



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

OCTOBER 2017



From Conflict to Communion

Almost 150 people – including Bishop Michael, took part in an historic walk of friendship from Birmingham to Lichfield on Saturday, 23 September. The 18-mile St Chad Pilgrimage marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The walk began at the Metropolitan Cathedral Church and Basilica of St Chad, Birmingham – and ended at Lichfield Cathedral, which was founded in AD 700 on Chad's burial site. Bishop Michael said: "The example of St Chad is as relevant today as it was over 1,300 years ago when he became the first Bishop of Lichfield. Chad, a Northumbrian, crossed boundaries in a pioneer ministry, winning over the pagan Mercians throughout what is now the modern-day Midlands. It was fantastic on Saturday to journey as 21st century pilgrims together from Birmingham to Lichfield and follow in Chad's footsteps, building bridges of trust, kinship and kindness."

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Revd Bernard Longley, said: "I was delighted to take part in the ecumenical pilgrimage walk from St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham to Lichfield Cathedral in company with Bishop Michael and representatives from so many branches of the Church. Walking, praying and witnessing together in this way was a practical demonstration of our commitment to the unity of the Church and our mutual regard for the legacy of the great missionary, St Chad. The pilgrimage walk enabled us to deepen our friendships in Christ and to pray for the intercession of St Chad for all those who bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of the Midlands today."

Pilgrimage organiser Robert Mountford added: "The St Chad Pilgrimage celebrated the fact that, 500 years on from the Reformation, Catholics and Protestants have resolved many of the doctrinal issues that once separated them and are now, more than ever before, walking, praying and working together in respect, friendship and co-operation."

Pilgrims were sent on their way at 9.00am with a blessing by Canon Father Gerry Breen, Dean of St Chad's Cathedral, and received an official welcome from Canon Precentor Andrew Stead upon arrival at Lichfield Cathedral at 6.00pm.

A Local Opportunity

Not everyone was available on the day or would have been able to walk the 18 mile pilgrimage; however, there is a local opportunity to build on what was achieved by the walkers in Stoke later this month. A special service of reflection, repentance and reconciliation will be held at Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church, Hartshill Road, at 6.30pm on Sunday 29th October. Bishop Geoff along with Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop David McGough and Methodist District Chair Peter Barber, have agreed to take part in the service. It is open to all. Please think about lending your support as a show of commitment to unity and friendship.

Harvest Festival

On the First day of October, we're celebrating our Harvest Festival. It's one of the oldest and most traditional of British festivals, but other than gathering up tinned goods and taking them to church, what is harvest festival all about? here's something which appeared in a September *Telegraph*...

Celebrating the harvest was once a pagan affair. Today's church celebrations only began in earnest in Victorian times, when the Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker invited his parishioners to a special harvest thanksgiving service at the church in Morwenstow, Cornwall in 1843.

In centuries past, farmers would lay on a harvest feast and a corn dolly might be given place of honour and hung up in hope of a good harvest the following year. Long ago Anglo Saxon farmers believed the last sheaf of corn contained its spirit, and it would be sacrificed along with a hare usually found hiding in the field. A model of the hare was then made up using corn – and evolved to the dolly, said to represent the goddess or spirit of the grain.

The old West Country tradition of "Crying the Neck" was revived in Cornwall in the early Twenties. Dating back from times when crops would be hand harvested, a reaper would hold the last bundle of corn – sometimes

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

known as the “neck” – aloft and cry out to the other harvesters. The corn was tied and kept in the parish church until the following spring.

Some harvesters felt it was bad luck to cut the last corn standing and farms would race to finish first and shout when they’d done it. Sometimes reapers would throw their sickles at the last corn until it was cut. Or they’d take turns to be blindfolded and sweep a scythe to and fro to finish.

Early English settlers took the idea of harvest thanksgiving to North America. “First Thanksgiving” was celebrated by the religious refugees from England known as the “Pilgrims” in 1621. They invited native Americans to a harvest feast at the Plymouth Plantation to celebrate a successful crop. Turkey wasn’t on the menu initially – instead the feast included goose, lobster, fish and deer.

Britain also celebrates the bounty of the sea as well as the land. Whitstable holds ceremonies to bless the seas during the town’s annual July oyster festival. Dozens of fish festivals are held around the UK’s coastal towns and villages, from Anglesey to Dorset to Rye Bay in East Sussex, where local scallops are on offer.

Our Harvest offering here at St. Mark’s this year is being given to the Food Bank. If the service passes you by, you can still bring in the usual products for the Food Bank during October; bringing a little extra this month can be your way of saying ‘thank you’ to God for all that he graciously provides.

Blessings
Terry

Worship Services during October

1 st	16 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Harvest with HC
		4.30pm	Evensong
4 th	Francis of Assisi	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
7 th	Saturday	1.00pm	Wedding
8 th	13 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
11 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
15 th	18 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
		4.30pm	Holy Communion
18 th	St. Luke	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
22 nd	19 th after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
25 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
29 th	Last after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Wholeness and Healing

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.

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.

CAMEO

The CAMEO Luncheon Club has resumed normal service. If you want to take advantage of this popular offering, join the group each Wednesday at 1.00pm in the church hall.

Living Faith

Part Three of the new Bishop’s Certificate (called ‘Living Faith’) will start on Tuesday, 3rd October. The sessions 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 sessions even if you haven’t done parts 1 & 2 as they are ‘stand-alone’ modules.

Diary Dates for October

1 st	Sunday	9.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL
3 rd	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course Pt 3 (1) at Bradwell
4 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
9 th	Monday	7.30pm	Deanery Standing Committee
10 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course Pt 3 (2)
11 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
14 th	Saturday	10.00am	First Sunday Planning Group
16 th	Monday	10.00am	Selwyn Lecture (Lichfield)
17 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course Pt 3 (3)
18 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
		7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening
24 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course Pt 3 (4)
25 th	Wednesday	1.00pm	CAMEO Luncheon Club
29 th	Sunday	6.30pm	Clocks go back 1 hour! Reflection, repentance and reconciliation for the 500 th Anniversary of the Reformation at Our Lady’s RC church – Hartshill Road, Stoke.
31 st	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course Pt 3 (5)

Early November

1 st	Wednesday	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (Choir Vestry)
2 nd	Thursday	7.30pm	Fashion Show
4 th	Saturday	1.00pm	Wedding
5 th	Sunday	3.00pm	Wedding
7 th	Tuesday	7.30pm	Living Faith Course Pt 3 (6)
8 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	Men’s Mass and Fellowship

THIS HARVEST, PLEASE REMEMBER...

