

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 10th FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping you're all well.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. Parish Ash Wednesday Service (Wednesday 2nd March, 7.30 pm, St. Mary's)
2. 8 am BCP Communion on Tuesdays, at St. Paul's, from the 22nd February
3. 5 Evenings of Lent Reflections, Tuesday evenings on Zoom, 8 pm from the 8th March
4. Our next food bank collection (Wednesday 23rd February, 2-4 pm, outside St. Mary's)
5. Our next walking group meet (19th February, 10 am)
6. Refresh@10, Saturday 26th February, 10 am at St. Mary's
7. Fellowship Group, Monday 28th February, 7pm on Zoom
8. Updates on the School in the Gambia from John & Dorothy Baxter

Love and prayers,

Alex

07312 113019

1. **Parish Ash Wednesday Service (Wednesday 2nd March, 7.30 pm, St. Mary's)**

On Wednesday 2nd March it is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. To mark this important occasion, we will be having a whole parish service at St. Mary's at 7.30 pm, including administration of ashes. Please do store this date in your diary and more information will follow. It will be possible to attend this service in person or to Zoom into it.

2. **8 am BCP Communion on Tuesdays, at St. Paul's, from the 22nd February**

Following discussions with several members of our church family, we have decided to re-start an 8 am BCP communion service in our parish.

This will be on Tuesday mornings, at 8 am, at St. Paul's and will take place in the main body of the church, rather than the lady chapel (to provide more space whilst covid is still with us).

This will be a trial for 8 weeks. We are hoping that it is helpful, people attend, and then we will keep it going after that too!

3. **5 Evenings of Lent Reflections, Tuesday evenings on Zoom, 8 pm from the 8th March**

Bishop Andrew has written some Lent Reflections for sharing in our parishes and so we are going to enjoy these across 5 Tuesday evenings, each at 8 pm, during Lent. Each session will last about an hour: we will watch a video of Bishop Andrew sharing on different topics, reflect together on what we have heard and then say Compline together. This will be on Zoom and more information will be provided nearer the time, but please save the dates in your diaries now.

Tuesday 8th March, 8pm: Revelation (also the parish prayer meeting evening, which will still take place at 7pm beforehand, also on Zoom)

Tuesday 15th March, 8pm: Power
Tuesday 22nd March, 8pm: Fellowship
Tuesday 29th March, 8pm: Courage
Tuesday 5th April, 8pm: Connectedness

4. Our next food bank collection (Wednesday 23rd February, 2-4 pm, outside St. Mary's)

Our next food bank collection will be on Wednesday 23rd February, from 2-4 pm, outside St. Mary's (or just inside the porch if it's very cold!).

Items the food bank are particularly in need of are: tinned meat pies, brown sauce, powdered milk, longlife sponge puddings, cereal (no porridge or bran), sugar (500 g bags please), tinned potatoes, instant mash, squash, washing powder, pods, tablets- bio and non-bio, tampons, children's toothpaste 0-2 and 6+, tea bags, pasta sauce, long life fruit juice, pot noodles, hot water bottles, extra large bags for life

5. Our next walking group meet (19th February, 10 am)

Our next parish walk will be on Saturday 19th February, meeting at 10 am and it will be led by Sue and Francis Hay.

If you are not on the walking group circulation list, but would like information about this, please do get in touch and I will put you in touch with Sue.

6. Refresh@10, Saturday 26th February, 10 am at St. Mary's

Following needing to stay closed in January, due to the high covid infection rates in our area and Omicron, we are delighted that Refresh@10, a monthly Saturday coffee morning at St. Mary's, WILL be taking place this month, on the 26th February at 10am.

Please do spread the word, and please do come along! It will be warm in the church and tea, coffee, eats and lovely company await you!

7. Fellowship Group, Monday 28th February, 7pm on Zoom

Our next 'Fellowship Group', where we get together on Zoom and share from the Bible or other things that have inspired us to worship God more fully in recent times, is on Monday 28th February at 7pm.

Please do be thinking about what you might like to share to encourage one another in this group. The session was lovely. You don't have to have attended the first one to come along.

8. Updates on the School in the Gambia from John & Dorothy Baxter

John and Dorothy Baxter have just been out to The Gambia, following not being able to go (due to COVID) for 2 years. Attached is a wonderful update with the most recent information on the school. Please do take a read and also take some time to pray for John & Dorothy, Richard the head teacher, the staff and the children & their families.

Love and prayers,
Alex

Rev Alex Stevens
Vicar
Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath
07312 113019

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