



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL BRIEFING NOTE

July 2025

Update to Opening Hours

Following a period of consultation, Watts Gallery's leadership team has made the decision to close the whole Watts Gallery site on Mondays and Tuesdays, including the tea shop and shop. This will come into effect from Monday 4 August. The decision to close on Mondays and Tuesdays (except for Bank Holidays) is one of many positive steps we have taken to reduce operating costs and secure a strong future for Watts Gallery.

The change to our opening hours is in line with steps taken by many organisations in the cultural sector over the past few years and will ensure that we continue to prioritise our incredible collection, temporary exhibitions and community programme and invest in the future of the gallery. We are confident that making these changes to opening days will not lessen the impact of our work, reduce visitor numbers, or inhibit us from continuing to deliver on our mission of Art for All by All.

Though closed to visitors for two days per week, the site will be staffed and all gallery spaces monitored and maintained daily.

The Chapel will remain open on Monday and Tuesdays and will be monitored by staff on site. Our initial messaging is focusing on the fact we are closed to make sure the public are aware of what is going on, but our updated opening times and admissions page will make it clear that the chapel is open.

Chapel Water Leak

We have now managed to re-establish the water main at the Chapel and have installed a down pipe near the dipping trough by the entrance to the cemetery. The team are working on getting the water pipe up to the top end of the cemetery, but this has been incredibly slow work as it is having to be hand dug and take in to account the trees and graves in the area. A water butt is still located in the top section, and this is being filled regularly so there is water available. We are working to get the pipe reinstated as quickly as possible.

Physical Energy

Work is well underway at the Physical Energy site. The sculpture was installed on 30 May in an operation that took 5 hours. We are now working on the hard landscaping including paths and the viewing area. Work is currently due to finish in mid-August.