



## Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 15

**St Patrick's Day, March 17 2021**

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

### **THE CAREFUL AND GRADUAL RE-OPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR WORSHIP**

It is exactly one year ago today that churches were told to close for worship due to the coronavirus. Now, one year on, we are still in a state of lockdown – but one that is slowly easing. Following the Prime Minister's announcement on February 22 of the road map to take us out of the present lockdown and beyond, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) met last night on Zoom. A plan for the reopening of our church was unanimously agreed. Whilst we are clear that it is 'data rather than dates' that will drive the way forward, the PCC wanted to be able to plan for the future. We share the Government's hope that this will be the last lockdown we all have to endure and we want to ensure that what we have carefully put in place will not have to be reversed.

We have decided that Christ Church will **partially** reopen for public worship on **Palm Sunday 28 March** and **fully** re-open on **Sunday 18 April**. The rationale for this is three-fold. Firstly, given that schools reopened on 8 March we want to see the effect on the levels of infection that this will have had. In accordance with the policy of 'wait and see' we believe that this will be prudent. Secondly, the 'rule of six outdoors' is being reintroduced from 29 March and so it will be slightly easier for people to meet others in the church grounds after our services. Thirdly, there will be an opening up of general activities permitted from 12 April. **So, the schedule is as follows:**

#### **SUNDAY 28 MARCH (Palm Sunday):**

8am Said Holy Communion (BCP traditional language) **in Church**  
10am Morning Service **on Zoom**  
6.30pm Said Holy Communion with organ music (CW modern language) **in Church**

#### **SUNDAY 4 APRIL (Easter Day):**

8am Said Holy Communion (BCP traditional language) **in Church**  
10am Morning Service **on Zoom** followed by 15 minute Junior Church **on Zoom**  
6.30pm Said Holy Communion with organ music (CW modern language) **in Church**

#### **SUNDAY 11 APRIL (Low Sunday):**

8am Said Holy Communion (BCP traditional language) **in Church**  
10am Morning Service **on Zoom**  
6.30pm Said Holy Communion with organ music (CW modern language) **in Church**

#### **SUNDAY 18 APRIL and on all future Sundays (our normal Sunday pattern)**

8am Said Holy Communion (BCP traditional language) **in Church**  
10am\*\* Parish Eucharist with organ music **in Church**  
6.30pm Said Evening Prayer (BCP traditional language) **in Church**

**\*\*Sundays at 10am will continue to be broadcast on Zoom for the foreseeable future for those who either are unable or feel unable to join us in our church building.**

**PTO**

## HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME for 2021

### **MONDAY 29 MARCH:**

8pm Reflections for Holy Week **on Zoom** hosted and led by Chris Larkman

### **TUESDAY 30 MARCH**

8pm Compline (Night Prayer) said **in Church**

### **WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH**

8pm Final Lent Group **on Zoom**

### **THURSDAY 1 APRIL (Maundy Thursday):**

\*8pm Said Holy Communion with organ music (CW modern language) **in Church**

### **FRIDAY 2 APRIL (Good Friday):**

10am Churches Together service **on Zoom** (booking by Salvation Army via Eventbrite)

\*2 pm An hour before the cross – a spoken service with organ music **in Church**

*\*These 2 services will also be broadcast on Zoom.*

**Please note carefully that there are still some significant restrictions on our worship together in Church, which may well remain in place for some time to come:**

- Face coverings must always be worn unless you are medically exempt.
- Your attendance will be recorded for 'track and trace' and retained for 3 weeks.
- Social distancing of 2 metres is still in place inside the Church.
- Singing is still not permitted by either choir or congregation.
- Communion will still be administered in one form only (bread).
- Refreshments still cannot be served after the service.
- At the end of the service, you must move outside if you wish to chat to people.

**One final thing: The Church will still continue to be open for quiet and prayer every Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 noon for the foreseeable future.**

I hope that what we have outlined for Christ Church will help you in your worship over Holy Week, Easter and beyond. It goes without saying that we must continue to be as careful as we can be as we begin to open up our church building – but we feel we have the appropriate precautions in place and hope and trust that this will give you confidence.

A prayer for these times written by the Dean of Southwark:

*God of all that has been, that is, that is to come, as we reflect on the year that has past, those we have lost, those we have missed, the contact not made, the hopes dashed, new things discovered, new opportunities seized, new love embraced, we thank you that you have been with us and brought us to this day. Stay with us as we step into your future with faith and hope and love and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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