



July - September 2026

ROCK CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor's thoughts

Dear Friends,

As England (and Scotland) embark on trying to win the 2026 FIFA World Cup, I'm always reminded of the buzz and excitement that the tournament brings across the world. I vividly remember the Spain 1982 World Cup as a 12yr old; so many memories etched into our lives. Every 4 years - the hope!!! And yet... here we are, 60 years of hurt and counting.

Our Christian walks are likened to a race!

Marathon - we need endurance

The Christian race is not a 6-week sprint, like the World Cup ... it's a marathon!
Our spiritual walks have a start, a middle and an end:

- **The Start** - Excited.
- **The Second Wind** - When we often feel like giving up.
- **The Finish line** - What joy awaits.

Our Christian life is not dissimilar

We have many people cheering us on.

Guardian angels doing His bidding.

We have to play our part. We have a responsibility to the Lord. Lay aside every weight and sin.

Bitterness - Discouragement - Faithlessness - Laziness - Selfishness

- Keep your eyes on Jesus.
- How do you keep your endurance?
- **Keep your eyes on Jesus.**

The Three "L's"

- Let us run the race
- Lay aside every weight
- Look to Jesus

There is a reward at the end of the Race!!

We will wear different crowns.

In the Greek Olympics, the winners were given crowns made of laurel wreaths.

These were crowns that soon withered and corrupted.
We as Christians will be given crowns for running the Christian race.



Which crown are you wearing?

1. The Incorruptible Crown – 1 Cor. 9:24-25

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get **a crown that will last forever.**

Dear Rock Church, remember; football is temporary but our Christian hope lasts forever. Eternity is a long time. Remember to live for the audience of one!

Love Him - Honour Him - Obey Him.

Much love precious saints,
Oliver



One of the things we often talk about in the life of our church is God birthing new ministries. We are delighted to share that from July we will be starting a Rock Church Mums & Tots group (age birth to age 5). The group will meet on a Wednesday morning.

Please see Tracey G for more details, or if you would like to be part of the volunteer team.

Also starting in July from the Rock Coffee House:

Reach Out Thursdays will run from 16th July - 24th September

Time – 11:30 -1:30pm.

Serving light lunch – sandwiches, fruit salad and cream / ice cream, cakes and a side order of fellowship

See Di and Andrea for more details.

July Events At A Glance

- 3rd -4th July – **“Beloved Ladies Conference”** with Rachel Mawston.
- 5th July – **Guest Speaker** – We are delighted to be joined by Rachel’s hubby, the very fab Steve Mawston who will preach at our Sunday morning service.
- 7th July – **Tues Night Prayer & Evangelism** – Why not join us to pray in the main building, whilst a team go out giving out various invite cards and witnessing. See Gbenga for more details.



- 10th July – **Bradford BCAFC Revival Night** – At Valley Parade Stadium Conference Suite. This is always a powerful night of praise, worship and indeed breakthrough.
- 11th July – **“I Am Andrew Training Morning”** – Church on the Way. Please see David Wilford for further details.
- 16th July – **Reach Out Thursday** – Rock Coffee Shop.
- 18th July – **Baptism of Barbara at Bramley Baths** – (LS13 3DF) Saturday teatime 5:15–6:00pm. Join us for an hour of worship testimony and baptism. If interested, please contact the team.
- 19th July – **Sunday Guest Speaker** – Rod Williams. Franklin Graham Training event. Also World Cup final day.



Reach out Thursdays
SANDWICH & CAKE
 "Taste and see that the Lord is good" - Psalm 34:8
 Come & Join Us on a Thursday for
 FREE sandwich, fruit & cake
 alongside a drink, chat & friendship
 All guaranteed a warm welcome
 Every Thursday from
 16th July to 24th Sept
 11:30am–1:30pm
 Rock Coffee House

**CHRISTIAN
LIFE &
WITNESS**

19th July

August

The Kidzone leaders will be getting a break over August and as usual for the month we will be having 1-hour services. If you are not on holiday do make every effort to be around and support our own team. We will have resources and crafts for our younger ones in gift bags at the back of church to keep them entertained whilst the sermon is being preached. Equally, you can take smaller ones into the back fellowship room and watch the service on TV.

30th August – We'll be **Celebrating with the Ebanks Family** – Baby JJ will be getting dedicated on that morning @ Rock Church.

September

- 6th September – Standard length services will resume. This will also be our **“Moving Up Sunday”** for any children who have transitioned schools etc and are moving up groups.
- 11th–12th September – We are hosting our own **“Ignite Conference”** with Pastor Stuart Bell from Alive Church. We are honoured to have such a respected and seasoned Christian leader with us over what promises to be an excellent weekend of encouragement and teaching. Ignite kicks off on Friday night 11th Sep. at 7:30pm and again on Sat 12th Sep. 10:00–4:00pm.
- 14th–15th September – **“Bible Study Groups”** at Jeni Turner's house.
- 15th September – For anyone interested in experiencing Water Baptism by Full Emersion on October 11th, we will be having baptism classes throughout September – Tuesday 15/09 and Wednesday 23/09. Please see Neil & Sheila Pearson for more details about being baptised.



**MOVING UP
SUNDAY**
 CELEBRATING GROWTH AND MILESTONES
 SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER



**IGNITE
CONFERENCE**
Save the Date
 11th – 13th
 September



BAPTISM CLASSES
 TUES 15TH SEPT
 WED 23RD SEPT
 See Neil & Sheila for more details

OTHER

Have you got an interest in joining a Rock group or volunteering?

- Bible study groups (Various)
- Rock Coffee Shop (Thurs/Fri)
- Conference Volunteering
- Evangelism Team (1st Tuesday of the month)
- Prayer Team/Ministry
- Welcome Team/ Car Park Duty
- Media/Desk Team
- Kidzone or Friday Night Youth
- Helps/ Building Maintenance
- Walking Goup

Please tick the various sign-up sheets in the “New to Church” brochure.

FORWARD NOTICES

- October 3rd - Co-Op Arena - Franklin Graham's Event
- October 11th - Baptism Sunday - Please speak with Oly if you are wanting to be baptised.
- October 18th - Guest Speaker Gordon Tose
- Nov 22nd - Youth Takeover Service.
- Dec - Christmas Party/Meal - Date TBC

****Please note that we are having a new kitchen installed at some point over the summer so there may be a couple of weeks when drinks may be served from the Rock Coffee Shop****

Wednesday Night Church – Oct. to Dec.

On Wednesdays from 14 th Oct until 2 nd Dec we'll be starting a 1-hour midweek service. 7:00pm-8:00pm.

We're going to trial this for 8 weeks to see if there is an appetite for such a gathering.

We appreciate that lots of folks increasingly have to work on Sundays So why not come for a weekly top up? This will be a time of praise, worship and word. Strictly for one hour only.



Stay up to date



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