

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Wednesday 16 December 2020

Dear Church Family members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Attached are the next 7 windows in our Christmas window outreach! We are absolutely thrilled by the response to this - thank you so much for sending them in... we are up to 11 and more people have let us know they're still being creative and working on them at home. Any time up to the 24th December is fine! Our facebook page is whizzing, with these and other news 😊

<https://www.facebook.com/Nork-with-Burgh-Heath-113571377219118/>

Windows attached are from: Ruth & Paul Boughton, Tomos & Karen Davies (who did 2! totally awesome!), Hilary Latham, Sue Hay, Sarah and Steve Bottom & David Wright. Thank you!

Please do keep supporting this initiative - it is a great way of linking with the local community.

A huge thank you also for contributing to our biggest foodbank collection yet - the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank were absolutely THRILLED with our collection (that photo is also attached).

The rest of this news email contains information on:

- a) Our services for Sunday & the booking links
- b) Our celebration of Fiona & Robin's wonderful ministry here & our sending out of them to Ruxley Parish
- c) The Messy Nativity on Sunday
- d) The links to Tomos' preach and Rhian & her group's beautiful music from Sunday evening's carol service
- e) The remaining Christmas services
- f) Carols at Rosedean Care Home & our links with our other nursing homes and schools this Christmas

Do please stay in touch, as always,

You are much loved - by God and by me.

Love and prayers,

Alex

07312113019

a) Our services for Sunday & the booking links

To book to attend our 9 am Holy Communion Service at St. Paul's, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/Psr9QyR3cWgAsb3J7>

To book to receive the link and service information to Zoom into the 9 am service at St. Paul's, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/ojXPVBraGkA2Kbdk8> (please do record your name - I have no other way of telling it is you!)

To book to attend our 11 am Service at St. Mary's, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/e6LeuPEWNuyhA38P9>

To book to receive the link and service information to Zoom into the 11 am service at St. Mary's, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/wwLQQRpvX2JMC6rt9> (please do record your name - I have no other way of telling it is you!)

The link to attend our 3pm Messy Church Nativity on Youtube is here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCQYnAYv2vVtm8wujk0Xjpw/>

b) Our celebration of Fiona & Robin's wonderful ministry here & our sending out of them to Ruxley Parish

This Sunday - 20th December - at both of our morning services (9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's) we will be giving gifts to, sharing good words with, and praying over Fiona & Robin as they prepare to move to Ruxley Parish in January.

This will be their final 'official' service in the parish, apart from Fiona popping back as a one-off to preach on Christmas Day at St. Mary's - and is to enable them time to get ready and prepare.

Fiona's licensing of Vicar of Ruxley Parish will be on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30 pm. Please *SAVE THE DATE* now, so we can support this as a parish.

More information will follow, in due course, about the details and whether it will be possible to attend in person or on the live stream and everything else we need to know.

Please do keep praying for Fiona and Robin at this time of transition - and remember the key items they asked for:

a) God's grace & help in getting everything managed with packing up one house and moving to another - including the works at the Vicarage they will be moving to (these are complicated!)

b) Finishing well in the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

c) Finding time to hear God despite all the business of the move, so that they are prepared for all that He has for them in this new stage of their ministry

c) The Messy Nativity on Sunday

Nork with Burgh Heath is holding a Messy Nativity, via Youtube, going live at 3pm on Sunday (20th December) - please see the link above.

This has been put together by Fiona & Robin Ellingham, Sue & Dave Wharton and a team of others.

Please do watch the trailer here, where Fiona introduces Ruth Eardley (thank you Ruth!), sharing how to make a 'Messy Nativity

Collage': <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCQYnAYv2vVtm8wuJk0Xjpw/>

It would be wonderful if as many as possible of us could join the link at 3pm, be reminded of the Nativity story and the wonders of this time of year, and support the team in all the hard work they have put in.

Below is a message from them with more information - please note there is an item to respond to today if at all possible - (I did not spot this deadline or I would have put it in an earlier news email):

Dear Everyone,

It's not long now until our online YouTube Messy Nativity on Sunday, December 20th at 3pm and we hope that you're looking forward to taking part. During the service you can celebrate the birth of Jesus by joining in with three activities, a Christmas Quiz with opportunities for discussion with the family, a collage and a decorated candle. Below is a list of the resources that you will need so that you can get begin to gather them ahead of time! The Christmas quiz, created by the Cox family, is attached.

We also thought some of you might like to make an angel ornament so although this won't form part of the service if you would like to do so we will supply all the resources you need. If you'd like to receive a pack please complete the form at <https://forms.gle/xM4W1YMpAkThkVV58> if at all possible by Wednesday December 16th (TODAY!) to allow for quarantine and we'll get one to you!

We'll be telling the Christmas story slightly differently this year with a chance for you to join in. All you need for that is enthusiasm!

We hope that you enjoy taking part in the Messy Nativity and that in this most unusual and challenging of years find consolation in the underlying message of comfort and joy that the Christmas story brings.

With our love

David, Sue and Fiona

Here is the list of resources:

Resources Required for Messy Nativity Activities

Quiz

Question sheet (This is attached)

Answer sheets

Pens

Bells or buzzers (optional)

Collage

Paper or card

Coloured pens or crayons

Glue

Different materials from your home or garden

Decorated Candle

Long candles

Fresh sprigs of rosemary

Brown twine

Elastic bands

Candle pens or sharpies

d) The links to Tomos' preach and Rhian & her group's beautiful music from Sunday evening's carol service

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to our Parish Carol Service on Sunday - it was a very special occasion, despite a few technical difficulties.

I am delighted to be able to share links to both Tomos' excellent sermon and Rhian & her group's lovely singing pieces below. Please do take a listen - the Davies family & friends put such a lot of work into these, and it is a shame the internet was breaking up a bit and Rhian's pieces could not be enjoyed fully by everyone.

Tomos' sermon: <https://youtu.be/5FbHowRtrFE>

Levedy, Lo how a Rose E'er Blooming: <https://youtu.be/3pKWNXA15nk>

Levedy, 'See Amid the Winter's Snow': <https://youtu.be/1zHdyn4SgWk>

e) The remaining Christmas services (from the 24th December through to the 3rd January)

After this coming weekend, the remaining services up to the 3rd of January will be as follows: *(please look out for the booking links for Christmas Day AND Sunday 3rd January this coming week - there will be no planned parish communications during the week after Christmas!)*

Thursday 24th December: 4pm - Christmas Eve Reflections on Zoom (the link for this will be sent out next week)

Friday 25th December: 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's - Christmas Day Communion Celebrations (the booking links will be sent out for these next week)

Sunday 27th December: NO SERVICES IN EITHER CHURCH, there will be a provision online from the Diocese (I will send out the details) as they are encouraging clergy to take the Sunday as a break

Sunday 3rd January: 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's (the booking links will be sent out for these next week)

f) Carols at Rosedean Care Home & our links with our other nursing homes and schools this Christmas

Photos will follow next week (though they are already on our facebook page!), of the group of singers who went with David Wright, Fiona & I to sing at Rosedean Care home this week. Thank you!

We had a wonderful time, which was greatly enjoyed by the residents.

It is good for everyone to know that, although it has not been possible to sing at or visit most of the nursing homes and schools in recent months, I have contacted them all on the behalf of the parish - wishing a happy Christmas & sending cards... and chocolates in some cases too.

Please do keep praying for all 5 schools and all 7 nursing / assisted care homes & places of residence - and let's pray for the time in 2021, when linking in person with them all again will be easier.

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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