



Christ Church West Wimbledon Michael's Messages Edition 8

November 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

There was I, on Saturday evening, on a short 48-hour break in Sussex, quietly waiting for Strictly Come Dancing to start – when all of a sudden everything was turned upside down with the government announcement of a further nationwide lockdown from 5 November for at least a month. It quickly became apparent that all places of worship would close, though private prayer was still permitted.

I am still (technically) supposed to be on leave until 7 November - so this is a short note of update:

- **For the remaining four Sundays in November – 8, 15, 22 and 29** – our 10am Sunday morning worship will be via Zoom. I will send out the Zoom link via email later today. Please keep this Zoom link somewhere safe and use it for every Sunday service in November. The order of service will be different for each Sunday and will be sent out towards the end of each week.
- **On Sunday 8 November, starting at 10.55am**, there will also be a short Act of Remembrance on Zoom. The suggestion is that you remain online after the end of the Sunday service if you wish. Obviously, some of you will prefer to tune into the Cenotaph Service at 11am on BBC1.
- **On Sunday 8 November, starting at 6pm**, there will be the short Service of Commemoration remembering those who have died – this will be at 6pm and will be Zoomed from church. Unfortunately, only those involved in streaming the service are permitted to be in the building. We will be joined by some of those whose relatives' funerals have taken place in the past year. The same Zoom link as for the 10am Service can be used for this evening service.
- **Christ Church will continue to be open for private prayer every Wednesday morning from 10am till 12 noon** – again this is permitted under the rules and masks should be worn.
- **Normal activity** such as pastoral visiting is not encouraged during this period of lockdown – but please do give me a ring or drop me an email if you need anything – or just want to be in touch for a chat. I would also want to actively encourage you to be in touch with each other as you have done so in the past.

FINALLY, WHAT OF THE FUTURE? Of course, we simply do not know. None of us have experienced anything like this before and we really are in uncharted territory. All we can do is to hope and pray that our current precautions will have the desired effect, that an effective vaccine can be found and that we will soon be back to some sort of normal life, whatever new form that may have to take. In the meantime, please do stay safe and keep well. May God bless us all.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Michael Burns