



# The Lion

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

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

February 2017



“As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.” *Mark 10: 17-21*

I find myself being asked many questions about the faith, be it at Queen's Theological College or when socialising with friends and family. It interests me that a number are concerned about the quality of their discipleship. They can confess Christ as Lord but feel overwhelmed by what is being asked of them; how can one give all their money to the poor when they have children to feed or bills to pay? Mark's *'Rich young man'* episode is one that is often quoted by people when discussing this matter as there is, if we are to be honest, a degree to which we sympathise with him. He has kept the law, done what was commanded of him and now he has to give away all his fortune when he has his youth to enjoy it!

In my discussions on this text I have found that there is a subtlety that is important to note, the young man approaches Jesus, recognises his authority and asks what he must do to have eternal life having done all that God had asked of him. The gospel notes that Jesus first

reaction was to look on him with love. The man was loved by the Lord for acknowledging his authority and for keeping the covenant of his time, performed in faithfulness. To use St. Paul's language, one can say that the young man was justified by his faith in Jesus Christ, as he was looked on with love, yet he was specifically called to give up his wealth on earth to store them in heaven.

Ever since the time of Athanasius' biography of the hermit St. Anthony, who praised the ascetical life, it was understood that such austere lives were reserved for those for who were called. In many cases in Christian history, ascetics would be supported by local Christian families with food and companionship. There was recognition of a variety of callings and gifts within the disciples of Christ.

Yet the underlying truth of Jesus' teaching is relevant to us all. You are loved by Christ for your faithfulness but to edify that faith, make more time for God. The reason for the young man giving up such wealth would be to secure the attention and time necessary to follow Christ more closely.

Our faith justifies but we need to make more time for God and starting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm there will be a number of Christians across the Parishes of St. Mark's, St. Margaret's, Porthill and Bradwell who will come together to study the faith as part of the one year Bishops Certificate. This is a fantastic opportunity to make more time for God and to learn about our faith. This will be our only faith building offering this year so it is certainly worth consideration. Fr. Terry, Fr. Chris Routledge and myself will lead the sessions and they promise to be fun and informal finishing at 9.00pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible as we make more time for our God. Don't feel that you need to do the whole course if that is problematic, you could dip in and out of modules if you must.

Yours in Christ  
*Patrick*

**Clergy:** Revd Prebendary Terry Bloor ☎ 01782 623668; Revd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417

**Lay Assistant Minister:** Patrick Griffin ☎ 07792 467190 **Churchwardens:** Diane Downward ☎ 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

## Worship Services during February

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brigid of Kildare	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
5 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship (with HC)
		4.30pm	Evensong
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
12 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
19 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
		4.30pm	Holy Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Next before Lent	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong

## SANCTUS

Our monthly collection for the SANCTUS Project 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 consumables.

## Making Contact

To prevent last-minute panics and frustration, please remember that Terry generally takes Friday as his day off; this means that he's not around to take phone calls or pick up messages on Fridays. Please bear this in mind when you need an answer from him on the day you call. Patrick generally takes Monday as his day off, so please make a note for the same reasons.

## Men's Mass and Fellowship

The Stoke North and Newcastle Deanery Men's get-togethers recommence at Holy Trinity Sneyd (Hamil Road – Burslem) at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## PCC Christmas Gifts

It's been our tradition to make financial gifts from PCC funds to certain charities at Christmas. We've received thank you letters from the following...

- Leprosy Mission for our gift of £270.00
- Red Cross for our gift of £240.00
- Bible Society for our gift of £270.00
- Church Mission Society for our gift of £500.00

## Children's Society

If you would like to start saving loose change in a Children's Society Box, please have a word with our new CS Co-ordinator, Sue Morley who will be able to fix you up with one.

## Deanery Synod

The next meeting (see information panel opposite) is an 'open' meeting on the theme of work with children and youth. You can join us if this theme interests you.

## Diary Dates for February

1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Men's Mass at Holy Trinity (Sneyd)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday	2.30pm	Funeral in church
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Friday	12.00pm	Funeral in church
7 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course at Bradwell
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Marriage Preparation Evening (Lady Chapel)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course at Bradwell
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
16 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	7.30pm	Deanery Synod (St. Giles' – Town Centre)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course at Bradwell
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
27 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.30pm	RD's Visitation
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	10.00am	Clergy Quiet Day at St. Chad's House in Leek
		7.30pm	Living Faith Course at Bradwell

## Early March...

1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday		ASH WEDNESDAY
		1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
4 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	11.00am	Community of St. Chad Day in Lichfield
6 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (Choir Vestry)

## Christian Aid

The CA local representative tells us that last year the sponsored walk raised almost £51,000 and remains one of its most successful annual fundraising events for the charity

Concerning this year's walk to be held on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April; donations and promises of financial support have already been made to cover all this year's expenses - so every penny collected in sponsorship will go directly helping others. The Tittesworth Reservoir authority is allowing walkers to park their vehicles for a payment of £2.50, regardless of how long they stay. (It would normally cost £4.70 to park for more than two hours).

Registration takes place from 9.15am onwards. The walk will commence at 10.00am and walkers should aim to complete the course by 1.00pm. There is a choice of two routes - a short 'easy' walk of approximately 2 miles or a longer walk of roughly 5 miles, both of which will be clearly signposted. As usual St. John Ambulance Brigade members will be on duty together with CA's own stewards and Easter eggs will be distributed to any who come in fancy dress or wear an Easter Bonnet.

## 100 CLUB

The 100 CLUB winners for January, each receiving a £50.00 cash prize were... **50 & 100**

There are three vacancies in the Club at the moment if you wish to support St. Mark's in this way. Have a word with Ann Lewis for more information.



Wireless communication is nothing new;  
I've been praying for 75 years!