

## WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the wonderful Food Bank and Ukraine collections on the 23rd March (photos attached). The Food Bank items have already been delivered and very gratefully received - and we shall be delivering the Ukraine items ready to go onto a lorry next week.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. Our Easter Services
2. Our Parish Easter Egg Hunt
3. Masks and covid safety
4. Fellowship Group on Monday next week
5. The Lent Course on Tuesday next week
6. Our Parish Plant Sale!
7. An invite to a coffee morning to raise money for Ukraine from the Mayor
8. Abbie Ellingham's upcoming wedding
9. Retreats at the House of Prayer in East Molesey

Love and prayers

Alex

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### 1. Our Easter Services

A flyer showing all of our Easter Services is attached.

At 7.30pm on Thursday 14th April, we will be having a Maundy Thursday Communion service with foot washing (optional!) at St. Paul's

At 11 am on Friday 15th April, we will be having a Messy Easter Celebration at St. Mary's

At 3.00 pm on Friday 15th April, we will be having reflections on the cross at St. Paul's

At 2.00 pm on Saturday 16th April, we will be having a Parish Easter Egg Hunt, at the St. Paul's site, making use of the Vicarage garden and backlands

At 9.00 am and 11.00 am on Sunday 17th April, we will be having Easter Communion Services at St. Paul's and St. Mary's respectively.

Please do share the flyer and spread the word!

### 2. Our Parish Easter Egg Hunt

Everybody is welcome at our Parish Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 16th April at 2pm, at St. Paul's (and in the Vicarage grounds and backlands).

Please do spread the word, in particular, around any children and families you know who may enjoy this fun event.

### **3. Masks and covid safety**

Now that the Government has lifted legal requirements for all covid safety measures, and also now that we are coming into the springtime (and so having doors and windows open is more likely to give a better flow of air in our buildings) it is time to review our covid safety measures in our churches again.

Many of you have been very patient whilst wearing masks in church when you would not ordinarily choose to. Others of you still feel very anxious about this and would like to continue to do so.

The Church of England advice is to take the needs of all in our church family into account - and, whilst we are in line with most of the churches in our deanery currently in having continued to wear masks throughout this time - there is some variety amongst individual churches across the Diocese and the UK in how we have each chosen to approach this in recent months. Parishes are being asked to make their own choices, according to the needs of their own church families and others who may come along to our churches.

From this Sunday, we will be removing the crosses on the rows, and it will no longer be necessary to sit on every other row in church. (For those who would prefer greater social distancing, seats at the sides of both churches will be available for this). We will be keeping hand sanitising at the beginning and end of services - and will continue to have communion in one kind, as well as to share the peace without touching. All of these will be kept under review.

With regards to mask wearing, I would like to seek your opinions on this (by replying to this email) as to what your thoughts are on mask wearing in our churches is at this stage:

1. What is your preference on whether we continue to choose to wear masks for services?
2. Are there parts of the service where it is more important to be wearing masks than others?
3. Do you have any ideas about how to balance the wishes & needs of those who would very much prefer not to wear masks anymore, alongside the wishes & needs of those who would be fearful continuing to come to church if we stop yet?
4. Do you have any other suggestions which may help us to look after everyone (with all of our breadth of opinions and needs) in the continued context of covid being with us, infection rates being high, but also us needing to learn to adjust to this and move forward together

I look forward to reading your responses. Please can you reply by Wednesday next week (6th April) if you can, to give me the chance to look at what everyone has said before our services on the 10th. I will give a further update on our next steps once I've had the chance to read what you all say. Thank you for your help!

### **4. Fellowship Group on Monday next week**

The final fellowship group session will be on Monday next week (4th April) at 7pm on Zoom and the link for this is here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82977993444?pwd=NTI2ckQ4VG5SeWV5SWFuWTVsbotnQTog>

Everyone is welcome, whether you have taken part before or not.

Please come with a bible passage, prayer, piece of artwork (which will need to have been sent to me in advance so I can show it on my screen) or anything else which has inspired you in your walk with God recently.

We will share these and pray together.

Look forward to seeing you there.

**5. The Lent Course on Tuesday next week**

The next Lent Course (session 4 of 5) is on Tuesday evening (5th April) at 8.00 pm on Zoom.

The link for this is here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87400938288?pwd=ZDA5U1JTTmFJRnBnOXpIVU9wZW02QT09>

The Bible reading and session questions have been attached to this email.

Look forward to seeing you there.

**6. Parish Plant Sale! Saturday 21st May, 2pm Outside the St. Paul's Church Hall**

Deirdre, Theresa and Morna are organising a Parish Plant Sale to raise money for Christian Aid and A'Rocha.

This will be on Saturday 21st May, at 2pm, outside the St. Paul's Church Hall.

Are you able to grow some plants to donate to this special event?

Please could you let us know what you may be able to grow by emailing Michelle on:  
[operations@norkwithburghheath.com](mailto:operations@norkwithburghheath.com)

This is so we can have an idea of how many plants we may have and plan a little more easily.

Thank you!

**7. An invite to a coffee morning to raise money for Ukraine from the Mayor**

Attached is a flyer from the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, who is having a coffee morning to raise money for Ukraine.

Please do take a look and go along if you'd like to

**8. Abbie Ellingham's upcoming wedding**

Robin & Fiona Ellingham would like to extend an invitation to those at Nork with Burgh Heath to the marriage of their daughter Abbie Ellingham to Jack Strachan. The marriage will take place at St Paul's Howell Hill, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HS on Friday 8th April, at 12:30pm. All are welcome. Please be in your seats by midday. If you need any more information, please contact Fiona Ellingham

[Fiona.ellingham66@gmail.com](mailto:Fiona.ellingham66@gmail.com) 0208 391 4404.

**9. Retreats at the House of Prayer in East Molesey**

Attached is a flyer showing some retreats at the House of Prayer in East Molesey, in case these are of interest to you.

Love and prayers,

Alex

**Rev Alex Stevens**

**Vicar**

**Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath**

**07312 113019**

*The PCC of the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath is a Registered UK Charity No 1180563*

