

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 19th June 2023

Dear Church Family and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Since the last email, I am able to confirm that we raised £360 for the Baxter's school in The Gambia - thank you so much to everyone who contributed to this wonderful cause. John and Dorothy send their love and I attach a copy of their most recent newsletter.

We also hosted Deanery Synod at St. Paul's on Thursday evening, which was a lovely occasion - with many people commenting on what a beautiful church it is. Michelle and I will both be continuing as Diocesan Synod representatives this year (Michelle in her capacity as Deanery Secretary and myself as a clergy representative for our deanery) and I have now joined her on the Deanery Leadership Team for a three-year term. Therefore, we have really good links at both Diocesan and Deanery levels for knowing what is going on and keeping up to date with important information for our parish and local area.

This news email contains information on the following items:

1. David Packham's upcoming ordination to Priest on the 1st July 2023
2. Marian Bateman's trip to Romania
3. Helping with the Afasic holiday weeks in the summer

AND OTHER PARISH CALENDAR DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

4. Refresh@10 on Saturday 24th June, from 10 am - 12 pm
5. A visit from Sally, Yagya and Vera Singh, on Sunday 25th June
6. Songs of Praise on Sunday 25th June
7. Food Bank Collection on Wednesday 28th June

Love and prayers,
Alex

1. David Packham's upcoming ordination to Priest on the 1st July 2023

On Saturday 1st July, David Packham is being ordained for a second time, this time as Priest (having been ordained as Deacon in the Church of England last year). The service will be at 10.30 am and is a ticketed event at Guildford Cathedral.

David has about 15 ticketed spaces (in addition to direct family members and close friends) which are available for parish members to book on a 'first come, first served' basis if you would like to join him in the cathedral. The event will also be live streamed (we won't have the details of this until the week before the service but will share this then- so it will be possible to watch from home as well). In addition, we will have a special celebratory service in the parish on Sunday 2nd July (a whole parish service) at 10 am at St. Mary's, where David will preside over his first communion, and we will follow with a 'Bring and Share' lunch to enjoy together.

More details will follow about the bring and share lunch and whole parish service on the 2nd July, but if you would like to book a ticket to attend the service at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday 1st July at 10 am (on a first come, first served basis), please use the following link to let David know: <https://forms.gle/CDnJui3YtJgQqr6z5> or, alternatively, please email David directly: curate@norkwithburghheath.com

2. Marian Bateman's trip to Romania

Marian Bateman has travelled to Romania and arrived safely (on Friday) and would greatly value prayers for her and the team for the ten-day visit.

She writes: We'd very much value prayers throughout our mission trip to Romania. I'll be travelling from Heathrow (T4) as part of a small team lead by Clive and Ann McIntyre, of Barnabas Outreach Trust, on Friday 16th June, returning on Monday 26th. Both weekends we'll be involved with either youth or children's work and a ladies' meeting, and 3 Sunday services of and 1 1/2 – 2 hours each. During the week we'll be working with pastors visiting different rural churches, with a service and home visits every day, and one visit to an elderly people's home, all sharing the love of Jesus and praying with people.

3. Helping with the Afasic Fun weeks in the summer

Please see attached a flyer from George about helping with the Afasic holiday clubs this summer.

4. Refresh@10 on Saturday 24th June, from 10 am - 12 pm

The next Refresh@10 will be from 10 am - 12 pm on Saturday 24th June at St. Mary's and is for the whole parish, please do pop along for tea, coffee, cakes, fun and chat. This event is a lovely opportunity to get to know others in a relaxed and welcoming environment. All are welcome!

5. A visit from Sally, Yagya and Vera Singh, on Sunday 25th June

I am delighted to let you know that Sally, Yagya and Vera Singh will be visiting us for our Whole Parish Service at 10 am at St. Paul's on Sunday 25th June, to share about their work with Bridges Nepal, one of our Mission Partners. They are really excited to see you all, so please do book the date in your diaries.

6. Songs of Praise on Sunday 25th June

We are really excited that the next Parish Songs of Praise will be on Sunday 25th June, at 6.30 pm in the evening at St. Mary's. All of the team are working hard towards this, led by Andrew Shaw. A flyer is attached for this special event. Please do share with friends and family - far and wide, and please do put the date in your diaries yourselves.

7. Food Bank Collection on Wednesday 28th June

Our next Food Bank Collection will be on Wednesday 28th June, from 2-4 pm, outside St. Mary's. Items currently being collected by the Epsom and Ewell Food Bank are:

Tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, cooking sauces, coffee, custard, Long-life sponge puddings, squash, tinned spaghetti, honey, jam, cereal bars, deodorant, adult toothbrushes, washing-up liquid

Love and prayers,
Alex

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