To all Friends of Christ Church, West Wimbledon:

MICHAEL’S MESSAGES CORONAVIRUS 12

BEATITUDES
FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS
BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED
BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS
BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS
FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT
FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS
FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS
FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GALE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS
BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS
BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS
BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS: THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS
BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE
FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES
FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD
FOR THEY ARE COMING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESpite

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.
BLESSED ARE THE BEHEADED.
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS
BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS: ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE, ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY

BLESSED ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY.
FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.
FOR ONE DAY WE PRAY THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY.

BLESSED ARE THE CHEESEMAKERS: When we picture Jesus giving the Sermon on the Mount, we probably imagine a crowd of attentive followers, quietly taking in and understanding all that Jesus taught. The 1979 Monty Python film The Life of Brian, however conveys a sense of the misunderstanding that there might really have been among the crowd. ‘Blessed are the cheesemakers’, one hears instead of ‘Blessed are the peacemakers’. ‘Blessed are the Greek’, relays another, ‘he’s going to inherit the earth’, until a woman corrects them, ‘no it’s the meek; that’s nice, innit. I’m glad they’re getting something because they have a hell of a time.’ I mention this because, since the lockdown, I have become very aware of so much I used to take for granted. This is partly captured in the cartoon above which may give us all pause for thought and awareness, both of the many who are being seriously affected as well as being thankful for those who are keeping our world moving in the right direction – all of whom we remember before God in our thoughts and prayers.

MONEY: One or two of you have asked whether you can send your usual Church collection via a cheque. The answer is ‘yes’. You will all realise that, although the church is closed, we are still having to pay our regular bills – Parish Share to the Diocese, insurance, utilities, salaries to those we employ and so on. Thank you to those who give via your Bank. For any of you who normally put gift aid envelopes or cash in the collection bags each Sunday, a cheque can be made payable to PCC OF CHRIST CHURCH WEST WIMBLEDON and sent to the Planned Giving Officer, Christ Church West Wimbledon, 2 Cottenham Park Road, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0RZ. Thank you very much. If you have queries do contact lynda.coleman1@btinternet.com

ZOOM CHURCH: we will much look forward to seeing those of you who are able to join us online at 10am on Sunday morning! It has been good to see so many who have managed to master the complex technology! The participant numbers have been really high and it has been wonderful to ‘see’ you all together.

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

5/5/20