

25th October 2020

Dear Friends

This is a letter about what is probably happening between now and early January. As you will appreciate the word probably is unusual but that reflects the days we are living through, but we are still making plans for good things we hope you can share in.

Sundays

This is what is happening at the church on Sunday mornings between now and Christmas as long as we have permission to meet. You can access these via the live stream, watch afterwards via the website or come to the church.

Additionally, you can watch the message on the theme via You Tube.

November 1st. All Saints

Reading Colossians 4 vs 7-18 All age service Baptism of Mohammed Reza

November 8th Remembrance service with two minutes silence.

Reading Colossians 1 vs 24 – 2 vs 5

November 15th

Reading Colossians 2 vs 6 -23

Baptism of Ali A

November 22nd

Reading Colossians 3 vs 1-11

Baptism of Ali N

November 29th

Reading Colossians 3 vs 12-17

Baptism of Alireza

December 6th

Second Sunday in Advent.

All age service, preparing for Christmas

December 13th

No morning service.

Readings and music for Christmas. 6.30 P.M

December 20th

No morning service

Readings and music for Christmas 6.30 P.M

The evening service will be ticketed. More information to follow.

AND

Christmas Day. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Morning service 10.30 A.M

December 27th No morning service

Remembering Service

On Sunday evening **November 29th** at 6.30 P.M there will be a service via ZOOM for people to remember people they loved who have died or may be a long way away. It will be very simple and give you the opportunity to light a candle at home to remember them as we give thanks for them and name them with love.

Christmas music and readings

Last year we shared in a wonderful candlelight service and many people invited family, neighbours and friends. Sadly, we can't sing together this year but these services on the 13th and 20th at 6.30 P.M. will be an opportunity to capture some of the magic. These services will be ticketed and more information will follow.

Coffee and Carols

7.30 P.M Wednesday 16th December 2020 via ZOOM. A cheerful event when there will be the opportunity for people to share, poetry and song, stories and other good things including a short Christmas quiz. More information to follow.

Covenant service

This will happen on Sunday morning 17th January when we renew our promise as a family of God's people at New North Road to walk together and watch over one another. Our guest speaker will be Clive Burnard, our regional minister.

Communion

I'm really mindful that although we have made provision for communion in the order of worship you are sent each week that we have not found a way of safely sharing this together on Sunday. We are seeking a way to do this and hope to be able too soon.

AGM

Monday 7th December 7.30 via ZOOM

Deacon's elections

By postal ballot

This is the formal notice of this year's Annual General Meeting and the deacon's election.

AGM

The AGM is open to everyone but only people who have been formally received and welcomed as members of the church may vote. Membership is a sign of belonging. If you would like to enquire and ask about church membership, then please speak to me and I will be glad to tell you about it.

Membership is a sign that New North Road Baptist Church is your spiritual home, the place where you worship and covenant to walk together and watch over one-another as brothers and sisters, sharing your gifts, giving and serving and following Jesus Christ together.

The AGM will be happening differently this year, via Zoom and will include recognition of deacon's elections that will take place via a postal ballot.

This is a more formal church meeting when we take a long view of the year, receive the accounts and the annual report.

The deacons are following advice from the Baptist Union and our regional minister in a way that is true to the spirit of our constitution which was drawn up at a time when no one conceived of the current crisis. We are seeking to do this in a way that includes as many people as we possibly can at a time when many members of the church are not coming to the church building. A formal agenda and ballot paper will be sent to you nearer the time of the election.

Deacons elections.

Anybody who is a member of the church and is in good standing can be nominated and seconded to serve as a deacon. Nominations can be made to Gordon Morrison by Monday 16th of November. Usually these would need to be in writing but this year you

can call Gordon or email him and he will write them up. If you have any questions about this, please contact him. Or contact me and I'll put you in touch with him.

Sandra Coulthard, Fay Deer, Bernice Dema, and Mary Whalley are all completing a term this year with our gratitude. Sandra, Bernice and Mary are eligible to serve a second term so they can be nominated but you need to ask them first.

Stewart Naylor will also be retiring as our assistant secretary with many thanks, especially for managing room bookings and Gordon Morrison will be retiring as our secretary with many thanks and gratitude for all he has done. Gordon will continue to serve as a deacon. We are also seeking nominations for a new secretary.

Dave Carrins continues to serve as our acting treasurer and we are grateful to him for his willingness to do this, his integrity and the time he gives to this.

Thank you.

Your friend and pastor

Mark

rmijanes@aol.com

07852 490034