

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX –14th December 2021

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

Over the last couple of weeks we have had several lovely events:

Over the last two Saturdays, we have held the Christmas Craft morning at St. Paul's and Refresh@10 (a community coffee morning on the final Saturday morning of every month) has re-launched at St. Mary's with a Christmas special.

At St. Paul's on Sunday, we celebrated the baptism of Charlotte Drewitt at the Community Alive Advent service (so brilliant!) and in the afternoon we had the St. Paul's Christingle (the St. Mary's one being on Christmas Eve).

Despite several of our parish Nursing homes going into full lockdown due to the rapid advance of Omicron, David and I had a beautiful time this afternoon at Rosedean with some of our dear friends there, praising God in carols, bible readings and prayer. Most of the staff joined us as well as the residents, so we were very boosted by this show of support. They have said they see us as some of their 'regulars' - which is rather special and shows we are firmly in the timetable.

Also today, we had our final Little Roots (toddler group) session of the term. Little Roots, only started 2 months ago, has been going SO well! Sophie is doing a wonderful job of leading this, supported by Michael and other team members.

Omicron also got in the way of the Warren Mead Juniors plans to come and spend time with us at St. Paul's a week or so ago, but I have been keeping in touch with both infant and junior schools in my capacity as governor - and we look forward to trying again in the new year when things (hopefully) are more settled again. Please do pray for all our parish schools and nursing homes, as these continue to be challenging times for everyone.

There is so much happening in the parish and we are seeing community friends, old and new, attending our events as well as the church family. Praise & thanks to God for the way He is working!

Thank you all for your continued support of His ministry in this local area.

Items to draw your attention to for the rest of this week are that on Sunday (19th December) we have three services:

Holy Communion, at St. Paul's, at 9 am

The Messy Nativity, at St. Mary's, at 11 am

Dave and Sue tell me dressing up (as Nativity characters) is encouraged! Please do spread the word - but please do also come if you don't have anything to dress up in as extras will be available in church for those who wish

The Parish Carol Service, at St. Mary's at 6 pm

Additional information about these services will be sent out later in the week and Zoom will be available for all as usual.

This evening, I will be praying for half an hour at 7pm, for all that is happening in our parish at the moment and also for our nation and world in the wake of Omicron. This will be embedded within Compline, as we tried and enjoyed, a few months back.

If you would like to join me, please do so using this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81282275279?pwd=c0FMaVJSNDEzZE5DQUUsrbjhxR1ZSQ09>

And finally, do please continue to send in your Christmas lights windows to me or Michael on socialmedia@norkwithburghheath.com. We have had several more lovely ones this week (thank you so much contributors), which will be posted on our Parish Facebook throughout this week and shared in next week's news.

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

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