

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Registered Charity 209376

Bethesda COVID-19 Update Saturday, 28 March 2020

The Bethesda trustees and management team are aware of the need to keep those updated in what is happening in the Homes at this time. We will endeavour to do so on a weekly basis but do bear with us of where we are not able to keep to this commitment.

As you may be aware the decision was made to close all three homes to non-essential personnel (including visitors) from 9.00 AM Monday, 23 March 2020. This has taken place and the current version of Bethesda's "Response of the Gospel Stand Bethesda Homes during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic" can be found at:

[https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/Bethesda/Blog/Covid-19-\(Coronavirus\)](https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/Bethesda/Blog/Covid-19-(Coronavirus))

We are conscious of the current limitations on the families, relatives, and friends on visiting residents and have set out suggestions, in the above document, of keeping in touch with loved ones.

It would be remiss, not to express the appreciation of us all for all that the managers and staff are doing to ensure the well-being of the residents. Please do remember them in your prayers.

On a wider note, we also need to remember there are those in our churches and congregations who may be on their own at this time and a telephone call and/or letter may be a timely encouragement for them.

Help needed

In our previous COVID-19 Update (20-03-2020), we put out a call for volunteers to help as pressure builds on staffing levels, due to some staff having to self-isolate, in our Homes. We would thank those who have responded and are helping in several ways with shopping and 'household duties'.

We would also ask anyone who has experience of caring for the elderly to contact us. (Acts 16:9)

Anyone volunteering, to help at Bethesda, will be given a full induction to the role that they will be undertaking. In the first instance contact the local Home Manager:

Brighton Home: Miss Sarah Williamson (01273 735735, sarahwilliamson@gsbf.uk)

Harpenden Home: Mrs Debbie Scott (01582 761359, debbiescott@gsbf.uk)

Studley Home: Mrs Sammy O'Dwyer (01249 816666, sammyodwyer@gsbf.uk)

Alternatively, Adrian Topping, General Manager (adriantopping@gsbf.uk or 07525067708 (m)).

Staff vacancies

We have vacancies for Junior Carers in each of the homes at Studley and Brighton. We would encourage anyone interested in these roles to contact the respective Home Manager (see above).

Morning and evening readings

We would thank those who have been able to externally (digitally) and internally for their help during the past week with morning and evening readings. This is a very important part of the ethos of the Bethesda homes.

If the Lord will, Bethesda will be providing a link to support morning readings at the Brighton home (afternoon readings will be in house) through a link available on our website: <https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/Bethesda/Morning-Worship-Livestream> This link will also be publicly available and may be of interest to those in their own homes who do not have someone to read with them and/or may wish to listen to the daily morning reading.

The morning reading will take place at 10.30am. This facility will hopefully be available until further notice during the current COVID-19 outbreak with the restrictions on visiting morning readers.

GSBF AGM

In light of the current COVID-19 outbreak, the decision has been taken, following the Charity commission guidance, to postpone the AGM on Friday, 17 April 2020. If the Lord will, this will be rescheduled later in the year. To avoid unnecessary postage then the Annual Report and Accounts these will be sent out at the time of the AGM taking place. A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31, 2019 have been uploaded to the website. See: <https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/Bethesda/Downloads>

The decision has also been made to defer the re-election of the three trustees (who have come to the end of their three-year term) - these are A Collins, P Pocock and M Ridout. The elections will take, God willing, place prior to the rescheduled date for the AGM.

This decision is for practical purposes to allow the GSBF Committee to remain quorate and able to operate during the COVID-19 outbreak. (Currently the trustees and the General Manager are in daily contact and meeting virtually, as a group, 2-3 times per week)

Meeting to discuss the options for the Studley Home

The meeting to discuss the future options for the Studley Bethesda Home Friday, 3 April 2020 7.30 pm in the Bromham Social Centre has been cancelled for the time being. Further updates on this will be circulated in due course.

Future communication

For the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak, we will endeavour to remain in regular contact with those on this email list. Consequently, please can you forward this email to any of your contacts who may be interested in the contents of this document or may be able to help us. If anyone wishes to be added to the emailing list then please contact Adrian Topping (adriantopping@gsbf.uk)

Finally

Do pray that the Lord will:

- put His protecting hand over the residents and staff in the Homes

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- give help, strength and wisdom in making the decisions needed to ensure the shielding and protecting of the residents and staff in the Homes
- support the families, relatives and friends of residents at this time of physical separation from their loved ones.

All the arrangements and actions identified above are if the Lord will (James 4:15).

On behalf of the Bethesda trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Ridout". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

M Ridout
Chairman GSBF