



## Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 10

### Advent Sunday 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

**“CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR”** – so reads the eye-catching banner, designed by Naomi Lowe, which will be placed outside the church in a few days' time. As you may imagine, it has been very difficult to decide what Christmas services will be appropriate at a time when the risks of the coronavirus are still very much around us. Although many want to have a normal Christmas, it is paramount that we have to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can, particularly when they are in our church.

Current regulations are still in force – the wearing of face coverings is mandatory (unless medically exempt), congregational singing is not permitted, social distancing of 2 metres (some 6' 6") must be adhered to and we have to record who is in the building for track and trace. We are also very aware that our seating capacity is significantly reduced, which puts us under great pressure when normally our Christmas services are full to overflowing!

These vital safety measures have inevitably been quite inhibiting when attempting to plan for our worship this Christmas. You may feel neither very happy nor content with what is outlined but I hope you will understand the constraints that we are working under and realise that we have to take account of them in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

**The Parochial Church Council have agreed the following will be our Christmas Services:**

**SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER at 10am IN CHURCH** – our morning Parish Eucharist will include a celebration of the Christingle when our church families are invited to make and bring a Christingle – instructions will be sent out soon. We ask that families let us know if they plan to attend. This service will also be broadcast by [Zoom](#).

**SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER at 6pm [BY ZOOM](#)** – our Christmas Carol Service will be broadcast live online. This will mean that our musicians can be safely positioned around the church. It will not be possible for anyone to be present in church but we hope that all can join in singing the congregational carols at home (congregation singing isn't permitted in church!).

**CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER at 4pm [BY ZOOM](#)** – our Family Nativity Service will be broadcast live online. It will include the premiere of the Junior Church Nativity Play which our youngsters are currently filming. Again, all can join in enthusiastically singing the carols at home. The service is expected to last about 30 minutes.

**PTO**

**CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER from 5pm to 7pm THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN** for people of all ages to visit (wearing face coverings and maintaining a social distance) to look at our crib, admire the Christmas tree and enjoy some recorded Christmas music. No booking is needed but we ask that people avoid mixing with those outside their bubble.

**CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER at 9pm IN CHURCH** – a simple SAID Christmas Eve Communion (with some organ music) which will also be broadcast via **Zoom**. This will finish by 10pm (midnight in Bethlehem). People must tell us if they plan to attend (space is limited), face coverings are to be worn and track and trace forms will be provided.

**CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER at 8am IN CHURCH** – a simple SAID Book of Common Prayer Communion. People must tell us if they plan to attend (space is limited), face coverings are to be worn and track and trace forms will be provided.

**CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER at 10am BY ZOOM** – our Christmas Morning Service will be broadcast live online and will last about 45 minutes. This will include a 2nd broadcast of the Junior Church Nativity Play. Children will be able to show us a gift they have received and again all can join in enthusiastically singing the carols at home.

**HOW WILL WE PUBLICISE THIS?** The exterior banner will direct people to our website: [www.christchurch-westwimbledon.org](http://www.christchurch-westwimbledon.org) where the details of the services will be outlined. People can then contact me to receive the Zoom link and/or tell me if they plan to attend a service in church. That way we hope that our Christmas at Christ Church this year will be manageable and safe for everyone. So, please do email me now at [ccww.vicar@gmail.com](mailto:ccww.vicar@gmail.com) giving the details of which service you wish to attend (and the numbers of those with you) or which you wish to view online. Note that there is a limit to the number of devices we can accommodate on Zoom. The zoom link and order of service will be sent out to you nearer the time. Please be aware we cannot guarantee the internet will be trouble free!

**THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES:** there will inevitably be many other opportunities for worship via TV and radio – such as the annual Nine Lessons and Carols from King's on Christmas Eve at 3pm (although no congregation is permitted there either!) On Sunday 20 December the Carol Service from Southwark Cathedral will be broadcast online at 6pm. And so on...

**“CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR”** – but ‘different’ does not necessarily mean ‘worse’ and can mean ‘better’!! In the C of E logo below there is clearly a close link between home and church. What I pray is that, however you decide to worship this year, the Christ-child may bring you both **COMFORT AND JOY**.



With my prayers and best wishes, *Michael Burns*