

## **WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping this finds you well.

### **Operation Christmas Child:**

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who contributed to our food bank collection this week - and also who contributed boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We collected 81 shoe boxes filled with toys and other items, for children across the world who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas. They have now been taken to a distribution centre to be sent off.

We also collected, thanks to the contributions of some wonderful knitters in our community: 95 children's hats and 53 mittens!

Absolutely wonderful. Thank you very much indeed! And thank you, in particular, to Tricia Peacock and Deirdre Jackson, who led this outreach together.

### **Dates for Christmas Events and Services:**

The coming 6 weeks (the rest of 2021) are busy for our parish and some key dates are below:

Saturday 4th December, 10 am - 12 pm: Christmas Crafts morning for all ages at St. Paul's  
Wednesday 8th December, 2 - 4 pm: Parish food bank collection at St. Mary's, including collection of Christmas parcels of love for those who are isolated and vulnerable at this time  
Saturday 11th December, 10 - 12 pm: Refresh@10 Relaunch & Christmas Celebration  
Sunday 12th December, 9 am: Community Alive Advent Service at St. Paul's  
Sunday 12th December, 4pm: Christingle Service at St. Paul's  
Tuesday 14th December: 2pm - Christmas Carol services & Carol singing for our local Nursing homes (arrangements TBC, as it depends on regulations nearer the time how many of us can go)  
Sunday 19th December, 11 am: Messy Nativity at St. Mary's  
Sunday 19th December, 6.00 pm: Parish Carol Service, at St. Mary's  
Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve, 3pm: Christingle at St. Mary's  
Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve, 5.30pm: Parish Crib Service, at St. Paul's  
Saturday 25th December, 9 am: Christmas Day service at St. Paul's  
Saturday 25th December, 11 am: Christmas Day service at St. Mary's

Please do store them in your diaries and come to as many of these special occasions as you can.

### **Parcels of Love for Christmas:**

On the 8th December, when we do our Christmas food bank collection, we will also be collecting Christmas Parcels of love (gift bags filled with 8-10 small items which may bless an isolated member of our local community this Christmas). We will be collecting them at the vicarage porch from now until the 8th December, or they can be delivered on the 8th itself.

If you would like to contribute a parcel for an adult man or a woman, please do not include any nuts or alcohol.

Please do be in contact if you would like any further information.

## **Boxing Day (Sunday 26th December)**

On Boxing Day, neither St Paul's or St Mary's will be open. The Diocese are generously providing a pre-recorded service for that day, which can be enjoyed from the comfort of our own homes, following many of us being in church on Christmas morning the day before. (This means clergy members can take time with their families that day). More details about this will be sent to everyone nearer the time.

### **Other items of news:**

This Sunday it is 'Messy Church' at St. Mary's. Please do come along and think of any families you may wish to invite also.

### **Please also pray for:**

Beryl Davis who has been in hospital unwell for some time and for the Quin family, as they continue to mourn the death of Dan's mum Karen.

Love to you all  
Alex

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