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To Mottingham Community Representatives

Re: Remembrance Day for 2020

17th October, 2020

Dear All,

I am writing now in my capacity as Moderator of Churches Together in Mottingham and with deep regret to say that, due to the ongoing public health emergency associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and conditions arising from this, it will not be possible to hold the annual act of Remembrance at the Mottingham War Memorial this year. Along with the impossibility of adequately supervising social distancing and the track and trace system and the inevitable infringement of the 'rule of 6', it has been made clear that road closures will not be possible this year, which rules out holding the event in the usual format.

For all these reasons, and above all, because of our collective responsibility for health and safety, Acts of Remembrance this year will be held in the respective churches comprising the Churches Together in Mottingham group, rather than at the War Memorial, with numbers limited to what ever may be permitted in different contexts. Admission to services will need to be on a first-come-first-serve basis, as the seating available will be determined by the maximum number that can be safely accommodated with respect to social distancing. This number varies from church to church

It will be very challenging not to mark this special occasion in the usual way, but you will naturally appreciate the very difficult circumstances that obtain at this time, and indeed, the duty of care to seek to protect one another. Though separated in location, we can nonetheless be united in our prayers for all who suffer through the evil conditions bred by warfare, and pray furthermore that those given to war as a tool of state-craft may turn their hearts to the ways of peace and diplomacy.

With every blessing for your safety and well-being at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Ian

Ian Welch, M.A., B.Th., B.A. (Hons)
Rector, Mottingham St Andrew with St Alban; Moderator, Churches Together in Mottingham