



# The Lion

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

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

OCTOBER 2018



This harvest we are doing our bit to make sure communities across the world have a harvest worth celebrating. We will be celebrating harvest on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October and raising funds for WaterAid by taking an additional collection. The money we give will mean families around the world get access to clean water which they can use to grow healthy, nutritious food.

Before WaterAid installed a borehole in Sablogo, providing clean water for the whole community, they were forced to dig into a nearby riverbed to collect water

from the sand. This water was dirty and unreliable which made growing crops hard and meant Evelyne's children suffered from stomach aches, sickness and diarrhoea. However, with the arrival of clean water, those illnesses are a thing of the past, and Evelyne's children are well enough to go to school.



Evelyne and her family in Sablogo, Burkina Faso.

Evelyne says, 'Water and food go together. Our harvest and food - we have them thanks to water. The quality of our meals also depends on the water that we use for cooking.'

This harvest, we will make sure that WaterAid can reach even more families like Evelyne's and bring life-changing clean water. If you would like to know more about WaterAid, visit... [www.wateraid.org](http://www.wateraid.org)

In support of



## Parish Prayer Facilitator

At our last PCC meeting Ed Smith was appointed as our Parish Prayer Facilitator. It was thought that the best way to promote prayer (in all of its forms) was to give someone this specific task. If you have ideas that might put prayer on the map, have a word with Ed. We look forward to seeing some positive developments which will help us pray more regularly and effectively.



## Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> October

Don't forget that we also intend to double-up on our support for the local Food Bank this harvest!

## A Biblical Reflection on HARVEST

### Harvest Time:

In Matthew 9 we read that Jesus had been teaching and healing many people. He did this because he loved and cared for the people. Not only did Jesus teach spiritual truth, he met the physical needs of his listeners. Most of them did not come for spiritual reasons, but to have their physical needs met. The blind, lame, lepers, deaf came looking for healing but his greatest concern and passion was for the spiritual needs of people. Therefore, he encouraged his disciples in saying that many were ready to be "harvested" – that is, they were ready to seek spiritual peace with God, but there were few workers who were willing to help.

Jesus also encouraged his disciples with a farming illustration... "Do you not say, there are yet four months, and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." (John 4:35-38)

Jesus' point is simple. People are spiritually ready to receive forgiveness through God's mercy and grace. To encourage his disciples, he tells them there is a reward for helping people see their spiritual need. Then he adds

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an important point that we can all too easily miss. Some may “sow spiritual seed” and not harvest while others may harvest and not sow. There are sowers and harvesters. It is exciting for harvesters to see people discover their spiritual need for God and respond. However, we often forget about the sower. Jesus says the harvester enters into the work of the sower. There will be many sowers who will one day be surprised when they see the wonderful results of their faithful sowing.

### Growing the Harvest:

Sowing and harvesting includes more than just helping people become Christians; it includes helping them grow as Christians... *I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Cor. 3:6-9)*

Some of us plant seed or share the truth about Jesus. It may include teaching or preaching the Christian message. It can be as simple as telling someone how you came to God for real. Saint Paul talks about helping a person become a Christian and then continue to grow. He calls Christians “God’s field.” But the one who really does the planting and watering is God because it is the Holy Spirit who helps us see our need for salvation and reveals Jesus as its true and unique source. Yet, God wants to use us and has chosen to spread the gospel through us... *How then shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:14)*

### Conclusion:

God is relying on all of us within his Church to get involved in sowing, watering, and harvesting. There are no special qualifications – only that we believe him and depend on him with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

### Worship Services during October

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
7 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	'First Sunday' HARVEST HC
10 <sup>th</sup>	Paulinus	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion (With Guest Preacher)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Ignatius	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
21 <sup>st</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> after Trinity	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Family Worship with Baptism
24 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Simon and Jude	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	Martin Luther	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

### Diary Dates for October

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday	7.30pm	Reading Circle (Vestry)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	7.30pm	Organ Recital
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	9.30am	HARVEST
11 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	7.00pm	'Everybody Welcome' Session 1 (For PCC Members)
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.00pm	'Everybody Welcome' Session 2 (For PCC Members)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	7.30pm	Contemplative Prayer
20 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	10.30am	Organ Concert by North Staffs Organ Society
		12.00pm	Table-Top Sale in the church hall
		7.00pm	Harvest Supper in church hall
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tuesday	7.00pm	'Everybody Welcome' Session 3 (For PCC Members)
24 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening (Confirmed)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	7.00pm	PCC (Short Meeting!)

### Early November

7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.30pm	Men's Mass (Lady Chapel)
		7.30pm	Reading Circle (Vestry)
8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.00pm	'Everybody Welcome' Session 4 (For PCC Members)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	7.00pm	WW1 Night in the church hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday		Remembrance
17 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday		Christmas Fayre in church

### Christian Solidarity Worldwide

On Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, we will welcome Keith Davies who is the local representative for Christian Solidarity Worldwide. He will speak at our 09h30 service about the work of this organisation.

### Table-Top Sale

There will be a table-top sale in the hall from 12.00 noon on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### Harvest Supper

Don't miss the food, fun and games at our harvest Supper to be held in the church hall from 7.00pm on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets will be on sale from our Church Queen on the run-up to this event.

### Organ Concert

Ashley Mellor has offered an organ recital for us at 7.30pm on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please support this as best you can as it will be the first recital following the major expenditure on the recent organ modification.



### Scouting

We're asked to note that our uniformed organisations (all of them) are actively looking to recruit volunteer leaders. Please do all you can to promote our uniformed groups amongst your families and friends.

### Remembrance 100

Please keep the evening of Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November free in your diaries for our special get-together in the church hall on the eve of Remembrance Sunday.

