

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Tuesday 9 February 2021

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all staying safe and well.

This news email contains the following information:

1. Zoom links for activities this week
2. 'Parcels of love' for the isolated / those who are struggling - CAN YOU HELP?
3. Cards of encouragement for those who have worked the pandemic - CAN YOU HELP?
4. An opportunity to hear about the work of Yagya & Sally Singh in Nepal
5. Our parish giving drive
6. The sermon & intercessions from our service last Sunday
7. A special celebration for Jo Hawkins
8. Updated information on a possible coaching opportunity

Information and the link for next Sunday's service will be sent out later in the week.

Please do keep in touch

Love and prayers,

Alex

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1. Zoom links for activities this week

To zoom in to **THE PRAYER COURSE**, this evening (Tuesday 9th February) at 7.45 for 8pm, please use this

link: <https://zoom.us/j/95120063986?pwd=MGJjRk9oY1ViMi9mNCtiNWhSMUdnQT09>

To zoom in to **PARISH PRAYER**, tomorrow (Wednesday 10th February) at 2pm, please use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96878975254?pwd=OFJwdjBPRFo0ZXA5ZzVCWFImVnNEQT09>

2. 'Parcels of Love' for the isolated / those who are struggling; CAN YOU HELP?

Thank you so much for the great response to making parcels of love for those who are struggling at this time. Please do let me know if you would like to join in with this venture. (See photo attached for examples)

The parcels would include a mix of toiletry goods and also edible treats (with no nuts) - preferably which could be good for either a man or a woman to enjoy! (ie unisex). Each bag would have around 8 different items, which can be small - but together make up a really special gift for someone who needs to know they are loved by us and by God at this time.

If you live nearby the vicarage and are able to drop these to the vicarage porch by Wednesday 17th February this is brilliant - thank you. (Leaving them inside the porch on the seat is fine).

If you need your parcels picking up because this is not possible for you, then please do let me know and I can arrange to come and do so.

3. Cards of encouragement for those who have worked the pandemic

In addition to making parcels of love some others of you may also be happy to make cards of encouragement for those who are working, home schooling and keeping going throughout this time.

Currently our church family is a mixture of those of retirement age or particular vulnerability who have been largely at home since the pandemic began, rightly staying safe...

And those who have been working throughout - either at home or in work, some of whom home-schooling, a number of whom key workers.

Quite a few of us who have kept going throughout find ourselves exhausted at this stage and needing encouragement from the church family members who may have had less to do during recent months than we have.

This is a call out to all who fall into that category. Would you like to make some cards to be sent to others to lift them at this time? Community members and church family members (who fall into this category) alike.

These can also be dropped to the Vicarage porch - and will be delivered with an encouraging message with 'love from the church family of St Paul's Nork & St. Mary's Burgh Heath'.

Please do join in if you can! The more cards the better.

4. An opportunity to hear from Sally & Yagya Singh about their work in Nepal

Sally and Yagya Singh run Bridges Nepal, a missional organisation working in Nepal and one of the six mission organisations that we support as a parish.

They have offered to do a presentation, via Zoom, for anyone who would be interested to find out their work on Wednesday 24th February at 8pm.

To sign up for this, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/xL85gZsvJUwLAXdm6>

5. Our Parish Giving Drive

Over the next few weeks we will, as a church family, be given the opportunity to reflect on our giving: of our time, our talents and also financially to the parish. Michael and myself will be doing this ourselves, along with everyone else.

This is necessary at this time because, due to COVID-19, we - as with very many organisations - are facing financial challenges and we need to gain as good a picture as we can of our financial forecast for the coming year & beyond.

Over the next few weeks there will be a sermon from myself, a presentation by Piers (our parish treasurer), a letter & pack which will be sent out by Simon Morrison (our Giving Officer) who is kindly doing the hard work towards this for us all.

This is inevitably a difficult and possibly emotive topic for many of us who may be struggling at the moment. Some of us may be able to give more than we are currently financially - but others may need to choose to give less because of job loss or uncertainty. We completely understand if this is the case.

Whatever your position currently, please do help us by taking the time to think and pray about your giving to the parish to enable us to plan for the future.

Being a relatively new parish we are in particular need of establishing a clearer picture of what is possible for our churches and the local community from us. We had hoped to go through this process last March after the APCM which had originally been planned for then - and due to COVID-19 this was postponed, but it is something we really need to work through at this time.

6. The Sermon, reflective singing piece and intercessions from last Sunday

Many thanks, again, to all who contributed to the service on Sunday.

Sue's intercessions are attached to this email and the link to Andrew's sermon is here: <https://youtu.be/1YaQYLY0rE4>

Below is the link to Rhian Davies' reflective singing piece: 'But who may abide the day of His coming' from Handel's Messiah.

<https://youtu.be/sQ4-l-v1ICo>

Please do take the time to listen again to her wonderful work for us - I know it took many hours of putting together. Thank you so much Rhian - we all think you're brilliant.

The members of our church family who have requested our prayers at this time are as follows:

- **Dave Wharton**, who is now home from hospital and continuing to recover from COVID-19. Unfortunately David also fell at home during the week and has additionally hurt his ribs. Please also pray for Sue as she supports and cares for him.
- **Miriam Oakley**, who has been unwell this week and is having tests at hospital on Monday. Please also pray for Neill as he supports and cares for her.
- **Tony**, Geraldine Kirby's partner who has been ill in Epsom hospital with COVID-19, but is now off oxygen. Please also pray for Geraldine, who has not been able to see Tony for several months now.

- **Sarah Shaw**, who had a fall at home from her standing frame on Monday and has broken her shoulder - for quick recovery and for Andrew and Catherine as they care for her at home
- **Sheila Hinton**, who fell and hurt dislocated her shoulder a while back but has now discovered she severed a nerve in her arm when she did this. Please pray for her and for the treatment she is receiving which is hoped will get the arm moving again.

7. A special celebration for Jo Hawkins

Congratulations to Jo Hawkins, who celebrated her 90th birthday this week! What a super milestone.

Jo, we send love from all in our church family and hope you enjoyed a really wonderful day.

8. Coaching?

A couple of you have asked about the coaching information I sent out last week, as I forgot to add the link for the website which explains more about this.

I have never met Sharon Strong - and have no idea of her faith & thoughts about religion- but she got in contact offering free coaching to anyone I knew of who may wish for this.

Name: Sharon Strong

Email: sharonstrong54@yahoo.com

Tel: 07533243679

Website: blueskiestherapy.co.uk

If you are interested in this, please check out the website carefully- including the information on Sharon's training, and contact her for further details.

Not knowing her, I cannot vouch for the quality of her work.

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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