



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 16

July 19 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

THE CAREFUL AND GRADUAL RELAXING OF RESTRICTIONS TO OUR CHURCH LIFE

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that the relaxing of the present lockdown would take place from July 19 onwards, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) met last week on Zoom. Although the ultimate responsibility about church worship rests with me as the incumbent, I would always consult the elected members of Christ Church PCC. At our meeting, a plan for the cautious opening up of our church life was unanimously agreed. The following decisions were made, many of which will be reviewed at the next PCC meeting on 1 September:

- **Face coverings** do not now have to be worn but we recommend and actively encourage you to continue wearing them inside the church and hall unless you are medically exempt.
- **Exterior Church doors** will remain open during the service, weather permitting.
- **Hand sanitizer** will continue to be available at the entrances.
- **Order of Service booklets** will continue to be collected on entry and left on exit.
- **Seating** has been opened up in the main nave in front of the cross aisle – but reduced seating will be maintained in the rear of the nave and in the side aisles where there is also additional seating. There is no requirement for you to sit with others; if you would rather keep some social distance from others who are not in your household or bubble, please do so and respect other people's wishes if they would prefer to maintain social distancing.
- **The Peace** will continue as at present.
- **Communion** will continue to be administered in one form only (bread).
- **Refreshments** will not be served after the service – this will be reviewed on 1 September. At the end of the service, you are encouraged to move outside to chat to others.
- **Congregational Singing** is now permitted but the PCC have decided **not** to go ahead with this yet – this will be reviewed on 1 September. **The Choir** can now all sing together – after July 25, they have August off and will resume on September 5.
- **Sunday Evening Services** will continue to be said – this will be reviewed on 1 September.
- **Junior Church** will resume on September 12.
- **One final thing: The Church will continue to be open for quiet and prayer every Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 noon for the foreseeable future.**

Note that these decisions do **not** apply to **weddings, funerals or memorial services** when singing will be permitted and after service refreshments can be served, though mask wearing will still be encouraged. Additionally, I will have to write a covid risk assessment for this type of service.

In all of the changes, we hope that we are able to show generosity and understanding towards those who want to move more quickly or more slowly in the steps that we take - our building should be a safe and secure place where all can be present to worship with the church family. We continue to pray for all those who are finding the changes difficult, those who are still nervous about returning and those for whom being back together to church is a big step. With my prayers and best wishes to you all for the summer. *Michael Burns*