



# The Lion

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

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

March 2019



Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi dissident, and key founding member of what became known in Germany as the *Confessing Church*. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential, and his book "The Cost of

Discipleship" has been described as a modern classic. He also wrote a book titled "Letters from prison". During the Second World War Bonhoeffer was jailed and subsequently executed by the Nazis. He had much time to reflect on matters of faith and the kind of relationship we have with God. He corresponded with friends from prison and Martin Lind has written some short reflection based on Bonhoeffer's writings; here's one of them ...

## We do not believe in a God that solves all problems.

Jesus Said, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." *Mtt 28:20*

It would make life easier if we believed in a God that solves all our problems for us. This type of God was commonly depicted in the theatre of Ancient Greece. A mechanical device sent a god flying onto the stage to save the day. It was called a 'god from the machinery' (*dues ex machina*). This was often seen as a portrayal of the divine as a force that offers simple ways out of tricky situations. In one of his prison letters (30<sup>th</sup> April 1944) Bonhoeffer writes that he sees in his time an attempt to appeal for a *dues ex machina*, to let God simply rush on stage when you feel like giving up. But this is a superficial solution to our problems, or it is an attempt to find a power to fill the void where humans fall short.

The Bible does not present us with a God that solves all our problems. God did not send Jesus to save us from our problems, from difficult situations. Jesus had another mission.

To put it bluntly we could say that we have been left to ourselves to the dilemmas and difficulties of life. We have no emergency button we can push that will save us from straight forward answers and easy exits.

Christianity offers something else entirely. According to Mathew, the last words of Christ were, "I am with you always, to the end of the age". This is not a promise always to find the way for us when we are lost. It is a promise of divine presence.

We get into trouble, we make mistakes, we fall ill, we die – our Christian faith does not tell us that this can be avoided with more prayers of piety. Our Christian faith underlines the fact that bad things happen to every single one of us. Christianity offers one answer: no darkness is so black that God is not with us there.

**PRAYER:** God, grant me insight into your presence; help me to surrender my life to you, in trust.

Lent ushers in an annual opportunity for taking stock of our spiritual life and making a little more time available for God. As usual, we will be offering a Lent course for those interesting in being guided on a journey through this significant period of 40 days. Janet Pazio will facilitate a six week course beginning on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March. The sessions, using materials from the Community of St. Chad, will run consecutively at 7.30pm on Wednesdays at Patrick's vicarage in Wolstanton.

For those who can't make these sessions but would still like to do something extra for Lent, we've ordered 20 copies of a magazine called **LENT EXTRA** which can be used at home. This 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday edition of a popular publication will help you discover ...

- How artist Andrew White and sculptor Fenwick Lawson use their unique talents to highlight the meaning of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday;
- What inspired the faith-journeys of singer Katherine Jenkins and actress Emerald O'Hanrahan (Emma Grundy in *The Archers*);
- What Fr James Mallon mean by "Divine renovation";
- Why Lord David Alton of Liverpool tries to be "a voice for the voiceless";

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- How can we bring the Last Supper into our own homes?

The publication also has children's pull-out pages, interesting articles and short daily reflections. They will be made available at the beginning of Lent on a first-come, first-served basis for a £2.00 donation. Make good use of them!

Blessings *Terry*

### Worship Services during March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday	1.45pm	Funeral
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Next< Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	'First Sunday' with HC
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) + Ashing
		19.30pm	Holy Communion (CW) + Ashing
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
10 <sup>th</sup>	First of Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
17 <sup>th</sup>	Second of Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
24 <sup>th</sup>	Second of Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mothering Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion

### 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 or the other.

### Pancake Party:

There will be a Pancake Party in the hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Come and join us at 7.30pm for an evening of games and pancakes. £3 per ticket.

### Diary Dates for March

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Saturday	12.00pm	Table-Top Sale (Hall)
		7.30pm	Pancake Party (Hall)
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		<b>Lent Begins</b>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	7.30pm	Deanery Standing Committee
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting
13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.30pm	Lent Course begins
16 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	1.00pm	Soup and Bingo
20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening (TBC)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	7.30pm	Contemplative Prayer/Meditation
23 <sup>rd</sup>	March	6.30pm	Race Night

### Early April Dates

30 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7.00pm	APCM Meeting
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### Lent Course

Come and join our Lent Course as Janet leads us through a Spiritual MOT, based on the community of St Chad. It begins on 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at Patrick's vicarage, Wolstanton.



### Christian Aid:

The annual CA sponsored walk around Tittesworth Reservoir will be held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March this year. It would be good for us to engage enthusiastically with this once more as we've lost considerable momentum. As the concept of door-to-door collecting becomes increasingly less attractive, this sponsored walk is an ideal way of swelling CA's coffers. We know what good they do! More details and sponsorship forms will be available from the beginning of March.

### Electoral Roll:

Every six years each parish is required to prepare a new electoral roll. Therefore a new 'Electoral roll' is needed for this year's APCM. Everyone needs to re-apply by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 as the existing Electoral roll will be deleted. Forms can be found at the back of church or by emailing the Church Administrator (Details on the front of this sheet).

### Key Holders:

In advance of this year's APCM, the wardens are updating the register of key holders for the church and church hall. If you currently hold keys for the premises please see Diane and Nick.

### New Musical Setting

During our 'FIRST SUNDAY' Holy Communion services, we have used a variety of musical settings but our regular Sunday Eucharists have remained unaltered for many year (decades?) However, the choir will lead us in a new setting from Ash Wednesday. Stick with it – it will become second nature!