and we would be delighted if you felt able to do that this year.

Dates for your diary this month are as follows:-

- The monthly **Saturday Prayers Zoom meeting** will take place at **9am on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October**. Zoom details will be sent out in the usual way.
- Our **Harvest Celebration service** will take place on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** and will be followed by a **Harvest Fellowship lunch**. To add your name to the list in the hall, if you plan to come, and/ or if you can contribute something to the food, please contact Marguerite.

- Our **Encountering God** evening will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm**. All are welcome to this lovely informal time of praise and prayer, and as usual, to prioritise attendance at this midweek gathering, we will have no house-groups this week.
- **Engage** for men and **Connect** for ladies (our pub fellowship meals) are planned for **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**, with the ladies going to the King's Head at Udimore, and the men going to the Robin Hood at Icklesham. Ladies, please speak to Penny Kingham, and men to Ian Gill, to book your place. Please do feel free to also book places for friends who may like to join you.
- On **25<sup>th</sup> October** from **2-4pm** we will be having **Messy Church**. To provide an alternative message to Halloween, it will have a party feel, as we celebrate Jesus being the Light in our Lives. Please do invite along any families with young children, and if you can help on the day, or with craft preparations in advance, then please let Marguerite know as soon as possible.
- A little reminder too, that **British Summer Time ends on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**, when the clocks go back one hour!

Hoping to see you at some or all of the above events.

As you serve Him here, and out in the world, may the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you, and to use us all for His glory.

Your Pastor & sister in Christ,

***Fiona***