

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 8th December 2021

Dear Church Family and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well and enjoying this busy advent season.

Thank you so much for the lovely parcels of love for those in need, which have been arriving on the Vicarage doorstep over the last few days.

I am looking forward, very much, to seeing those of you who are bringing food bank items and other parcels of love to St Mary's between 2 and 4pm this afternoon.

We had a wonderful Christmas crafts morning at St Paul's last Saturday, thank you so much to all who attended and supported with this event.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. Our Refresh@10 Re-launch on Saturday (11th December, 10 am)
2. Our Christmas Lights Campaign
3. The Banstead 5 Advent service
4. A call out for budding actors for the Messy Nativity at St. Mary's
5. Pray for 5
6. Eco Parish
7. A reminder of the parish dates for the rest of this year

Love and prayers
Alex

07312113019

1. Our Refresh@10 Re-launch on Saturday (11th December, 10 am - 12pm)

Refresh@10, our monthly community coffee morning at St. Mary's is relaunching after COVID, with a Christmas Special on Saturday (11th December) from 10 am- 12pm.

Please do come along to support this wonderful occasion and the return, more regularly in the new year, of this important outreach.

Throughout 2022, Refresh@10 will meet on the last Saturday of every month and these dates will be published in an overview of new year dates at the beginning of January.

2. Christmas Lights Campaign

Following this working so well last year, we are repeating our Christmas Lights outreach again this December.

At any point up to Friday 24th December, please can you decorate a window in your house with Christmas lights or a nativity scene to show others around us a little of the love of God this Christmas.

Please take a photo of your window and either email it back to me or to Michael on socialmedia@norkwithburghheath.com or post it to our parish Facebook page which can be found by searching NBHSurrey on Facebook.

Please see the flyer attached for more information. And please do share this with friends and family so they can join in too.

It would be wonderful to have as many windows decorated as possible! Two have already been sent in: Thank you Michael and George & the Drewitt Family!

3. The Banstead 5 Advent service

This evening, at All Saints Banstead, there is a Banstead Five Advent service at 7.30 pm.

All are welcome to attend, either in person or on Zoom, for which the information is below:

Banstead 5 Churches is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Banstead 5 Churches' Advent Carol Service

Time: Dec 8, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83644760431?pwd=b3BSSVVjYS9rSkROT29oOGJ5U1dOdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 4476 0431

Passcode: 224342

4. A call out for budding actors for the Messy Nativity at St. Mary's

Dave Wharton is putting together a nativity sketch for the Messy Church Nativity at St. Mary's on Sunday 19th December.

Please contact him asap on david.ob1@hotmail.co.uk to volunteer to take part.

5. Pray for 5

Thank you so much to Sue Wharton and Tomos Davies for explaining to everyone about our Parish Evangelism Hub and introducing 'Pray for 5' during advent (and beyond).

A link to their talk from Sunday is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARoqBfHtoIE>

Following questions from some of us, Sue has also kindly produced some pointers to help us further with pray for 5. These are attached.

6. Eco Parish

Thank you so much to Jim Illingworth for presenting to us about ECO PARISH on Sunday 28th November.

The link to Jim's talk is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wtuHD-Oe24>

A copy of our starter ECO PARISH action plan is also attached, so you can see the things we are doing first to target this important area - and the progress we are making towards each of these, which is annotated on the plan.

In the new year we will meet again, review our progress towards these targets, and set some more.

7. A reminder of the parish dates for the rest of this year

The remaining key dates for our Parish for the rest of this year are as follows:

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

Sunday 26th December: Online Service provided by the Diocese (more information about this will follow)

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

07312 113019

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