

This Sunday will be our first Sunday back in the church. Our Bible passage will be Ephesians 6: 10-24 and Howard Lyons will be preaching.

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel..." (Ephesians 6: 19)

Please pray for Howard as he preaches on Sunday - may we all be given courage to fearless proclaim the gospel this Christmas.

Christmas Services

Here are our plans for services over Christmas and the New Year. Please note carefully which services are live (in the church) and which are online only. (All services will be available on our website.)

- Sunday Dec. 13th 11.00am - Nativity service (live + online)
- Sunday Dec. 20th 11.00am - Summary of Ephesians (online only)
- Sunday Dec. 20th 4.30pm - Carol singing on the lawn
(for 30 mins, weather permitting - live only)
- Sunday Dec. 20th 5.30pm - Carol service (live + online)
- Friday Dec. 25th 10.30am - Christmas Day service (live + online)
- Sunday Dec. 27th 11.00am - Service (online only)
- Thursday Dec. 31st 11.30pm - Watchnight Service (FBlive + website only)
- Sunday Jan. 3rd 11.00am - Recommitment Sunday (live + online)

John Smuts

Yours in Christ

pastor@rlbc.org.uk / 0208 868 6772

Coffee Zoom

Straight after the 11am service finishes on Sunday there will be a 30 minute zoom call for anyone who wants to chat. We are going to trial this during November (apart from the CMM Sunday) as a way of replacing after service refreshments. There is no agenda. After some time all together, people will be automatically put into small groups so that they can simply chat, catch up ... or get to know. If you don't understand how that works, why not give it a try this Sunday and find out? You might get to know someone new.

- **Please pray for Ken Watts and the family. Ken's twin brother, Alan William died from heart attack on Monday, 23rd November.**
- **Please continue to pray for Glossyna, Ben and the family. Eleazer Rose, Glossyna's father's funeral service will be held at RLBC on Thursday, 10th December at 11.15am.**
- **Congratulations to Matthew and Hannah Crouch on the arrival of their daughter, Kara Jane born on 14th October. A grand daughter to Marguerite Crouch.**
- **Congratulations to Stuart and Ailsa McDonald on the safe arrival of their daughter, Grace Elizabeth born on 24th October. A grand daughter to Elizabeth; a sister to Finnley and a niece to Lucy.**

Message from the Findlows

We would like to say massive thank you for the very generous farewell gift that we've just received. We are very grateful and wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Love from the Findlows. (Ed - we had hoped to welcome the Findlows back to RLBC to give them this gift in person but since it is going to be a long time until that is possible we didn't want to delay giving to them any longer. We hope they have a fantastic Christmas at Mill End Baptist Church!)

Christmas in a Bag! – Saturday 12th December



Families with children aged 11 and under are invited to drop into RLBC between 10.30am and 12.30pm to collect a bag of Christmas crafts and activities! Do pass the information onto friends and neighbours and share the details from social media and our webpage <https://www.rlbc.org.uk/community-christmas-party/>

Making the most of Christmas

As promised, John and Karen have produced a short video that shows how you can make the most of Christmas this year - e.g. how to use Zoom, how to share on social media, how to introduce the gospel etc.

The video is on our website and can be watched via this link -

<https://youtu.be/cYOKv-y-K50>

Christmas Offering 2020

During December we invite you to make a Christmas offering in support of FirmFoundation and Embrace.

FirmFoundation

FirmFoundation is a registered charity which helps relieve the immediate suffering of the homeless, while working with them to find a practical and sustainable solution to their needs. Their ethos is to demonstrate God's love for humanity in a practical, Christian way to those who are homeless, vulnerably housed or at risk of becoming homeless.

FirmFoundation values the image of God in all people and respect the beliefs and cultures of all whom they come into contact with.

FirmFoundation was birthed through a collection of Churches in Harrow who wanted to make a difference. The charity is now working across the Borough of Harrow assisting those who are single and homeless regardless of circumstance.

Embrace the Middle East

Embrace the Middle East is a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths and none to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice.

Together with local Christian communities they are bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.

If you would like to make a donation this can be done by online banking, CAF Donate or by cheque.

Giving by bank transfer

Gifts may be made directly to the church bank account:

Account name: Rayners Lane Baptist Church, sort code: 40 52 40, Account number: 00022474.

So that we can allocate your gift to the Christmas offering, please type Christmas in the payee reference.

If you have completed a gift aid declaration we will claim gift aid on your donation.

CAF Donate

You may also give through CAF Donate <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15219>

A small charge is made to the church for gifts given in this way, and if you are a UK taxpayer you can gift aid your donation.

Giving by cheque

If you would like to make a gift by cheque please make your cheque payable to Rayners Lane Baptist Church and place your cheque in an envelope marked 'Christmas offering'. Your cheque may be given in at church during office hours or at a Sunday service, if you have an invitation to the service. If you have completed a gift aid declaration we will claim gift aid on your donation.

We thank you for your generosity and for your support for the Christmas offering.

Church Prayer Meeting, Thurs. December 10th @ 8pm

We meet fortnightly to pray on a Thursday evening. Currently this happens via Zoom

Refresh Café Zoom - Saturdays 10am-12pm

Although we can't meet in person the Zoom link below enables a 'drop in' each Saturday morning. Just use the link any Saturday morning and chat to whoever is in the Café when you join. Stay for as long or as little as you like.

Tamil Fellowship Christmas Celebration



RLBC Tamil Fellowship are having a Christmas Celebration on Saturday, 12th December @ 6pm. They cordially invite you all to a joyful evening.

<https://www.rlbc.org.uk/live> and <https://www.facebook.com/raynerslanebaptistchurch/live>

Christianity Explored Course

Christianity Explored gives people time and space to think about the big questions of life and to explore the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ. Over 7 sessions, involving an excellent DVD series, guests explore the identity, mission and call of Jesus – who he is, why he came and what it means to follow him. All are given the opportunity to ask questions or just to listen.

This course will run online via Zoom at 8pm on Tuesday evenings starting on Tuesday 12th January 2021. Please sign up on the website

FaceBook Live

FBLive will stop during December as we will run our daily advent calendar instead - www.rlbc.org.uk/advent . Depending on government restrictions we may re-start FBLive in the New Year.

This Week: December 7th - 13th

Mon, 7 th	11.00am	Toddlers FB Live
Tues, 8 th	10.00am	Play & Pray
Thurs, 10 th	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting (Zoom)
Fri, 11 th	8.00pm	Tamil Fellowship Zoom Meeting
Sat, 12 th	10.00am 10.30am	Refresh Café Zoom Christmas in a Bag
Sun, 13 th	11.00am	Nativity Service

FoodBank Volunteers Needed

Foodbank is developing a rota of volunteers to help prepare food parcels for pick-up. Currently we need one additional volunteer for 05 December and two volunteers for the 12 and 19th of December 2020.

If you can give 2 hours of your time every month on a Saturday between 10:00 and 12.00 then please contact the Church Office or Alcus Dunn/Debie Stoute. Thanks.

FoodBank – December Shopping List

No baby food, cereal, dry pasta or dry spaghetti - thank you - we have loads.

Tinned vegetable pies

Tinned custard

Dried mashed potato

Tinned meat pies

Hot dogs (jars/tins)

Meat cup-a-soup

Irish stew (tinned lamb meals)

Tinned fruit

Honey

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/
churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk.

COVID-19 Support & Information: www.rlbc.org.uk/coronavirus