

To all Friends of Christ Church, West Wimbledon:

MICHAEL'S MESSAGES CORONAVIRUS 11



ZOOM CHURCH: Thank you to everyone who was able to join last Sunday for our Zoom Service and thank you to Edith for the wonderful picture she drew for us to enjoy. She has said it all. It was encouraging to know so many people were able to join us and we look forward to seeing you at **10am every Sunday morning!** There is something very special knowing people are able to join together as we usually do – and especially good to see our children! We have been very grateful to Tom Kirby for playing and to everyone who is taking part – and not least to Hazel, Chris and Tish who are all helping with the organisation. KFH (our teenage youth group) are also having a Zoom gathering and there's also been a social committee and a Merton Deanery Clergy Meeting via Zoom!

WORSHIP continues in many ways on TV, radio and the internet. One new way is by dialling a **FREEPHONE** number which you can ring at any time of the day or night. Launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Daily Hope is a **FREE** phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers: **0800 804 8044**.

THE NATIONAL LOCKDOWN nevertheless continues and despite many innovative ideas to keep us all occupied and sane, I have become very aware of how difficult it is proving for so many. Of course, we know in our hearts it is the responsible way that the country should respond but it is not easy. In particular it is very hard not to see people, family and friends, whenever we want – never mind about doing simple things like getting a haircut! But we hope and pray that the steps we are all taking will be for the long term good of everyone – especially those who are more vulnerable. Nonetheless we mourn those who have died. Sadly, the virus has recently claimed the lives of both Cynthia Aird and Rufus Crompton, faithful members of Christ Church whom we will greatly miss. Their deaths have hit us all hard. We give thanks for their lives and pray that they may rest in peace. So we pray in faith that God may continue to bless us all and to hold us in the palm of his hand.

With my best wishes and prayers, Michael

28 April 2020