

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 7th October 2023

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

The last few weeks have seen some lovely occasions occurring in our parish, including two baptisms - one at St. Mary's, last weekend and one at St. Paul's, this weekend. Little Roots continues to flourish, working well on two days of the week (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) instead of one - and we had an absolutely bumper Food Bank collection on the 27th September (do see photos attached). The Epsom and Ewell Food Bank were thrilled with our contributions and send their thanks to everyone. Meanwhile, 31 people attended the last Refresh@10 - to the delight of everyone there.

These are just a few highlights - many more things have been happening in our parish also... and there is more to come.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. Resting in God, at 4pm on Sunday 8th October at St. Mary's
2. Songs of Praise, at 6.30 pm on Sunday 15th October at St. Mary's
3. Our next Food Bank Collection between 2 and 4 pm on Wednesday 18th October at St. Paul's
4. 'Low Key Affair' concert on Saturday 21st October at 3 pm at St. Paul's
5. A call to bake cakes for this concert
6. Our next Whole Parish Service, on Sunday 22nd October, at 10 am at St. Paul's
7. A Ukrainian Refugee needing a home
8. An invitation to join one of our Parish Connect Groups

Love and prayers,

Alex

1. Resting in God, at 4pm on Sunday 8th October at St. Mary's

Our next 'Resting in God' prayer meeting will be at St. Mary's at 4 pm tomorrow (Sunday 8th October). Miriam Oakley will lead us in spending time resting quietly in God's presence, listening to some music and readings and also enjoying some periods of silence. This time is very refreshing and comes highly recommended by those who attend. Do come and join us if you're able to.

2. Songs of Praise, at 6.30 pm on Sunday 15th October at St. Mary's

Our next Parish Songs of Praise will be on Sunday 15th October at St. Mary's at 6.30 pm. Do come along and also invite friends and family to join us. Andrew and the team have been working to make this another wonderful occasion - and there will be three more people sharing testimonies of God at work in their lives.

3. Our next Food Bank Collection between 2 and 4 pm on Wednesday 18th October at St. Paul's

Our next Parish Food Bank Collection will be on Wednesday 18th October between 2 and 4 pm outside St. Paul's (or just inside the porch if it's wet). The Epsom and Ewell Food Bank have let us know they are really struggling for enough food for people, so please do give as generously as you can to this important cause.

The food items they are particularly interested in at this time are as follows: UHT milk - full fat and semi skimmed, jars of pasta sauce and cooking sauce, Long-life sponge puddings, tinned vegetables, tinned sweetcorn, pulses, sugar (500g or 1kg bags please), jam, ketchup, mayonnaise, savoury biscuits, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, shaving gel & foam, nappies 6+

4. 'Low Key Affair' concert on Saturday 21st October at 3 pm at St. Paul's

On Saturday 21st October at 3 pm, 'Low Key Affair', Jim Illingworth's band will come to give a concert at St. Paul's. This will be a joint fundraiser - where the proceeds will be shared between our parish and also Dyscover, the charity Jim works with. The concert will be informal, and children & families are welcome - tables will be laid out round the church and tea, coffee & refreshments will be served as part of our time together. There are no tickets for this concert - we will be collecting donations and encourage everyone to give as they feel able.

5. A call to bake cakes for this concert

If you enjoy baking and would like to bake a cake for the concert above, please could you let me know. The only stipulation is that they need to be nut free (as there are people in our parish who have a serious nut allergy) - the more cakes made, the more will be able to be given out to those who attend the concert!

I will be very grateful to hear from you.

6. Our next Whole Parish Service, on Sunday 22nd October, at 10 am at St. Paul's

Sunday 22nd October at 10 am will be our next whole parish service, which this time around will be at St. Paul's. It will also be Harvest and we will pray for the Food Bank that day. Members of Peggy Carapetian's family will also be attending the service to mark 1 year since her death - to remember her and celebrate her life. They are looking forward to joining us for our service.

7. A Ukrainian Refugee needing a home

I have had an enquiry from a middle aged male Ukrainian refugee, who is looking for a new official host home. He has been living in Ireland and wishes to move over to England. If this would be of interest to you - please do contact me for further details.

8. An invitation to join one of our Parish Connect Groups

We currently have 3 connect groups (named in some other churches as small groups, life groups, and a variety of other possible names too!) in our parish and are wondering whether there are any people who would appreciate being part of a connect group who are not already - this could be to join one of the existing groups or to join one of the new ones which will be set up (so that our number of groups expands overall).

These groups are an opportunity to walk alongside each other and support each other as disciples of Jesus in a more full way than is possible in the whole church setting. They will usually involve some social aspects, some reading & discussing the Bible and some praying for one another.

Please do email or ring me for a chat if this is something which would be of interest to you.

Love and prayers,
Alex

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