

14 January 2021

Important Announcement Regarding NLSS Sunday Worship from 17 Jan – 14 Feb

Dear NLSS family & friends:

In view of London's presently very high Covid-19 infection rate, of the higher number of Covid-19 related hospitalisations & fatalities, of the immense pressure being experienced by the NHS locally, of the respectful appeals by the local council & the mayor of London, and of our regular attenders being in higher risk demographics, the NLSS elders, after substantial prayer & discussion and in consultation with the Trustees, **have taken the difficult decision to very temporarily move the NLSS Sunday Worship meeting to a "zoom only" format for the next 4 Sundays – starting from 17th January and returning to a "hybrid in person & zoom" format from 14th Feb (or even earlier if infection levels continue to drop). We will keep this decision in constant prayerful review.**

Together we are voluntarily sacrificing "in person" worship in order to love to our neighbours in an extraordinary situation. We lament the real losses we each will experience as a result of this sacrifice. We especially think of those living at home in more isolated situations and of children who find zoom more difficult than adults.

We hope to see each of you on zoom each Sunday for the next four weeks! The zoom link can be accessed from the NLSS Website: www.nlss.org.uk.

At the same time, we also lament that we need to use zoom at all! We strongly believe that meeting on zoom is very far from what the Bible envisions when it says that local churches "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). We view zoom as a "better than nothing" tool only to be used temporarily in extreme circumstances, not as an acceptable means of "making church more convenient." We long for a quick return to a "hybrid in person & zoom format." And beyond that we also eagerly anticipate a time when we will meet in person without any use of zoom. At that point we will each need to recognise that when Jesus says to "not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing" (Hebrews 10:25) he means that obeying him includes meeting regularly "in person" (not "virtually") for worship, prayer, preaching, fellowship, etc.

Until then we walk by faith and are praying that the Holy Spirit will grow our relationships with the Lord Jesus and with one another and protect us from the spiritual "lukewarmness" that is always a danger but an even greater temptation when we are not meeting in person each Sunday. We encourage each of us to be in touch with one another more than ever via phone and other appropriate means during this lockdown.

Also, God-willing, we hope to be able to open Glebe Hall at certain times for private individual prayer.

If you have any questions, concerns or specific needs, please do be in touch.

By His Grace,
Dipakbhai, Jayantibhai, Matt, Stephen