



# The Lion and The Dragon

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's, Basford and St Margaret's, Wolstanton

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

October 2022



## We meet as 3 Congregations!

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

Beloved,

On the last and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of October we shall meet together in St Margaret's Church at 11:15am for a Mass to Celebrate the great Feast of All Saints, where we recall the Holy Evangelists, Apostles, Martyrs, Virgins, Doctors, Bishops, Religious and other Saints of God's family. *(We shall again meet together but at St Mark's for the feast of Candlemass on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 9:30am).*

As well as the 2 church congregations of St Mark and St Margaret, whom I serve, we meet in all good Trinitarian belief as 3 congregations, because we also meet with the Sainly congregation of the Kingdom of Heaven – or as the Apostles' Creed puts it – the Communion of Saints, or in the letter to the Hebrews – the cloud of witnesses.

You have probably picked up in my preaching and prayers that I have a great love and interest in the life and stories of the Saints. Those ordinary men and women who were found by God and gave their lives to belief in God and sharing the Good News whatever the cost – often ending in horrendous torture for the sake of Jesus Christ! Oh what a sacrifice to be a Christian!

It can be good and useful to 'take a Saint' as a favourite and use them in prayer. Like those who use Lady Mary in their prayers, we do not worship Mary and we do not

worship the Saints – it is Christ alone whom we worship – but we ask for the Saints to assist our own prayers because we believe they are alive in the power of the resurrection, and they pray in the heavenly realm for us. S. Felix was the Saint who's name I took at ordination; I often invoke him in my prayer time.

If you've never really thought about the Saints or would like some guidance in 'choosing' one to assist you, then I am very happy to share my thoughts and I have a lot of books on them!

One of my favourite prayers is the TE DEUM, much underused in today's Church I feel – in the Liturgy of All Saints we use its powerful words proclaiming the life of the Church over its 2022-year span: "The glorious company of apostles praise you, the noble fellowship of prophets praise you, the white-robed army of martyrs praise you, and WE, your holy Church, acclaim you."

In each Eucharist I pray some form of these words "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, praising you..." , and as we sing Holy, Holy, Holy, never underestimate, and never doubt the very presence that heaven has joined our worship – the myriads of the Holy Ones of God.

I look forward to worshipping the one true God with each of you, in the company of heaven and all the Saints, and may S. Margaret, S. Mark and all the Saints and Angels, Pray for each of you.

*Blessings, In Christ,*

*Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy*

**Clergy:** Fr Tommy Merry ☎ 01782 624450 ✉ frtommymerry@gmail.com; Rev'd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417.

**St Mark's Churchwardens:** Diane Downward ☎ 01782 621424; Nick Atkins ☎ 01782 632213.

**St Margaret's Churchwardens:** Dai Elias ☎ 07562 988435; Kathy Lovatt ☎ 07857 146869.

**St Mark's Parish Administrator and Reader:** Julie Atkins ☎ 01782 632213 ✉ joul51506@gmail.com

**St Mark's Reader:** Janet Pazio ☎ 07594135691; **Safeguarding Coordinator:** Jill Ayres ☎ 07792 549356.

## Worship Services during October

(St Mark's, Basford (B), St Margaret's, Wolstanton (W))

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (B)</b>
		<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mass (W)</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17th after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (B)</b>
		<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mass (W)</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>18th after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship + Baptism (B)</b>
		<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mass (W)</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass (W) then open till 2pm</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>last after Trinity</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (B)</b>
		<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Mass (W)</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass (W) then open till 2pm</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12.00pm</b>	<b>Wedding at St Mark's</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All Saints</b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Joint Mass (W)</b>

## Diary Dates for October

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10-1pm</b>	<b>Pre-loved sale at St Mark's</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>Harvest Supper at St Mark's</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Deanery Synod</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Baptism prep evening, Basford</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>

## Early November Dates

<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1-4pm</b>	<b>Artisan Market, St Mark's</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11-2.00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Fayre at St Mark's</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Tea, Treat and Tale</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>PCC Meeting, Basford</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>PCC Meeting, Wolstanton</b>

### Tea, Treat, and Tale:

Come and join this weekly social time at St Mark's while sharing a story. It takes place each Monday in the choir vestry between 1.00pm and 2.30pm (Door on the left side of the church).

### Harvest Supper:

Don't miss the food, fun and games at our Harvest Supper to be held in St Mark's church hall from 6.30pm on **Saturday 8th October**. Tickets will be on sale from Diane or Julie on the run-up to this event.



**Sunday 30th October 2022, 11:15am @St Margaret's Wolstanton**

(No 9:30am Service at St Mark's that day)

### Open Door Food Bank:

Open Door Stoke-on-Trent is a local charity that Fr Tommy is Chaplain to. They run 5 houses supporting local homeless people which are staffed with support workers.

They run various drop-in centres where homeless people can receive a hot cooked meal and a food parcel. They also give food parcels to people in crisis.

They always need any food donations - but especially the following:

Coffee, Tea, UHT Milk, Sugar.

Packets of Biscuits or chocolate bars.

Tinned meat - e.g corned beef.

Tinned meals - e.g chicken casserole in a tin

Baked Beans, Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Vegetables

Toiletries are always useful too.

### Christmas Fayre:

Come and pick up some early Christmas gift at St Mark's Christmas Fayre on 19th November from 11-2pm. Stalls, games and refreshments available.

### Sleep in Sunday:

Don't forget on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October to move your clocks back and enjoy an extra prayerful hour before the service.

