

**To all Friends of Christ Church, West Wimbledon:
MICHAEL'S MESSAGES NEWSLETTER 19**

'WHEN IS THE CHURCH GOING TO RE-OPEN?' is a constant question for which I have no answer! You may be sure that anything announced will be passed on straightaway – but whatever happens there will be lots to think about and decide and church will certainly have to work in a different way. Those who lead places of worship have been re-designated by the Government as 'venue managers'! Because it is highly probable that we may not get a great deal of notice, I have already assembled a small group of people who are looking at our particular building and working out what measures will be needed to allow us to open safely when public worship is allowed to recommence. Their suggestions will then be looked at carefully by the Church Council, who share the ultimate responsibility with me. These will then be refined when an official Government announcement is made and full details are published. **However only when we feel ready will we be able to re-open.**

CHURCH HALL: We are having similar discussions about the eventual re-opening of the Hall. This is, in many ways, a bigger and more complex dilemma, given the number and variety of different hirers who currently use the Hall. We are very grateful to Stefan Bown and Angelina Skelton, in consultation with others, who are currently grappling with these issues.

ZOOM SERVICES continue each Sunday morning at 10am and we are very grateful to those who help and who participate. It has been lovely to be able to see each other! Particular thanks go to Hazel Bate who looks after the technical side and has successfully helped many to get online.

CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR QUIET AND PRAYER every Tuesday morning between 10am and 12 noon. Do pop in if you are passing. You will be very welcome indeed.

ST ALBAN – it was good to be able to celebrate St Alban yesterday in our Zoom Service – Britain's first saint. There is lots of information on the website of St Alban's Cathedral. The story of Alban and Amphibalus is also in cartoon form - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWfyH30Ppdo>
Each year to celebrate his festival thousands of people travel to St Albans to celebrate with a great parade along the High Street towards the Cathedral with giant puppets and legions of Roman soldiers to tell the story of Britain's first Christian Martyr. <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org>

This picture of a High Street – like the High Street in St Albans where the St Alban Celebration Parade happens on the Saturday nearest to 22 June – was drawn during our Zoom Service by Iris Rocksborough Smith, age 5



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

23/6/20