



From: The Diaconate
To: All Church Members
Date: 18th January, 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Greeting to you and all your family members in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that you and your loved ones are keeping well in these very trying times. Last year has been a year like none other, however Our Good Lord remains ever faithful.

Given the fact that we have not been able to meet regularly and physically as we would have wished as church members, we the decianate would like to use this opportunity to update all our members with information and decisions being taken as a church.

- 1. Tim's Send-forth:** As you would have already been aware, our Minister, Revd. Tim Haines is being called to serve God in another ministry. His last service with us would be the last week of February, 2021. Having served with us as a church for over seven and half fruitful years, we do wish him the best of God's blessings in his new calling. We continue to pray that the "*Word of the Lord would be a lamp and light to his feet and path.*" The diaconate will be meeting to discuss how we can have a befitting send-forth for him given the current circumstance and inform you accordingly.
- 2. Deacons' Resignation:** We are also writing to notify the church members that Pam Young completed her term on the diaconate and has decided to stand down as of Nov 2020. Also Mike Gaskell has resigned from the diaconate as of January 2021 as he has accepted the role of president of the Christian union in his University. We see this as stepping up into a challenging role and wish him well in this role. We thank both of them for their service on the diaconate and to the church.
- 3. Deacons' Nominations:** Given these two step-downs, we believe that there are arising opportunities for members to come into the diaconate and serve in the capacity as deacons with the gifts that God has endowed them with. We would like you to prayerfully consider anyone who has at least 1 year of church membership. If you have a person in mind you will need their consent before

proceeding. You will then need to ask someone else to second your nomination. Thereafter inform any of the deacons of your nominee. We would like all nomination to reach the diaconate on or before the the first Sunday in February (07/02/21)

4. **The Church Secretary:** This post has remained unfilled for the last (18 months). As we are entering an interregnum the need to fill this post is becoming increasingly necessary. The church would need a specific point of contact at this critical time. John McMennamy has offered to fill this role for the time being or until we are able to elect a substantive Church Secretary. The other members of the diaconate will continue to assist with other administrative roles as it stands now. The church will need to vote to approve John acting as the temporary Church Secretary.
5. **Moderator:** We would also like members to continue to pray for God's discernment whether or not we should appoint a Moderator during this period of interregnum and His guidance in the choice of one should this be His will for us as a community.
6. **The Church Registrar:** The role of registrar for our church, for weddings, has for many years been filled by Betty Williams. Betty has now decided it's time to pass this role on. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Betty for her commitment to this role. If anyone would be interested in taking over the role of registrar we would ask you to contact Betty or any of the deacons to see what is involved. If we don't have anyone in church take up this role then we would have to bring in a registrar from the borough to cover up whenever the needs arise.
7. **Consent:** Given the current situation and our inability to meet physically, but there are very important decisions and actions that would need to be taken by the church, we are using this medium to seek for your consent as a church that voting could be done by post and deem acceptable. On the receipt of this letter, any member objecting to the giving of this consent must write or inform the diaconate personally otherwise no objection being received would be seen as consent granted.

Finally, we would like to thank you all once again for your prayers, support and cheerful giving to God's course. This is being highly appreciated by the diaconate and we continue to pray for God to keep and see us through this difficult yet exciting season we are in as a body of CHRIST.

May the peace and Love of God be and abide with Us All

Yours in the Lord.

The Diaconate (St Helens Baptist Church.)