



## RBC NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2017

Dear Church Family,

The arrival of December this year heralds the start of the season of Advent – that time in the Christian calendar of watching and waiting, counting the Sundays off to Christmas; a time of looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus but also of anticipating His Second Coming in glory.

This year Advent began with some good news in the media – the Royal engagement bringing a welcome dash of gladness and happiness amongst the normal doom and gloom related in the news items on TV; newspapers and internet. While we congratulate Prince Harry and Meghan Markle – their good news reminds us that Advent leads us into the *season* of Good News- Good News for all humankind! – the celebration of the birth of a Saviour- the mystery of God becoming man – confining His majesty, power and splendour within the frail and vulnerable body of a tiny human baby called Jesus.

This unique baby had a unique destiny – to grow up to be the Saviour of the world – showing us in His life, character and deeds just what God is like and what He cares about; and then in His death and resurrection, giving Himself over to physical and spiritual agony for the sake of us all – so that we might have salvation – freedom from the curse of sin, evil and death; and a relationship with God. Hope, peace, joy and love were brought to us through Jesus in His birth and through His death and resurrection. So, the crib and the cross belong together – the incarnation and the atonement should be viewed through the same lens. The babe in the manger did not stay a baby, but grew up to fulfil His destiny, and to impart a new and meaningful destiny to us who follow Him.

This year at RBC we are celebrating the traditional Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love through each Sunday of Advent. On **10<sup>th</sup> December at 10.45am** we have a **Christingle family service** where we will make Christingles and light candles and think about the symbolism behind every component part of these symbolic orange decorations. ( Please Note - this year we will *not* be having a collection of wrapped toys – instead, please continue to support Foodbank as overleaf, plus any Christmassy extras you might like to give to the needy families of the Rye area.) Please invite family and friends to this joyous and fun celebration.

This year we are planning just **one main Christmas celebration service** to be held on **the evening of Christmas Eve at 7pm**. This is where we shall sing carols by candlelight and think about the birth of Jesus and all it signifies - on the evening it happened! NB. Just for this year there will be no morning services on Christmas Eve *or* on Christmas morning. So please do make every effort to come along for that special service on Christmas Eve evening, and do bring family, friends and neighbours along to celebrate Jesus' birth with us.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and blessed Christmas: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:13)

Your pastor and sister in Christ, **Fiona**

### **RBC Christmas Meal**

Our fellowship Christmas meal takes place on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7 for 7.30pm.**  
**All welcome – please sign up** on the list downstairs with numbers and any dietary requirements.

### **Gathering at "The Well"**

The next meeting of The Well will take place on **Mon December 11th** with a Christmas meal at 1pm – Please speak to Mary, Barbara or Bridget if you would like to come– all (Ladies) welcome.

### **NB. No Engage meeting this month!**

Our Men's fellowship group will have their next outing in January.

### **Rye Christmas Festival - 9<sup>th</sup> December**

As last year we are hosting the **Christmas Tree Competition** and will be open for refreshments during the day and providing a **chill-out and relax area** with toys for families.

**Please let Penny know as soon as possible if you can give an hour or so during the day to help welcome people and serve refreshments.**

Thank you.

### **Please help Foodbank by donating:**

Cereal    Soup    Pasta / Rice  
Pasta Sauce    Beans    Tinned Fruit  
Tinned vegetables  
Tinned Meat / Fish  
Tea /Coffee    Sugar  
Toiletries    Nappies    UHT Milk  
Gluten- Free Foods

NB. All items to have at least 3 months till use-by date, and tins to be in good condition (no dents!)please!

### **Deacons' Nominations**

Church members, you will now have received the letter and form for deacons' nominations. Please ensure these are sent to Fiona before the **closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> December!**

**Our next Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast – to pray for our community is on Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> December at 8am – this time led by Revd Ian Pruden from the Methodist Church.**

**All welcome!**

@ RBC downstairs hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month – 8-9am. A simple breakfast, and time to pray for blessing on our community, and for a spiritual harvest of people coming to faith and seeing their lives transformed through knowing Jesus.

A preparation for 'The Turning' mission, and to undergird all that our churches do together and separately in ministry and mission.

Please come along and pray with us for the Rye & District community.

### **Prayer Corner**

Please keep these folk in your prayers:

**Molly Boot (in 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Minister in Training)**

**Linda Jones & family**

**Sally Moore and family**

**Alan Strudwick**

**Sally & Paul Liley**

**Eric & Jenny Anstead & family**

**Fiona & Ian Gill & family**

**Alan & Kay Young & family**

**Barbara Baker & family**

**Ni and Jenny Foy and family**

**Stan Estcourt**

**Ernie & Eve Palmer**

**Kathy Waller**

**Pat & Graham Smith**

**David Setchell**