



# The Lion

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

[www.stmarksbasford.co.uk](http://www.stmarksbasford.co.uk)

FEBRUARY 2018



Not everyone takes Lent seriously. One Christian youngster recalls his friends asking him... "What are you giving up for Lent?" "Homework," he'd say with a smirk, or "Obeying my parents." It never even occurred to him back then that Lent was something he might actually be interested in, or benefit from, or decide to keep, or come to value as a way of getting to know God better.

Lent is recognized by Christians of most mainstream denominations: the Eastern Orthodox Lent is longer than the Catholic or Protestant Lent, and it begins before Ash Wednesday. Lent (the word comes from the Middle English word for "spring") is a six-week season in the Christian year prior to Easter. (Technically, Lent comprises the 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays, or 46 days in total.)

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Part of this preparation involved the Lenten "fast," giving up something special during the six weeks (but not on Sundays, in some traditions.) Historically, some Protestants rejected the practice of Lent, pointing out, truly enough, that it was nowhere required in Scripture and so saw it, at best, as something completely optional for believers, and, at worst, as a superfluous Catholic practice that true believers should avoid altogether. Of course, if we think of Lent as a season to earn God's favour by good intentions or good works, then we've got a theological problem. God's grace has been fully given to us in Christ. We can't earn it by doing extra things or by giving up certain things in fasting. However, if we see Lent as a time to grow more deeply in God's grace, then we're approaching Lent from a proper perspective.

Most Christians now recognize Lent as a season of preparation for Easter, however their emphasis is not so much on penitence and fasting but by making it a time

for Bible studies or prayer meetings so that they might be better prepared for a deeper experience of Good Friday and Easter. Lent can therefore be seen as a season to do something extra for God as opposed to give something up. The now grown-up schoolboy I mentioned earlier remarked... "Before I began keeping Lent, Good Friday and Easter always seemed to rush by before I could give them the attention they deserved. Now I find myself much more ready to meditate upon the depth of Christ's sacrifice and to celebrate his victory over sin and death at Easter."

It should be beneficial to know that millions of Christians – Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant – have found that keeping the season of Lent enriches worship and deepens faith in God. We should all consider, right now, how we could best use this coming season to grow up in the faith; here is a simple option that might appeal...

**LIVELENT - LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE** is a booklet which takes you on a six week discipleship journey through the Gospel of John, exploring what it means to be a witness. For each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day there is a short reading, a pause for reflection and prayer, and an idea for a simple action that will enable the light of Christ to shine through your everyday life. The booklet is written by John Kiddle and introduced by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who write...

"The gospel is God's rescue mission to bring us from darkness to light. This is the work of Jesus, the light of the world. But Jesus is not the only one called the light of

the world by this title. He himself turns to his followers and says, *'You are the light of the world... so let your light shine.'* To witness is to let your light shine. A light shines simply by virtue of being a light. A follower of Jesus witnesses simply by virtue of being a Christian. We have been brought into his light, now he appoints us to bring his light to others. This is what witness is. These Lent reflections take you on a journey through the Gospel of John and give you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life. In the middle of

#LIVELENT  
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

**Clergy:** 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:** 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

John's Gospel is a verse that goes to the heart of it: *Jesus said, 'I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly'* It is our prayer that this booklet helps and encourages you as you take hold of God's gift of life and live it – to the full. God offers us this life for the sake of others. The light he gives us in Jesus Christ is not to be hidden but to shine – it's a gift to be lived and shared. Indeed, the more we share it and let it shine, the brighter it burns.

I will acquire a limited quantity of these booklets in time for the beginning of Lent and I hope that you will take one to use at home. Couples might share one between them so that they go further. If you have never adopted such a discipline for Lent, you will find these booklets very accessible and a good introduction to a short, daily reflection. If you are used to such a practice, you might find this booklet a bit too thin and prefer to stick to something else.

Blessings *Terry*

### Worship Services during February

4 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	'First Sunday' with HC
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
11 <sup>th</sup>	Next before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	ASH WEDNESDAY	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		7.30pm	Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
18 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
21 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
25 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> of Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

### Diary Dates for February

5 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.30pm	Deanery Sub-Meeting in Vestry
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	12.30pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
8 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	7.00pm	DBS Applications (Vicarage)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	7.30pm	Pancake Party (Hall)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	12.30pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
21 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	12.30pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	12.00pm	Parish Lunch (Hall)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	12.30pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club

### Early March Dates

6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	12.30pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
13 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday		Clergy Quiet Day

### Morning Prayer:

Please note that Morning Prayer will be said in the Lady Chapel at 8.00am on Thursdays as well as on the usual Wednesday slot during Lent.



### Ash Wednesday:

You have two opportunities' to start Lent with Holy Communion and Ashing on Ash Wednesday. Services will be offered at 10.30am and 7.30pm. Please do your best to make one of the other.

### Pancake Party:

There will be a Pancake Party in the hall at 7.30pm on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> February m- come and join the fun!

### Parish Lunch:

Tickets are on sale for a Parish Lunch to be held at 12.00 noon on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### Christian Aid:

The annual CA sponsored walk around Tittesworth Reservoir will be held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March this year. More details and sponsorship forms are available in church from the cupboard in the north aisle.

## BBC RADIO STOKE

A special recording of '*In Praise of God*' will take place on the evening of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March. This is the day on which BBC Radio Stoke will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The recording will be at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Jasper Street, Hanley and we are invited to join the congregation at 6.00pm. There are a number of local choirs taking part so it should be a good and interesting experience. If you intend to go along, please add your name to the list in the north aisle as Terry is asked to indicate to Radio Stoke how many they might expect.

## - Having Confessed -

### *Patrick Kavanagh (1904–1967)*

Having confessed he feels  
That he should go down on his knees and pray  
For forgiveness for his pride, for having  
Dared to view his soul from the outside.  
Lie at the heart of the emotion, time  
Has its own work to do. We must not anticipate  
Or awaken for a moment. God cannot catch us  
Unless we stay in the unconscious room  
Of our hearts. We must be nothing,  
Nothing that God may make us something.  
We must not touch the immortal material  
We must not daydream to-morrow's judgement—  
God must be allowed to surprise us.  
We have sinned, sinned like Lucifer  
By this anticipation. Let us lie down again  
Deep in anonymous humility and God  
May find us worthy material for His hand.