

## To all Friends of Christ Church, West Wimbledon:

### MICHAEL'S MESSAGES CORONAVIRUS 9

**HAPPY EASTER:** I hope that you all managed to have a Happy Easter wherever you were last Sunday? I must admit it seemed very strange for me not to be at Christ Church that day – and I know it was for many of you. But it was good to sense that we were all thinking of each other and what we would normally be doing in church! Thank you to everyone who sent me Easter greetings and cards. Now we have to carry on in this strange world in which we are currently living. But it is not easy. The novelty is wearing off for many and the ‘not knowing when this will end’ is very hard to deal with. So many arrangements are having to be put on hold – not least baptisms and weddings – as well as many other aspects of our daily lives which we used to take for granted. It is strange not to be able to visit family and friends when we want to or to go out whenever we feel like it. But we pray that our efforts to stay at home are helping the NHS – and we continue to pray for all those who work on the front line in whatever capacity, particularly those of our own congregation at Christ Church. In particular we pray for those people – known and unknown – who are ill or who have sadly died.

**GIVING:** Although the church is closed, we are still having to pay our regular bills – Parish Share to the Diocese, insurance, utilities, salaries to those we employ and so on. Thank you to those who give via your Bank – and to those who have started to do this since the church had to close. For any others of you who normally put gift aid envelopes or cash in the collection bags each Sunday, you might like to think about giving via your Bank while the church is closed. If you would like further information about how to do this, I can pass on to you the details of our Church bank account or please do contact in confidence Lynda Coleman: [lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com](mailto:lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com)

**ZOOM CHURCH:** As you may remember, at the end of March, I sent out some information for those who wanted to link up with each other online via ‘Zoom’. The number who wanted to do this was encouragingly significant. The original aim was to keep in touch with each other, see if anyone might be feeling isolated or need shopping/help. The group met initially – and then the idea grew to hold a simple service, which they were able to do on Easter Day at 6pm led by Chris Larkman (I couldn’t join in as my ipad had died but has now been replaced – thank you Apple!) There was a lot of positive feedback and we’ve had an online meeting this week and decided to hold another service next **Sunday 19 April at 6pm**. The service will be led by me (Michael) with the participation of others. Would you like to join in? A computer/ laptop or tablet work best. Smart phones are possible too. You can self-decide at the time whether to be on video camera and or microphone or just listen only. If you haven't got a camera or a microphone, then it is also possible to just watch and listen via a computer with internet access or just listen in by phone. In advance of the service you would be emailed by Hazel Bate with a link to click inviting you to join the service. Hazel can help you set up Zoom on your ipad or laptop. If you are interested, please email Hazel Bate and let her know [hazelbate2@gmail.com](mailto:hazelbate2@gmail.com) or email Tish and let her know [tish@mousetraining.com](mailto:tish@mousetraining.com)

I fully realise that not all of you will be able to do this or will want to join in. It may help you to know that we shall be using the two Sunday readings (published each week in the church pewsheets) and I will be offering my brief reflection, which again is included in the pewsheets – so hopefully you would still feel connected with the congregation even if you weren’t able to participate online. One other thing worth mentioning is that we are not fixed to 6pm on Sunday evenings - so if you would prefer to start at 10am on Sundays, do let us know and we could adjust the time for future Sundays.

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

15/4/2020