



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 11

Eve of the Epiphany 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

On Monday 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced a nationwide lockdown for England. In amongst the complex details, places of worship are permitted to remain open – though the Church of England has been quick to say there should be no compulsion for people to attend worship in person or for churches to offer worship in their buildings. In other words, each church must make its own decisions. Anticipating some sort of added restrictions, 24 hours earlier I had canvassed the opinion of the Church Council and others about the future pattern of our Sunday worship in the light of the alarming growth in coronavirus cases, the new contagious form of the virus and the large number of the congregation who had decided to stop attending church for the sake of their own safety. Whilst some did not want our church to close completely, others were clear that some changes would be necessary to protect everyone. Certainly, at our 10am service we need a number of volunteers to assist with the practicalities of running the building.

Therefore, in the light of the nationwide lockdown, I have decided on the following pattern of our Sunday worship at Christ Church with immediate effect and until further notice:

EVERY SUNDAY:

8am – said Holy Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer) in Church.

10am – Morning Service with hymns online only by Zoom.

6.30pm – said Service of Evening Prayer will be temporarily suspended.

EVERY WEDNESDAY:

10am till 12 noon – the Church will continue to be open as usual for quiet prayer

I realise that these new arrangements will cause some disappointment – but I have to balance many different issues and I trust you will understand. I hope that those who wish to receive Communion will be able to do so at 8am, wearing face coverings and socially distanced, while those who like singing and seeing one another will be able to join online at 10am. The Order of Service and Zoom link for the 10am Sunday service will be circulated every Thursday and again at 9am every Sunday morning.

These arrangements will be regularly reviewed by myself, the Wardens and the Church Council and my hope is that we will be able to get back to some sort of normal life in our church very soon. With my prayers and best wishes to you all, *Michael Burns*