

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 18th SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Over the summer we had some lovely activities - including another great craft morning, this time with 88 people (56 of whom were children), a summer music school for children & teenagers in the hall and some lovely meetings with members of the Scout groups also. Isaac Bone has been completing his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, volunteering with myself and other church family members to help out - and a small group of young people are working towards being baptised in the next few weeks. We had some excellent food bank collections (thank you so much to everyone for your continued support with these), lovely Refresh@10 gatherings, Forest Church and Benestede ladies social events. Alongside this, we used August to engage in quite a few practical activities, which it is harder to do during the rest of the year - including the completion of Quinquennial Inspections for both churches. We have also now completed all that is needed for our Bronze Eco Church Award and so hope to officially receive this soon.

I continue to be a member of the Deanery Leadership Team and this small group of Incumbents and others have been planning some activities for 2025 & beyond which will be across the deanery, as well as in our own churches. I also recently took on chairing the local 'Banstead Five' group of churches in our area: St. Mary's & St. Paul's, All Saints, Banstead Methodist Church, Banstead URC & St. Ann's Catholic Church. Though plagued by some difficulties, this group is really pulling together and we have some lovely joint outreach events planned for the next few months and into 2025 there as well.

Last Saturday George Drewitt cycled 35 miles for 'Ride & Stride' a fundraising event for churches in England. He has raised £355 so far (thank you to everyone who has donated), which will be split half and half - between the parish and a central pool of money which will become a fund for grants for different projects which all parishes who participate can apply to. If you'd still like to sponsor George, please email him: cw_nork@norkwithburghheath.com. If you kindly have sponsored him, but haven't yet passed him your generous gifts, please also bring these on Sunday or arrange a way of passing these to him directly.

Turning to the rest of September and the months ahead, I attach again the key dates for the parish up until the end of 2024 for your perusal.

In this news email, I also draw your attention to the following items which are up-coming:

In the Parish:

This **Saturday morning, 21st September**, the parish walking group will be gathering for their monthly, 3rd Saturday of the month, walk in the local area. Please contact Simon Morrison for further information if you'd like to join in: simon.r.morrison@btinternet.com

This coming **Sunday, 22nd September we have our next Whole Parish Service, which on this occasion will be at St. Paul's, at 10 am**. This service will be a re-launch of our EcoParish focused activities and Jim Illingworth will be sharing with us. It will also be the launch of our 2024 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal and Deirdre and Tricia will be helping motivate us for this wonderful work

On **Sunday 22nd September, we have Forest Church at 3pm in the St. Paul's Backlands**

On Wednesday 25th September it is our next Food Bank Collection, from 2-4 pm at St. Paul's. Please do support this valuable cause if you can. This month, the Epsom & Ewell Food Bank are particularly collecting the following items: tinned tomatoes, tinned meat, tinned spaghetti, tinned fish, tinned vegetables, cooking sausages, pulses, tinned soup, peanut butter, breakfast cereals, tea (bags), custard, savoury biscuits, ketchup/ mayo/ brown sauce, squash, rice, instant mash, long life sponge puddings, shampoo, male & female deodorant, nappies size 6+, washing up liquid, washing powder.

On Saturday 28th September, it is our next Refresh@10 Coffee morning, from 10 am - 12 pm at St. Mary's

And on **Sunday 29th September, we will return to our usual service times of 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's.**

In the Deanery:

On **Tuesday 8th October the Diocese will be holding their next 'Church Growth Conference'** which takes place annually **at St. Paul's Howell Hill.** Please see the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/church-growth-conference-2024-tickets-856506874117?aff=oddtcreator>

It would be great to have representatives from our parish attending - do let me know if you sign up/ if this is of interest to you.

With the Banstead Five:

- 1) This coming Sunday, 22nd September, at 5pm, at St. Mary's Burgh Heath, we will be holding a quiet, reflective service to remember God's creation and His goodness to us.**
- 2) To support National Retreat Week, Rev'd Kate Blake is running a series on Ignatian prayer at All Saints' Banstead. This will be every weekday from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th September at 12 pm, with each session lasting about 45 minutes.**
- 3) The B5 are putting on a series of lunchtime talks (please bring your own packed lunch) for Prisons Week, which will be at Banstead Methodist Church:
Monday 14th October 12.30- 1.30 pm - Head of reducing offending from Downview
Tuesday 15th October 12.30 - 1.30 pm - Deputy Head of Residents - High Down
Wednesday 16th October 12.30 - 1.30 pm - Sycamore Tree Rehabilitation Project
Friday 18th October 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm - Head of Personality Disorder Unit - High Down**

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