

WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR, ALEX – 23rd MARCH 2022

Dear Church Family Members and Parish Friends,

Hoping very much this email finds you well - and thank you very much for the lovely kind messages and offers of help whilst Michael and I have been ill. I am delighted to say that he is much better today - and I am sure that we both will have put covid behind us within the next few days. It is very interesting to see how it impacts everyone in different ways - a very clever virus, unfortunately. Praise God for Vaccines and amazing medical ingenuity!

Please remember that this Sunday it is our Whole Parish Service, at 10 am at St. Mary's, rather than our usual service times. (A Zoom option will be available, as always, and further information will be sent out on Saturday)

As part of the service we will be welcoming Neil Allison, who is chair of the Banstead Five Churches Together Executive, coming to tell us a little more about the B5. (St. Paul's has been a member of B5 for many years and now because we are one family, St. Mary's also is by association). B5 are '5' local churches who decided many years ago to work together to share the good news of Jesus in the local community of Banstead and beyond. Members are: All Saints Banstead, us, St. Anne's Catholic Church, The Banstead United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church.

This news email contains information on the following:

1. Our parish Lent course, this evening at 8pm
2. Our Foodbank collection, tomorrow outside St. Paul's from 2-4pm
3. Our Ukraine collection, tomorrow outside St. Paul's from 2-4 pm
4. Refresh@10 at St. Mary's on Saturday from 10am-12 pm
5. Forest Church
6. Abbie Ellingham's upcoming wedding
7. Donald Rooney's special birthday

Love and prayers
Alex

1. **Our parish Lent Course, this evening at 8pm**

Many thanks to Andrew Shaw, who is stepping in for me and leading the next Lent Course session this evening at 8pm.

He looks forward to seeing you on Zoom.

2. **Our Foodbank collection, tomorrow outside St. Paul's from 2-4pm**

Our monthly Foodbank collection is taking place, from 2-4 pm tomorrow afternoon, outside St. Paul's. (Thank you to Deirdre and Michelle who will be there to receive goods from everyone!)

The items needed by the Foodbank this time around are: tinned fruit, ketchup, powdered milk, long-life puddings, tea bags/ coffee, sugar (500g bags please), tinned fish, washing up liquid, squash, deodorant, tampons, children's toothpaste and toothbrushes 0-2, pasta sauce, long-life fruit juice, small snack-sized chocolate (freddos, penguin bars etc), hot water bottles

Thank you for supporting this very important cause.

3. Our Ukraine collection, tomorrow outside St. Paul's from 2-4 pm

Alongside our foodbank collection, we will also be collecting for Ukraine and will be sending our donations via 'Surrey Stands With Ukraine'. Items which are needed are:

Medical items: bandages, wound pads, dressings, ibuprofen, paracetamol, disinfectant of all kinds, anti-burn creams and treatments, SAM splints

Search and rescue equipment: Hand torches and handheld torches, power banks 10,000 MAH+, Used smart phones (with Wi-Fi access), thermal socks in all sizes, large sized thermal tops and bottoms, thermal hats and gloves of all sizes, sturdy outdoor boots, ear protectors, dark coloured waterproof clothing and ponchos, dark coloured sleeping bags (large sizes) and ground mats

Non-perishable foodstuffs: tinned food, such as soups, pulses, pasta, dried food, energy and cereal bars

4. Refresh@10 at St. Mary's on Saturday from 10am-12 pm

Refresh@10 are meeting again this Saturday morning, from 10 am - 12 pm at St. Mary's. The team are very much looking forward to welcoming you there!

Refresh@10 is an opportunity to meet and chat over coffee and cakes, enjoying fellowship and entertainments together.

All are welcome!

5. Forest Church

Very sadly, we are cancelling Forest Church for this month, as it would have been due to happen this Sunday afternoon (27th March). As Michael and I do not yet know whether we will both yet be testing negative from covid by then - and because neither of us has been well this week (and so preparation is tricky), we will pick this up again with renewed energy in April.

6. Abbie Ellingham's Upcoming Wedding

Robin & Fiona Ellingham would like to extend an invitation to those at Nork with Burgh Heath to the marriage of their daughter Abbie Ellingham to Jack Strachan. The marriage will take place at St Paul's Howell Hill, Northey Avenue, Cheam, SM2 7HS on Friday 8th April, at 12:30pm. All are welcome. Please be in your seats by midday. If you need any more information, please contact Fiona Ellingham

Fiona.ellingham66@gmail.com 0208 391 4404.

7. Donald Rooney's Special Birthday

Many congratulations to Donald Rooney, who has recently had a very special birthday. Would you believe it, Donald (who has for many years been a member of St. Paul's) is now 100!!

Donald, happy (somewhat late) birthday from all of us to you. A card from the parish is on its way to you.

Love and prayers

Alex

Rev Alex Stevens

Vicar

Parish of Nork with Burgh Heath

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