

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Tuesday 3 November 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping very much you are remaining safe and well - and that you are managing to navigate your way through this week towards 'lockdown 2'.

This email is to let you know some of the plans for the parish, whilst the churches are again closed for public worship and activities.

Please do be in touch if you have any questions - though I may not yet know the answers as much is still being decided at this stage, both by the Government and the Church of England, on the finer details of what we all can and cannot do during this time.

Love and prayers,
Alex
07312113019

LOCK DOWN 2 PARISH PLANS:

Communications and keeping up to date with each other:

The weekly news email will continue as it has done since lockdown began and I am delighted to announce the opening of our new parish facebook page. (Really big thanks to Michael Stevens for getting this up and running for us!). Please take a look on the following link, 'like us', 'follow us' and share with others too:

https://www.facebook.com/Nork-with-Burgh-Heath-113571377219118/?view_public_for=113571377219118

This facebook page will be used to supplement worship, to share appropriate encouraging news, bible verses and reflections - as well as to reach out to those who may not yet know us but may be searching for God at this time.

It is very new at the moment, but we are looking forward to populating it lots in the coming weeks. Our weekly sermons from our wonderful preaching team will also be put on here (as is Alastair's from this week).

Letters are also being written, currently, to all who are not on the internet to update them on the news contained in this email.

The Parish Pastoral Care Network:

This was set up when COVID-19 first hit us - and has continued since in a reduced form once the first lock down ended. We will now return to the more intense pastoral provision we started with (though different people may be carrying out the roles according to who is able to do what at this stage). I am in the process of contacting everyone on the pastoral care network to see who is happy to continue to be shoppers (if needed), medication collectors (if needed) and phone callers (which is certainly needed), plus many additional variations on this.

If you would like to either offer pastoral care - or would like to let us know a need you have - please do be in touch.

The call to prayer & Prayer Booklets for everyone in the church family:

One thing the Church of England has definitely asked us to take forward into this lockdown is the call to pray- for each other, for our nation and for the world.

Thinking that another lockdown may be on the way, a while ago I obtained some prayer & bible resources for everyone in the church family - you will receive these in the next few days, to help and encourage us all in our prayers.

The (approximately) fortnightly prayer meetings via Zoom will continue as they have been since March, but with a renewed focus of praying for specific mission causes as these meetings needed a little refreshing.

Here is the link to the prayer meeting at 3pm tomorrow: <https://zoom.us/j/91513115194?pwd=U0lVY3kwMThKdk5lbnQ0ZXRwM2ZhQT09>

Everyone is welcome - though it would be helpful to know if you wish to come along, as I can send resources in advance of our time together.

The Foodbank Collections

On Wednesday 18th November, we will open both the churches for private prayer (St Paul's in the morning (11am-1pm) and St. Mary's in the afternoon (2-4pm) - enabling anyone who wishes to also drop off items for the foodbank collection which is scheduled for that day to do so.

This means that we will be able to make another much-needed donation to the Epsom and Ewell foodbank as is our monthly practice now.

Operation Christmas Child

Quite a few people are now wondering what to do with their Operation Christmas Child boxes and instead of bringing these to the churches:

Tricia and Deirdre say thank you so much for putting these together.

They can be dropped to the Vicarage Porch *until this Sunday (8th November)*. They will then be taken off to the distribution centre.

Worship

Worship will return to a similar pattern to the last lockdown:

The Worship Email

Although eventually we plan to replace the worship email with recordings of the services Zoomed from both churches (when we are open again and set up to do this), we will continue the worship email for the current time.

Zooming on Sundays at 10 am

The last lockdown provided a wonderful opportunity to bring our church family, across both the churches, together for weekly Zoom services.

These will resume in an updated form - and we will capitalise further on the chance to get to know each other with the opportunity of chatting (over tea / coffee if wished) after the service each Sunday.

The services will be at 10 am each week, except for this **Sunday (8th November), where we will start at 10.15** (with the link open from 10 am) to enable a silence and time of shared reflection for Remembrance Sunday at 11 am.

The Zoom link for this Sunday's service is

here: <https://zoom.us/j/92189150842?pwd=TmpudDNpajVKQ2NtTkxiTkpyZ0tIQT09>

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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