

# Mansfield Road Baptist Church

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Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020

Dear friend,

It has been important to have had the opportunity to study the Bible, time in prayer and also for worship as a community on a Sunday in the worship space and with the group at home on a livestream. I have found the looking at the creation narratives so valuable in the studies. In Genesis chapter 2, I have found two phrases that have stayed with me. In verse 15, God gives over His creation to be cared for by humanity. This is our responsibility. You and I are caretakers and we must take on this role in some form. In v25 we read how the people were “naked and felt no shame”. This is a picture of vulnerability, an absence of fear, a description of God and God’s yearning for you and me, to allow ourselves to be vulnerable and not to be fearful. I want to take both these insights into my life and invite you to do also. Please remember that these studies can be requested from the office.

I am thankful for the different things that have been happening through these last weeks. Neelam is back working in different ways which has included some aspects of pastoral care which has been valuable. Andrea has established safe practice for us and Patrick has had less cleaning but has taken opportunity to paint both the Baby Changing Room and the Boulevard Room. I thank the staff team.

The pandemic is remaining with us. Alongside the October Magazine in this mailing there is a Prayer Booklet that has been produced by the Church of England that you may find helpful as a resource in this period that is both keeping a grip and lengthening. Within the booklet there is a simple form of prayer for the morning and the evening.

At the last deacons meeting at the beginning of September it was decided on how we are to proceed with the **Church Members Meeting on, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.**

We are going to have a meeting where we are principally looking for directives rather than formal decisions and will do this through letter and a Church Members WhatsApp group. We will be asking people to respond yes or no in support of the recommendations that will have been put together from the initial letter and responses that come back. Everyone will be able to be part of the process in some way and a good proportion in the entirety. We will see how it feels together as we proceed in November to understand how to go forward subsequent times.

At the November meeting two key items will be the receiving of the budget for 2021 and the directive to proceed in looking at the church heating situation. We would like as many members as possible to be part of this. The Church Members WhatsApp Group will only be for formal Church business so I anticipate that members not part of Mansfield Road Baptist Church WhatsApp group will want to be part of this second group. The responsibility is for you to text your willingness to myself on 07858008309. All the members in the original group will be included automatically.

Asking God’s blessing on us all as we continue to journey forward, and  
with greetings