

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 10th DECEMBER 2024

Dear Church Family & Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Some lovely things have happened in the last few weeks - including a shared project between the churches and our local community where we collected a parish-record-breaking 108 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please see the attached photo with some of them - 75 additional hats were also knitted by generous friends in the community. These gifts will make a much needed difference to children overseas who would otherwise receive nothing for Christmas.

This last weekend, we had a wonderful Christmas craft morning for children & families at St. Paul's, with over 90 people attending - and the first of our Christingle services, also at St. Paul's - which was another delight. Meanwhile, Little Roots, our parish toddler group continues to go from strength to strength (on Tuesdays with an average of 55 children plus their adults each week and Wednesdays an average of 45 children plus their adults!). A new fortnightly, Wednesday afternoon, craft and chat group for women started at St. Mary's and I had the privilege of visiting the Warren Mead Schools and Aberdour each of which I go into regularly. Finally, a group went to offer the first of our carol services for nursing homes, led by David Wright, at Fir Tree House. Thank you to all the people who work on each of these projects - it is greatly appreciated.

This email is to remind you of all of the events (in date order) coming up over the next few weeks - and to request your help with some of these, please see the information below.

Wednesday 11th December 2 - 4 pm at St. Paul's: Christmas Food Bank Collection. Please see the following website for the items which are being particularly sought at this time:

<https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

Saturday 14th December 10 am - 12 pm at St. Mary's: Refresh@10 Christmas - do come and join in with this Community Coffee morning as we celebrate Christmas

Saturday 14th December 3 - 5 pm at St. Paul's: Christmas Film for all ages, with popcorn & hot chocolate (we will be showing ELF). Do come and join us at this free / 'contributions only' event. It will be a special opportunity to relax in amongst the other busyness of the season.

Sunday 15th December 9 am at St. Paul's: Communion Service

Sunday 15th December 11 am at St. Mary's: Messy Nativity

Sunday 15th December 2 pm: Singing Carols outside ASDA to wish the community well. **Please email Alex if you're able to join in so we have an idea of numbers.**

Sunday 15th December 5.15 pm: Carol Service at 'Gardenfields' (behind St. Mary's). **Please email Alex if you're able to join in so we have an idea of numbers.**

Monday 16th December 2 - 4 pm at St Mary's: We will be collecting parcels of love (or contributions for these). Please come along and drop these off. So far we have some lovely hampers collected together by the Benestede Ladies which can be given to vulnerable families at Christmas - if you would like to contribute to local households in need, then please think about doing this - or giving to the Food Bank collection as above.

Tuesday 17th December 2 - 4 pm: Carol Services at Montclair and Banstead Manor Nursing Homes.
Please email Alex if you would be interested in joining David Wright and the team.

Wednesday 18th December 2 - 4 pm at St. Mary's: Craft and Chat group for women

Saturday 21st December 2 pm at St. Paul's: Christmas Trail, with crafts, refreshments and informal carols - an event for all ages. Houses on Warren Road kindly allow us to put up images from the Nativity Story in their front gardens. Those who attend complete the trail (starting from St. Paul's), discovering the Nativity Story afresh, before returning to St. Paul's for crafts, refreshments and informal carols.

Sunday 22nd December 9 am: St. Paul's Communion Service

Sunday 22nd December 11 am: St. Mary's Communion Service

Sunday 22nd December 6pm at St. Mary's: Parish Carol Service. **Please speak to Simon or Judy Parnall, or email Alex, if you would like to sing for the carol service** (Rehearsals: Saturday 14th at 4pm, Sunday 22nd at 2pm).

Tuesday 24th December 3 pm at St. Mary's: Christmas Eve Christingle

Tuesday 24th December 5.30 pm at St. Paul's: Parish Crib Service

Wednesday 25th December 10 am at St. Paul's: Parish Christmas Day Communion Service

Sunday 29th December 10 am at St. Mary's: Parish Communion Service

There are also some B5 events:

Saturday 14th December 12 pm: 'Carols Round the Bonfire' outside All Saints

And an advert for the B5 Panto in January:

'Cinderella' yes, it's panto time again. The B5's Pilgrim Pantomime Co's show this year is that much loved story of rags to riches.

At the Institute, Banstead High Street from Wed 22nd to Sat 25th January including a matinee. Tickets as usual obtainable online through our booking agents Ticketsource direct or via the Pilgrim Panto website. Telephone booking on 0333 666 3366 incur a charge of £2.50. Prices remain the same as last year. With brilliant songs, old and new, a talented young cast, some unusual twists, come and enjoy the fun, laughter and boeing!

Love and prayers
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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