

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates - Wednesday 8 April 2020

Vicar Updates (Holy Week) & Act of Worship for Maundy Thursday 9 April 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

This message comes with love to you all during Holy Week - and lots of prayers being said for each of you, as we journey through the week towards Easter Day on Sunday.

I do hope you are managing to take time to remember and to travel the story, as the first disciples did - from Palm Sunday and through to Jesus rising again in glory in a few days' time.

Worship Opportunities This Week:

A huge thank you to everyone, from our preaching, leading and interceding teams in both churches, who have offered items to help us reflect this week. I hope you have found it as enriching an experience as I have.

Tomorrow, we continue on to **Maundy Thursday**, and there is a video reflection from me for this (information below) - We remember the last supper and Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

On Friday (**Good Friday**), sent out tomorrow, there will be a Messy Church Extravaganza, which has been prepared by Fiona and a more formal reflection will accompany this, prepared by Vanessa Cope (who wrote the intercessions) and I - We remember Jesus dying on the cross for us and all that this cost Him.

On Sunday (sent out on Saturday) there will be worship provided in our current 'lock down usual form' - with another video sermon from me, where we will celebrate **Easter Day!**

Jesus died to save us from our sins and *rose again!* He is alive and we who believe in Him have the gift of life afresh now AND for eternity, because of what He has done for us.

Our sins and the ways we have let God down can be forgiven - paid for us by Jesus on the cross... with new life won for us at the empty tomb as Jesus was raised triumphant over sin and death.

What a glorious story! What a wonderful, joyful, life-transforming, extraordinary gift to be celebrated!

We continue to be in strange times, but it is my prayer that we will all take time to truly celebrate Easter this year.

My being Vicar in the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

By chance, Easter Sunday, also marks a year since my institution, induction and installation (think it was something along those lines - certainly three 'i's' 😊) - as Vicar for the parish and leader of our wonderful family, across both churches.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all - hugely - for all you have done to welcome me and help me to feel at home here. For the many ways in which each of you serve in our churches and contribute to our family life. Everyone is valued and important. All of you are so deeply loved.

It is one of the very greatest privileges of my life to be here with you all - and I thank God every day for what He has done in us and with us this last year.

There are so many things I could write at this point, but I am going to save them for when we can meet again and have our APCM (by the way - the Church of England has postponed these until the Autumn!)... but it has been a wonderful year in so very many ways.

Thank you all - and praise God!

Key Workers in Our Parish

For a couple of weeks, I have been attempting to compile a list of key workers for our parish, so that we can be particularly praying for those listed. I must admit to having got somewhat muddled in this, in amongst the many messages and emails which have been exchanged during this time.

Please take a look at the list and be praying for each named person. If you would like to be added because you are a key worker and I have missed you - or would like a family member added, please let me know and I will send a final list in the coming week (in a format which can be printed and used regularly at home). Equally if you are not currently working and would like to be taken off, please do let me know this too - the situation changes every day for us all at the moment!

7 members of Aspet & Margaret Carapetian's family are working for the NHS in various ways - this is simultaneously a great source of joy and also concern for their safety

Anne, Sue & Tom Ellinor's daughter - is a Paediatric Nurse at University College Hospital, London

Georgina Cameron - NHS worker

Karen Davies - GP

Ruth Eardley - Nursing Home Care Staff

Abigail Ellingham - Occupational Therapist

Robin Ellingham - Metropolitan Police

Fiona Ellingham - Curate for the parish

Anne Goeghegan - Radiographer

Steve Henderson - Army / Military Forces

Vicki Hetherington - Child Minder (including for those who are NHS staff - so helping others to keep working too)
Claire Lucy - Royal Marsden Hospital Worker
Chris Moore - CEO, The Clink Charity (supporting the rehabilitation of prisoners, and those who have left prison to start afresh, across the whole of England)
Lucy Moore - Hospice Care Staff
Oliver Moore - Paramedic
Morna Moore - Teaching Assistant
James Okpanachi - Refuse Collector
Charity Okpanachi - Nursing Home Care Staff
Miriam Oakley - Nursing Home Care Staff
Daniel Quin - Fire Fighter
Mandy Sharkey - Assistant Practice Manager (GP Surgery)
Lauren Sharkey - Teacher
Adrian Sharkey - Government Worker
Hilary Sinnock - Teacher
Jenny Turner - A&E Nurse at Charing Cross Hospital A&E
David Wharton - Community Security & Cameras
Alex Williams - Vicar & member of the clergy

Worship for Tomorrow, Maundy Thursday

You may like to pray this prayer, provided by the Church of England for this week:

*Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Now, click on this link to hear the bible passage (John 13.1-17 and 34-35) for today and my video reflection on this: <https://youtu.be/RecfgFHPybl>

You may like to conclude with some prayers of your own - including some of our key workers and any of your own reflections linked to the passage/ what I have shared. Then you may wish to conclude with the Lord's prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

God's blessings upon you all and all who you love.
Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Williams
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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