



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 9

The Eve of Armistice Day November 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

LOCKDOWN

Since the announcement on Hallowe'en by the Prime Minister of the 2nd national lockdown, there has been much heated debate, particularly in relation to the requirement that all churches in England should close for public worship. Many of our church leaders, including the Bishop of Southwark, have demanded that this decision should be urgently reviewed. I disagree. I think that it is right that churches should set an example to the rest of the nation – and at least by worshipping online, we can now worship without wearing masks and can sing loudly once again!

CHRISTMAS

What will happen after 2nd December is anyone's guess. It makes the arranging of our Christmas celebrations very difficult to plan. At the moment I am working on a plan A, a plan B and a plan C! What I can say is that when our pattern of Christmas services is finally decided, they will be announced on the church website: www.christchurch-westwimbledon.org. This year it is impossible for us to advertise our services via our usual door to door leaflet drop – but the Diocese have given us a small grant, part of which will be used to provide an eye-catching banner on our prominent exterior notice board on the corner of Copse Hill and Cottenham Park Road which will direct people to our website for information. A big thank you to Naomi Lowe who is designing this Christmas banner for us.

FINANCES

As you may imagine our finances have, in common with every other organisation, been badly hit this year. With the hall only able to partly reopen and with the reduction in the weekly collections in church, our deficit for 2020 is estimated to be in the region of £10,000. If you are able either to drop your envelope collection into the church letter box or transfer your usual giving to via your bank, that would be much appreciated. The details are on the weekly notice sheet – and I repeat them here for your convenience. The church bank details are: **PCC of Christ Church, West Wimbledon: CAF Bank. Sort code: 40-52-40. Account number: 00029176.** Cheques can be made payable to **PCC of Christ Church West Wimbledon** and sent to **Christ Church West Wimbledon, 2 Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0RZ.** If you need any assistance, do let Lynda Coleman know. Thank you.

EASY FUND RAISING

Shopping online via the EasyFundRaising website is a great way to make money for the church without any cost to yourself whenever you buy online. Just go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select Christ Church West Wimbledon as your charity. There are a number of online retailers that support this easy way to raise money and there are quite a few of you who do this already. It costs nothing and once set up it just means a couple of extra clicks! With the run up to Christmas and quite a few of us avoiding shopping in person, we thought it was worth mentioning again. Again, do let us know if you need any help with setting this up.

PTO

SUNDAY WORSHIP

For the remaining three Sundays in November – 15, 22 and 29 – our 10am Sunday morning worship will be via Zoom. Please keep the Zoom link somewhere safe and use it for every Sunday service in November. The order of service will be different for each Sunday and will be sent out towards the end of each week. If you need help, let us know. If we are permitted to return to church after 2nd December, we will let you know – but will continue to Zoom our 10am services.

CHURCH IS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING

Christ Church will continue to be open for private prayer every Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 noon – this is permitted under the current lockdown rules. Please keep appropriately distanced from others and remember that masks should be worn in church.

NORMAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

During lockdown, church life is on hold. So, for example, pastoral visiting is not permitted during this period of lockdown. But please do give me a ring or drop me an email if you need anything – or just want to be in touch for a chat. I would also want to actively encourage you to be in touch with each other as you have done so in the past.

A FINAL THOUGHT - SLOW DOWN! “TIME TO BE SLOW”

I don't know about the other car drivers amongst you, but I am finding it very difficult to keep to the new 20-mph limit recently introduced throughout the borough! I don't disagree with its introduction – I just find it difficult to stick to the limit even in my small car, particularly when there is a build-up of impatient car drivers behind me! Certainly, many of the cyclists and other road users who race down Pepys Road where I live, are well in excess of the 20-mph limit!

But maybe it is good to be reminded to slow down. Life in the 21st century is lived at such a hectic pace that having to slow down is not a bad thing. Although none of us would have wished this horrible virus to have had such a result, many are now finding that we are having to live at a slower pace than we used to. You will all have a view on this: but I leave it as a thought to ponder. When I was recently on the underground – pre-lockdown – I saw this poem by John O'Donohue on the tube train. It spoke to me and I offer it now in case it might speak to you:

**“This is the time to be slow,
Lie low to the wall
Until the bitter weather passes.**

**Try, as best you can, not to let
The wire brush of doubt
Scrape from your heart
All sense of yourself
And your hesitant light.**

**If you remain generous,
Time will come good;
And you will find your feet
Again on fresh pastures of promise,
Where the air will be kind
And blushed with beginning.”**

With my prayers and best wishes, *Michael Burns*