



The Lion and The Dragon

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk and www.stmargaretswolstanton.org

September 2022



Back from Honeymoon, and It's a New Season!

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...

a time to keep, and a time to throw away...

Beloved,

It is a delight to sit at my desk in the vicarage and write the first of my newsletter greetings to you, which I write in the name of the Living God, who was, and is, and is to come.

Firstly, thank you for welcoming me to St Margaret's and St Mark's over the last few months and for being patient with me as I discover the new role that God has in store for Me, and for Us.

As I said in my first sermon, I promise to offer you 5 things:

1. I will devote my life to PRAY for you all.

Please pray for me too!

2. I am going to TALK, a lot (as you've probably realised!) I will listen too!

3. I will LOVE you – we shall laugh and cry together. Please look after me!

4. I will SERVE you – please let me, and please communicate with me – I am only a frail human, not a mind-reader, I am always happy to help, but please let me know what's going on.

5. We will have FUN! We are called to be joyful in the Gospel – it is Good News after all!

In my calling here as your Shepherd, I am going to make mistakes, I am going to offer 'Change' which some of you may not want, I am going to share my ideas, I may even stir you up!

I have no 'grand-plan', but naturally I will do things differently to any previous vicar before.

You can always ask me why I do things and what I mean, especially in spirituality and the liturgy.

Please remember this is a challenge to me too – I have been given 2 big jobs, with many elements - I'm not complaining, this is not meant to be a moan or a negative critique, for I am excited by how we can build the Kingdom, here, in our time! But it's tough, I can see there is lots to be done and I cannot do it alone. Ministry is not the Vicar – it's WE not me! Please do support me in my role – I need your help and I need to be built up by the love of my sheep (that's you!)

I often reflect upon the words from the wisdom literature of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 – I used that in my second sermon to you all - a time to weep, laugh, mourn, dance, embrace, keep silent, speak... Well this is now OUR time: may it be Holy, may it be Compassionate, may it be Good.

My dear sheep, We have all entered a new season together. We are that New Season I sort of feel that my Honeymoon period is over, Good! Now it's terrifying - but we must not fear! For it's breath-taking – for we all know what miracles God can and will perform through us! May we speak of the Christ in all things, and use Love as our weapon.

I rejoice with you all as we share living out the life God has offered us, and living it abundantly!

Blessings, In Christ.

Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy

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Worship Services during September

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

3 rd	Saturday	10.30am	Wedding at Wolstanton
4 th	12th after Trinity	9.30am	'First Sunday' with HC (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
7 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
11 th	13th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
14 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
18 th	14th after Trinity	9.30am	Family Worship + Baptism (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
21 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
25 th	15th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
28 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
2 nd	Harvest	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)



Harvest Festival

Sunday 2nd October at St Mark's and St Margaret's

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

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.

Diary Dates for September

10 th	Saturday	1.30pm	Autumn Fayre and crowning
12 th	Monday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting, Basford
13 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting, Wolstanton
17 th	Saturday	10-4pm	Heritage Day, Wolstanton
19 th	Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale
19 th	Monday	7.00pm	Baptism prep evening, Basford
26 th	Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale

Early October Dates

3 rd	Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale
10 th	Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale
17 th	Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale
17 th	Monday	7.00pm	Deanery Synod
18 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	Baptism prep evening, Basford
30 th	Sunday	11.15am	Joint service at St Margaret's

Autumn Fayre:

St Mark's Autumn Fayre will be held on Saturday 10th September at St Mark's church starting with the crowning of the new queen Sofia Goodwin at 1.00pm.

St Margaret's Heritage Day:

St Margaret's church will be holding their Heritage Day on 17th September 10am-4pm. The church will be open, and refreshments will be available. So come and enjoy a drink and a chat with Fr Tommy and the team and learn about the history of St Margaret's Church.

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.

Tea, Treat, and Tale:

Come and join this weekly social time at St Mark's while sharing a story. It will start on Monday 19th September in the choir vestry between 1.00pm and 2.30pm. Door on the left side of the church.