



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 7

September 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

Since my last newsletter written in February, much has significantly changed in our lives. I have tried to keep in touch with everyone, not least through the regular Coronavirus newsletters – there were 21! Now, although the virus is very much still around, it seems appropriate to revert to sending my regular newsletters.

CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES

As you will know, the church re-opened for worship in August – and our evening services will recommence in September. Thank you to all those who have been able to help us get the church ready under the complex government guidelines. Most of you seem to have appreciated the careful changes that we have had to make.

Please note a few important points about our worship arrangements:

- **Please do not attend worship if you are unwell, self-isolating or suffering from any symptoms.**
- Please continue to wear face masks in church, unless you are exempt.
- Please continue to keep at a distance from each other, particularly when in the building.
- We continue to note the names of those who attend worship just in case anyone develops symptoms.
- It is fine to meet to chat together outside after the service – though we know that will be less attractive as the weather changes.

A few other matters:

- Following comments from a couple of people and after taking health advice, at Communion the wafer will now be transferred from the ciborium to your hands using a pair of tweezers – my fingers will not have touched the bread at all.
- We don't yet know what arrangements we will be able to make for our children and young people in Junior Church and KFH – watch this space.
- We don't yet know the position about music – watch this space.

I fully realise how frustrating some of this is – but we must remember that we are still in the middle of a global pandemic and be as careful as we can to ensure everyone is kept safe. It would be dreadful if we had to close the church and ask everyone to self-isolate for 14 days because we had not taken the appropriate precautions.

PASTORAL CARE

Unfortunately, with current restrictions, pastoral visits are still not possible except under exceptional circumstances. I am all too aware that times remain difficult and uncertain for all of us. If you or someone that you know would like church to be in touch for any reason, please do let me know.

ZOOM

We are very grateful to Stefan Bown, as well as Tish Mousell and Hazel Bate, who have worked together to enable our 10am service to be live streamed from church – and to the Archdeacon of Lambeth who awarded us a grant of £500 to cover most of the set-up costs. The link will be sent out each week so that those who wish to log in on a Sunday morning can do so.

Please note:

You can log on from 9.45am onwards on Sunday mornings **but please not after 10am**. Because the laptop screen incorporates the camera, it is very difficult to admit latecomers once the service has started! Thank you.

PTO

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING has still not been able to take place. As things stand at the moment, the delayed meeting must be held by 31 October 2020 – but it is not known if people can participate via Zoom or if everyone has to attend in person. The Bishop of Southwark will be clarifying this in due course. Because our 2019 inspected accounts have been ready for some time – posted on the Charity Commission website on 1 April – and all the reports are in, we are ready to conduct the business of the Church APCM.

The PCC have therefore agreed that the APCM for Christ Church will be held on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 at 8pm, either in Church or via Zoom – or possibly both**. We will circulate the agenda and notify everyone of the permitted medium when it is known. Paper copies of the accounts and reports will be in church from Sunday 6 September. If you wish to receive a copy electronically, please let our Administrator Sara Taylor know.

ELECTION TO THE PCC

At the Annual Meeting we will elect 4 representatives on to the Church Council. Judy Luddington, Nick Robins, Mair Rabagliati and Lyons O’Keeffe have indicated that they are willing to stand for a 3-year term of office. We bid farewell to Lucy Christie and Debbie Morley who are retiring from the PCC. We thank Debbie very warmly for her work as our PCC Secretary – work for the church which has been very much appreciated down the years. We are grateful to Judy Luddington who is willing to take Debbie’s place as our new PCC Secretary.

ELECTIONS TO THE DEANERY SYNOD

This year we also have to elect 4 representatives onto the Merton Deanery Synod for a 3-year term (who will also be ex-officio on the Church Council). Paul Sinclair is willing to stand again – but we have 3 places as yet unfilled. Please consider whether you would like to offer yourself to stand. Nomination forms are in church.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

We are very grateful indeed to **David Simpson** who has been our sole Churchwarden for the past year. He indicated in January he would be standing down at the April APCM – but generously agreed to continue in office during lockdown. It has recently been agreed by the Bishop that Churchwardens who wish to stand down can now do so – and Acting Churchwardens can be elected by the PCC pending the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. David has therefore written to the Bishop tendering his resignation. I am pleased to say that it is the unanimous wish of the PCC that **Julie Grainger and Tish Mousell** be appointed Acting Churchwardens until the APCM can take place. The handover will take place at the 10am service on Sunday 6 September.

FINALLY, WHAT OF THE FUTURE? How will our church life look in the months and years to come? Of course, we simply do not know. None of us have experienced anything like this before and we really are in uncharted territory. We are missing so much. We are missing being able to intermingle freely with our friends. We are missing our lovely children. We are missing our singing. We are missing our social activities. We are missing our coffee and biscuits. We are missing.....the list goes on. All we can do is to hope and pray that our current precautions will have the desired effect, that an effective vaccine can be found and that the ‘new normal’ – whatever shape that takes – will help us to live our lives with confidence in the future. I finish with some familiar and encouraging words from Paul (while he was in prison) to the Christians in Philippi, chapter 4:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally my friends, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. And the God of peace will be with you.

With my prayers and best wishes, **Michael J Burns**