



Secretary's letter – October 2021

Dear Members and friends,

So, we are almost at the time the clocks go back – but just for an hour, rather than back to (say) 2019 which some would wish for.

Overlooking Abington Park, I can see the change of season moving on apace with the leaves losing their green hue and falling to the ground; in another week or so the branches will be bare against the east wind.

This letter is to update you on some aspects of church life as we move towards Christmas, all dependent, of course, on the developing Covid situation.

Heating for services

From this weekend forward the Sanctuary will be heated for the Sunday morning service. This will mean a reduction in the ventilation because we do not want to generate heat inside simply to dissipate it outside through open windows, especially in the week of COP26.

Covid security, masks etc.

However, this does marginally reduce our Covid-safe environment. You may therefore, out of consideration for others, wish to wear a mask while in the Sanctuary and disperse without mingling afterwards. We cannot insist on this, but our care for each other should be heightened in these difficult days as the pandemic continues so I hope you may think this appropriate (unless you are exempt, of course).

The leadership team continues to monitor our Covid risk assessments regularly.

Leadership Team Away Day (20 November)

The leadership team is having an Away Day on 20 November to spend more time on strategic planning than is available at monthly meetings. If you have ideas or suggestions for our consideration, please pass them to any Elder or to me.

Review of Sunday worship

From the commitment we gave at the August Church Meeting the leadership team has had a standing item on its monthly agenda reviewing the Sunday worship. We will have some time on this item at the Away Day and will, in preparation, be looking to gather feedback and ideas from the congregation. Look out for a questionnaire coming out over the next week or so.

Christmas

We are planning a number of Christmas events, but on a reduced scale compared to previous years. A “diary” list will be published shortly. We hope you will attend some of these, bring your friends and family and welcome visitors who we shall undoubtedly see there.

There will be no Sunday service on 26 December.

Finally...

It has been good to see an increasing number of people returning to worship and other events in our buildings. It has also been encouraging to see a number of visitors from week to week.

Worshipping together builds our faith and sharpens our interaction with the world around us. Exercising who we are and what we know of God’s love and grace on our “frontlines” shares His message with those we meet.

Grace and peace to you all in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Vaughan

Vaughan Griffiths