

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 12th June 2023

Dear Church Family and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Since the last news email, we have had a wonderful parish craft morning at St. Paul's, attended by 48 children and their 25 supervising adults... and also a wonderful plant sale outside the St. Paul's Hall, where we have raised over £300 for the Baxter's school in the Gambia (final total still to come, following further kind donations at both services yesterday morning).

On a personal note, I'd like to thank those who have been so kind to Michael and I during the last 5 or 6 weeks, where both my parents have been very ill and where Michael injured both his leg and his arm (in separate incidents, both involving time in A&E and further treatment!) - meaning he was immobilised for a while... plus the car broke down (unrepairable), so various people have been lending their cars and offering lifts for us to get from place to place. THANK YOU. I am happy to say that normality is resumed, but we are really grateful for the loving help and support during those tricky weeks. Please do pray for us if you feel happy to do so - we'd love a bit more of a 'straight run' at things for a while now!

This news email contains information on the following items:

1. Our current sermon series on 1 Corinthians
2. PCC membership & who is who on the PCC for this year
3. David Packham's upcoming ordination to Priest on the 1st July 2023
4. Marian Bateman's trip to Romania

AND PARISH CALENDAR DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:

5. Parish Prayer (with compline) on Tuesday (13th June) at 8pm
6. A Quiz for Little Fishes on Saturday (17th June) at 7.30 pm
7. Refresh@10 on Saturday 24th June, from 10 am - 12 pm
8. A visit from Sally, Yagya and Vera Singh, on Sunday 25th June
9. Songs of Praise on Sunday 25th June
10. Food Bank Collection on Wednesday 28th June

Love and prayers,
Alex

1. **Our current sermon series on 1 Corinthians**

We are currently working our way through a sermon series on 1 Corinthians - thank you so much to our amazing team of 8 preachers, who are making such a great job of illuminating this section of God's word for us.

A while ago I mentioned a video, from The Bible Project, which gives an overview of this book. The link for this is here: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-corinthians/>

Please do have a look if you can and I encourage everyone to read the whole book of 1 Corinthians also, to give us all a better understanding of the book as a whole as we look at a chapter at a time each week.

2. PCC membership & who is who on the PCC for this year

Back at the end of April we had our APCM, from which all the papers have been circulated to the whole church family already.

During that meeting I explained that, with our last holiday running up to the APCM, I had forgotten to put out the PCC election forms at the back of church beforehand and wanted to give extra time for members of the church family to consider whether they would like to join us on PCC.

Following this time, I can confirm there was no need for elections, as - although several people did stand again for roles - there were no extra people wishing to become involved and so the PCC for the coming year remains the same, with one role swap:

Alex Stevens (Vicar & Chair)

George Drewitt (Warden)

Sue Wharton (Warden)

Tomos Davies (Treasurer)

David Packham (PCC member & also member of Deanery Synod)

Andrew Shaw (PCC member & also member of Deanery Synod)

Neil Oakley (PCC member & also member of Deanery Synod)

Theresa Allen (PCC member & also member of Deanery Synod) ** This is the role swap, as Theresa has decided she would like to be part of Deanery Synod for a while

Morna Moore (PCC member)

Judy Parnall (PCC member)

Chris Moore (PCC member)

And Michelle Cahill is co-opted onto the PCC to take minutes of the meetings for us and also because, being Operations Manager & Parish Bookkeeper, it is very helpful for her to be there

3. 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: <https://forms.gle/CDnJui3YtJgQQr6z5>

4. Marian Bateman's trip to Romania

Marian Bateman is travelling to Romania again this week 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.

5. Parish Prayer (with compline) on Tuesday (13th June) at 8pm

On Tuesday evening (13th June) at 8 pm, at St. Mary's, we will have our next Parish Prayer with Compline. Please do join if you can.

6. A Quiz for Little Fishes on Saturday (17th June) at 7.30 pm

On Saturday (17th June) at 7.30 pm, there will be a quiz to raise funds for Little Fishes (the nursery run by Sue Wharton and others, on the St. Paul's Howell Hill Site).

David & Sue write:

"As many of you will know, Sue Wharton runs the Little Fishes pre-school based in St Paul's church centre, Howell Hill. As funds are always needed, there is to be a fundraising quiz night on Saturday 17th June, starting at 7.30pm in the main hall at St Pauls Howell Hill Church Centre, Northey Avenue, SM2 7HS. Tickets are £15.00, which will include a fish and chip supper (but please let Sue know really quickly if you'd like this), or, £10.00 just for the quiz (please let Sue know by Friday if you'd like to come without the Fish & chip supper). Bring your own drinks and snacks either way. Why not get a table together (up to 8 people) and show how much the good people of Nork and Burgh Heath know!!

Contact Sue for further details and/or to book your place.

Email is "sue_wharton45@hotmail.com" , or phone 01737 210265, or 07752 865976.

7. 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!

8. 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.

9. 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. Neil Oakley and Michelle, our Operations Manager, have been putting together the music and programmes this week and all of the team are working hard towards this. Michelle and I have also sent invitations to other churches in the Deanery and the Banstead Five.

A flyer is attached for this special event (which takes a lot of work to put together, from many people, led by Andrew Shaw). Please do share with friends and family - far and wide, and please do put the date in your diaries yourselves.

10. 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, LongLife sponge puddings, squash, tinned spaghetti, honey, jam, cereal bars, deodorant, adult toothbrushes, washing up liquid

Love and prayers,
Alex

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Vicar
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