

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Tuesday 1 December 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping this email finds you well.

Looking forward to seeing those of you who are able to join for parish prayers at 3pm tomorrow (Wednesday 2nd afternoon), for which the Zoom link is here: <https://zoom.us/j/97898292257?pwd=V0dWdUttaEtjdVZlOWorR1ZPdIkxZz09>

Other items included in the news below are:

- a) The booking links for our services this Sunday, back in the churches
- b) Our parish Christmas Lights Outreach
- c) Our next foodbank collection
- d) Our Carol Service
- e) Other Christmas dates
- f) Banstead 5 Advent Service
- g) Advertising for an Operations Manager for the parish
- h) Information on the Angel Tree project from Jean Watson
- i) A message from Lesley Rice

As always, please do be in touch if you have any questions about the contents of this email.

Love and prayers,

Alex

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a) This Sunday's Services (6th December) 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's

I am delighted to be able to confirm the good news that we can open the two churches again on Sunday (6th December) and worship in the building again, with Zooming from St. Mary's. We hope Zooming from St. Paul's will also be possible from Sunday 13th December, further details TBC.

To book to attend the 9 am Holy Communion Service at St. Paul's on Sunday 6th December at 9 am, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/k1ZDDxBu1jfnYJkEA>

To book to attend the morning worship service at St. Mary's on Sunday 6th December at 11 am, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/srRvne1r1h3U8u1x8>

To sign up to receive the information to Zoom into the service at St. Mary's on Sunday 6th December at 11 am, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/HmEyAtMR8zFoc3AT8>

Please assume you are booked unless you receive a message from me, however all bookings need to be received by Friday 4th December (this Friday) at 10pm, as the churches are set up on Saturday.

b) Our Parish Christmas Lights Outreach

Please see the flyers attached (thank you to Michael for creating them!): we are hoping to 'bring love to the world - and in particular our local community - with lights this year, by decorating one window in each of our homes with Christmas lights / a nativity scene - or anything you wish to spread the love of God to others and bring them joy.

We are asking people to take photos of the window displays and either send them directly to me (on this email, so it can be added for you) or post them on our parish facebook page (search Nork with Burgh Heath facebook page).

Please send and share the flyers widely with your friends, family and neighbours... photos can be sent in / added any time from now up to the 24th December.

I have contacted the schools and nursing homes to invite them to be involved if they would like to - and will also be personally visiting (a visit from the local Vicar!) all of the shops and small businesses in the parish on our behalf to wish them well in this season - and to invite them to participate.

Please support this in any way you can - and please also pray that many may be reached with the light and love of God this Christmas.

c) Our Next Foodbank Collection- Wednesday 9th December, 2-4pm at St. Paul's

Due to the Food Bank making a call out for goods to be delivered to them earlier in December, so they can be distributed to all the families who need them, we are bringing the food bank collection that had been planned in December forward a week. The NEW DATE FOR THE FOOD BANK COLLECTION IS: 9th December from 2-4 pm at St. Paul's.

Many of you gave incredibly generously a couple of weeks ago (OUR BEST COLLECTION YET - THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED!), so please don't worry if you can't help out again so soon - but please do help if you can.

The items the food bank are particularly hoping for at the moment are: boxes of biscuits, tubs of chocolates, Christmas puddings (non alcoholic), mince pies, yule logs/ chocolate swiss roles, savoury snacks, twiglets, crisps, mixed fruit and nuts, small boxes of shortbread, sweets / biscuits for older or single clients, custard, gravy granules, hot chocolate, schloer/ non alcoholic fizz, Christmas napkins, disposable tablecloths, new tea towels, wrapping paper, gift tags, sello tape

d) Our Carol Service - Sunday 13th December, 5pm on Zoom

This year (due to COVID-19) we are having one parish carol service, which will be on Zoom on Sunday 13th December at 5pm. We are working at ways to make it a special occasion and one of these is that we'd like to send out a carol service booklet (in the post) and possibly some other items to everyone participating. Therefore, it would be very helpful if you could sign up on the following form to register for this event: <https://forms.gle/ZWMebcbvAUg95bMp9>

An open zoom link (in the same way as our weekly services currently) will also be published nearer the time, but we will only be able to send out Carol service booklets etc to those who have signed up in advance!

Final sign-up day will be Monday 7th December.

e) Other Christmas Dates:

It is anticipated that from Sunday 6th December we will be open again (with a booking system as previously) for our 9 am service at St. Paul's and our 11 am service at St. Mary's.

These services will take place on Sundays the 6th, 13th and 20th December as usual at these times (with the 13th also being the Christingle services in the morning) **but not on Sunday 27th December**, due to the COVID regulations and the churches having been open for services on Christmas Day on the 25th.

In addition to these services, will be the following:

Sunday 13th December - Carol Service on Zoom at 5pm

Sunday 20th December - Messy Nativity viz Youtube at 3pm

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve service on Zoom at 4pm

Friday 25th December - Service at St. Paul's at 9 am and Service at St. Mary's at 11 am

There will be an online provision on Sunday 27th December and details about this are TBC.

Details of what is possible for the nursing homes (depending on regulation still being confirmed) will follow.

f) Banstead 5 Advent Service

I, and other members from the local B5 churches, will be leading a simple Advent service on Wednesday 9th December at 7.30 pm. (It is the turn of the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath to host this - but in the current circumstances this will be via Zoom).

If you would like to receive the link for this, please do let me know by adding your name to this form: <https://forms.gle/YsxJmr8QYsyBYvXZ6>

g) Advertising for an Operations Manager for the Parish

At PCC last week, we agreed that it is time to try again to seek an Operations Manager for our parish. (The advert for this is attached - please do send it around as many people you can or let me know of anyone who you think could be good at this role).

Currently operations tasks are being carried out by Steve Bottom approx 2 days a week on a flexible basis, who is doing a brilliant job mainly focusing on buildings - with the other tasks: further buildings work and most administration tasks being carried out by myself with help, where appropriate, from Michael.

For us to move forward as a parish we need more help!

Applications will be for the beginning of January (the 8th being the final deadline).

Please do pray for God's guidance for this process and that we have good applicants who apply for this role.

h) Information on the Angel Tree Project from Jean Watson

Jean Watson, Church family member, volunteer chaplain at Downview and High Down prisons, key member of the local prison fellowship, writes:

The Angel Tree Project is a Prison Fellowship initiative to keep families connected at Christmas. Over 200.000 children will have a parent in prison this Christmas and many of these children will not have seen their parent for almost a year. Parents are able to apply for a present to be sent to their child or children as though it comes directly from them. Each personalised Angel Tree gift costs £20 which includes postage and packing. If they wish a book telling the Christmas story can be included.

Our local Prison Fellowship group have received many applications from the prisoners in HMP's Downview and High Down and are in the process of purchasing gifts and will be wrapping and posting them within the next couple of weeks.

A comment from a prisoner

"Last Christmas, Angel Tree came at just the right time. I was due for release, and it paved the way for me to re-establish a bond with my kids. A reminder to my children that I still love them. The gifts I sent were important, but the most important thing was the gift tag. I could write what I wanted, it meant there was a real connection".

Our PCC, on behalf of the parish, have prayerfully decided to give a donation of £1000 to support Jean's work and the work of Prison Fellowship this year as part of our mission giving. However, some of you may also enjoy giving specifically for the Angel Tree project - and praying for it. For more information, please contact Jean on 020 83932960.

i) News from Lesley Rice

Lesley Rice has sent a very special news message, which is attached.

She is doing well and is hoping to be able to visit us in the parish in 2021!

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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