

## WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX –13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping very much that this email finds you well.

It is a little while since we last had a news update and this one is packed with information on the months to come!

It includes:

An overview of dates (set so far) for January to April 2022. This is attached as a PDF document, so it can be separately printed. Please do store all the dates in your diaries...

and information on:

1. The Fellowship Group
2. The Marriage Course
3. Baptism and confirmation
4. Leading in Love and Faith
5. The upcoming Banstead Five Pantomime
6. Becoming a Banstead Five Trustee

More next week... there is a LOT happening, which is brilliant.

Love and prayers,  
Alex

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### 1. A new group: The Fellowship Group

A number of you have been saying to me how much you appreciate being able to share with one another and encourage one another on the Christian journey - and how you would like more opportunities to do this.

The Fellowship Group (for which we may think of a better name at some point) will be a trial group that will meet 3 times in the next few months on these dates:

Monday 30th January  
Monday 28th February  
Monday 4th April

The idea will be that, each time we meet, everyone will bring something encouraging about how God has been working in our lives to share (in the space of 2-3 minutes each) with the rest of the group. This could be a bible verse, something from nature which has prompted prayer, a photo of a painting which has done the same (which would need to be sent to me first so it could be easily shared). Anything which has prompted us in praise and thanksgiving, or helped us to hear from God.

These meetings will be on Zoom at 7pm.

If you'd like to join in, please use this link to let me know and I will send more information to you:  
<https://forms.gle/7J2D77uz8hUbtvnaA>

## **2. The Marriage Course**

We will be running HTB The Marriage Course, for married couples in our parish, in February and March. This will be on Zoom on Wednesday evenings (time TBC, 7pm or 7.30pm- we need to experiment to see how long the sessions take). Michael and I will be acting as the Zoom hosts, although we will be doing the course along with any other couples who wish to join us. (Please do not worry we do NOT think we are experts on this, having probably the newest marriage in the church family 😊!)

There will be videos to watch and questions to answer in your couples only. There will be no sharing with the rest of the group on private matters - it is simply an opportunity to spend time growing marriages, helping couples to set aside time for talking about important topics.

For more information about the course, please take a look at this link:  
<https://themarriagecourse.org/>

To sign up, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/DRKrz8cJMQXFGmk39>

The dates are below:

Wednesday 9th February  
Wednesday 16th February  
Wednesday 23rd February  
BREAK FOR ASH WEDNESDAY  
Wednesday 9th March  
Wednesday 16th March  
Wednesday 23rd March  
Wednesday 30th March

## **3. Baptism and Confirmation**

In recent weeks I have been having some lovely conversations with several of you who are considering either baptism or confirmation as an outward expression of faith in our Loving Lord Jesus.

Below is a link with a 2-minute video about baptism and confirmation in the Church of England (although it starts by talking about infant baptism, it does talk about adult baptism as well - and confirmation too). If you have not been baptised or confirmed and are interested in this idea for yourself or for a child, please take a look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnpXtAPFZqc>

And then email me to arrange a chat. I would love to hear from you.

## **4. Living in Love and Faith**

The Church of England are currently undergoing a period of church-wide learning together, listening to one another and listening to God as part of discerning a way forward for the Church of England in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Some materials called Living in Love and Faith have been designed to help those who would like the opportunity to reflect on these topics together to be able to do so.

I have reviewed the materials myself and would like to give anyone who would appreciate also doing so, the opportunity to spend time in five reflective sessions with me on these topics.

To register your interest, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/M3wDe3eBd5eboJdR8>

Dates and details are still TBC.

## **5. The upcoming Banstead Five Pantomime**

Members of the Banstead Five are putting on a pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, at the end of January and there are still some tickets available for this on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th.

If you'd like to go along, please book your tickets on Ticketsource through the Pilgrim Pantomime website: <https://www.pilgrim pantomime.com/>

## **6. Becoming a Banstead Five Trustee**

The Banstead Five (five local church of which we, as the Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath are a member) are looking for a volunteer from our parish to be a trustee of the Banstead Five Monies, which are allocated to joint churches works in the local area.

There are five trustees - one from each of the five churches / parishes represented - and our place is currently vacant. I am not able to fulfil this role, as I am on the Banstead Five Executive Committee and the two are kept separate because one funds the other.

Please have a look at the 'advert' for the role attached. I am told it is not arduous! Susan Major, church warden from All Saints Banstead, is chair of this group.

Please let me know if you may be able to take on this role. Susan is happy to have a conversation with anyone who may be interested.

Love and prayers,  
Alex

*Rev Alex Stevens*  
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