



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

May 2018



#PLEDGE2PRAY

pledged to pray from more than 85 countries including Ghana, Netherlands, Malaysia, Cuba, South Africa, Australia, Korea, Japan and the Philippines to name a few.

In the UK, in 2017 every diocese in the Church of England was involved. Many cathedrals took part, hosting 'beacon' events designed to focus prayers in towns and cities nationwide.

The campaign's broad ecumenical appeal led to more than 50 denominations and traditions being involved last year; including the Roman Catholic Church and the Methodist Church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said:

"The business of being witnesses to Jesus Christ and of praying to be witnesses compels us to look into the world around us. It compels us to seek, to experience the compassion of God for a world caught up in lostness, in sin, but also in suffering and pain, in oppression of the poor, in cruelty, in abuse, in outrageous inequality, in all the things that go against the Kingdom of God. There is no limit to what the Kingdom of God does, and so the moment we start praying Thy Kingdom Come we look outwards. The Kingdom of God will transform individuals, society and the globe."

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, we read in our Trustees Annual Report that my intention was to offer this **Thy Kingdom Come** initiative as an opportunity to do two things....

- (i) keep nine days of prayer (a novena) between Ascension Day and Pentecost;
- (ii) launch a monthly parish prayer event.

Thy Kingdom Come is a simple invitation to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for friends and family to come to faith. Now in its third year, participation has grown every year. In 2016 – 100,000 Christians pledged to pray. By 2017 – more than half a million had

No church will grow (as God wants it to) without it praying for direction and guidance, strength and determination. I know that there is a nucleus of folk here at St. Mark's who will wish to engage with this short-term initiative either corporately (as and when they can) or at a time and place to suit them, yet in solidarity with the whole congregation.

What are we going to pray for?

- (i) for the kingdom of God to come in all its fullness – bringing life, vitality and hope;
- (ii) for our friends, neighbours, colleagues etc. to experience the nearness of God,
- (iii) the discovery of our own vocation or calling
- (iv) that we might become better disciples.

How are we going to pray?

By coming together and, where this is impractical, by praying at home over nine consecutive days. The following times for corporate prayer and other forms of service will be offered based around what already is scheduled to happen with a few supplements. Engagement will mean some sacrifice on your part; however, sacrifice is part of the process of sharpening our focus on God...

Friday	11 th May	0800	Morning Prayer (B)
		1830	Evening Prayer (B)
Saturday	12 th May	1800	Evening Prayer (B)
Sunday	13 th May	1830	Special (LCH)
Monday	14 th May	1930	Mass (T)
Tuesday	15 th May	1000	Morning Prayer (W)
		1800	Evening Prayer (B)
Wednesday	16 th May	0800	Morning Prayer (B)
		1030	Holy Communion (B)
		1800	Evening Prayer (B)
Thursday	17 th May	0800	Morning Prayer (W)
		1000	Mass (W)
		1800	Evening Prayer (P)
Friday	18 th May	0800	Morning Prayer (B)
Saturday	19 th May	1800	Evening Prayer (B)

Key to venues: (B) = Basford / (W) = Wolstanton (T) Tunstall / (LCH) = Longton / (P) = Porthill.

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

Churchwardens: Diane Downward ☎ 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

The service at Longton Central Hall at 1830 on Sunday 14th May is a special ecumenical service with a gathering of leaders (including Bishop Geoff) and people from RC, CofE and Methodist churches from across the City and Borough – a chance to show some Christian solidarity!

On the basis that we're praying for God's kingdom to come, one suggestion is to choose five 'friends' to pray for. You could choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on five names, commit to praying for them regularly by praying the following:

Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth. Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends [*here, name your friends*] the life of your Son and your love for all. Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.

Here are five easy ways to pray for five people regularly. Choose the one that suits you best...

✘ **PIECE OF STRING**

Take a piece of string and tie five knots in it to represent each of the five people you have committed to pray for. You could carry the knotted string in your pocket or tie it round your wrist so that you'll see it regularly.

✘ **PRAYER ALERTS**

Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five each day.

✘ **POST-IT NOTES**

Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.

To help parishes make the most of this opportunity, the CofE has produced some pocket prayer booklets, a prayer journal and a version of Morning and Evening Prayer. Hopefully, I will be able to get my hands on sufficient copies by the first Sunday in May to get us all off to a good start.

Please commit to this prayer initiative as best you can and let's earnestly pray for God's kingdom to come amongst us.

Blessings *Terry*



THY KINGDOM COME

Worship Services during May. - See Text for Additional TKC Events -

2 nd	Athanasius	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
5 th	Saturday	11.30am	Wedding
6 th	6 th of Easter	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	'First Sunday' with HC
9 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
13 th	7 th of Easter	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
16 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
20 th	Pentecost	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship
23 rd	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th	Trinity Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
30 th	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Morning Prayer

Diary Dates for May

1 st	Tuesday	7.30pm	Deanery Standing Committee
2 nd	Wednesday	7.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal
5 th	Saturday	11.30am	Wedding
8 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	Archdeacon's Visitation
13 th	Sunday	6.30pm	TKC Service (Longton)
14 th	Monday	7.30pm	Men's Mass & Fellowship - Tunstall
16 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	Newcomer's Welcome - Vicarage
19 th	Saturday	9.30am	Christian Aid BIG BREKIE (Hall)
		7.30pm	Queen's Cheese & Wine with Music
22 nd	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting
23 rd	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation

★ **Christian Aid**

On Saturday, 19th May between 9.30 and 11.30am you are invited to the **BIG BREKIE** in the church hall which will raise funds for Christian Aid. If you can't make the breakfast, there are still various ways in which you can make a contribution. Eithne Lewis has tickets and further information.

★ **Church Queen Event**

On the evening of Saturday, 19th (7.30pm) there will be a Church Queen's event in church comprising cheese & wine with an evening of summer music. The latter will be provided by a string trio. Tickets are now available from Jo Locker.

★ **PCC Meeting**

Our next scheduled meeting of the PCC Falls on Tuesday, 22nd of May. Remember that we now start at 7.00pm with a short Holy Communion before the meeting takes place.

★ **Ecumenical Service**

Last year's local, ecumenical service took place in Hartshill. This year (Sunday 13th May – 6.30pm) will see Christians gathering at Longton Central Hall. Please try to support this event as we come together as ONE church in our area.