



Greetings from St. Leonard's

**Sunday 3rd January 2021
Epiphany Sunday**

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Dear Friends,

In light of the Government's announcements today I am emailing to let you know we have decided to make some changes to our worship pattern at St Leonard's with immediate effect.

I am conscious that the national average for cases of COVID 19 is around 250 cases per 100,000 but for Lambeth, as of today, it is 648 per 100,000. We are in the eye of the latest storm.

I am also incredibly proud of the fact that we have not had a single case of the virus at St Leonard's (thanks to the tireless work of cleaning and implementation of our risk assessments) and we have done an extraordinary job in keeping our worship offer public, in line with Government permissions to date.

Christmas was nothing short of a miracle and gave us the lift we all so badly needed.

However, I am sensing that now might be the time to return to the '**November pattern**' (which worked well), where we offer online worship for our congregations 'live streamed' from church, with *only* the ministry team and a reduced number of musicians present.

This means we continue to offer a Eucharist in and for the Parish, as is our commitment. It also offers our congregation at home an authentic experience of our weekly worship and provided a sense of familiarity and continuity at this unsettling time.

The cost is sadly to those who cannot access online worship and this is a deep regret to me. However, this group are the very people we have a particular responsibility to keep safe and are often the first through the door. For this reason, we shall be opening the church on Monday for prayers and Wednesdays for a quiet Eucharist as these only attract a very small number of people.

With support of the wardens and PCC we have decided to adopt this pattern for the **month of January**, or **until the figures shift significantly**.

Please keep an eye on the Diary below for opening times and service patterns.

Hooray for the vaccine and the hope of a brighter, safer time ahead.

With love and prayers,