

ST CLEMENT'S SANDWICH

FROM THE RECTOR AND CHURCHWARDENS

The Prime Minister's announcement of a new national lockdown in response to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, almost certainly to be agreed by the House of Commons, and coming into effect as from this Thursday (5th November) is sad, but perhaps a sad necessity. It is certainly very sad that this second lockdown includes the suspension again of our collective worship in church.

We therefore confirm that there will be no Sunday service at St Clement's until, at the earliest, Sunday 6th December. This very regrettably obviously includes this coming Sunday (8th November), Remembrance Sunday, when we were planning that there would be a Celebration of Holy Communion at 8am.

The good news though, to alleviate the gloom, is that we are still allowed to keep St Clement's open for private prayer and reflection. Our intention is for St Clement's to be open from 12 noon to 4pm Monday to Saturday, and from 10am to 4pm on each Sunday of the lockdown. We continue to be very grateful to those who are making this possible by opening and closing the church each day.

We shall be continuing to circulate the weekly St Clement's Church at Home and the Prayer Poster, with its news and message each week. We hope that these will continue to help keep us together as the St Clement's family at this time, in our prayer, worship and mutual support.

It is very welcome that Funeral Services, and the present guidelines for them remain unchanged. This does mean that the Funeral of Carole Brown can take place as planned this coming Friday afternoon. We will all continue to give thanks for her and others who have made such a special contribution to our life together and who have recently died.

These continue to be difficult and challenging times, but of course our hope and prayer is that we shall emerge from this new lockdown safe and well, and we so look forward to being together again in St Clement's.

With our warmest best wishes

Mark, Barry and Diane

3rd November 2020