

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 17th MARCH 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping this finds you well.

This week has been full of many different delights, including 3 lovely services at the nursing homes with David Wright - and a superb visit from 46 members of Aberdour to St. Mary's this morning to learn about the church and Easter. It was wonderful to see how excited the children were - though I think I was helped by the fact that this was their first visit off-site (due to covid) for two years. What a privilege!

Little Roots at St. Paul's has had such encouraging numbers recently, that we have had to double the space set aside for the children and their parents/ carers each week - taking up over half the church! And the 8 am BCP communion at St. Paul's on Tuesdays has started well and is turning out to be a blessing to all of us who attend.

Last week's 'Community Alive' at St. Paul's was another lovely occasion - and we look forward to Messy Church this week at St. Mary's.

There is much to be encouraged about in our parish at the current time and these are just a few of the many events which are taking place.

This news update contains information on the following:

- a) Foodbank collection (Wednesday 23rd March, 2-4pm, at St. Paul's)
- b) Ukraine collection (Wednesday 23rd March, 2-4 pm, at St. Paul's)
- c) Some dates for your diaries
- d) Grow your own lunch & plant sale
- e) Operation Christmas Child
- f) Some B5 updates
- g) A message from Lynne Coppin

Love and prayers,
Alex

a) Foodbank collection (Wednesday 23rd March, 2-4pm, at St. Paul's)

Our next Foodbank collection will be on Wednesday 23rd March, from 2-4 pm, at St. Paul's.

The items needed by the food bank this time around are: tinned fruit, ketchup, powdered milk, long-life puddings, tea bags/ coffee, sugar (500g bags please), tinned fish, washing up liquid, squash, deodorant, tampons, children's toothpaste and toothbrushes 0-2, pasta sauce, long-life fruit juice, small snack-sized chocolate (freddos, penguin bars etc), hot water bottles

Hope to see you there! Thank you for your very consistent support of this good cause.

b) Ukraine collection (Wednesday 23rd March, 2-4 pm, at St. Paul's)

Alongside our Foodbank collection this month, we will also be collecting for Ukraine and will be sending our donations via 'Surrey Stands With Ukraine'. Items which are needed are :

Medical items: bandages, wound pads, dressings, ibuprofen, paracetamol, disinfectant of all kinds, anti-burn creams and treatments, SAM splints

Search and rescue equipment: Hand torches and handheld torches, power banks 10,000 MAH+, Used smart phones (with Wi-Fi access), thermal socks in all sizes, large sized thermal tops and bottoms, thermal hats and gloves of all sizes, sturdy outdoor boots, ear protectors, dark coloured waterproof clothing and ponchos, dark coloured sleeping bags (large sizes) and ground mats

Non perishable food-stuffs: tinned food, such as soups, pulses, pasta, dried food, energy and cereal bars

c) Some dates for your diaries

Please save these dates in your diaries, more information will follow in future news emails:

Monday 25th April, 7.30 pm, will be our APCM

Saturday 21st May, will be a parish plant sale (please see below for more details)

Sunday 31st July, will be our annual parish picnic, for which Michael and I will be opening out the vicarage gardens again if it is dry (the St. Paul's hall is the back up plan)

Saturday 13th August, will be our parish coach trip to Hever Castle - Geoff Marshall is very kindly organising this for us

d) Grow your own lunch & plant sale

Deirdre, Morna and Theresa are running 2 wonderful activities, to help us meet our Eco church targets and also to help us to raise money for charity & enjoy ourselves into the bargain.

They ask: please can we all be growing edible produce from now ready for later in the year.

This could be in gardens if we have them, or planted in small pots.

They are going to hold a plant sale on Saturday 21st May, from which the proceeds will be split between Christian Aid and A'Rocha. Please grow plants that you'd be happy to give to the parish to sell for these causes. I believe we need to be planting them NOW for them to be ready 😊

They are also asking that we grow foodstuffs to share at the parish lunch on the 31st July.

Please do join in with this wonderful cause!

e) Operation Christmas Child

Tricia and Deirdre and others of you have received information that our 78 shoe boxes, collected for Operation Christmas Child in November 2021, seem to have gone to LIBERIA in West Africa! Some 79,301 boxes went to Liberia from the UK.

Tricia also packed two shoe boxes online and these went to Belarus.

The total number of shoe boxes collected in the UK last year was 227,350, of which 32,000 were packed online.

If you hear that a shoe box of yours was sent to another destination, please do share with Tricia or Deirdre, as we'd love to hear about it.

They say - thank you for your support and blessings. I say thank you again to both of them for organising this for us each year.

f) Some B5 updates

The Banstead Five Churches are very much hoping to re-start 'Holiday Fun' week this year, which will be on the week beginning the 25th July. They can only do this if there are enough volunteers to help look after all the children. Please take a look at the flyer attached to see if this is something you would like to support.

The Banstead Five Churches are also hoping to renew their covenant to work together, as has been the case for many years now. I have invited Neil Allison the B5 chair to come and share with us at the whole parish service on Sunday 27th March more about this. There will be an anniversary service for the B5 on Sunday 15th May (more information will follow after Neil has visited).

g) A message from Lynne Coppin

Lynne Coppin has written to let us know that after a 2 year delay she was able to fly to Nepal on Monday 7th March and she took with her 12 kilos (!!) of T shirts, leggings and toothbrushes that had been donated by the church family. Please do be praying for Lynne, as well as Sally, Yagya and Vera, whilst she is over there. They will be going to Jharlang village to spend time with families and attend church and assess the education projects. They will also be visiting the site of the water project in Bhadrugun.

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath
07312 113019

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