

## Vicar Updates - What's Going on in the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath - May 2020?

*Despite the challenges of the current Global Pandemic, there are plenty of things happening in the parish of Nork with Burgh Heath in the month of May and beyond.*

### Worship:

Each Sunday, we will continue to have online worship - provided in email form, with a Youtube sermon from myself or another of our preaching and leading team. We will also continue to provide the additional materials for children & families each week.

*\*\* Many thanks to everyone who has already, or is about to, contribute to these - I know from the very encouraging email feedback, how much the efforts to provide 'worship@home' are being appreciated during this time.*

From Sunday May 1st, we will **also** be having a 9 am Zoom worship opportunity. This will be a 'said' service for anyone from the parish - which will complement the online worship sent out, rather than repeat it. Each service will last for 30 minutes (approx) with time to grab a cup of coffee and share with each other more informally afterwards. (See more information in the Zoom Opportunities section below!).

On Sunday May 17th, there will be a 10 am Zoom worship opportunity for children to attend with their special adults who live in the home with them - which will be specifically focused on the children. It is so important that they have the chance to see each other's faces as well as us seeing each other during this time. (See more information in the Zoom Opportunities section below!).

### The Sermon Focus for May and June:

*Initially we will have a two part mini-series on prayer, then we will follow the church calendar services for Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. Finally, we will have a four part mini-series based on the book of Jeremiah and focusing on keeping going with the task that God has set us in following Him faithfully.*

Date	Service Theme/ Readings
<b>Sunday 3rd May</b>	Prayer (Mark 1.35, Revelation 3.20, other texts TBC)
<b>Sunday 10th May</b>	John 14.1-14 (A lectionary based sermon, which will be provided by Bishop Jo, who was due to visit us but can't)
<b>Sunday 17th May</b>	Prayer (Jeremiah 29.10-14)
<b>Sunday 24th May</b>	Ascension of Jesus (Luke 24.50-53/ Acts 1.1-10)
<b>Sunday 31st May</b>	Pentecost Sunday (Acts 2.1-21)
<b>Sunday 7th June</b>	Trinity Sunday (Isaiah 6.1-8, Romans 8.12-17, John 3.1-17)
<b>Sunday 14th June</b>	Jeremiah: Make no excuses (Jeremiah 1.4-14, 7-19)
<b>Sunday 21st June</b>	Jeremiah: Let your heart be broken (Jeremiah 8.4-13, 18 & 9.1)
<b>Sunday 28th June</b>	Jeremiah: Rise above discouragement (Jeremiah 20.1-13)
<b>Sunday 5th July</b>	Jeremiah: Persevere in Obedience (Jeremiah 37.11-17, 38.4-6 & 14-18)

## Opportunities to Meet Via Zoom:

There will be 12 different opportunities to meet Via Zoom across the parish in the month of May. There are a mix of whole parish and individual church events, and a mix of activities - each of an hour or less. **Please take a look at the list below and email me to let me know which you would like to attend, so I can send you the link to the event and some instructions on how to join/ what to expect.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
<b>Sunday 3rd May</b>	<b>9 am</b> Parish 'Said Worship', followed by coffee & chat	This is for everyone in the parish and is in addition (and different) to our worship@home sent out by email each week
<b>Tuesday 5th May</b>	<b>2 pm</b> St. Paul's Prayer	This is for St. Paul's members, and will include an opportunity to catch up, share prayer needs, and then to follow the Church of England set prayers for the day
<b>Thursday 7th May</b>	<b>4 pm</b> St. Mary's Prayer	This is for St. Mary's members, and will include an opportunity to catch up and then to share prayer needs and pray for them spontaneously, either silently or out loud
<b>Sunday 10th May</b>	<b>9 am</b> Parish 'Said Worship', followed by coffee & chat	This is for everyone in the parish and is in addition (and different) to our worship@home sent out by email each week
<b>Monday 11th May</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b> Prayer for Christian Aid Week	This is for anyone from across the parish, who would like to pray for the work of Christian Aid, as it is Christian Aid week this week (More information on how to give to this cause will follow, although sadly we will not be able to have our usual Christian Aid Quiz this year)
<b>Sunday 17th May</b>	<b>9 am</b> Parish 'Said Worship', followed by coffee & chat	This is for everyone in the parish and is in addition (and different) to our worship@home sent out by email each week
<b>Sunday 17th May</b>	<b>10 am</b> Worship for children & their special adults	This is particularly aimed at children (and their special adults) from either church - and is chiefly an opportunity for the children to see each others faces, catch up and worship God together
<b>Tuesday 19th May</b>	<b>2 pm</b> St. Paul's Prayer	This is for St. Paul's members, and will include an opportunity to catch up, share prayer needs, and then to follow the Church of England set prayers for the day
<b>Thursday 21st May</b>	<b>4 pm</b> St. Mary's Prayer	This is for St. Mary's members, and will include an opportunity to catch up and then to share prayer needs and pray for them spontaneously, either silently or out loud
<b>Sunday 24th May</b>	<b>9 am</b> Parish 'Said Worship', followed by coffee & chat	This is for everyone in the parish and is in addition (and different) to our worship@home sent out by email each week
<b>Tuesday 26th May</b>	<b>2 pm</b> Parish Coffee & chat	For anyone in the parish who would appreciate the opportunity to meet with other church family members online and share news
<b>Sunday 31st May</b>	<b>9 am</b> Parish 'Said Worship' (including a culmination to the Church of England 'Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Week'), followed by coffee & chat	This is for everyone in the parish and is in addition (and different) to our worship@home sent out by email each week

## Pastoral Care Across Our Parish:

We currently have more than 200 people across our parish, receiving calls from a very willing team of church family members who volunteered to help with this at the start of the crisis and have continued, faithfully, to carry out this role since then. *\*\* Huge thanks to this wonderful group of you - your care of others is so appreciated.*

This means the calls are spread out between 16 of us and each team member updates me each week on how their list of people is doing.

I can then call those who are 'flagged up' as being in need of more concentrated pastoral support - and I am grateful to say that the system is working well.

I am also attempting to work through ringing the whole parish list... if you have not received a call yet it is because I have been told you are ok currently.. But I am on the way to you! (It is just that with all the other additional calls and the funeral load currently in the parish there is quite a lot happening.)

We also have another team (though there are some cross-overs) of people who are very willingly shopping for those who cannot at the present time. *\*\* Huge thanks to this wonderful group of you also - your care of others is too greatly appreciated.*

***If you are in need of extra support at this time - please do get in contact with me and I will line up someone to help you as best we can: vicar@norkwithburghheath.com / 07312 113019***

***If you would like to help others during this time - and I have not yet allocated you anyone, OR you are volunteering for the first time, please do be in contact too. As you may imagine, it has been tricky to keep a track of every message during the last month or so, though I have tried my best to do so.***

## Two World-Wide Events in the Month of May:

*During the month of May, Christian Aid Week and Anglican 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer event, both take place. Christian Aid week from 10th-16th May and Thy Kingdom Come from 21st-31st May. We will be supporting both and more information will follow about these in our weekly Parish news emails.*

## Things you can do to at home at the current time:

*Really big thanks to all who have already committed to, or provided some of the following:*

a) **CREATING POSTERS OF HOPE TO DISPLAY AT OUR 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. (Please get these to me by Monday 11th May, by email if possible).

They could be drawn by children or adults, created on the computer, created with photos - anything you like. I will 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.*

### Weekly Vicar Updates & Parish News

As a way of keeping us together, I will continue to provide weekly parish news updates via email mid-week as well as the weekly worship emails. Please do let me know if there is anything you would like shared, whether prayer requests or simply news.

This week I am TOTALLY DELIGHTED to share that Peter and Sue Simpson from St. Paul's are celebrating 50 years of marriage on Saturday. They would like to offer thanks and praise to God for bringing them together, for their marriage and for the love they share. Peter and Sue, it is with very great joy that I tell everyone this wonderful news, which I know will bring very great joy to everyone else too. Many congratulations to you both!

*Do stay in touch, all of you, you are very much loved - by God and by me*

*Love & prayers,*

*Alex*