



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

SEPTEMBER 2018



*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10

Prayer is the uplifting of the soul to God, I read that recently in a book I was reading, and I liked it. So often we only think of prayer as asking God for things, and then struggle when we do not get them, but prayer is much more than just asking.

I like to think of prayer as being a conversation between us and God, and we know how difficult one-sided conversations are, when someone is telling us all their woes and not listening to us when we try to join in the conversation. That is how it is with us and God though sometimes, we are ready to give God our shopping list of needs and people, and then do not hang around long enough to listen to God.

I recently was able to go on a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. After a lovely, but busy evening of worship, the Mass and a Procession round the grounds, we were able, if we wanted, to remain in the Church which got quieter and stiller as people left and settled. It was one of the most special times of the Pilgrimage, as I was able to sit in silence and become aware of Jesus in my life. I was not asking things, I did not need to; I simply was able to sit in the presence of Jesus. It was very moving and powerful, and a real blessing.

Prayer encompasses many kinds of things, on a Sunday we have prayers during the Eucharist service, and during our intercessions. During the week we may pray for different situations and people, sometimes sending up quick prayers to God to help us in difficult situations. In my work as

a chaplain I will often pray with people, residents or their families as they request.

As we continue on our faith journey as a Church here at St Mark's we have looked in the past, through the Pilgrim course and with Father Graham, at different kinds of prayers and so we feel that it would be good to start a monthly silent prayer meeting in the Church. This would be a time when people will be able to come into Church and sit in silence, silently praying to God, but also quietly listening to what God is saying to us as individuals and as a Church.

We know that this will not be easy for us, but we must not be put off from starting something just because it is going to be challenging and hard. You may immediately be thinking '*I couldn't do that!*', but this is something that will bring blessings to the Church and to us as Christians on our spiritual journeys.

One aspect of going on a Pilgrimage or a Retreat is the thought of bringing back something from there and trying it at your own Church or community. Perhaps finding God in silent prayer and in the stillness of this Church is something that we can experience here, just as some of us did when we went to Walsingham.

The first one hour long opportunity to meet together for prayer will be from 7.30pm on Thursday, 20th September; thereafter we will try to establish the third Thursday evening of each the month as the time to meet and pray.

Ed Smith

Clergy Choir

Ashley Mellor is trying to inspire clergy to form a county-wide choir; in part this is to have some fun but also to instil competence and confidence. The initial meeting is to take place at St. Mark's on the morning of Friday, 21st September.



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

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The Deanery Synod being held at St Mary's, Knutton on Thursday, 13th September will be an 'open' synod addressed by a serving Army chaplain. The theme will be... Commemorating the Centenary of the end of WWI. Churches are being encouraged to make the most of this unique opportunity so it would be good to get ideas. We are already planning a march by our uniformed organisations from Bardwell, via Porthill, Wolstanton and as far as St. Mark's on Remembrance Sunday.



Worship Services during September

2 nd	14 th after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) 'First Sunday' Holy Communion
5 th	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
9 th	15 th after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
12 th	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
16 th	16 th after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Worship with Baptism
19 th	Theodore	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
23 rd	17 th after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
26 th	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
30 th	18 th after Trinity	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion

Diary Dates for September

4 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Karen Petherick's Licensing at S. Barnabas, Bradwell
6 th	Thursday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting
10 th	Monday	7.30pm	Men's Mass and High Lane
13 th	Thursday	7.30pm	Deanery Synod at Knutton
18 th	Tuesday	8.00am	Clergy Chapter (S George's Hall)
20 th	Thursday	7.30pm	Prayer/Mediation Hour
21 st	Friday	10.00am	Clergy Choir (Church)
26 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation (Confirmed)

Early October

6 th	Saturday	7.30pm	Organ Recital (Ashley Mellor)
7 th	Sunday		Harvest Celebration

'SETTING GOD'S PEOPLE FREE'

A Church of England Report

Dr Lindsey Hall writes (*abridged by Terry*)...

In my formative Christian years, we used to sing a song that went "it is for freedom that Christ has set us free". It is a curious thing to say that it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Some of St. Paul's contemporaries thought this was an invitation to immoral and selfish behaviour and that telling people they were free was opening the door to all sorts of excesses of hedonism and licentiousness.

The Church of England currently has a project of *Setting God's People Free*. Lichfield Diocese is one of about 25 dioceses participating in Learning Communities with the aim of sharing with and learning from others about some of the ways in which God's people can be set free.

The stories from other parts of the country helped us to reflect on where we are in this Diocese and our particular challenges and opportunities. Just as every person has a unique vocation, so does every church, parish, Christian Community and Diocese. Wanting to be Oxford Diocese is as much a sin as wanting to be someone other than you are because you think different gifts or a different calling would be better. Being Lichfield Diocese is what we are and we are called to be it in a way that brings glory to God and transformation to the people of our region. And, talking to our colleagues from around the church, we realized some of the unique gifts of this region and how far we have actually traveled on our journey together to discover the freedom into which Christ has called us.

Undoubtedly there is still a long way to go. The progress we have made is patchy and there are plenty of examples of people who remain bonded to the yoke of slavery in its many and varied guises. But there are also things to celebrate. The focus on discipleship, vocation and evangelism as diocesan priorities helps to keep the focus on our core business: being faithful witnesses to the transforming love of God.

We have been proactive in finding ways of working that show that this is not just up to clergy and it's not just about the church. We are constantly trying to find ways of discerning what God is doing in this region and joining in with it, supporting it and equipping people to be part of it.

The C of E has committed to this project of *Setting God's People Free* – if it works they may not like the result! That's the thing about freedom: you can't control it and it might not look like what you were expecting. But the freedom for which Christ has set us free is not entirely unknown; it is freedom to be God's people, freedom to be part of God's growing kingdom, freedom to grow in Christ-likeness, freedom to discover the purposes for which God has created us. And now is the time for all of God's people to be released into that glorious freedom.



The C of E has produced a condensed version of this report especially for PCCs and Deanery Synods to read and discuss. Maybe this is something that our PCC could engage with as we continue to look for ways of growing in number and depth of relationship with God. In the meantime, please engage with our opportunities to pray, read and study together whenever they are offered.

Blessings *Terry*