

**To all Friends of Christ Church, West Wimbledon:
MICHAEL'S MESSAGES CORONAVIRUS 13**

WE ARE APPROACHING the 2-month mark since March 17 when all churches were told to close their doors. It has been, and continues to be, the strangest, most surreal, period that any of us have ever lived through. At times we are all feeling quite overwhelmed – not least when we get confusing messages from the Government and the media! There are many things we miss – but it is probably proper personal contact with family and friends that we all miss the most. No amount of clever technology can replace the opportunity to talk with others face to face. But we are doing our best. For us at Christ Church the 10am Sunday morning Zoom Service is increasingly being appreciated by many and we are very glad to welcome those who are able to join us. One recent development announced last week by the Church of England is that clergy are now permitted to go, alone, into their churches and live stream or record a service. After consultation I have decided not to do this but to continue our weekly services by Zoom. Even if we could set up the appropriate technology, I would personally feel very alone and isolated if I was to be in our church building on my own to record a service which you would then watch on your computer screens at home. It seems to me to be much more preferable that we are able to be together on a Sunday morning, seeing each other and joining in the service with as much participation as we can muster. I hope that you will agree.

CHURCH LIFE IS CARRYING ON: We continue to try to keep in touch with each other, to pray for each and to offer support where we can. KFH, our Youth Group, has met together via Zoom, as has the Finance Committee and the Social Committee as well as the Merton Deanery Clergy Chapter and Churches Together in West Wimbledon. Various church study and prayer groups are all linking together too. The Book Club met recently online and Lynda Coleman writes: *“We are going to meet again at 4pm on Tuesday 7th July when we will discuss “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. There is a general invitation extended to the congregation to join the Zoom Book Club as there may be those who couldn’t make the evening meetings but who are now at home with more time to read”*. If you would like to join, do email Lynda and she can make sure you are sent the Zoom link nearer the date of the meeting. Her email address is lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com

FINALLY, and most importantly, COMPOST!! The church compost heap, to the left at the back as you face the Hall, is now too tall to fill with any more grass clippings etc., Do come and help yourselves to compost from the **left-hand side of the compost bins**, so we can start a new heap there again. The slats need removing to reach it and you would need to bring your own bags and spades – and please replace the traffic cones blocking the car park entrance when you have finished.

TO FINISH some words – source unknown – which may encourage you in the days to come:

Be the endurance when I am tired.
Be the wisdom when I am uncertain.
Be the inspiration when I am out of ideas.
Be the peacemaker when I feel hurt.
Be the comforter when I feel overwhelmed.
Be the energy when I am weary.
Be the guide when I am confused.
Be the forgiver when I get it wrong,
Be with me Lord today. Amen.