

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Wednesday 25 November 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping this email finds you well.

We are rather packed with news this week! Please do take a good look at it all and put dates into your diaries as you wish, accordingly...

And please do join me, if you are able to, for parish prayers this evening at 7.45 pm on Zoom, to pray about all the news items of this week and the events happening in our parish at the moment: <https://zoom.us/j/91828002364?pwd=VVNpWVVIZGI5TWZ2eEQ5ZHZmajRSZz09>

The items included are:

- a) This Sunday's Zoom Service details
- b) Our parish Christmas Lights Outreach
- c) Our next foodbank collection (with a date change)
- d) Exciting news from the Drewitt Family
- e) Our Carol Service
- f) Other Christmas dates
- g) Advertising for an Operations Manager for the parish
- h) An opportunity to help out with Christmas dinners for those who will be alone this year.

As always, please do be in touch if you have any questions about the contents of this email.

Love and prayers,
Alex
07312 113019

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a) This Sunday's Zoom Service Details

This Sunday (29th November) we are Zooming again for worship, at 10.00 for 10.15 am and the link for this is here:

<https://zoom.us/j/92168075860?pwd=cWVObTBSZGMvRmQ3T1k0bFQwcGo5dz09>

As you enter you will be muted to begin with, to help with the smoothness of beginning the service. As usual, the link will open from 10 am and everyone can chat until the service begins at 10.15. If possible, please can I encourage you not to leave joining until the very last moment, as - if you run into difficulty - it is harder to help you if the service has already begun.

At the end of the service we will have time in break-out rooms for community building and chat in smaller groups for those who would like to do this.

b) Our Parish Christmas Lights Outreach

Please see the flyers attached (thank you to Michael for creating them!): we are hoping to 'bring love to the world - and in particular our local community - with lights this year, by decorating one window in each of our homes with Christmas lights / a nativity scene - or anything you wish to spread the love of God to others and bring them joy.

We are asking people to take photos of the window displays and either send them directly to me (on this email, so it can be added for you) or post them on our parish facebook page (search Nork with Burgh Heath facebook page).

Please send and share the flyers widely with your friends, family and neighbours... photos can be sent in / added any time from now up to the 24th December.

I have contacted the schools and nursing homes to invite them to be involved if they would like to - and will also be personally visiting (a visit from the local Vicar!) all of the shops and small businesses in the parish on our behalf to wish them well in this season - and to invite them to participate.

Please support this in any way you can - and please also pray that many may be reached with the light and love of God this Christmas.

c) Our Next Foodbank Collection

Due to the Food Bank making a call out for goods to be delivered to them earlier in December, so they can be distributed to all the families who need them, we are bringing the food bank collection that had been planned in December forward a week. The NEW DATE FOR THE FOOD BANK COLLECTION IS: 9th December from 2-4 pm at St. Paul's.

Many of you gave incredibly generously a couple of weeks ago (OUR BEST COLLECTION YET - THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED!), so please don't worry if you can't help out again so soon - but please do help if you can.

The items the food bank are particularly hoping for at the moment are: boxes of biscuits, tubs of chocolates, Christmas puddings (non alcoholic), mince pies, yule logs/ chocolate swiss roles, savoury snacks, twiglets, crisps, mixed fruit and nuts, small boxes of shortbread, sweets / biscuits for older or single clients, custard, gravy granules, hot chocolate, schloer/ non alcoholic fizz, Christmas napkins, disposable tablecloths, new tea towels, wrapping paper, gift tags, sellotape.

d) Exciting News from the Drewitt Family

Sophie, George, Florence and Annabel are delighted to announce the birth of Charlotte Rose, born at the beginning of this week.

Congratulations Drewitt family! - we love you and are thrilled for you all at this wonderful arrival!

e) Our Carol Service - Sunday 13th December, 5pm on Zoom

This year (due to COVID-19) we are having one parish carol service, which will be on Zoom on Sunday 13th December at 5pm. We are working at ways to make it a special occasion and one of these is that we'd like to send out a carol service booklet (in the post) and possibly some other items to everyone participating. Therefore, it would be very helpful if you could sign up on the following form to register for this event: <https://forms.gle/ZWMebcbvAUg95bMp9>

An open zoom link (in the same way as our weekly services currently) will also be published nearer the time, but we will only be able to send out Carol service booklets etc to those who have signed up in advance!

Final sign up day will be Monday 7th December.

f) Other Christmas Dates:

It is anticipated that from Sunday 6th December we will be open again (with a booking system as previously) for our 9 am service at St. Paul's and our 11 am service at St. Mary's.

These services will take place on Sundays the 6th, 13th and 20th December as usual at these times (with the 13th also being the Christingle services in the morning) **but not on Sunday 27th December**, due to the COVID regulations and the churches having been open for services on Christmas Day on the 25th.

In addition to these services, will be the following:

Sunday 13th December - Carol Service on Zoom at 5pm

Sunday 20th December - Messy Nativity viz Youtube at 3pm

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve service on Zoom at 4pm

Friday 25th December - Service at St. Paul's at 9 am and Service at St. Mary's at 11 am

There will be an online provision on Sunday 27th December and details about this are TBC.

Details of what is possible for the nursing homes (depending on regulation still being confirmed) will follow.

g) Advertising for an Operations Manager for the Parish

At PCC this week, we agreed that it is time to try again to seek an Operations Manager for our parish. (The advert for this is attached - please do send it around as many people you can or let me know of anyone who you think could be good at this role).

Currently operations tasks are being carried out by Steve Bottom approx 2 days a week on a flexible basis, who is doing a brilliant job mainly focusing on buildings - with the other tasks: further buildings work and most administration tasks being carried out by myself with help, where appropriate, from Michael.

For us to move forward as a parish we need more help!

Applications will be for the beginning of January (the 8th being the final deadline).

Please do pray for God's guidance for this process and that we have good applicants who apply for this role.

h) An opportunity to help out with providing Christmas dinners to those who will be alone this year

This year the Banstead Five churches - of which we are part - are hoping to be able to provide Christmas meals for those in the local community who are going to be alone this Christmas.

We met as an exec and are hoping to find volunteers who are able to do some of the following jobs (socially distanced and safely) either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day:

- Cooking a turkey – Christmas Eve
- Preparing and cooking of veg – Christmas Day
- Making up the meals and placing in the delivery containers – Christmas Day
- Delivering the meals to the doorsteps of those in need – Christmas Day
- Washing up – Christmas Day

All jobs would be completed at a venue nearby still TBC apart from cooking the turkeys which will happen at people's homes, following special hygiene guidance.

Please do let me know if you'd like to volunteer to help with this and I will put your name forward to the organisers.

If you'd like to know more, please do chat to me - or to Tom Ellinor (St. Paul's) or Marian Bateman (St. Mary's) who are our Banstead Five representatives from the churches.

Love and prayers,

Alex

Rev Alex Stevens, Vicar, Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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