

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 23rd December 2022

Dear Church Family and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

A very Happy Christmas & New Year, when the time comes, from David, Margaret, Michelle and Michael and I. We love you all very much.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. Christmas Eve Christingle at 3pm at St. Mary's
2. Christmas Eve Crib Service at 5.30 pm at St. Paul's
3. Christmas Day 10 am WHOLE PARISH SERVICE at St. Paul's
4. New Year's Day 10 am WHOLE PARISH SERVICE at St. Mary's
5. A letter from the wardens about giving towards special projects in the parish, across both churches
6. A thank you from the Watson family
7. An invitation from the Parnall family to join them to celebrate New Year's Eve
8. Songs of Praise song choices (our next Songs of Praise is coming up on Sunday 29th January at 6pm at St. Mary's)
9. A Parish Fund-Raiser on Saturday 4th February at 3pm at St. Paul's - please save the date for a harp concert from a lovely lady called Margaret Watson (who is a professional harpist). More information to follow in the new year.

Love and prayers,
Alex

1. Christmas Eve Christingle at 3pm at St. Mary's

Tomorrow, Christmas Eve, at 3pm we will be holding our Christingle Service at St. Mary's. We are looking forward to seeing you there - please do tell friends and family and bring them along also!

This will be a short service of approximately an hour, where everyone will have the opportunity to make Christingles and also to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

2. Christmas Eve Crib Service at 5.30 pm at St. Paul's

Tomorrow, Christmas Eve, at 5.30 pm we will be holding our Parish Crib Service at St. Paul's. We are looking forward to seeing you there - please do tell friends and family and bring them along also!

This will be a short service of approximately an hour, where children will have the opportunity to dress up as characters from the nativity story (if they wish to). We will retell the story with acting and searching for hidden models of nativity figures, as well as singing traditional carols and praising God.

3. Christmas Day 10 am WHOLE PARISH SERVICE at St. Paul's

This year, as has been publicised since September, we are having one Christmas Morning service, at 10 am, for the whole parish.

This year it will be at St. Paul's.

We look forward to seeing you there.

4. New Year's Day 10 am WHOLE PARISH SERVICE at St. Mary's

On Sunday 1st January (as has also been publicised since September), we will be having one New Year's morning service, at 10 am, for the whole parish. This will be at St. Mary's.

We look forward to seeing you there.

5. A letter from the wardens about giving towards special projects in the parish, across both churches

Thank you so much to those who have kindly donated to the Parish Projects Appeal, following a letter which has been sent out by the church wardens on this topic.

It seems that some people have received the letter and others have not (some letters may still be on the way in the post), so I attach the letter and the gift aid form which goes with any giving to this email.

Please do read it if you have not received it yet and pray about how you may give to help our parish to continue to build for the future. We are hoping to receive any gifts you may wish to offer by the end of January 2023.

Please do not worry though if you are struggling at this time - we know that times are hard for many and do not wish anyone to feel under any pressure to give if this is not possible for you.

6. A thank you from the Watson family

Jean, Bruce and Phil Watson send their thanks to everyone who has supported them so wonderfully in the last two very difficult months. They have felt surrounded by love and care and are very grateful for this.

They send love to you all for a happy Christmas and New year.

7. An invitation from the Parnall family to join them to celebrate New Year's Eve

Simon and Judy Parnall are generously inviting anyone from the church family who would like to join them to their home on New Year's Eve. Please see their message below:

Simon and Judy Parnall are opening their house in Kingswood on New Year's Eve. If you would like to spend the evening with friends and don't have anywhere to go yet, they would love you to join them

for food (a buffet we all contribute to) company and even a game or two (if you fancy). Please contact Judy if you would like to join them for details of where and when and to let her plan the food so we don't have 10 pavlovas and nothing else! Her email is judy.parnall@me.com and phone number is 01737 830888.

8. Songs of Praise song choices (our next Songs of Praise is coming up on Sunday 29th January at 6pm at St. Mary's)

As was mentioned in the notices at both churches last Sunday, we are delighted to be having another Parish Songs of Praise, which will be on Sunday 29th January at St. Mary's.

Andrew Shaw and the team would love to know your favourite songs so that they may be able to include some of these in the evening.

A form is attached which can be filled in (available in both churches also) and handed to Andrew, or you can email him on LLM@norkwithburghheath.com

9. A Parish Fund-Raiser on Saturday 4th February at 3pm at St. Paul's - please save the date for a harp concert from a lovely lady called Margaret Watson (who is also a professional harpist). More information to follow in the new year.

Please save the date of Saturday 4th February at 3pm, where we will be having a parish fundraising concert.

Margaret Watson, who is a lovely harp player, is coming to play for us. We will also be serving refreshments and so this is a social opportunity too.

This will be at St. Paul's (as the Songs of Praise the week before is at St. Mary's). Tickets will be economical (price TBC), and all proceeds will go towards our parish fundraising campaign.

It will be appropriate for children as well as adults - Margaret says all are welcome.

More information will follow in the new year.

Love and prayers
Alex

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