

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 12th February 2023

Dear Church Family and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed so generously to our recent projects giving appeal. I am delighted to say we raised £18,343.75 - which is absolutely wonderful. Thank you!

Thank you also to everyone who attended Margaret Watson's marvellous harp concert on Saturday 4th February at St. Paul's. Through her, and your, generosity, we also raised £601.20. We hope to hold other events in the future which will work in a similar way.

Another thing I am thrilled by from the last week is that Michael and I were able to welcome 27 children and 21 adults to Little Roots (our Parish Toddler Group at St. Paul's on Tuesday mornings). We have grown so much recently that the group now takes up more than half of the church and we have 46 toddlers and 40 adults on our books in total, which is growing every week. Praise God, for this wonderful example of Him at work - and thank you to Michael who leads this group, supported by Michelle and others, every week.

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

- a) Zoom Prayer Meeting
- b) Craft Morning
- c) Foodbank collection
- d) Ash Wednesday
- e) Parish Lent Course
- f) Deanery Greenery
- g) Parish Walks
- h) Refresh@10
- i) BCP Communion
- k) King Charles Coronation
- l) Giving to support victims of the earthquake in Turkey & Syria
- m) Supporting Afasic (a local Surrey charity)

Love and prayers

Alex

- a) Zoom Prayer Meeting

Our next Prayer meeting is on Tuesday 14th February, at 8 pm on Zoom.

This will be led by David Packham and you can join him on the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88597357455?pwd=dzVMcExtUXRLYitKc1F5Y3hNZytCZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 9735 7455

Passcode: 962945

- b) Craft Morning

On Thursday we will be holding our next parish craft morning, aimed at children of primary age, from 10 am - 12 pm at St. Paul's.

Please do spread this round your friends and family who may be interested. These are extremely popular events and we look forward to welcoming many families again this week.

Please see the flyer attached for further information.

c) Foodbank Collection

Our next Parish Foodbank collection will be on Wednesday 22nd February, between 2 and 4 pm, and will be at St. Mary's.

Items being collecting on this occasion are: cooking sauces, rice pudding, tinned fruit, instant mash, tinned vegetables, longlife fruit juice, long life sponge puddings, squash, weetabix, honey, marmalade, peanut butter, ketchup, brown sauce, mayonaise, shaving foam, shaving gel, female deoderant, toilet roll, washing up liquid, washing powder, washing pods and washing tablets

d) Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday 22nd February, we will be having a Parish Ash Wednesday service at St. Mary's at 7.30 pm. Please do join us for this service which marks the beginning of Lent.

e) Parish Lent Course

David Packham is going to be leading a Lent course for us this year, based on the Church of England Lent Reflections 'Dust and Glory' and also the Lent book written by Emma Ineson.

This will be for 6 weeks on the following Monday evenings: 27th February, 6th March, 13th March, 20th March, 27th March & 3rd April. Venue TBC.

Please contact David to express your interest or to let him know you would like to join the course:

curate@norkwithburghheath.com

f) Deanery Greenery

Jim Illingworth is our parish representative on the 'Deanery Greenery' group - people from our deanery C of E churches who have a passion for leading us in our eco-friendliness and caring for God's world.

He has invited the group to meet with us on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30 pm to discuss ways the different churches can support each other in this area.

We will be having a speaker, Alison Moulden, who is the diocesan representative on Eco Parishes.

All are welcome to join us for this meeting.

g) Parish Walks

Every month, usually on the third Saturday of the month, a group from our parish go walking to enjoy fellowship together.

The next walk is on Saturday 18th February.

If you would like to be put in contact with the group leaders for more information, please do email Michelle on operations@norkwithburghheath.com

h) Refresh@10

Our next Refresh@10 coffee morning is on Saturday 25th February at St. Mary's from 10 am - 12 pm. Please do come along and join in the fun and fellowship!

i) BCP Communion

Every week at 8 am on a Tuesday, we hold a BCP communion service at St. Paul's (occasionally replaced by morning prayer if Alex is unable to be there).

A strong and very faithful group join for this worship every week and we'd love it if others wished to join us too. Please do come along if this would be of interest to you.

k) King Charles Coronation

Some of you have rightly been asking what we will be doing to celebrate King Charles' upcoming Coronation, which will be on the weekend of the 6th May.

We are wondering about holding a parish lunch on Sunday 7th, but are also wondering whether many of you may be involved in street parties that weekend and so would like to find out what might work.

Please can you contact Michelle to let her know if you would be around for a parish lunch on May 7th (as far as you can tell) and would like to be there.

operations@norkwithburghheath.com

l) Giving to support victims of the earthquake in Turkey & Syria

In the news recently we have all been horrified by the devastation of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

There are many ways to give to support people who are suffering through losing loved ones and homes.

One way is through giving to the charity Tearfund, for which the link is here:
<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>

m) Supporting Afasic (a local Surrey charity)

As well as being Warden for our parish, George Drewitt is also Chairman of the charity Afasic North Surrey, a charity which supports children with speech and language and developmental needs.

Please see this link: <https://www.afasic.org.uk/>

This quarter, Afasic North Surrey have been selected by the Asda foundation to take part in their Green Tokens scheme in Burgh Heath.

Due to covid restrictions, the scheme is online only, so they would love some online votes from us to maximise the donation. If they come first place, they will raise £500 for the charity.

Please use this link to vote: <https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4167>

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