

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 30th September 2021

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping very much that you are well.

A really huge thank you to everyone to who contributed to our collection for refugees from Afghanistan and across the world. A photo of the goods collected is attached, which is enormously encouraging. Each of the piles on these tables was stacked really high, which you can't see so easily from the picture (ie lots of items for those in need!). Thank you!

At our PCC meeting on Monday 20th September, the PCC for our parish have also agreed to donate £1000, from our parish funds for mission to those in need, to this very important cause.

Other news items this week include:

1. Information on our services and our current COVID-safety measures
2. Some news from George Drewitt & Oli Moore
3. Alpha
4. Our Facebook Page
5. Links to the sermons from the last 2 weeks on You tube
6. The Burgh Heath Resident's Association Quiz, on Saturday

Love and prayers,

Alex

07312 113019

1. **Information on our services and our current covid-safety measures**

In our PCC meeting on the 20th September, the PCC reviewed our current covid-safety measures for services and other activities in our church buildings.

We have concluded that for the current time we will continue to:

- Provide Zoom for those who cannot, or do not feel comfortable to, come to church at present
- Share the peace by waving and nodding, rather than actual physical contact
- Take communion in one kind (wafers only)
- Wear masks for services, including to sing (but please see notes below about refreshments!)
- Maintain a degree of social distancing by sitting on alternate rows in the churches (maintaining choice about how near to each other church members sit on any row)
- Use hand sanitizer on arriving and departing from the building

From this Sunday (3rd October), we have decided:

- That there is no longer a need to book to attend services, though we will ask the welcomers to keep a register of names which will be kept by Alex and then destroyed after 21 days (so that everyone can be notified if someone amongst us lets me know they have developed covid)
- To re-introduce refreshments after each service. (During refreshments, once drinks and biscuits etc have been collected, church family members are able to take their masks off to enable eating and drinking). To begin with tea and coffee will be served in disposable cups, and biscuits etc will be bought (and packaged), rather than home-made, as this is the more covid-safe option for this time

The PCC agreed that these decisions apply to both worship and other meetings in the church buildings. However all of us acknowledged that services and activities involving children require a greater degree of flexibility, whilst aiming to keep as many of the above measures in place as possible. Separate risk assessments have been drawn up for Community Alive (the St. Paul's family service) and Messy Church (The St. Mary's family service) which enable the children to interact and enjoy games and crafts together. Children under 12 and those who are medically exempt are, of course, not expected to wear masks.

We continue to keep our covid-safety measures under review, as we head into the winter and observe local infection rates. At the current time, and for quite a long time, infection rates in Reigate and Banstead have been and remain high.

We thank you hugely, for the way everyone has kept with the safety measures requested up to this time. Whilst it is not at all easy (we continue to live in challenging times!), they are in place to enable the majority of people in our church family (as well as any guests who attend) to be, and feel, as safe as possible.

2. **Some news from George Drewitt & Oli Moore**

Please pray and give thanks for George Drewitt and Oliver Moore, who are both running the London Marathon this Sunday. Go George! Go Oli! We are really proud of you both!

George is running for the charity Afasic, of which he is also Chairman of the North Surrey branch. The link for his fundraising page and more information is here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=george-drewitt-VLM-2021&pageUrl=2>

Oli is running for Vision Foundation. The link for his fundraising page and more information he here: <https://visionfoundation.enthuse.com/pf/oli-moore>

3. **Alpha**

Alpha begins on Wednesday next week, the 6th October at 8pm. Thank you so much to Andrew Shaw and the team who will be running this.

Hilary Latham has kindly created a prayer card which will be given out in the services this week, and which is also attached, so we can all be praying for this course and the participants. The prayer card contains a programme, showing what topic is being covered each week.

4. **Our Facebook Page**

Michael, who keeps our parish Facebook page full of news & loads our sermons onto YouTube, writes:

As a way of helping everyone to take part in helping us grow our church family and helping those who do not yet know our loving God to come to faith, we would love it if you would be happy to contribute to the content shared on these platforms. (Thank you so much to those who have already done this).

We would love to receive from you:

1. *Particular bible verses that you like, saying why you like them and how they have impacted your life*
2. *A story of something good that God has done in your life*

3. *A poem or something similar about your faith*

Please either write these down or, if you wish, make your own video and send these to either socialmedia@norkwithburghheath.com or to 07943 331914

If you have not followed our Facebook page yet, you can easily find us by typing NBHSurrey into the Facebook search bar.

Thank you

Michael

4. **Links to the sermons from the last 2 weeks on You tube**

To listen to Tomos' sermon on Joshua chapter 3, 'Crossing the Jordan', from Sunday 19th September, please click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps5vyu5Okko>

To listen to Judy's sermon on Joshua chapters 5 & 6, 'A Miracle', from Sunday 26th September, please click on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCP-NE_HpaU

Thank you to both Tomos and Judy for these excellent sermons. I am absolutely loving finding out about the book of Joshua in greater detail and hope you all are too.

5. **The Burgh Heath Resident's Association Quiz, on Saturday**

Burgh Heath Residents' Association are holding their annual quiz on Saturday night at 7.30 pm (Saturday 2nd October).

Tickets are £10 per person and include

- a) the quiz
- b) a fish & chip supper
- c) snacks and condiments provided at each table

People are encouraged to bring friends and family, in groups of up to 8; and to bring their own drinks and any cutlery or glasses they may wish to use. Tickets are available from Eileen Clark (07809749205) or eileen.clark4@btinternet.com or Ann Dobson anndobson680@btinternet.com

David Wharton is also happy to be contacted for further information: david.ob1@hotmail.co.uk

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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