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This Sunday we welcome Mark Stephenson from Elmfield as our guest speaker. He will look at another story about Peter in the book of Acts. This time we are in Acts 12 and we will learn more from the persecuted church at prayer.

*"So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him." (Acts 12: 5)*

May we learn many lessons from the early church. As Mark prepares to preach may we be earnestly praying to God for him. As John and Karen go on holiday, may we be earnestly praying to God for them. As brothers and sisters in Christ around the globe are in prison, like Peter, may we earnestly pray to God for them.

John Smuts,

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### **'The miracle of the gospel'**

**Acts 12 v 1-19**

#### **Online this week:**

Next week FB live will be on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** as usual.

#### **11am Sunday live on Facebook and RLBC Website**

The 11am service is replayed on Facebook at 6.30pm on Sunday. This can be accessed even if you don't have a Facebook account by going to

<https://www.facebook.com/raynerslanebaptistchurch>. It will encourage you to open a Facebook account but you can still enter by clicking 'Not now.'

#### **Please pray for -**

**Hilary Williams and the family.** Her mother, Winnie, died unexpectedly last Saturday night, 15<sup>th</sup> august.

**Linette Dyer and the family.** Linette's daughter, Janet, died suddenly in the UK. Details of the funeral will be informed later.

**Annie Ngemi and the family.** The funeral service of her brother-in-law will take place on 28th August at Free Baptist Church, Watford

#### **Staff Holidays**

Over the next two weeks both John and Karen will be away at different times. If you urgently need to contact someone in their absence then please email Jermaine (Church Secretary) - [secretaryrlbc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryrlbc@gmail.com)

#### **Church Members Meeting - Sunday, September 13th, 3pm on Zoom**

Now that the church is beginning to open up again there are three things that the LT would like to hear from the members about:

Sunday services in church.

Staffing needs - the recruitment for an Associate Pastor is currently on hold ... do we want to press ahead or change direction?

Manse extension - it is possible that further decisions may be needed as a result of the tender process which has just started. (This may not need to come to the meeting but we are giving notice in case it does. Since extra notice needs to be given for a Special Church Meeting, we are covering all bases by giving notice a month in advance... even if it may not be necessary!?)

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Agenda and papers will be sent out the week of the CMM but we are trying to give plenty of notice so that you can start to think and pray about these matters. We learnt last time that holding a meeting on Zoom means that questions and comments need to come in advance, as much as possible. Therefore there is no need to wait until September, please feel free to send in comments and questions any time - either to John ([pastor@rlbc.org.uk](mailto:pastor@rlbc.org.uk)) Karen ([children@rlbc.org.uk](mailto:children@rlbc.org.uk)) the Church Office ([churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk)) or to any of the Deacons. The LT will meet on Mon. Sept. 14th to discuss your feedback and so there will no formal proposals from the LT at the CMM, rather we want to listen to your feedback first

### **Re-opening the Church Building**

Now that the Deacons have agreed a formal Risk Assessment it is now possible to begin, gradually, using our buildings again. However, it is essential that any leader of an organisation gets their own compliance document signed off by the deacons **before** contacting the Office to book rooms. Please contact the Church Office ([churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk)) if you would like a copy of the RLBC Risk Assessment. We will need a lot of patience and flexibility when we start using rooms at church again. All bookings will need to be temporary (probably reviewed every two months) in order to allow for changes to the government's guidelines and also to enable church organisations starting up again at different times - e.g. we don't want a ministry that works with those at risk to discover that all the rooms are already booked when they eventually start up again.

### **Re-starting Sunday Services**

We have started having Sunday services in the building. However, initially, the services will be by invitation only (seating capacity is currently only 30) and therefore, please do not turn up if you have not received an invitation. Please be patient as we try to work out how to maximise the use of our buildings while doing it safely. These services will be reviewed in early September.

### **Home Group Launch - Ephesians (Tuesday, Sept. 8th on Zoom)**

This term we will be studying the letter to the Ephesians on Sundays and also in our Home Groups. As usual the HG series will begin with a launch where we overview the letter and equip you to study it. These sessions are a great introduction to help you get the most out of Sundays and from your Home Group studies. The launch will happen on Zoom at 8pm, Tuesday, September 8th. The Zoom invitation will be sent out the week beforehand.

### **Mission Focus**

The latest newsletter from Matthew and Rachel McNulty is now available at the office. Please email the office if you would like to have a copy of it.

### **Church Office Hours**

**Monday & Tuesday 9am-1pm and Thursday & Friday 9am-3pm.**

If you need any help, please call the office during those hours on 0208 868 6772.

**COVID-19 Support & Information:** [www.rlbc.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.rlbc.org.uk/coronavirus)