

Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Tuesday 8 December 2020

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

This news email contains information on the following:

- a) The booking links for our services this Sunday (13th December)
- b) The carol service on Sunday 13th December
- c) Our parish Christmas Lights Outreach
- d) The foodbank collection on Wednesday
- e) Other Christmas dates
- f) Updates from the Baxters on the Gambia school

Love and prayers,

Alex

07312 113019

a) The booking links for our services this Sunday (13th December)

This week we have Christingle services at 9 am at St. Paul's and 11 am at St. Mary's.

All are welcome! Please book on the forms below.

To book to attend the 9 am Christingle service at St. Paul's, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/ZYgVe5Tju7jLFkaG8>

To book to attend the 11 am Christingle service at St. Mary's please use this link: <https://forms.gle/tt1VsHCuTk1BnrUU6>

To book to Zoom into the St Paul's Christingle please use this link: <https://forms.gle/WvtULH525UxKvhnF6>

To book to Zoom into the St. Mary's Christingle please use this link: <https://forms.gle/r9j31HJhmWagfDgH9>

Following receiving your booking, you will be sent the Zoom link and the items you need to join in with the services.

All bookings for any of the above need to be received by Friday 11th December at 10 pm.

b) The Parish Carol Service on Sunday 13th December at 5pm via Zoom

The Zoom link for our parish carol service on Sunday at 5pm is here: <https://zoom.us/j/99700205230?pwd=QUFuQ3FSbW1nKzNiNGlTVjA2NnJxdz09>

Please do share the link with others who may wish to join us.

If you have already let me know that you are coming, you will receive the carol service booklet in the post this week.

c) Our Christmas Lights Outreach

We now have four wonderful contributions to our Christmas Lights Outreach!

Thank you so much David & Chris, Sally & family, Vanessa and Michael for contributing.

The photos of these are attached to inspire you to also join in with making your window.

Let's show the love and joy of God in lights to our parish this Christmas! Please do get involved!

Please photograph them and either email or whatsapp them to me or put them straight on our Nork with Burgh Heath facebook page, which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/Nork-with-Burgh-Heath-113571377219118/>

d) The food bank collection on Wednesday (9th December), from 2-4 pm at St. Paul's

Our final food bank collection of this year is on Wednesday, from 2-4 pm at St. Paul's.

Please do support this 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.

Thank you!

e) Other Christmas Dates to save in your diaries:

Sunday 20th December - Messy Nativity via 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, the details of which will follow.

f) Updates on the school in The Gambia from the Baxters'

John writes:

Good news! The school is now open again and is full of "face mask wearing" children. The Ministry of Education in The Gambia has set out strict rules to be followed to get a school re-opened including restrictions in class sizes and the wearing of face masks by children and the teachers. The Ministry Education Officer has visited the school and has told them that the safety standards are the best! They are having to turn away some students as there is a limit on the numbers in each class, 25 being the maximum, which is far fewer than in most Gambian Schools. Through the generosity of our friends at the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath we have been able to pay the teachers whilst the school has been closed and this has enabled the charity to concentrate on the purchase of the new school years books and equipment as well as a great deal of Covid protection equipment, some of which we have been able to ship out from the UK. We are now looking at the possibility of using the new school hall which is on the second floor as an additional classroom but that needs planning as it will involve new desks (not readily available in The Gambia) and all the additional books and equipment as well as extra teachers. We are hoping to discuss with Richard, the Head Teacher, before Christmas but doing it via Zoom is not easy! We had to cancel our trips in November and January due to Foreign Office restrictions and a lack of flights but we still hope to be able to visit in March next year. The Gambia has kept the Covid cases to a minimum by the early closing of their boarders and airport. That is about to change with tourists starting to return so we hope and pray it will not cause a spike in cases. On behalf of Richard, the Teachers, and all the pupils we wish everyone who has helped our charity in any way a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a brighter New Year!

John & Dorothy Baxter

Love and prayers

Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

The PCC of the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath is a Registered UK Charity No 1180563