

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 6th AUGUST 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hope you're all well.

It seems hard to believe that another week has gone by in the busy life of our parish. How can it be August already?!

Being the beginning of August, means that we have a very special birthday in the church family this weekend:

Derek Foster is 90 tomorrow (Sunday 7th August)!

Happy birthday Derek. Congratulations! We all love you so much and hope you have a wonderful time celebrating.

The rest of this email has information on the following:

1. Parish Prayer on Tuesday evening
2. The Coach trip to Hever Castle on Saturday 13th August
3. The Games afternoon at St. Mary's on Monday 15th August
4. The Songs of Praise evening at St. Mary's on Sunday 21st August
5. An update from John Baxter on the school in the Gambia
6. A message from Michael about some ideas for the new website we will be launching in the Autumn
7. A message from Betty, June and Pat (Beryl Davis' sisters)

Love and prayers
Alex

1. Parish Prayer on Tuesday evening

Our next parish prayer meeting will be on Tuesday evening (9th August) at 7.30 pm on Zoom.

The link for this is here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84421262048?pwd=MopVTDISQldqYzhnYnZITkNHWEQ5Zz09>

Please do join if you can. We will be praying for the parish. The meeting lasts for around 40 minutes.

2. The Coach trip to Hever Castle on Saturday 13th August

It is not too late to sign up for our coach trip to Hever Castle next Saturday. (A big thank you to Geoff Marshall who will be leading this for us).

A big group of us are already coming, but we still have space for you too if you'd like to join in.

All profits will be given to BACSECT (the school in the Gambia, supported by John and Dorothy Baxter).

Please see the flyer attached for more information and contact Michelle for tickets.

3. The Games afternoon at St. Mary's on Monday 15th August

Following the wonderful craft morning at St. Paul's at the end of July, we will be holding a 'boardgames afternoon' at St. Mary's on Monday 15th August from 2-4 pm, where tea and cake will also be offered.

This will be a lovely opportunity to socialise gently with one another, chat, drink tea and coffee - and play games if wished!

A flyer is attached. Please do come - and invite your friends too if you can.

4. The Songs of Praise evening at St. Mary's on Sunday 21st August

On Sunday 21st August, we will be having a Parish Songs of Praise evening at St. Mary's, which is being led by Andrew Shaw and some of our other worship leaders from the parish.

This will be at 6pm and will be a great opportunity to sing our hearts out, praising God, singing old favourites and also possibly learning some new songs.

A flyer is attached. Please do come - and invite your friends to join in as well if you can.

5. An update from John Baxter on the school in the Gambia

John and Dorothy Baxter send their love and good wishes to everyone and attached is John's latest update from BACSECT (the school in The Gambia) and also an article from 'The Point', the newspaper of The Gambia.

6. A message from Michael about some ideas for the new website we will be launching in the Autumn

Michael is currently doing some work on a new website for our parish, which we plan to launch in the Autumn. He writes with a request for suggestions from you:

Our Parish has come so far in the last few years, and we have shown that although we have 2 Churches, we really are one family, united in our love of God and each other.

There are a lot of things happening now as we stride forward into the future and away from the difficulties faced during the lockdowns and such like in the recent past, and one of these things is the joining of our Parish on the internet with our Parish website which will replace the existing websites that each Church has.

This website is all about our family and reaching out to those out there looking for the joy that we all share: our faith in God and relationship with Him and our Saviour Jesus. In the digital world that we now live in it is more important than ever to have a strong presence on the internet, and to use this as a means of outreach.

A great way to enable this is to be more engaged in our local community, and a way we would like to do this on our new website is to have a section dedicated to sharing information on this, and that is where we need your help.

We would like this section to be a one stop shop for information about the community within our Parish, so for example is there a local shop that goes that extra mile, or a community group that you think others may be interested in, maybe even the best place to get something to eat?

There are no real rules here except that anything you nominate must be within our Parish, so go on, get your thinking caps on, and if you would like to make a nomination for inclusion in this section please get in touch via email with information on who you are nominating and why to:

socialmedia@norkwithburghheath.com

Our new website is launching in September, so you don't have long!

We really would like this to be an opportunity for you all to be part of our website as we set this up, so, who is it that you are going to nominate?

Thanks for your time.

Michael

7. A message from Betty, June and Pat (Beryl Davis' sisters)

Betty, June and Pat all send their thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to Beryl's thanksgiving & funeral on Friday 29th July. They have so appreciated everyone's loving support, the music, the flowers, the sorting of the church & carpark and all that went into the services that day. Thank you all!

Love and prayers,
Alex

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