

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 17th June 2021

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. The booking links for this week's services (Sunday 20th June, at 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's)
2. Our next foodbank collection
3. An opportunity to become a Mission Partner Champion for our parish
4. A Banstead Five Information evening
5. Our next parish walk
6. Our church family directory
7. Our Christian Aid collection
8. Gardening at St. Mary's
9. Our Giving Drive
10. Upcoming retreats at the House of Prayer

Love and prayers
Alex
(07312 113019)

1. The booking links for this week's services (Sunday 20th June at 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's)

To book to attend the service at St. Paul's on Sunday (20th June) at 9 am, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/tZpv8foGjWGdGYS8A>

To book to attend the service at St. Mary's on Sunday (20th June) at 11 am, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/nDLDiEcdUTMj1iU67>

Please book by 12pm on Saturday, as Michael and I will set up the churches in the afternoon.

It will also be possible to Zoom into both and the information for this will be sent out on Saturday.

2. Our next foodbank collection

Our next food bank collection will be on Tuesday 29th June, from 2-4 pm, outside St. Mary's.

Items the foodbank are currently collecting are: dog food (wet and dry), biscuits, children's toothpaste, breakfast cereal (not porridge), pulses, tinned meat, hot chocolate, tinned vegetables, instant mash, tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes, tea bags,

washing up liquid, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant (male and female), treats and snacks for children.

Foodbank dates for the rest of the year (all between 2 and 4pm) are:

Wednesday 28th July, outside St. Paul's
Wednesday 25th August, outside St. Mary's
Wednesday 22nd September, outside St. Paul's
Wednesday 20th October, outside St. Mary's
Wednesday 17th November, outside St. Paul's
Wednesday 8th December, outside St. Mary's

3. An opportunity to become a Mission Partner Champion for our parish

Over the next few months, as society begins to open up again more fully, I will be contacting everyone in more detail about some of the events and opportunities coming up in our parish.

These opportunities include a number of new roles & ways to serve our Lord if you'd like to - and one of these is to be a Mission Partner Champion.

Last year, the PCC (based upon proposals from the church family) selected 6 organisations to be our Mission Partner Champions in our parish for two years.

These are:

BACSECT (John & Dorothy Baxter's school work in The Gambia)
Bridges Nepal (Sally & Yagya Singh's projects in Nepal)
Open Doors (working with persecuted Christians across the world)
London City Mission
CAP (Christians Against Poverty)
Sutton Street Pastors

We give to each of these organisations each month, splitting 10% of your giving to the parish between them and we also pray for them regularly too.

Now, I would like to champion these organisations better in our parish - in the next year we will be inviting each organisation to present to us all about their work... and I am looking for 6 people to be the Mission Partner Champions (1 for each organisation) to help us all to be more aware of their work.

A role description for this is attached. Please would you pray - and, if you feel that God has put it on your heart to take on a role like this, then please get in touch for a chat with me. I am looking for people with a heart for God's mission in the world - not for any one particular organisation, as each will need a representative.

If you have any questions, please do be in touch.

4. A Banstead Five Information evening

Continuing in our theme of being missional, on Tuesday 29th June at 7pm, we will be holding a Zoom evening in our parish for anyone who is interested in churches working together in the local area to serve our Lord and, in particular (on this evening), to find out about the Banstead Five.

The Banstead Five are a group of 5 churches / sets of churches (ie it is both St. Paul's & St. Mary's we come as one family), who agreed a covenant to work together to share God's love here in Banstead and its surrounding areas, over 25 years ago. The Covenant was agreed with St. Paul's and now St. Mary's have joined in by being family with St. Paul's.

Since this time, this group of churches have worked together on events such as holiday fun weeks, praising in the Park and other events big and small. Some of you were involved in delivering Christmas meals to those who were isolated and vulnerable at the end of last year through this.

As St. Mary's members are newer to this relationship than St. Paul's members, I thought it would be good for us to hold a 'find out more' evening and have invited Neil Allison, Chair of the B5, to attend and present to us.

It will also be an opportunity to think about appropriate ways that we can support the 'Banstead Five' further.

To sign up to attend this evening and be sent the Zoom link, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/9ZiMf8g7XoVZ35Zb8>

5. Our next parish walk

Our next parish walk will take place on the morning of Saturday 19th June (this Saturday) and is around 3 1/2 miles.

This will be led by Jim Illingworth, who plans to start at Langley Vale and visit the forest of soldiers' memorials, followed by a picnic on the Downs.

If you would like to join this walk, please email Jim: jim.illingworth@virgin.net

He will contact those who do so, giving full details, including joining instructions and contact details for use if the weather is doubtful and you wish to enquire whether the walk is still on. (Please do let Jim know if you sign up and then are unable to come so he knows how many of us to expect).

6. Our church family directory

Michelle has kindly been researching all the GDPR regulations for our church family directory and we are delighted to attach a form for you to fill in if you would like your details included in this.

Our plan is to include anyone who would like to be and to circulate the directory around those in the church family who opt into this. We will issue further instructions, but we will probably charge a small fee e.g. £1 for it and ask everyone to keep it in a locked drawer so that church family contact details cannot be found by others who do not know us.

We will not share your details unless you specifically give us permission to do so - and this is separate permission to the ability to contact you ourselves which we already hold.

The wonderful thing about this will be it will grow further our church family links, as you will be able to contact each other if you wish to, to share news and build each other up.

The form attached can be returned by email or by post to Michelle our operations manager:

operations@norkwithburghheath.com / St. Paul's Vicarage, Warren Road, Banstead, SM7 1LG (marked for ATO Michelle Cahill)

Or given to one of us in church.

The forms will also be sent out in the post to you all.

7. Our Christian Aid collection

We have been collecting for Christian Aid in the parish for a few weeks now (trickier than usual in covid times). Thank you to everyone who has already contributed.

If you would like to still do so, donations can be put through the vicarage door in an envelope marked 'For Christian Aid', at any point up to Wednesday 23rd June.

8. Gardening at St. Mary's

For around 20 years now, possibly more - he does not 'sound his own trumpet' - Doug Nurse has been doing a superb job of tending the St. Mary's garden. Thank you SO much Doug... we will be thanking you properly in a service in due course as well. The garden is looking wonderful and always does - we so appreciate it.

Doug would love to continue with this (gardening is one of his greatest passions and it is his favourite way of serving God), but it has become a bit too much for him to manage everything himself and so we are looking to put together a team or a rota across the year of people who may be happy to give 1-2 hours every few months to complete some basic gardening tasks to support him.

Doug will continue doing the tasks he can - and will be 'lead gardener' for us - but the rest of us would help out at his direction.

If you might be happy to help with this, please be in contact, so we can put together a rota.

This role may be particularly attractive to those who are nervous about being inside the building currently - as it is all work outside.

9. Giving Drive

A message from Simon Morrison (Giving Officer), Pier Clark (Treasurer) and myself:

We have had a very positive outcome to the recent Giving Drive - many thanks indeed for all the responses at a time which has been very difficult for everyone. We believe that undertaking this exercise has not only given the PCC a better feel for our finances going forward but also helped to draw people in the parish together as we plan the pathway back towards normality. We had some generous one-off gifts in March - thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to our parish financially, whether recently or for many years. If you still wish to do so, it is not too late! - and if you are having any difficulty with the details of the form-filling etc, please do be in touch.

10. Upcoming retreats at the House of Prayer

Attached are the details of the upcoming retreats at the House of Prayer for June & July.

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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