

## WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 26<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hope very much this finds you all well & a warm welcome to those of you who have joined our mailing list over the summer.

A total dates overview for the next four months is nearly complete and will be published shortly, but for just a few (there are lots more!) of the items we will be up to in the coming months, please read on!

This week's news email contains information on the following:

1. Our whole parish service at St. Paul's on Sunday (28th August)
2. Refresh@10, tomorrow (Saturday 27th August at 10 am at St. Mary')
3. Forest Church (3pm on Sunday in the St. Paul's Backlands)
4. Money raised for BACSECT and a visit from John and Dorothy Baxter
5. The Listening Course
6. Alpha
7. Soaking
8. Confirmation
9. Ride and Stride
10. A message from Derek Foster
11. A message from The Elson Family

Love and prayers,  
Alex

---

### 1. **Our whole parish service at St. Paul's on Sunday (28th August)**

On Sunday (28th August), it is our next whole parish service, which will be at St. Paul's at 10 am. (This replaces the services at 9 am and 11 am and we will all join together for this one service at 10 am. We look forward to seeing there.

### 2. **Refresh@10, tomorrow (Saturday 27th August at 10 am at St. Mary's)**

Tomorrow it is the next 'Refresh@10' coffee morning at St. Mary's, where anyone can come between 10 am and 12 pm for refreshments and fellowship. Please do come along if you can - and enjoy chatting with friends, old and new.

### 3. **Forest Church (3pm on Sunday in the St. Paul's Backlands)**

Our next Forest Church will be at 3pm on Sunday (28th) August, in the 'Backlands' behind the St. Paul's hall.

We'd love to see you there if you are able to join us. Come and enjoy worshipping God outside in His creation!

#### **4. Money raised for BACSECT & A Visit from John and Dorothy Baxter**

I am delighted to let you know that not only did we have a wonderful trip to Hever Castle (thank you so much to Geoff Marshall for leading us on this lovely day out). We also raised £204.65 for BACSECT (The Baxters' school in The Gambia). John and Dorothy send their thanks for this.

**Please do SAVE THE DATE of Sunday the 2nd October at 3 pm in your diaries.** I am delighted to say that John and Dorothy are coming to visit us for the afternoon, where we will have a special extra afternoon service and John will share about the work of BACSECT. We will then all have cakes and other refreshments at St. Paul's.

I had a lovely chat with John on the phone a week or so ago. He is covering for another church in interregnum until after Christmas and so he and Dorothy cannot visit us on a Sunday morning - hence the special afternoon event.

#### **5. The Listening Course**

Do you recognise the importance of good listening in helping us in our relationships and in our ability to service God and others well? Listening is so important and yet we all, at times, struggle to do this well.

Miriam and Neill Oakley are running a listening course for our parish, at St. Mary's on Tuesday evenings, at 7.30 pm on the following dates:

20th September  
27th September  
4th October  
Not 11th October  
18th October  
25th October  
1st November

Please save the dates in your diaries... (more information will follow). Places are limited for this course and so it will be on a first come, first served basis. Do email Mimz to let her know you are hoping to join in asap! [mimomob@hotmail.com](mailto:mimomob@hotmail.com)

#### **6. Alpha**

We are running Alpha again this Autumn and, this time, it will be led by Andrew Shaw and David Packham.

This will be on Wednesday evenings and will begin on Wednesday 28th September. (Posters and flyers are under print and will be available from next week).

Please do think about whether you would like to attend this course and/ or whether there are friends you could invite.

Please do contact Andrew ([LLM@norkwithburghheath.com](mailto:LLM@norkwithburghheath.com)) or David ([Curate@norkwithburghheath.com](mailto:Curate@norkwithburghheath.com)) for more information.

## **7. Soaking**

Do you ever find yourself wishing you could have a bit more space with God, but find it hard to fit into a busy diary?

Miriam Oakley and Val Gurney will be providing us with once monthly 'soaking' sessions, where we can spend around an hour listening to music and/ or being quiet with God and focusing in on Him.

These will be at St. Mary's, at 4pm, on the following dates:

Sunday 18th September

Sunday 16th October

Sunday 20th November

Sunday 11th December

There is no need to book. Please do come and join us!

## **8. Confirmation**

Confirmation is an opportunity for those who were baptised as infants to declare our faith in our Lord Jesus as adults.

The Deanery Confirmations are coming up on Sunday 4th December in the evening.

We already have one member of our church family being confirmed that evening (more information to follow when I have checked I have permission to share who this is!).

Would you like to be confirmed too?

Please do email me for further information and a chat!

## **9. Ride and Stride**

'Surrey Churches Ride and Stride' is an event which takes place on the second Saturday of September every year, to raise money for the Trust (they help churches with funding for projects) and also churches/parish, with half the money going to each.

It will be taking place on Saturday 10th September and members of the church family are asked to walk, cycle or drive between churches in Surrey, collecting sponsorship for the distance covered.

Coming out of the pandemic and with rising costs for all of us, including churches, it would be wonderful to support this event and as many church family members who wish to can do so. There are a number of projects in the parish we could do with extra funds for currently and so this really would be a great help.

If you are available and would like to take part, please contact Michelle on [operations@norkwithburghheath.com](mailto:operations@norkwithburghheath.com) for more information

**10. A message from Derek Foster**

Derek says THANK YOU SO MUCH, for the wonderful cards and messages he received for his 90th birthday the other week. He received over 60 of them and is amazed that most of them were different to each other - so there are many 90th birthday cards in circulation! He sends his love to you all.

**11. A message from The Elson Family**

Please see the following message from the Elson family, following the sad death of their daughter Katie a few weeks back:

*"We will be having a Service to celebrate Katie's life on Saturday 24th September at 2pm at St Paul's Church, 15 Northey Ave, Cheam, Sutton SM2 7HS. With Tea and Cake afterwards.*

*We ask if possible to wear black or purple (her favourite colour)*

*Please no flowers, but if you would like to donate, there will be a collection on the day for charities close to us*

*It is likely to be very busy, but there is plenty of parking there and in surrounding streets.*

*If you are planning on attending, please e-mail me at "roblottie432@tiscali.co.uk" with "Katie Elson" as the subject heading, with numbers planning on attending, it will help with catering purposes and seating arrangements*

*We are hoping to have a live link on the day for those unable to attend, so please message me if this is the case and once I have it, I can forward. "*

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*