

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates - Friday 4 September 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well...

This email contains information on the following:

- 1) Food bank collections
- 2) What's happening in the parish this coming week
- 3) An upcoming parish walk
- 4) Events in the parish for September and October
- 5) Worship in the parish for September and October
- 6) Updates from John Baxter about the school in The Gambia
- 7) The services this Sunday, at St. Paul's at 9 am and St. Mary's at 11 am

As always, any queries please do be in contact.

With love and prayers,

Alex

07312113019

1) Food Bank Collections:

Thank you SO much to all who gave so generously to our best food bank collection yet, last week. A photo is attached and the Epsom and Ewell food bank send thanks for the wonderful donations which have already been given out to individuals and families in need.

The next food bank collections will be on:

Wednesday 23rd September from 2-4 pm at St. Mary's, with local friends from Burgh Heath joining in - and an opportunity to also bring contributions to the harvest services that week on Sunday 27th September.

Wednesday 28th October from 2-4 pm at St. Pauls

2) What's happening in the parish this coming week?

Sunday 6th September: 9 am Holy Communion at St. Paul's (by booking only, please)

Sunday 6th September: 11 am Service at St. Mary's (by booking only, please see information below)

Wednesday 9th September: 8 am BCP Communion at St. Paul's (by booking only - information to follow next week)

Wednesday 9th September: 11 am Derek Foster's life group 'one off' meet at St. Mary's

Thursday 10th September 2pm: Parish prayer via Zoom

Sunday 13th September: 9 am Community Alive (non-eucharistic) service at St. Paul's (by booking only, more information to follow next week)

Sunday 13th September: 11 am Holy Communion Service at St. Mary's (by booking only, more information to follow next week)

3) A parish walk - Monday 14th September, 10.30 am, meet at the National Trust Car Park on Ranmore Common

Jane and Simon Morrison have very kindly agreed to lead us on a parish walk, for anyone who would like to attend - on Monday 14th September at 10.30 am.

We will be meeting at the National Trust car park on Ranmore Common and the walk will take approximately 2 hours.

Please ring the Morrisons on 02086430338 to let them know you'd like to take part and for more details.

4) Events in the parish during September and October 2020

Attached is an overview of the events in the parish during September and October. Please do print/ read it and store these exciting gems in your diaries as appropriate!

Currently we are trying to have activities in the churches on Sundays and Wednesdays and activities outside or on Zoom on other days, to help reduce the chances of spreading infection. (After 72 hours there is no chance of this). Where it is not possible to have this gap, extensive cleaning measures are in place.

5) Worship in the parish during September and October 2020

We are now 3 weeks (nearly 4) into the current set up of services, which although 'strange' for everyone are working as well as they currently can. Thank you so much for all the encouragement in recent weeks as some of you have been able to return to church, and others have cheered us on from at home.

We will continue to evolve what we can do with the services as the Church of England and Government guidelines allow going forwards.

In addition to the current set up, in September and October, we are going to start again the alternative non-Eucharistic 'Community Alive' services for children & families at St. Paul's which are usually (please check the events overview for the dates of these, the first is Sunday 13th September), all of which will also be carried out according to the safety measures.

In order to cater for the extra numbers in those weeks and for those at St. Paul's for whom a non-eucharistic service doesn't work so well - and also to cater for the previous 8 am congregation, we are starting a monthly 8 am BCP communion service on Wednesday mornings (please check the events overview for these dates too).

For our Messy Church Families at St. Mary's and across the parish, we are putting on a Youtube Harvest event and plan to put on further events as the term progresses. At the current time the congregation who come to this service would be too large for the limited numbers allowed in the churches. Please see the overview for information on the Youtube Harvest service and 'watch this space' for further events going forward.

We are also experimenting with ways to Zoom our Sunday services to those who cannot attend on a Sunday morning, but who would like to. Eventually (but not yet - and I will write when this change happens) we would also move to sending out an email with a recording following the service instead of the Saturday evening emails which are currently in place. Again 'watch this space' - we hope pilots for this will begin either on the 13th or 20th September.

Finally **DO YOU HAVE TESTIMONIES (Stories of God's faithfulness) TO SHARE FROM THE LAST 6 MONTHS?**

We are hoping to spend time in the services in the coming months hearing stories of God's faithfulness in our services in both churches, to complement our new sermon series on 'The Big Family of God'. These stories could also be shared in writing & via recording in our news emails each week.

Do you have a story which you could send to me or share in a service? Please be in touch!

6) An update from John Baxter on the School in The Gambia

Attached is an update from John Baxter about the school in The Gambia. Please do pray for John, Dorothy, Richard the head teacher and all at the school & in The Gambia in these challenging times.

7) A reminder about the services at St. Paul's (at 9 am) and St. Mary's (at 11 am) this Sunday

Please sign up by 4pm today (following the booking email sent out on Tuesday this week) to attend our services at St. Paul's and St. Mary's this week. The links for which are below:

To sign up to attend St. Paul's at 9 am on Sunday 6th September, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/RrEdFt2dANjuvwWy5>

To sign up to attend St. Mary's at 11 am on Sunday 6th September, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/9w5VaPSXkFKJWPR46>

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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