

# NEW NORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

New North Parade, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 5JU

Registered Charity 1131496

23rd March 2020

Dear Friends

Thank you to everyone who responded to my first pastoral letter. We are exploring different ways of staying in touch with people. Please see these listed for you below.

The scripture for this letter comes from Lamentations 3 vs 22. 'Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed because his compassion never fails. It is new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. I said to myself the Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait on him.'

We continue to face a rapidly changing environment now schools have closed, and you can no longer go to a pub, club, leisure centre, restaurant, cinema, theatre or café and more of us choose to stay at home. I cannot stress how important it is that we all reduce our social contact with other people because this will reduce the spread of this virus. In other words, denying yourself in this way is an act of loving our neighbours.

Please do tell me or one of the deacons if you are self-isolating and would like someone to phone you or assist with shopping or other practical needs. My number is **07852 490 034**. If you call me and I do not reply, please send me a text if you can. I also keep a close eye on my email address. [rmijanes@aol.com](mailto:rmijanes@aol.com) and this is a good way of contacting me too.

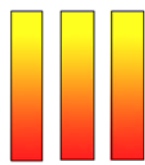
As we said before, the building of the church is now closed to all the usual activities and events and there will be no services on a Sunday. There are other ways we are seeking to enable people to stay in touch.

- \* We have a Facebook page, where songs, words, images and scriptures are being posted to encourage and inspire you.

- \* We have a WhatsApp group and everyone who signs up can contribute to and share news, thoughts and photographs.

- \* We have an email prayer group co-ordinated by Lyn Western that you can sign up to if you let me or Lyn know. Lyn says

*Our task is to support each other in whatever ways we can, PRAYER is the vital link that will hold us together, so each day at 11 a.m. Lets come before the Lord using the prayer diary*



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*Pray for someone or something you have seen on it each day. As the weather improves go into your garden, sow some seeds. take care of them. God loves the World, & He loves us, His command is " To love our neighbours as ourselves. Psalm 8 3-4 looks at the world and we are moved to wonder about our universe and the place of human beings.*

We are also moving rapidly to develop our new website and explore live streaming our worship and preaching and will be sending you a copy of the prayer diary

If you are tuning into the news, remember to balance this by watching something else which is life affirming and puts a smile on your face. If you are wondering how to fill your days and find time dragging, then talk to a friend about good things you can do. If you find yourself turning inwards, then remember there are people who love you and would love to speak to you.

If you give regularly to the church, please put your offering aside in an envelope each week or set up a standing order with the bank if you do not already do so. The name on the account is New North Road Baptist Church, the sort code is 40-25-10 and the account number is 11 06 03 41. Other ways of giving are outlined at the end of the letter. Please consider adding Gift Aid if you are taxpayer. We can send you a form to do this.

Last of all this is the reflection I wanted to offer, mindful that we have just celebrated Mothering Sunday.

*At a time when it would be easy for our hearts and minds to be preoccupied by fear and anxiety this Psalm speaks of finding a place of peace in which our souls are stilled and calmed like a weaned child with its Mother.*

*O Lord my heart is not lifted up or my eyes raised too high.*

*I do not occupy myself with things too great or fearful for me.*

*But I have calmed and quietened my soul. Like a weaned child with its mother.*

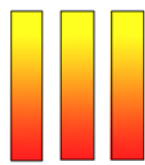
*My soul is like a weaned child within me.*

*People of God, hope in the Lord from this time on and forever more.*

*Psalm 131.*

Your friend and pastor

Mark



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## **How to join WhatsApp**

The easiest way of doing this is on a smart phone although it is available for laptops too.

Go to Google Play Store and enter WhatsApp in the search box at the top of the page.

Select WhatsApp and press install allow it to download

As it downloads it may ask for some permissions. It may ask for permission to access your contacts and phone numbers. Press accept to do this.

When the download is complete it will invite you to open the new App which will also appear as an icon on your phone.

If you text me on 07852 490034 then I will find you on WhatsApp and add you to the New North Road Baptist Church group.

If you have a problem doing this, please call me on the same number.

## **How to join Facebook**

You can join Facebook using a smart phone or a laptop.

On a laptop you can simply google this and follow the instructions when you press sign up. If you would like someone to guide you through this process, please call me on 07852 490 034 or copy this address into your search box and use this guide to guide you through the steps.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Set-up-a-Facebook-Account>

On a smart phone you will need to go to Google Play Store and enter Facebook in the search box at the top of the page. Select Facebook and allow it to download. You may want to call me on 07852 490034 to help guide you through this process.

When this is complete that you can search for **New North Road Baptist Church** and like it by pressing the thumbs up.

After this you new posts on our home page will appear in your face book newsfeed.

## **Giving to New North Road Baptist Church.**

Please consider adding gift aid to your gift. We can send you a simple form if you ask. This costs you nothing but adds 25% to the value of your gift if you are a taxpayer.

In addition to putting aside your giving in envelopes or setting up a standing order with your bank as described in the letter you may want to give by cheque.

These can be send to HSBC in Huddersfield. Their address is

Alternatively, you can send them to Dave Carrins, The Rookery, Albert Promenade, Halifax, HX3 OHZ.