

## Nork with Burgh Heath Parish News and Updates – Monday 15 February 2021

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all staying safe and well.

This news email contains the following information:

1. Zoom links for activities this week
2. Ash Wednesday and Lent
3. Parcels of love and cards of hope
4. An opportunity to hear about the work of Yagya & Sally Singh in Nepal
5. Our parish giving drive
6. Food bank collections

Information and the link for next Sunday's service will be sent out later in the week.

Please do keep in touch

Love and prayers,

Alex

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### 1. Zoom links for activities this week

To Zoom in to **PARISH COFFEE**, today at 2pm (Monday 15th February), please use this link: <https://zoom.us/j/96678921955?pwd=OG02MDNuOTZmazBHcXB1RFR4MHVBQT09>

To zoom in to **THE PRAYER COURSE**, tomorrow evening (Tuesday 16th February) at 7.45 for 8pm, please use this

link: <https://zoom.us/j/94693653024?pwd=MkpQbVdMNnpwSzZrYIFzVIE2Q1ZXUT09>

To zoom in to our **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**, on Wednesday evening (Wednesday 17th February) at 7.30 pm, please use this

link: <https://zoom.us/j/92942298852?pwd=NEhpVzBZZHhwa2F3NVU3S2R1V0hvUT09>

(The additional service details will be sent out for this on Wednesday during the day, ready for the evening).

### 2. Ash Wednesday and Lent

Last week 'Live Lent' booklets of bible readings, reflections and prayers were distributed to all of you on our address list (and children's versions for the children & young people in our church family are being posted today).

The post still seems a little up in the air - so if you haven't received yours, we hope you do soon.

If you would like to receive one but are not on our address list, then please do be in touch.

I will be referring to the booklets at the Ash Wednesday service (a reflective service, but not actually involving ash) on Zoom, which will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday (17th February).

3. 'Parcels of Love' & 'Cards of hope'

An ENORMOUS thank you to everyone who has been dropping off wonderful parcels of love and cards of hope to the vicarage porch in the last week.

**Wednesday this week (17th February)** is the deadline for deliveries, please, so that we can work out how many gifts and cards we have and then distribute them to the list of people in the community who will be boosted by them at this time.

All gifts and cards will be distributed with a message sending love and care from our whole church family.

4. An opportunity to hear from Sally & Yagya Singh about their work in Nepal

Sally and Yagya Singh run Bridges Nepal, a missional organisation working in Nepal and one of the six mission organisations that we support as a parish.

They have offered to do a presentation, via Zoom, for anyone who would be interested to find out their work on Wednesday 24th February at 8pm.

To sign up for this, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/xL85gZsvJUwLAXdm6>

5. Our Parish Giving Drive

Over the next few weeks we will, as a church family, be given the opportunity to reflect on our giving: of our time, our talents and also financially to the parish.

This is necessary at this time because, due to COVID-19, we - as with very many organisations - are facing financial challenges and we need to gain as good a picture as we can of our financial forecast for the coming year & beyond.

This Sunday, there will be a sermon from myself, a presentation by Piers (our parish treasurer) and then a letter & pack which will be sent out by Simon Morrison (our Giving Officer) who is kindly doing the hard work towards this for us all.

This is inevitably a difficult and possibly emotive topic for many of us who may be struggling at the moment. Some of us may be able to give more than we are currently financially - but others may need to choose to give less because of job loss or uncertainty. We completely understand if this is the case.

Whatever your position currently, please do help us by taking the time to think and pray about your giving to the parish to enable us to plan for the future.

Being a relatively new parish we are in particular need of establishing a clearer picture of what is possible for our churches and the local community from us. We had hoped to go

through this process last March after the APCM which had originally been planned for then - and due to COVID-19 this was postponed, but it is something we really need to work through at this time.

#### 6. Food bank collections

Due to the high infection rates in the local area - and the more senior in years nature of many in our church family, I made the difficult decision to postpone foodbank collections for January and February this year.

Several of you gave financially during this time instead of donating food, which has been very encouraging - and I am pleased to say that the Epsom & Ewell foodbank has continued to operate well during these months.

The hope is that it will be possible to resume the collections from March (depending on Government & Church of England guidance) as many of our church family have now received first vaccinations and will be well on the way to having received the second too.

I will confirm towards the end of February.

Love and prayers,  
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens  
Vicar  
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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