

**To all Friends of Christ Church, West Wimbledon:
MICHAEL'S MESSAGES NEWSLETTER 17**



This beautiful photo of our church, taken early one morning by Julie Grainger, is worth sharing. Although buildings are not everything because the church is of course the people, nevertheless it is our beautiful church which binds us all together, especially when we are forced to remain apart.

CHURCHES MAY OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER – the PCC are currently discussing whether it is appropriate to allow the church to open in a very limited way for private prayer in the coming weeks. You will appreciate that this step is not as simple as it sounds, not least because of the need to ensure the safety of those who enter our building. Nothing will be announced till Thursday 18 June.

THE GRENFELL TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY 3RD ANNIVERSARY will be marked this Sunday, 14 June, by the tolling of bells at 6pm throughout London. The bells will toll 72 times, one for each life lost. The 72 rings will then be followed at 6.03pm by two minutes silence in memory of those who have died. The silence will end with 3 more rings to signify the number of years since the tragedy. After the silence there will be an online act or remembrance for those who wish to access it: www.youtube.com/grenfellunited Here in West Wimbledon I will be ringing the bell at Christ Church at 6pm and hope that, if you are within earshot, you will remember why the bell is being tolled and keep a moment of quiet. One of the victims worked briefly in Raynes Park, becoming a much-valued colleague of a member of the congregation.

NEXT WEEK there will be no coronavirus newsletter published as I will be taking 3 days off (Monday to Wednesday inclusive) having not, in common with many of you, had a break since the New Year!

With my continuing best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Michael

10/6/20