



RBC NEWSLETTER: JANUARY 2018

Dear Church Family,

A very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you enjoyed a peaceful and blessed Christmas, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful Christmas gift to Ian and myself. It was incredibly generous of you and we so appreciated your kindness to us.

Some sad news just before Christmas was the passing of **Eve Palmer**. Eve had been suffering failing health for some months and had been unable to attend church for a while. It is wonderful to know that her suffering is ended and she is now in the presence of the Lord she loved so much, but please keep Ernie and the family in your prayers as they come to terms with their loss. Eve was a wonderful woman of prayer – she became a Christian in her early twenties in a Pentecostal church, and was baptised soon after. Since moving to the Rye area, she has played an active part in the life of Rye Baptist Church for the last twenty-five years, only becoming an official church member in 2012, with Ernie after he finally decided to get baptised, 50 years after becoming a Christian himself! We shall hear much more about Eve's life and faith at the **thanksgiving service** for her life, which takes place on **Tuesday 16th January, 1.15pm at Hastings Crematorium and 2.30pm at RBC**, followed by refreshments in the church hall. All are welcome to both services.

Most of our regular activities resume this month, except Coffee Plus, which takes a well-earned break until Easter. Other events to note this month:-

- Our **Church Members' Meeting** on **15th January at 7.30pm**;
- The **Churches Together AGM and Talk** (by a Methodist speaker this year) 7pm **Wednesday 17th January at St Mary's Centre**, preceded by a **'Bring and Share' meal at 6pm**. All welcome. *(NB. Your minister is being proposed as the new Chairperson for Churches Together this year.)*
- **Saturday 20th January 8am at RBC** – our next **ecumenical Prayer breakfast, led by Canon David Frost** – praying for our community and in preparation for “the Turning” mission later in the year.
- Our next **United Morning Service** at the **Methodist Church 10.30am** on Unity Sunday **21st January** – please note – There will be no service at RBC that day. However, *please don't see this as an opportunity for a Sunday off (!)*, rather as a chance to enjoy worship and fellowship together with our Christian brothers and sisters from the other denominations.

At the end of the month we will be resuming our thinking about our Front-lines, in a follow-up series called **Fruitfulness on the Frontline**, which will be followed in housegroups as well as being our next sermon series. Praying that this will bless you, and aid you in your service to the Lord, both at church and in your everyday normal life,

With every blessing,
Your pastor and sister in Christ,

Fiona

Thinking about Baptism or Church Membership?

If you are feeling called to be baptised, or to become a church member, (or if you just want to find out more about what these might mean) then please do speak to Fiona. She will be delighted to explain, and/or help you explore whether God might be calling you to take this new step of faith at this time.

Gathering at "The Well"

The next meeting of The Well – Monday 8th January at RBC hall -all (Ladies) welcome, for tea, cakes and a chat.

Engage

Our next Men's fellowship meeting is on Thursday 18th January at the Bell at Iden. All (men) welcome. Please let Ian Gill know if you would like to come.

Foodbank has seen large numbers of clients over the Christmas period, feeding 66 people on the last Wednesday. The team would like to thank you all for your generosity in keeping supplies topped up, especially on our Foodbank Collection Sundays – a record 86 kg collected at the December one – Thank you so much.

Church Members – Please Book the Date!

Our next **Church Members Meeting** will take place on **Monday 15th January at 7.30pm**

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!

Housegroups

Our house-groups are flourishing and fast filling up. If you are considering joining a house-group, *please speak to Fiona in the first instance*, as she will know where there are vacancies and be able to direct you to the best group for you.

Our next Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast – to pray for our community is on Sat. 20th January at 8am – this time led by Canon David Frost. All welcome!

@ RBC downstairs hall on 3rd 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 2nd 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 Palmer & family

Kathy Waller

Pat & Graham Smith

David Setchell