

As we continue our way through Mark's gospel we return to the passage we started the series with - Mark 8: 27 - 9: 1. It would really help to read it through carefully before Sunday.

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' (Mark 8: 34)

The definition Jesus gives of discipleship is very challenging - who truly lives up to this definition of a Christian? Spend some time praying over what Jesus is calling you to 'deny yourself' today.

Yours in Christ, John.

pastor@rlbc.org.uk

0208 868 6772

Communion on Sunday

As part of the livestream service on Sunday (11am) we will be celebrating communion together. Therefore, please get some bread and grape juice ready before the service starts so that you will be ready when the time comes.

Happy birthday!

- Congratulations to Maureen Sullivan as she turns 90 on March 3rd!
- Happy birthday to Arun Samuel who is 40 today!

Pray for ...

- Ken Watts - is making slow progress following his stroke. He is starting to walk again. The hospital is looking to find a rehabilitation centre that is able to give him 24hour care. If they can't then he will remain in NPH for a further 2 weeks. Even with a care package, getting him back home is going to be a complicated progress. Please pray that everything will fall into place.
- Joan Stocker - is now in Buchanan Court, Sudbury Hill, Harrow, HA1 3AR to convalesce, due to a broken pelvis. She would like to thank the church family for the kindness and support given to her with cards, gifts and practical help.

AGM - Sunday March 21st, 3pm

Advance notice to all Church Members - our AGM will be held (via Zoom) at 3pm on Sunday March 21st. The two main items of business will be the election of Deacons and the annual reports from ministries at RLBC. It has been a strange year and therefore we will understand if some ministries don't want to produce a report as there is little to say. However, we'd all love to hear from you, so those who want to submit a report for the AGM please start preparing one and be ready for when Rebecca asks for reports in the next few weeks.

RAYNERS LANE BAPTIST CHURCH ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DEACONS (Trustees)

(A registered charity number 1129399)

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 21st March 2021 at 3pm via Teleconferencing (zoom) due to current restrictions imposed by the Government on Places of Worship due to COVID-19.

The following Deacons are due to retire by rotation:
Glossyna Amegatcher (Prayer Deacon)

Joseph Chandrasekeran (Pastoral Care Deacon)
Ted Knotwell (Finance Deacon - Assistant to Treasurer)

All three have decided to step down at this point. We are very grateful for the many years of service they have done and will thank them at the AGM.

The Officers (Secretary and Treasurer) are also required to seek re-election every three years, but we have maintained the RLBC tradition of standing annually. Jermaine Francis and Celia Clark have indicated their willingness to stand as Secretary and Treasurer again. Therefore, nominations are required for three deacons, a Secretary and Treasurer. Please contact Jermaine or John if you want to know more about this.

Ideally, we are looking for people willing to take over the three roles - Prayer Deacon, Pastoral Care Deacon and Assistant to Treasurer but would be willing to discuss covering these responsibilities in different ways. The Leadership Team also knows that it is hard to consider these roles during the lockdown. Therefore, we are aware that it is quite likely that these positions may not be filled until after lockdown when we are able to talk about this face to face. Please prayerfully consider these positions.

Any nomination requires both the consent of the nominee and the formal support of two church members - therefore, when contacting Jermaine with a nomination, all three names (nominee plus two supporting church members) require their explicit consent.

If you want to Nominate, please obtain the consent of the nominee and email Jermaine Francis (secretaryrlbc@gmail.com) by midnight on 7th March 2021 with the full name of the nominee, and both of the full names of the church members.

If anyone is considering standing, information on the duties should be obtained from Jermaine or our Pastor, John Smuts, who will also be delighted to email or speak to the nominee (pastor@rlbc.org.uk).

By Order of the Trustees,
Jermaine Francis, Church Secretary
25th February 2021

Coffee Zoom

After the 11am service finishes on Sunday there will be a 30 minute zoom call for anyone who wants to chat. There is no agenda. After some time all together, people will be automatically put into small

Youth Zoom Meeting

RLBC Youth will be meeting every Sunday via zoom @ 12.05pm.

20s and 30s Group

The 20s and 30s group have a tea and coffee chat every Sunday at 12.15-12.45pm after the service.

FaceBook Live (Tues & Thurs 12pm)

FaceBook Live will run until Easter. If you go to the RLBC FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/raynerslanebaptistchurch>) there will be a live broadcast from a different member of the church at 12pm on a Tuesday and Thursday. It will then be uploaded to our website later in the day for others to catch up later if they want (<https://www.rlbc.org.uk/churchat12/>) It lasts about 20 mins and consists of a devotional thought followed by a time of prayer. A way to encourage one another and keep connected in this time of separation.

Church Prayer Meeting, Thurs. 4th March @ 8pm

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

Refresh Cafe is happening on every Saturday via Zoom between 10.30am and 11.30am.

COVID-19 Vaccine

We would encourage all RLBC members to get vaccinated as soon as they are offered an appointment. John Smuts received his first injection recently at Tithe Farm - unknown to John his pulmonary embolism (in 2017) meant that he had been put in a higher risk category. His arm was slightly sore but any side-effects were minimal. It is safe. Please go as soon as you are called for vaccination.

This Week: March 1st – 7th

Mon, 1st	11.00am	Toddlers FB Live
Tues, 2nd	12.00pm 8.00pm	FB Live BLT
Thurs, 4th	12.00pm 8.00pm	FB Live Prayer Meeting
Fri, 5th	8.00pm	Tamil Fellowship Zoom Meeting
Sat, 6th	10.30am	Refresh Cafe
Sun, 7th	9.45am 11.00am 12.05pm 12.15pm	Sunday Club online Sunday Worship Youth Group Online Meeting 20s & 30s Group: Zoom Meeting

Christians across Harrow Borough Praying online for Revival Wednesday 3rd March 2021 @ 8pm for 1hr

Christians Across Harrow Borough praying for our community on the first Wednesday of the month. We will be praying for revival (and this week hearing about RLBC!) There will be a time of worship songs, then praying as a larger group and also praying in smaller groups all online.

Rapid COVID-19 Test

Please see below the links for the rapid testing in Harrow and Hillingdon.

Harrow

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/book-covid-test?documentId=13342&categoryId=210288>

Hillingdon

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/community-testing>

Church Office Hours during current lock-down

Rebecca will be working from home on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This means that you will still be able to contact the office (with call forwarding) during the normal hours, but the office will only be open (e.g. to drop off Foodbank contributions) on Mondays and Fridays. We will review this weekly and tell you when we return to normal opening.

To remind you of Church Office hours:

Monday 9.00am - 1pm (office open)

Tuesday 9.00am - 1pm (contact only)

Thursday 9.00am - 3pm (contact only)

Friday 9.00am - 3pm (office open)

020 8868 6772/ churchoffice@rlbc.org.uk/ www.rlbc.org.uk

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