



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

SEPTEMBER 2017



Kirchentag 2017 Theologie und Wiener Schnitzel

This is the first opportunity I've had to reflect on my visit to Berlin last May for the Lutheran Church conference. It was joy for the third time to encounter old friends in Berlin at the 2017 Kirchentag. The opening service took place at the Brandenburg Gate during which Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury gave a greeting together with the Roman Catholic Archbishop and the presiding Bishop of the German Lutheran Church. This was the first time an Archbishop of Canterbury had been invited to give a word of greeting at such an opening event.

The following day, former US president Barack Obama joined Chancellor Angela Merkel on the main stage. During a 90-minute discussion on democracy and global responsibility, Obama spoke of the need for the renewal of the international order against the background of xenophobia, nationalism, intolerance and anti-democratic trends. *"We have to push back against those trends that would violate human rights, or that would suppress democracy, or would restrict individual freedoms of conscience and religion,"* said the former US president. *"We can't isolate ourselves. We can't hide behind a wall,"* he continued, speaking at the place where the city was once divided between East and West by the Berlin Wall.

Organised every two years in a different German city, the Kirchentag this year gathered more than 100,000 participants of all ages; notably, there were more than 6,000 foreign participants from 105 countries - a record to which I was happy to contribute.

Each Kirchentag brings together figures from church, political, economic and national life and serves as a major forum for debates on current social and political challenges, as well as offering opportunities for worship, workshops, music and culture.

This year's event fell in the year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and was one of the main events in Germany celebrating this jubilee. Its conclusion was in Wittenberg, a place celebrated worldwide as the place where Martin Luther's Reformation began in the sixteenth century. One of the organizers' hopes was that the impetus of the Reformation would help the nation face challenges such as the integration of refugees, climate change, and financial and economic governance. *"The ideas and fundamental convictions of the Reformation have changed the world,"* this year's Kirchentag president, Christina Aus der Au (a Swiss theologian and philosopher) said on the opening day. *"Its anniversary falls in a year, at a time, characterized by rapid change. The world is being rocked by crises and wars."*

The Kirchentag observed one minute's silence on Friday 26th May for the more than 10,000 people who have lost their lives on their journey to Europe, fleeing war, hardship and terrorism.

During his aforementioned greeting, Justin Welby, spoke of the terror attacks in Berlin before Christmas and in Manchester, two days before the opening of the Kirchentag. *"We pray, we mourn, we lament, we cry out, we protest,"* he said. Since then there have, of course, been more such terror attacks, in Spain for example only a couple of weeks ago.

I thought that there might have been the odd reference to Brexit thrown in here and there but there we not.

I'm happy to say that something to make my life a little easier took shape whilst in Berlin. The approach on forming a working group here in Lichfield to share the work of the partnership was formulated. Once

back home I set about drafting a rationale, terms of reference and reporting structure for a such a group. After sharing this with Bishop Michael, he kindly offered to encourage those whom I thought might form the group to be involved. He also invited his wife, Julia, to become a member as she has academic links with the University of Hamburg. Seven out of the eight invitees accepted the challenge and I look forward to holding an inaugural meeting in October. When future activities



Clergy: Revd Prebendary Terry Bloor ☎ 01782 623668; Revd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417; Revd Patrick Griffin ☎ 01782 922730

Churchwardens: Diane Downard ☎ 01782 621424; Nick Atkins ☎ 01782 632213.

Readers: Eileen Gray ☎ 01782 615081; Janet Pazio ☎ 01782 698359; Julie Atkins ☎ 01782 632213; Ed Smith ☎ 01782 614259

Safeguarding Coordinator: Joanne Locker ☎ 01782 619471 **Hall Bookings Manager:** Beryl Silvester ☎ 01782 613685

need planning I will now have a small group of people with whom I can share the load; this will be most helpful.

Having advertised this year's Anticipating Advent visit to Rostock on the Diocesan website, we now have 10 firm bookings with at least 3 more contemplating joining us. There seems a new impetus with the Nordkirche partnership which is very encouraging.

Alles Gute!
Terry

Worship Services during September

1 st	Friday	11.00am	Wedding
3 rd	12 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Confirmation Service
		4.30pm	Evensong
6 th	Laurence	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th	13 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
13 th	John Chrysostom	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
17 th	14 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
		4.30pm	Holy Communion
20 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
24 th	15 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
27 th	Vincent de Paul	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
28 th	Thursday	1.30pm	Wedding
30 th	Saturday	2.00pm	Messy Church

SANCTUS

Our collections for the SANCTUS project continue to be well-supported. Thank you! The two standard requirements are... Size '6' nappies & sanitary towels. Other toiletries for men and women are always welcome.

Carols at Castleton

Expressions of interest are sought for a trip to Castleton on 16th December for their Christmas carol event. The coach would leave church at 12.00 noon and get back at about 8.00pm. If you are interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet presently in church or call Diane Downward. We'll need to confirm things by the end of September.

Estimated Prices : Adults £21.50

Concessions £20.50 / Children £19.50

Choir Rehearsals

The choir has changed its standard rehearsal evening to that of a Monday from a Friday. New members are always welcome! Why not come and discover the joy of singing in a choir?

CAMEO

The CAMEO Luncheon Club is taking a break for the summer and so there will be no meetings on Wednesdays during August. Normal service will resume at 1.00pm on 13th September.

Christmas Fayre

It's already time to turn our attention to the Christmas Fayre! The following items can be brought into church anytime now; they'll be used for fund-raising... clean empty glass jars (various sizes), bottles of alcohol and any new, unwanted items which might make gifts.

Diary Dates for September

1 st	Friday	11.00am	Wedding
2 nd	Saturday	6.00pm	Conformation Rehearsal
4 th	Monday	7.30pm	Mens' Fellowship & Mass (S. Wurburgh's - High Lane)
6 th	Wednesday	6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal
		7.30pm	PCC Meeting
10 th	Saturday	10.00am	'First Sunday' Planning Group
13 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
20 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
23 rd	Saturday	9.00am	Birmingham - Lichfield Walk
26 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	Deanery Synod (Keele, S. John)
27 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
28 th	Friday	1.30pm	Wedding
30 th	Saturday	2.00pm	Messy Church
		7.00pm	Harvest Supper (Hall)

Early October

1 st	Sunday	9.30am	Harvest Service
2 nd	Monday	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship Mass (Tunstall, Christ Church)
3 rd	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Pt 3 Session 1 (Bradwell, S. Barnabas)
4 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
7 th	Saturday	1.00pm	Wedding



Our next MESSY offering will be to give thanks for the harvest. Messy Church will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday, 30th September so please spread the word as widely as possible. The turn-out for the last

Messy Church was very disappointing so we need to raise its profile for Harvest.

Living Faith

Part 3 of the new Bishop's Certificate (now called 'Living Faith') will start on Tuesday, 3rd October. The sessions for part 3 will be delivered at St. Barnabas' church hall in Bradwell at 7.30pm. Led jointly by Terry, Patrick and Chris, these sessions are open to all. It's perfectly OK to come along to these even if you haven't done parts 1 & 2 as they are 'stand-alone' modules.

Harvest Supper

You'll see that we will celebrate the Harvest with the service at 09h30 on Sunday, 1st October. To tie in with this, we will enjoy a Harvest Supper, coordinated by the Church Queen, on Saturday, 30th September. Tickets will be available nearer the time however, get the date into your diaries!

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod to be held at S. John's - Keele, on Tuesday, 26th September will be addressed by The Revd Bill Mash. It's an open synod for anyone with an interest in the theme to attend. Bill (formerly of S. George's - Newcastle), now heads the Black Country Urban and Industrial Mission and its work will feature in his presentation to us.