



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

July 2017



Singled out for Service

Peter and Paul

- Foundational Pillars of the Church -

We are a community that relies on life-giving memory. We remember our ancestors in the faith, both to give thanks for them and to learn from them lessons for today. The two saints whose lives we celebrate at this time of ordaining deacons and priests tell of God's power to transform and redirect our lives. The personal lives of Peter and Paul were completely changed by their following Jesus.

The twists and turns of their lives, and especially their conversions, may surprise us, but then, they surprised them too! Paul says in his second letter to Timothy... *"I have run the race; I have kept the faith."* I'm sure that Peter could have echoed these words too. Here Paul isn't just speaking of sticking to what the Church believes to be correct, but rather, that he did what faith required of him, witnessing and preaching his faith in Jesus to believers and non-believers alike. His words are so personal today as he gives us insight into the cost and joy of being a disciple. In the end, Paul was imprisoned and executed in Rome during Nero's suppression of the church in the mid-60's of the first century.

Jesus obviously intended Peter to be the leader of his followers after he himself left this world. He also intended, one must assume, that others would carry on this leadership after Peter. There have been in history some successors to Peter of questionable character. Some have proved to be poor administrators, or lacked the capacity to inspire others and for many, the flamboyant ceremonial surrounding the papacy often seems too lavish for the successors of Peter the fisherman. However, Jesus' promise to Peter did not guarantee that his successors would all be saints or be able leaders or that all would avoid mistakes. There is always need for the Church to recognize what is of faith and challenge what is not; it must keep in mind the old dictum *"Ecclesia semper reformanda"* (The Church must always



be reformed); it applies to all church leadership without necessitating any loss of faith or loyalty.

We know from Scripture that Peter made errors of judgement on more than one occasion but was graciously given opportunities to recover from his mistakes and move on. There is a traditional story about Peter's death in Rome during the persecution of Nero. When he heard about Nero's plan to burn the city and blame the Christians, Peter knew that as the church leader in the city he would be arrested and put to death. So, urged by his friends he did the sensible thing and got ready to leave town at night. As the night wore on the sky was illuminated by the flames rising from the city. Then Peter saw someone coming in the opposite direction, heading back towards the city, someone who even at night seemed familiar. *"Where are you going, Lord?"* asked the bewildered Peter. *"To Rome,"* was the reply, *"to be crucified again, in your place"* and on hearing this, Peter turned around and returned to Rome.

Less is said about the idea of succession to Saint Paul, although his role as an animator of faith and community life was also vital in the early Church. Celebrating these two leading apostles as we do, in a single feast, (29th June) is a vibrant reminder that the church needs *both* the formal, enduring, leadership (based on Peter's ministry) and the more charismatic, personal and inspirational leadership provided by characters such as Paul, ever ready to question old ways and seek newer forms of bringing Christ into people's lives.

At this time of ordination services up and down our land, we do well to pray for the inheritors of both these kinds of leadership models as we honour the twin foundational "pillars of the church". Their memory was beautifully evoked by Saint Clement, Peter's fourth successor as head of that community when he wrote: *"Let us set before our eyes the illustrious apostles: Peter, who endured numerous labours and when he had at length suffered martyrdom, departed to the place of glory due to him; and Paul who ... having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, suffered martyrdom under the prefects... and went into the holy place, having proved himself a striking example of patience."*

Clergy: Revd Prebendary Terry Bloor ☎ 01782 623668; Revd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417; Revd Patrick Griffin ☎ 07792 467190

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The best way to honour their memory is to treasure the faith that they taught, and pass it on as best we can to others.

Next month we'll hear the thoughts and reflections of Patrick (The Revd Patrick Griffin, I mean) as one of the latest to follow in the footsteps of these great men.

Blessings
Terry

Some Diary Dates for July

2 nd	Sunday	10.00pm	Patrick's Ordination at Lichfield
		2.00pm	Ordination Celebration Lunch
3 rd	Monday	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
4 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course – Pt 8 (Lady Chapel)
5 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
8 th	Saturday	1.00pm	Garden Party & Queen Crowning
11 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course – Pt 9 (Lady Chapel)
12 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
13 th	Thursday	7.00pm	Fashion Show & Sale – See notice
14 th	Friday	1.00pm	Wedding
18 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course – Pt 10 (Lady Chapel)
19 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Deanery Sub-Committee Meeting (Vestry)
26 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
30 th	Sunday	12.00pm	Wedding

Early August...

2 nd	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Session (Lady Chapel)
9 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club

Worship Services during July

2 nd	3 rd after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Holy Communion
5 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9 th	4 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
12 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 th	Friday	1.00pm	Wedding
16 th	5 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
		4.30pm	Evensong
19 th	Gregory of Nyssa	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
23 rd	6 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
26 th	Anna & Joachim	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
30 th	7 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		12.00pm	Wedding
		4.30pm	Wholeness and Healing

Men's Mass & Fellowship

The next scheduled mass and fellowship (pint and pub grub) for the men of Newcastle and Stoke North Deaneries will take place (7.30pm) at St. Andrew's – Porthill, on Monday, 10th July.

SANCTUS

Thank you for your ongoing support of the SANCTUS Project. Month by month we continue to collect (i) size '6' nappies, (ii) sanitary towels and (iii) toiletries for both men and women. You may be interested to know that SANCTUS holds a special meeting at St. Mark's – Shelton (12h00 noon) on the second Saturday of each month. You can experience cross-cultural worship, meet refugees and asylum seekers and share food produced by those from different cultures.

2017 Confirmation Group

If you have not been Confirmed and would like to know what is involved, why not have a word with Pat Dunn? During this month Pat will be starting a light and accessible course to prepare people for Confirmation which is already booked in Bishop Geoff's diary for Sunday, 3rd September.

Garden Party

This year's Queen Crowning and Garden Party will take place on Saturday, 8th July. Our special guest will be Fr Graham Fowell who will crown Alice at 1.00pm and formally open the Garden Party at about 1.30pm. As ever, lots of help will be needed to make the day a success so please offer what you can. The weekly sheet carries the latest list of requirements.



Food Bank

Our much-valued support to the local Food Bank continues and thank you for it! The need for basic things such as custard, fruit juice, small bags of sugar and small jars of coffee remain. The Food bank are still giving out between 75 and 80 boxes of food each week now to single people in difficulties more than families it would seem.

Fashion Show & Sale

The PTA of St. Margaret's CofE Junior School are making use of our church on Thursday, 13th July for a fashion show and sale at 7.00pm. Tickets (priced at £5.00) includes a drink and are available from the school. I'm sure that Patrick will act as a booking agent if you ask him nicely! The goods are provided by 'Shop-2-drop Ltd' who claim up to 75% discount on lines from the likes of M&S, Debenhams, Miss Selfridge, New Look, River Island and Next.



... to Patrick, now ordained as a Deacon to serve God amongst us. We look forward to working together in new ways for the establishment of God's kingdom.