

## WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Church Family and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

This morning, as I write, the Little Roots Toddler Group are enjoying their summer party (St. Paul's is full of excited children!) and their busy special adults. Our parish schools are also into their final shows and assemblies, ready for finishing for the summer break. It is such a busy time for children and families!

Last week David Wright and I were very encouraged to give our first communion service (at least for many years) at Fir Tree House, as well as the usual services at Montclair and Banstead Manor Care Homes. This is a wonderful new opportunity, and we had the privilege of worshipping with 14 lovely residents and two members of staff. Please do pray for this special new link to flourish in the coming months.

Some of you are also aware, because of not being able to get through the Gardenfields Gate on Sunday (!) that we are having some works done on the drains at St. Mary's. The cellar has a tendency to flood in bad rain and this has, at times, caused further damage to the church and so we are trying to enhance the drainage to put us in a better position to avoid problems. We are hoping the works will be completed by the weekend, but please do look out for any messages to the contrary. It is still possible to park in the car park as usual.

In the rest of this news email, I wanted to highlight the following events, coming up in the next couple of weeks:

1. Forest Church on Sunday 23rd July at 3pm in the St. Paul's Backlands
2. Our next Food Bank Collection (Wednesday 26th July, from 2-4 pm, outside St. Paul's)
3. Refresh@10 on Saturday 29th July from 10 am - 12 pm at St. Mary's

And advance notice of

4. Our Parish Picnic on Sunday 27th AUGUST from 12 pm, which will be in the Vicarage Garden

Love and prayers,  
Alex

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### 1. **Forest Church on Sunday 23rd July at 3pm in the St. Paul's Backlands**

Every month, on the 4th Sunday, we meet for Forest Church at 3pm in the St. Paul's Backlands (behind the hall). This is an opportunity to worship God, in different ways, outside - and usually involves crafts, games and snacks as well as a bible reading and prayers. It is aimed particularly at children & families, though everyone is most welcome.

We next meet on Sunday 23rd July, please do come and join us if you'd like to

### 2. **Our next Foodbank Collection (Wednesday 26th July, from 2-4 pm, outside St. Paul's)**

Our next Foodbank collection is on Wednesday 26th July, from 2-4 pm, outside St. Paul's. The Epsom & Ewell Foodbank are currently collecting the following items: tinned meat, custard, dried noodles, long-life sponge puddings, sugar (500g and 1Kg bags), shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, nappies (sizes 5+, 6 and 6+), sanitary pads, washing up liquid, small chocolate bars and treats

Please do support this important ministry, which is needed more than ever at the current time.

**3. Refresh@10 on Saturday 29th July from 10 am - 12 pm at St. Mary's**

The next Refresh@10 will be on Saturday 29th July, from 10 am - 12 pm at St. Mary's. This is a lovely opportunity to come and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes and chat with others and enjoy fellowship together. Please do come along if you can.

**4. Our Parish Picnic, in the Vicarage Garden, on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST from 12 pm**

At the end of August (Sunday 27th) we will be having a parish picnic and (as long as its dry) this will be in the Vicarage Garden from 12 pm.

Everyone is welcome - please do 'save the date' and more information will follow

Love and prayers  
Alex

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