



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST WIMBLEDON

## Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 3

October 2018

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

**WELCOME** to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our parish newsletter. 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 but more to complement it.

**RECENT WORKS** have seen urgent repairs to the **stonework** of the Church. This was an unforeseen capital project but we are delighted it has been successfully carried out. Many thanks to those from both the congregation and the local parish community who financially supported this vital work to the tune of £16,000. Probably the other most noticeable improvement has been the successful in-filling of the mysterious **underground chamber** and the welcome removal of the security fencing which had been in place for many months. There was an enormous amount of discussion and correspondence with the many interested parties before a successful outcome could be reached. We are grateful to the Diocese of Southwark for fully funding this work. There have also been lots of other things which have been carried out, many of them unseen. We have satisfactorily concluded negotiations with the developers of the plot next door to the church regarding the **boundary of the church land**. This has needed some sensitive detective work and we are very grateful indeed to Bob Baker, a member of the congregation, who has doggedly unearthed records from way back to ascertain the correct boundary line. We are delighted that the new **exterior notice boards** have now been installed – they are a great improvement and a good advertisement for the church. We are very grateful to the family of the late Barbara Tanner who have funded this work in her memory. In all these projects and in many other ways we are enormously grateful to our dedicated Churchwardens, Julie Grainger and David Simpson, who work tirelessly to get all this work done. Behind the scenes we are also interviewing contractors to seek specification and costs to **refurbish the hall**. Now that we have so many welcome new hirers, this work will have to be carefully dovetailed with holiday times. Thank you to Stefan Bown who is heading up this project. We are also very grateful to Debbie Morley for her work as our hall booking secretary over a number of years – and thankful to Angelina Skelton who has taken over this task, alongside the many volunteers who help to look after the hall.

**NOVEMBER 11 2018** sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and there are many commemorative initiatives, both local and national. On 11 November bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country – and we would like the bells of Christ Church to do the same. We already have a number of adult ringers but would like to invite anyone over the age of 12 who might like to take part to let us know. They would need to have a practice session or two beforehand so that they can learn how to ring down the bells – fairly simple! Practice sessions (for about 10 minutes) will take place after the 10am services on October 21, 28 and November 4. The plan then is that on November 11 volunteers will go up to the belfry in pairs (one experienced ringer and one new ringer) to ring for a few minutes each and then a second pair would take over and so on. We would like to do this for some 30/45 minutes after the 2 minute silence. If you would like to take part, let Michael or Wendy Hamilton know – we would like to recruit some younger ringers for the future but we welcome all ages who would be interested to join us!

### THREE NEW INITIATIVES:

**HOUSING SYRIAN REFUGEES:** At the church awayday on 15 September, we were looking at what we could do as a parish in terms of outreach. Chris Larkman suggested we consider sponsoring a Syrian Refugee Family and this was agreed as one of the three outcomes of the day. The local Salvation Army Officer Nick Coke and his church welcomed a family here a year ago. The Wimbledon Jewish Synagogue will be welcoming a family later this year, as will the Roman Catholic Deanery in Sutton. Nick and his team and other leaders presented their work at a meeting which formed part of the MyRaynesPark Festival. The scheme is arranged through the Home Office in response to a government commitment to welcoming a number of displaced Syrian people. Nick Coke then gave a presentation to our Parochial Church Council which unanimously voted in favour of Christ Church's involvement with this project. We will be asking for church members to assist in many ways. Our first task is to identify accommodation, which we would like to be either within the parish or a short distance away. The chosen family would be housed for no longer than two years – they would then need to transfer to more permanent accommodation. Do you know of anyone who may have suitable accommodation available – probably from autumn 2019 – for a period of around 2 years? Rent will be paid by the Benefits Agency until they find work. We will also have to provide up to £9,000 to assist with the set up expenses. If you would like to be part of the planning group or can offer help with accommodation, please speak to Michael or Chris Larkman.

**ECO-CHURCH:** Nick Robins and Ian Christie preached together on September 23rd for Creation-tide, about the critical effects of climate disruption - highlighted this week in a major UN report - and other environmental risks. Nick and Ian challenged us to make Christ Church into an 'Eco-Church'. Many churches in the Diocese have been working towards this award, part of the national Eco-Church scheme run by the charity A Rocha. If you would like to know more about what is involved and would like to help make it happen, please speak to Ian, Nick or Michael.

**ADVENT 2018** – Michael is planning to lead a short three week reflective course during the **Mondays** of Advent, held from 2pm to 3.15pm and 8pm to 9.15pm on 3, 10 and 17 December in the Truman Room. You can opt to come to **either** the afternoon **or** the evening session – there will be the same content at both times. More details to come but do try to keep a bit of space in your diary now!

**CHRISTMAS 2018 IS COMING** – *here is the list of planned special services in December for your diaries:*

<b>SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER:</b>	10am Toy Sunday and Junior Church Nativity followed by the Advent Fair
<b>SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER:</b>	10am Institution of Michael Burns as Vicar followed by prosecco and nibbles 4pm Christingle Service ( <i>very suitable for young children</i> )
<b>SUNDAY 23 DECEMBER:</b>	6.30pm Carol Service with brass band players, mulled wine and mince pies
<b>MONDAY 24 DECEMBER:</b>	4pm Family Crib Service ( <i>very suitable for young children</i> )
(Christmas Eve)	11.30pm Midnight Mass
<b>TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER:</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP)
(Christmas Day)	10am Parish Eucharist ( <i>children can bring a gift they've received to show us</i> )

**THERE'S LOTS MORE TO COME IN THE FUTURE** including two special visiting preachers early in 2019, the arrival of Tom Theakston as our new Director of Music from 1 February 2019 as well as plans for our Lent course for 2019. The PCC will also hope to share our new vision for Christ Church following on from the September Parish Day – but this is still in the planning stages so please be patient!

**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*