

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates - Thursday 23 April 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

This message comes with love and prayers and the hope that you are all well and continuing to cope during these strange and difficult times.

This message contains news for the parish on the following points:

1. A beautiful piece of music for you to listen to (it is very well worth it) which Rhian Davies (Tomos and Karen from St. Paul's daughter) is singing in. She is a professional singer in the Old Royal Naval College Chapel Choir and we are all really proud of her! It is totally glorious and very cleverly created by the sound & tech engineer @PiraxaStudios from whom we have special permission to share it;
2. A report on our Zoom prayers from this week - and what is planned next for these;
3. An overview of what will be happening with our parish worship in the next couple of months;
4. Some activities which you may like to engage in at home, which we can link us further as church family and community at this time; and
5. Some information on people from or linked with our parish who are very much indeed of our prayers at the moment.

I hope it's helpful. As always, please do keep sending in things you would like to share too if you wish to!

If you would like to chat or be in contact about anything - please do email back or my phone number is 07312 113019.

Much love to you all,
Alex

1) The Music from Rhian's Choir: Singing Beati Quorum Via by Stanford

Well done Rhian and love from all of us in the parish of Nork with Burgh Heath! This is BRILLIANT 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bc8NCFEMPGk>

2) Zoom Prayers in the Parish

Following the delightful Zoom prayer meetings for St. Paul's on Tuesday and St. Mary's this afternoon, we will now be holding these every **fortnight (2 weeks)** for the foreseeable future.

Zoom prayers for St. Paul's will be on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th May. *If you have already attended this, I will automatically send you the link. **If you would like to join, please let me know to send you the link also.***

Zoom prayers for St. Mary's will be on Thursday afternoons at 4pm and the next meeting will be on Thursday 7th May. *If you have already attended this, I will automatically send you the link. **If you would like to join, please let me know to send you the link also.***

** I hope there will be further opportunities to link via Zoom across the whole parish as we grow in confidence with this.

3) An overview of worship in the parish in the next two months

This weekend, we will be concluding our sermon series on Spiritual Disciplines, and Andrew Shaw will be preaching for us, via our current 'usual' pre-recorded video, on the topic of fasting.

The service will be sent out to everyone via email in the way that we have been, on Saturday - and our weekly worship activities will also be sent out in the same way to those with children / who care for children to participate in at home.

We continue to link well, through a wonderful team of people from both churches, with those who are not on the internet and this week a further letter with some resources has gone out from me to those households, containing some worship@home activities that are not online.

Going forward, it is a little hard to predict what will happen after May 7th, when the current lockdown will be reviewed. However I think it is realistic to say that worship@home and worshipping in a different way is likely to be with us for quite some time - especially as those of us who are over 70 are already in a longer lock down (for 3 months) even if the restrictions start to lift.

I am currently working on the plan for May and June and will keep you updated as and when things change. For now, worship will continue in a similar format.

In May, we will have a two part sermon series on Prayer. We will have a sermon from Bishop Jo, who would have been due to be with us for our joint service on Sunday 10th May - and then we will celebrate Jesus' Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday as in the church calendar. Further into June we will have a four part sermon series on the book of Jeremiah. I am really excited by each of these themes - and very grateful to the team of people who continue to contribute to our worship, by contributing sermons, intercessions, choosing the songs and creating children's activities. Thank you those wonderful people!

4) Some activities you may like to engage in at home

Whilst many of you are enjoying the relaxation of the lock down (those of you who are not key workers!)... others of you are struggling and quite a few have expressed feeling a need for things to do at this time - or simply wanting to contribute to the community and not being able to.

... Well! The following are 3 ideas which you may like to take part in:

a) **CREATING POSTERS OF HOPE TO DISPLAY AT BOTH OUR CHURCHES:** It would be wonderful to create some displays on our noticeboards and on the front doors of both churches at this time, of colourful posters - sharing messages of hope in the Lord and about the Lord's love to encourage those who walk past.

These could be drawn by children or adults, created on the computer, created with photos - anything you like... and could be either emailed or sent to me (St. Paul's Vicarage, Warren Road, Banstead, SM7 1LG).

I could then laminate them and put them up outside the two churches. This could be a colourful witness to the love of God to those who pass the church buildings - which, so sadly, are shut at the current time.

Please can I encourage as many of you as possible to contribute to this? - and do ask if you have any questions.

b) **CREATING A PARISH PATCHWORK BANNER:** For anyone who likes sewing, I wonder how you would feel about creating a sewn 'rectangle of hope' for a big patchwork banner that we could put together of sewing created by us during this time. Rectangle sizes: 30 cm x 20 cm. (I am NOT a sewer, so if anyone can suggest any advice on this, that would also be appreciated!!)

c) **WRITING ARTICLES ON TOPICS OF INTEREST WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE WEEKLY NEWS UPDATES:** In our usual weekly newsletters, we often try to include an article by a member of the church family. Do you have a topic of interest which you would like to write 300-500 words about to be included in these weekly updates?

If so please get in contact with me and let me know your topic and we can create a plan of when to include each article.

5) People in our parish & linked to us who are in need of prayer

Please be praying for the following all of whom have requested our prayers at the current time:

1. *Please pray for those 3 families in our church family whose parents have died in the past week*

All three families have expressed thanks for the wonderful love and care from church family members - and also by the care homes/ hospital during these difficult weeks.

2. *Please pray for those in our church family whose colleagues have died in the last week, and their colleagues families:*

a) A paramedic whose friend and fellow paramedic, Ian, died this week, following catching coronavirus whilst serving those who are ill in his role. He leaves behind his wife and children. Please pray for them all - and also all at this time, who day after day, are helping those who are very ill with coronavirus in their paramedic work.

b) A friend and colleague at school, Caroline, has also died following catching coronavirus. She leaves behind husband Colin and children Sophie and Tom. Please also be praying for them all, as well as all their colleagues, as the whole school community has been very shocked by this news.

3. *Please pray for those in our church family who are very ill at this time*

4. *Please pray for those in our church family and those in our community who face arranging and attending funerals at this time*

These are very different to what they would have wished for (even though memorials and thanksgivings can also be held when we can). It is very distressing for families and friends of loved ones. Please also pray for those of us who are leading the funerals - where we cannot comfort those who are struggling or carry out pastoral care in the ways we usually would (though we are being as creative as we can!). Quite a few requests for funerals have come to the parish in the last week in particular, as there is a 'lag' in getting deaths registered and all the necessary paperwork cleared due to the current crisis.

Rev Alex Williams
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

The PCC of the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath is a Registered UK Charity No 1180563