



**Christ Church West Wimbledon
Michael's Messages Edition 14**

Tuesday February 23 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,



“The view from my pew” by Gerald Bate, painted around the time of lockdown in 2020.

I guess we all have a ‘view from our pew’ – with thanks to Gerald for painting his for us. Many of us have an opinion about what is going on in our world, our country, our community and how it might be fixed! What we all hope and pray is that the current lockdown restrictions in which we still find ourselves for the time being will nevertheless mean that this dreadful virus will be beaten and that the end is in sight. In the meantime, we are patient and law-abiding – and take up the opportunity of the vaccine when it is offered – and encourage others to do the same. But we know that for many their lives are not easy – particularly those who work in the NHS, those who are home-schooling their children, those whose jobs are under threat and so on and so on. The list is pretty daunting and endless.

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Midsummer's Day (Monday June 21 2021) will undoubtedly have a special significance this year following the announcements by the Prime Minister on 22 February, outlining the road map that will gradually ease the country out of its current restrictions. You will note that this is to be done in four careful stages. I am sure that the Diocese of Southwark will be issuing some advice in the coming days but it is up to each church to decide what to do as restrictions begin to ease. At Christ Church, for the time being, we will continue on zoom each Sunday until the time feels right to open the building for public worship. This matter will be fully discussed at the next meeting of the Church Council on Tuesday March 16 and I will be communicating with you all the following day. I am, however, hopeful that we will be able to have some opportunity to worship in church in time for Easter – though we will still not be permitted to sing and face coverings have to be worn. With any course of action, there are always pluses and minuses! We know that online worship is not the same as being in church and that not everyone feels comfortable to join in online – but at least we can see each other without wearing face coverings and we can sing and chat together!

Our children and young people have been an important part of our zoom worship. We have been delighted that, on the first Sunday of the month, they have had a short time together on zoom after the main service. A big thank you to Tish Mousell and Lucy Christie for taking the lead on this – and to the parents and grandparents. During our zoom services the children have done some fantastic drawings on the different themes of each Sunday. If you would like to let me have the originals (or a copy of the original) we would like to place them on the notice board in church. They will make a very welcome display when we are together worshipping in church.

Be un-anxious: At a zoom webinar recently, we were encouraged, as Christians in our community and amongst our family and friends, to “**be an un-anxious presence**”. That is not something that is necessarily easy to achieve in these anxious-making days – but we do know it is true that if we can help and support others by our calmness and optimism that “**all will be well**”, then this will help and assist others a great deal, often without us knowing. I guess it is all about being **kind**.

One final thought: I know some (many?) of us are not sleeping very well. I found this the other day (author unknown) and thought it might help you as it has helped me:

“At the end of each day: Be still. Be present to yourself. Be present to God’s love for you. Recall the day. Were you fully yourself? What was this like? Or did you hold anything back? Was this intentional/unintentional? Why might this be? Mull this over with God: be honest. Then rest”.

With my prayers and best wishes to you all, *Michael Burns*