



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 1

October 2017

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

WELCOME to the 1st edition of an occasional newsletter which I've called 'Michael's Messages' for want of a better title – more appropriate alternative suggestions will be welcome! Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about a whole host of matters concerning life at Christ Church, particularly those things which won't fit onto the weekly notice sheet, though there may be some repetition. It is certainly NOT replacing the wonderful quarterly Christ Church Parish News which is produced by Brenda Clark and Naomi Lowe – but more to complement it. I'll be putting it together on an occasional basis when I think there are things to share with you all.

THANK YOU to everyone who has warmly welcomed me to Christ Church since my arrival here on April 26. I have quickly settled – thank you. It is good to get to know the area and the people in it. I've made contact with schools and nursing homes and neighbouring clergy colleagues and the diary is filling up – but be assured it is never so full that I can't respond when you need to get in touch. Please feel free to email or phone me at any time.

VISITING members of Christ Church has been an important priority for me and this visiting continues. I am planning to get round everyone – eventually – but, as you can imagine, it takes time, particularly to make space to call on those who work and/or have busy family lives. If you haven't yet had a visit and would like to arrange one sooner rather than later, please do get in touch.

HALL BUILDING PROJECT is one of the things at the top of the agenda and you will have read in the notice sheet that we are working on plans to undertake a major refurbishment of the current Hall. A member of the congregation, Bob Baker, a retired surveyor, has been helping us in this and the Church Council are hoping to look at ideas in the next couple of months and then we will obtain some firm figures on what it all might cost. We would plan to have another congregation meeting at some point for everyone to hear the proposals and offer their input.

ORGAN REFURBISHMENT is another priority as it is 40 years since the organ had any work done to it and it will require some major work to keep it in good working order. We are in touch with a small firm of organ builders who have carried out a major restoration of the organ at St John's Spencer Hill. We have engaged them to make a 3 day 'Intensive Care Visit' at the church in October to undertake some remedial work, prior to submitting a full report and estimate for the work required. We have some money set aside in an organ fund, but we know it won't cover all the future work required.

CHURCH REDECORATION is another priority and we are gathering quotes for this to be carried out in the future, following the installation of the new heating system earlier this year. The work could be done in separate stages during 2018 but, again, we will keep everyone informed.

OTHER PLANNED WORKS include the replacement of the exterior signs and urgent repairs to the boundary stone wall to complement recent work to the trees in the grounds to make them safe. Long overdue is the filling in of the underground chamber which is subject to a whole host of legal wrangles beyond our control. We are enormously grateful to our dedicated Churchwardens, Julie Grainger and Sal Edmunds, who work tirelessly, particularly in battling bureaucracy, to get all this work done. **PTO**

OUR CHURCHWARDENS will, however, not be standing for re-election at the Church APCM on April 22 2018. We are therefore looking to elect two new Wardens for next year. If you are at all interested in standing for election, do please have a word with me or with Julie and Sal.

THE COPSE HILL VICARAGE has now been sold and the diocese are beginning to look for a suitable replacement Vicarage. Watch this space!

JUNIOR ACOLYTES help in Church on Sunday mornings. However they also want to be part of the groups that meet in the Hall. After consulting them and their parents, we have decided they will be involved on the 1st Sunday of the month, when all are in Church as we 'Celebrate Together'.

WE WELCOME Flis Banks who will be licensed as a Reader at Christ Church on Sunday 8 October in Southwark Cathedral at 6.30pm and we look forward to her future ministry among us.

WE WELCOME Adam Balkwill as our new Director of Music and look forward to his official start in November – though he has been leading choir practices and playing on Sunday evenings already. We are grateful to Tom Theakston and Jonathan Kingan who have been covering the 10am services for us.

THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER sees our annual **ALL SOULS' SERVICE** at 7.30pm when we remember those who have died – all are warmly welcome. Do add to the list at the back of the church the names of those you would like to be mentioned during the service.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5 sees the launch of a Stewardship renewal campaign, encouraging all members of Christ Church to review their financial giving to the Church. Leaflets will be circulated to everyone.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION GROUPS have begun for both adults and young people with the Confirmation Service planned for **Sunday 26 November at 6.30pm at St Mary's, Wimbledon.**

ADVENT QUIET DAY will be held in Church on **Saturday 2 December from 10am till 3pm** – you are welcome to come and go as you wish. There will be addresses in the morning and afternoon with a break for lunch. Please bring your own lunch – coffee/tea provided. No need to book.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Amongst the highlights for this season will be the following:

Sunday 3 December:	11am – Advent Fair and Toy Sunday 6.30pm – Advent Carol Service
Sunday 10 December:	4pm – Christingle Service
Sunday 17 December:	10am Parish Eucharist and Nativity Play 6.30pm – Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 24 December:	8am and 10am Services as usual for Advent 4
Sunday 24 December:	4.00pm – Family Crib Service 11.30pm – Midnight Mass
Monday 25 December	8am – Holy Communion (BCP) 10.0am – Parish Eucharist (<i>children (and adults too!) are invited to bring along a present they have opened</i>)

FINALLY, THANK YOU to everyone who contributes so much to the life and work of Christ Church. Please do try to make your regular Church attendance a priority in your life so that our worship can continue strongly as the whole Church family gathers together Sunday by Sunday. With my prayers and best wishes, *Michael J Burns*