

## MICHAEL'S MESSAGES Edition 1 – 21 March 2020

### To all friends at Christ Church West Wimbledon,

It goes without saying what an extraordinary week it has been: very unsettling and unnerving for us all. Thank you to all who have sent me messages since I had to announce on Wednesday morning the closure of the church. Thank you too for all your offers of help. I will let you know if anyone needs some extra help and support. Please do keep in touch with one another – particularly those who you know are on their own or who are currently self-isolating. For those who are in our residential homes or not able to use the phone or email, maybe drop them a letter or a card. If you need any addresses, let me know.

Lots of people at Christ Church have been and are being radically affected by the Coronavirus:

- I am thinking particularly of our young people due to sit their GCSE's and A levels this Summer who have now been deprived of sitting their exams after all their hard work.
- I am thinking of all those in our congregation who work for the NHS and pray that they will be kept safe and well in what will be such a difficult work situation.
- I am thinking of those in our congregation who work for HM Government and the Civil Service – for all the additional work they are being called upon to do.
- I am thinking of all our families whose children are now off school for the foreseeable future. I was very privileged to be asked to attend the final assembly at Hollymount School yesterday morning. The Headteacher and his staff made it a remarkably positive experience for the children – and I was able to say a prayer for them all.
- I am thinking of those in our congregation whose jobs will now be at risk.
- I am thinking of those wedding couples and baptism families who are having to work out what to do about their carefully planned arrangements.
- I am thinking of.....well, the list just goes on and on. Do hold everyone in your prayers and, if you can do so at 5.55pm each evening that will bind us together as a congregation.

### SOME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are very grateful to Paul Brazier, our Webmaster, who has quickly placed a number of helpful links on our website – please do access the website if you can. Some of the churches in the Diocese are able to live stream their services – there is quite a bit of choice. Our pewsheets are also on the church website for you to use the readings for each Sunday. If you have any prayers you wish to request, please let me know and we can include them on the pewsheet.

Additionally:

- St Martin in the Fields in London are filming some services and putting them online. They are very comforting and bring a feeling of calm and peace.
- The Sunday Service tomorrow morning (Mothering Sunday) at 8.10am on Radio 4 is coming from the Chapel of Lambeth Palace with the Archbishop of Canterbury as the speaker.
- Songs of Praise is on BBC1 on Mothering Sunday at 1.15pm.
- Choral Evensong is always on Wednesday afternoon, 3.30 pm, on Radio 3 (repeated the following Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm, Radio 3).

With my best wishes and prayers for you all. Keep safe and keep well. From *Michael Burns*, Vicar