



The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's Church, Basford

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2016



For all the Saints

At the end of October our minds are inevitably turned towards the saints. The saints are the spiritual superheroes of our church. The glorious communion of saints provides us with access to a massive list of prayer partners who pray with us and pray for us. That might sound a little odd to some but I believe it to be true. Though I don't come from a theological background where the invocation of the prayers of the saints was encouraged, I certainly have no qualms for example in saying the "Hail Mary" or in accepting that the Church triumphant (the Church in heaven) as well as the Church militant (the Church still on earth) is actively engaged in prayer as is our Lord himself... *"He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."* [Hebrews 7:25]

The calendar of saints includes the official "greats" of our church history and we all have our favorite saints to whom we relate and who inspire us. However; in contemplating the saints, we do well to also include family and friends whose holiness and love directly touched and enriched our lives.

I find these heavenly models of holiness a real inspiration. I have a couple of statues of St. Francis in the vicarage which, each time I look at them, remind me of just how far I have yet to travel, grow and mature in the faith. I also find it useful to have earthly models of holiness. In truth, saints are all around us, women and men whose generous spirit reflects the Gospel call to love and serve God and others. Some do it by making the ordinary holy through a spirit of simplicity and humility. Some do it by showing extraordinary courage in sickness and adversity. Some do it by railing against injustice and working to bring equality and dignity to all.

This year's Gospel reading for All Saints' Sunday invites us into the beatitudes, that wonderful litany of "Blessed are." In the beatitudes, holiness is equated with being poor in spirit, meek, mourning, hungering for righteousness, merciful, and pure of heart.

Interestingly, there is no mention of blessed are the rule-makers, the obedient, the self-righteous or the

judgmental. We all know what Jesus thought of those who equated holiness with obsessive discipline and laws. Jesus was about reaching people in their hearts, giving them reasons for hope and joy, and encouraging true and lasting conversion.

Nowadays we seem largely to be surrounded by prophets of doom who castigate and blame the women and men of today for succumbing to the evils of secularism and materialism. There is certainly a place for such treatment as evidence abounds yet these prophets must be tempered by those able to see holiness in the world, or acknowledge that saints are living among us in the messiness of life, not only within the four walls of the church.

Yes, we need a strong and vibrant community where we can pray and be formed, but the church is not meant to keep us in. The church's role is to send us forth. Saints know this; their lives flow seamlessly from prayer to action. We need to hear their stories and be inspired by their witness. We need our saints. Who are the saints, past or present, who inspire you?

Blessings *Terry*

Prepare the Way of the Lord

A course for Advent by way of preparation for Christmas looking at the stories of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke will be offered on Wednesdays (7.30pm – 9.15pm) commencing later this month. This is a chance to discover the history behind these important texts; the teaching they offer; and what the stories of Jesus' birth can mean for us in our lives today:

- **23/11:** God's preparation of the world for the birth of his Son.
- **30/11:** Jesus birth is announced to Mary and Joseph.
- **07/12:** Mary, Zechariah and Elizabeth celebrate the Good News.
- **14/12:** The birth of Jesus.

Fr. Graham will be leading these studies in the Lady Chapel. Please take advantage of them!

Worship Services during November

5 th	All Souls'	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
6 th	3 rd before Advent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Family Worship with HC
		4.30pm	Evensong
9 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
13 th	Remembrance	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
16 th	Margaret of Scotland	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
20 th	Christ the King	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
23 rd	Clement of Rome	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th	1 st of Advent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	NO SERVICE!
30 th	St. Andrew	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Diary Dates for November

2 nd	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
7 th	Monday	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
9 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Men's Fellowship Mass
12 th	Saturday	10.00am	Church Cleaning Exercise
16 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
17 th	Thursday	11.30am	Clergy Chapter at Robert Daborn's Vicarage
22 nd	Tuesday	7.30pm	Deanery Standing Committee Mtg (Vestry)
23 rd	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
24 th	Thursday	6.00pm	German Guests Arrive
25 th	Friday	10.00am	Reconciliation Conference (Meole Brace)
26 th	Saturday	10.00am	Christmas Fayre (Church)
		7.00pm	Anticipating Advent Service (Shrewsbury)
27 th	Sunday	4.00pm	Coach Trip to Lichfield for Advent Carols
28 th	Monday	10.00am	German Guests Depart
30 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club

Early December...

3 rd	Saturday	7.30pm	Parish Christmas Meal (Hall)
4 th	Sunday	6.30pm	Deanery Worship at St. Peter's Methodist
5 th	Monday	7.00pm	Cubs & Beavers Carol Service in Church
7 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
10 th	Saturday	10.00am	MESSY Church

Church Cleaning

Our church will need a thorough clean in time for Advent and so we've agreed a date for a cleaning party. Please make a note that from 10.00am on Saturday, 12th November we will gather to get stuck into things. Please join in if you can.

SANCTUS

Our collections for the SANCTUS Project during November will focus on the usual two standard requirements, viz... (i) Size '6' nappies and (ii) sanitary towels. The third requirement is for men's shaving items.

CAMEO

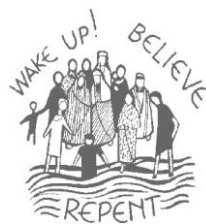
Please continue to publicise our CAMEO Luncheon Club as widely as possible. Lunch is enjoyed at 1.00pm every Wednesday.

Men's Mass

St. Mark's will host the Men's Fellowship Mass at 7.30pm on Wednesday in the Lady Chapel. For a small charge, there will be food to help our fellowship in the Alma public house afterwards.

Advent Weekend

This year's partnership celebrations with the Nordkirche (Lutheran Church of Northern Germany) will be centred in the UK. We will be hosting a few German guests in the parish whilst others will be staying in the Shrewsbury area. We will have German guests with us at 10.00am on Sunday, 27th November so please be sure to give them a warm welcome. Most of the activities of the weekend are taking place over in Shrewsbury and there will be information on this in church nearer the time; in the meantime, the 'diary dates' block opposite gives a rough indication of the events. If you regularly attend our evening services, it's important that you note that there will be no service on Advent Sunday as many of us are travelling to Lichfield for their Advent Carols.



You might remember that we always try to say the Lord's Prayer in German at our Holy Communion when Lutheran guests are with us so here it is for a little re-familiarisation. No doubt Terry will run through it with the congregation before the Advent weekend arrives.

Vater unser im Himmel

Geheiligt werde dein Name.

Dein Reich komme.

Dein Wille geschehe,

wie im Himmel, so auf Erden.

Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute.

Und vergib uns unsere Schuld,

wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.

Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,

sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen.

Denn dein ist das Reich

und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit

in Ewigkeit. Amen.

January 2017



Something to fix into our minds now is the change in service time which will necessarily be implemented from New Year's Day. We will lose the great benefit of Fr. Graham's contribution to our community in January which will mean that that Terry must be at St.

Margaret's each Sunday. So that he can be here too each week, we need to bring forward our 10.00am services to 9.30am. Such a change will take some getting used to especially as we'll move to the new time at the coldest and darkest time of the year; however, once we are up and running it will become the norm and we will adapt. Though the 9.30am start will drag some of us out of bed a little earlier it will bring the advantage of having Terry back at St. Mark's every Sunday which makes for better continuity and communication.



Messy Church

Our Messy Harvest was a relative success but we need to gain some momentum in re-establishing of Messy offerings. A Messy Church Christmas experience has been planned for Saturday, 10th December so please, in the meantime, do your very best to publicise the event amongst those you know with small children.



Christmas Fayre

We will hold a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November from 10.00am in church. Please read about the requirements on the weekly sheets and offer what help you can. Thanks!