



Christ Church, West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 18

Feast of Candlemas - February 2 2022

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

It was September 2021 when I last wrote a newsletter – a long time ago and of course much has happened since then! Whilst Covid is still affecting us, now is perhaps the time to begin to look forward with more confidence and optimism than previously. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) have been regularly meeting on Zoom and carefully reviewing our worship arrangements at Christ Church in line with advice from the Government and the Church of England. Although the ultimate responsibility for church worship rests with me as the incumbent, I would always consult the elected members of Christ Church PCC. Since January 30 the following arrangements are in place:

- **FACE COVERINGS** are no longer mandatory in Church – but of course you are free to continue to wear one if you wish. It is very much your own individual choice and decision.
- **SINGING** will continue. Please note it is **not** compulsory that you have to sing and nor do you have to sing loudly! Some may choose to hum! Some may prefer not to sing. It is your choice.
- **SEATING** – you can sit where you like in the main block of the nave but the back of the nave and the side aisles will continue to have reduced seating capacity.
- **AFTER SERVICE REFRESHMENTS** will be continue to be served as usual. Again, please be respectful of those who wish to keep a little distanced from others.
- **AT THE PEACE** we will still be smiling and waving at others, rather than shaking hands! Obviously you can greet your own family more closely!
- **THE COMMUNION** will continue to be administered for the time being in the form of bread only and not the wine. The risks from sharing the chalice (the common cup) are still great – and it has to be remembered that the priest has to consume all the remaining wine at the end of Communion and that is considered to be too great a personal risk at present. Please be assured that the Church of England has decreed that receiving only the wafer does still represent receiving full Communion.
- **AT COMMUNION** we are now using the full width of the Communion Rail to receive Communion or to be given a Blessing. You can either choose to stand or kneel at the altar rail.
- **OFFERTORY COLLECTION** - We will not take an offertory collection – if you wish to donate, please place your offering on the plates – or use the card payment facility.
- **NB: PLEASE REMEMBER – DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH** if you develop any symptoms of Covid or you or anyone in your household tests positive. Please do keep yourselves and others safe.

In all of the ongoing changes, we hope that we are all 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 pray for all those who are finding the changes difficult, those who are still nervous about returning and those for whom being back together in church is a big step. We particularly look forward to welcoming back those who have not been able to attend church in recent months. But it is with confidence that we are beginning to resume some of our usual activities: **PTO**

JUNIOR CHURCH AND STEPPING UP CHURCH and KFH are all now in full swing and we welcome our children and young people to join in these activities. Huge thanks go to our dedicated leaders.

CHRIST CHURCH TODDLER GROUP will restart after half-term on **WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY**, meeting **every Wednesday morning in term time from 9.15am to 11.15am in the Hall**. It is for parents and carers and children aged 0 – 5 years. Do speak to Mair Rabagliati for more details.

TOGETHER ON THURSDAYS is a monthly gathering at 3pm in the Hall open to all who fancy a cup of tea, some delicious cake and the chance to chat to others. Transport can usually be arranged. The next meeting is planned for **THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY**.

OUR SPONSORSHIP OF A REFUGEE FAMILY is moving ahead. We now have full Home Office approval and the flat in Morden is seeing the imminent completion of building works. We hope that a family will arrive in mid-April! We will keep you posted – and prayers would be welcome!

LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY—8pm Sung Eucharist on 2 March with the traditional ashing on the forehead.

LENT AT CHRIST CHURCH—WEDNESDAYS AT 8: On the WEDNESDAY evenings of Lent at 8pm in church there will be the opportunity to come together to join in the ancient Office of Compline (Night Prayer) and then Michael will be reading a meditative chapter each week of an 8-part book by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, called *'The Things He Carried': A Journey to the Cross*. Each evening will last for no longer than around 45 minutes. It is hoped that this departure from our usual pattern of a Lent Course will be a welcome change in these continuing uncertain times. The dates are **March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6**—and the final three chapters will follow the saying of Compline on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. All welcome. Booking not needed.

Palm Sunday April 10

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist with procession and the blessing of our palm crosses and Junior Church

6.30pm Sung Evensong (BCP)

Monday April 11—Tuesday April 12—Wednesday April 13

8pm-8.45pm Compline led by the Vicar with meditations from 'The Things He Carried'

Maundy Thursday April 14

8pm-9pm Sung Eucharist followed by stripping of the Church and a silent vigil of prayer till 10pm

Good Friday April 15

10am Meet at the Lantern Methodist Church in Worple Road for the Procession of Witness through Raynes Park organised by Churches Together in West Wimbledon

12 noon till 3pm – Good Friday Three Hours at Christ Church

12 – 1: A quiet reflective time led by the Vicar using meditations and recorded music

1 – 2: Silent prayer before the Cross (do come and go as you wish)

2 – 3: The Last Hour Liturgy of the Cross: Readings and Music (with the Choir tbc)

Easter Day Sunday April 17

6.30am Sunrise service—blessing of the new fire, renewal of baptism vows and a light breakfast

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Eucharist - a service for everyone with Easter eggs for the children

6.30pm Sung Evensong (BCP)

With my prayers to you all for the remainder of winter and the prospect of spring! **Michael Burns**