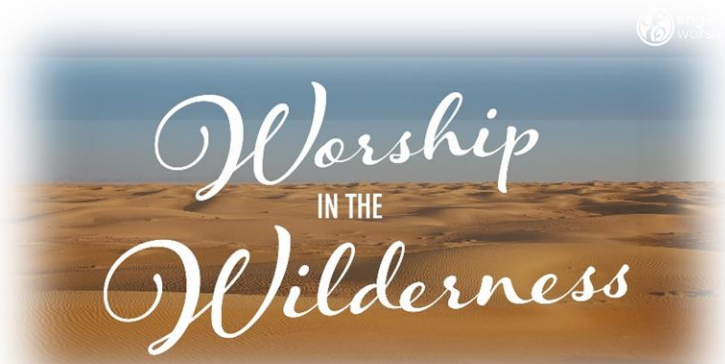


# CLARENCE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE  
MARCH 2021

**WORSHIP** God   **GROW** Together   **SERVE** Others

## SPRING 2021



**In this edition,  
we want to give you a  
brief update on the  
current situation, some  
thoughts about how we  
move forward, and give  
notice for our next  
church AGM  
which will include  
our deacon's election.**

### IN THIS EDITION

One Year On  
The Current Situation  
The Way Forward  
Deacons Election  
and AGM 2021  
Easter 2021@ CPBC

# ONE YEAR ON

This time last year, whilst we were aware of the presence of Covid-19, none of us foresaw what was about to come in terms of lockdowns and the changes that would be made to our church life for what had now nearly been 12 months.

As we look back over all this time can we again say a huge thank you to all those who have helped contribute to the online presence of our church via YouTube, Zoom and various social media platforms. Your contribution and support have been a real blessing.

We also need to continue to thank everyone for taking the time to be in contact with people in the church helping where necessary via the telephone, shared walks (within the regulations) and online. Whilst we will not have got everything right and we do apologise if that is the case for you personally, we know that many, many people have been through huge emotional rollercoaster of experiences both individually and as families and to know that others are walking with us even just in prayer has been amazing.

Since the start of the pandemic and lockdown last March there have sadly been several members and friends of CPBC who have not survived either Covid or other medical conditions, and so we do continue to pray for the families of Elizabeth Robinson, Nicola Amer, Carol Jones, David Edwards, Daphne Betteridge, Zillah Long, and all those who are related and friends of those associated with CPBC or work colleagues and neighbours who are no longer with us.

On the **22<sup>nd</sup> March** we are being encouraged nationally to light a candle and to pause, pray and remember those who we love and have lost.

# THE CURRENT SITUATION

We are thankful that so many people have not just been offered but taken up their first Vaccine (and a few have even had their second).

As this is moving us forward, the current advice from the Baptist Union and so the position of the leadership, is that whilst the government message is still to stay at home, that as Baptist churches we remain closed for worship services to reduce the spread and so to help protect frontline workers (and there are many in shops etc...) who are not yet vaccinated.

At present the building is only being opened on a Tuesday and Thursday morning as a Foodbank hub. This is a strictly no contact operation with clients waiting outside for their food boxes to be brought out to them.

Since we took this on in October, we have been helping quite a few people each session with the numbers increasing quite significantly after Christmas. On behalf of us all, can we please thank those who have volunteered to help with this ministry, and those who have been praying for it. Tuesdays and Thursdays have also been when Steve has been in using the building for recording, and so quite often he can be seen giving the occasional glance sideways, this is when doorbell rings as a client arrives, prompting a pause in recording, and then needing a tiny little editing so that for those watching all seems to be happening quite seamlessly.

Following our last newsletter, we are delighted to announce that Ruth has been elected as our new church treasurer. We also offer our thanks to Richard and Ann for their many years of service to our church in this role.

# THE WAY FORWARD

Recently Boris Johnson set out for us his roadmap for taking the country to the end of the current lockdown. For us as a church there were some significant announcements, these included certain groups being able to restart with restricted numbers, people being able to meet outside from more than one household in groups of 6, a change from the current 1-1 for exercise.

Whilst these big announcements make great headlines, we are still awaiting the small print that on every occasion is then published in the future weeks describing what measures still need to be kept in place. We are currently awaiting the Baptist Union to review these announcements and following their discussions with the government departments issue their advice to us as churches so that we can operate safely.

Please be assured that the leadership are on the case and will be reviewing all our current Risk Assessments that are in place for how we are able to open the church not just for worship services, but so that we can also speak to groups about how they not only help form part of our focus as a SIMPLE CHURCH, but to also gather and function safely and within the guidelines and any limits that come to us by our insurers.

We are also aware that reopening our building fully, needs a continued review of our building checks to make sure that the fabric of our site is safe for everyone and not just those who have only been in certain parts of the building.

A more substantial roadmap from the leadership will be available once final advice is issued and we have been able to meet and agree as trustees the process.

# CPBC AGM 2021

During 2020 our church AGM was with agreement of the charity commissioners delayed and if you remember the voting for our deacon's election was by post and email. During the year there were various other decisions that we ask from you as a church and voting was done either by post or electronically. Can we please remind you, that all previous decisions will need to be ratified by the church members once we are able to safely gather in person and hold a church meeting.

We are aware that, as the year moves forward that we do need to start the process for our next church AGM which will also include a deacon's election.

The church accounts for 2020 are currently with the external examiner and so will be ready shortly, however the deacons as trustees have currently agreed to push the AGM back towards the middle to end of June (although we may need to consider holding this back even a few weeks to July so that some could be able to meet in person).

This we hope will give us enough time to invite names for nomination for the diaconate.

At the AGM, this year both Richard and Sheila will come to the end of their 3 Year term. We are extremely grateful to both for their service during this time, and for the contributions that they have made to helping guide us through this time with the church leadership. Both had indicated that at this point they do not want to be considering to re-stand.

**This will mean that at the AGM we will have 2 vacancies.  
Please be prayerful about who as members you  
consider speaking to and nominating.**

**Who is God guiding you to  
and who do you sense is called by God into this role?**

There is no limit as to how many candidates can be nominated by the church, however the following rules and for 2021 a few adaptations will apply.

### **Deacons election 2021**

1. *A Church member must be nominated and seconded by two Church members, the nominee having first given their consent. No person may nominate more candidates than there are places vacant.*

### **For 2021**

*Each candidate needs to indicate their agreement to stand for election by email to the church secretary using a prepared form which will be sent to the candidate to complete either by email to [agm2021@cpbc.co.uk](mailto:agm2021@cpbc.co.uk) or to print and return.*

*Each nominee needs to confirm their nomination and seconding of each candidate by email to [agm2021@cppbc.co.uk](mailto:agm2021@cppbc.co.uk),*

2. *The nominee should have been a member of CPBC for at least one year and be over the age of 18.*
3. *Nomination forms, correctly signed and completed, should be returned to the Church Secretary no later than **MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.***

4. *The nominee will be required to provide the Church Secretary a profile of themselves along with a photograph with their nomination. This will then be prepared and emailed to all church members / posted out to church members for at least two Sundays prior to the election.*
  
5. *For 2021 The election will take place by both postal forms, online google response, email returns (or/and if we are able to meet in person under Covid-19 and can so within government guidelines by secret ballot).*
  
6. *The church secretary and admin lead will for postal and email votes as scrutineers. Email voted will only counted if sent to the mailbox [agm2021@cpbc.co.uk](mailto:agm2021@cpbc.co.uk) by the Sunday before the AGM at the latest.*
  
7. *Each nominee must attain at least 50% of the votes cast.*
  
8. *The diaconate should at no time exceed twelve (12) members. 50% of who will have been baptised as believers in accordance with the church constitution.*
  
9. *In the event of more candidates being successful than the Constitution allows, then the candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected unless this conflicts with the clause above.*

Once the names of the candidates are known, we will be posting / emailing all members details for how you are able to vote etc...

# EASTER 2021

We are planning for our Easter services to be held online in April. Please watch out for the announcements via our Facebook and web page for the services.

During this time, CONNECT groups continue to meet and you are welcome to join us via zoom as we continue to reflect on the message from Sunday and take each theme a little further.

CLARENCE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

WORSHIP God **GROW Together** SERVE Others



Scan me for details

**Tuesdays Via ZOOM**

Gather for Virtual Coffee 7:15pm  
Prayer and study 7:30pm

ZOOM DETAILS  
Meeting ID: 872 5903 3329  
Passcode: connect

**Wednesdays Via ZOOM**

Start 7:45pm

ZOOM DETAILS  
Meeting ID: 885 2276 8761

connect

Connect With God, Connect With Others, Connect With Christ

A Time of Bible study, Reflection and taking the theme of Sunday services further

CLARENCE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

WORSHIP God **GROW Together** SERVE Others

If you would like to give to the ministry and work of our church, please do so either

By CHEQUE Payable to:  
'Clarence Park Baptist Church'  
Clarence Park Baptist Church,  
Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare,  
North Somerset BS23 1ED

Or by BACS  
Clarence Park Baptist Church,  
CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue,  
Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Sort Code 40-52-40  
Account Number 00005145



SCAN QR CODE for details on our website