



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

December 2022



I come in The Name of The Prince of Peace

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Beloved,

I don't want to hear from anyone at the start of 2023 that you are doing "Dry January" – for that is sin! January is not a time for misery, dieting and relief after a busy few days, it is a time for great joy and merriment.

Christmass is not a day, firstly it is an octave, so 8 days; some follow the tradition to Epiphany of the 12 days; but in fact Christmass is 40 days, it lasts until Candlemass on the 2nd February and every moment of it should be spent rejoicing in the Incarnation, the Word-made-flesh, the Christ child. (I actually keep my Christmas tree up until the 2nd February – that's up to you).

So when would be a good time to diet, or fast as is more appropriate to the life of the Christian.

Before we get to Christmass we must live out Advent, the preparation time – it's not quite as penitential as Lent, and certainly not as long, but it does have a feel of expectation, so in just these few weeks before we get to Christmass, abstain from luxuries as much as you wish, for ecstasy and everlasting felicity are coming.

What you must not abstain from is time with God, time in prayer, time with the scriptures, a little bit of retreat time, a little more time with Jesus, a little time in silence, a little

in preparation, time to watch and time to wait on the Lord...

Why do I tell you this?

I tell you this because I come in His name.

But I tell you also that one greater than I, one greater than John the Baptist even, is coming into our world. The long-expected Saviour is on his way! Where will you be?

I simply come in 'the name of' the Prince of Peace, to remind you to wait and to watch.

As we travel through the journey of Advent and the wreath of candles, we recall the themes of the Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – traditional themes for Advent meditation. We especially remember the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, before we reach the celebration of the Christ child in the Nativity.

And if you pray only one prayer each day of Advent, then pray, "Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus"

Advent is for fasting and waiting – January and Christmass is for feasting.

Awake O sleeper and rise from the dead, for Christ will give you light.

The Mass of Christ is coming! (*and when it arrives, a very Merry Christmas to you all*)

Blessings, In Christ

Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy

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

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

Diary Dates for December

3 rd	Saturday	4.30pm	Christmas Meal (B)
10 th	Saturday	10am	clean and Decorate (W)
10 th	Saturday	11-12pm	Decorate the windows(B)
21 st	Wednesday	4-6pm	Seedlings Party (B)

Early January Dates

18 th	Saturday	10.00am	Christingle preparation (B)
19 th	Sunday	9.30am	Christingle Service (B)
23 rd	Monday	7.00pm	Wedding prep evening (B)
25 th	Wednesday	7.00pm	Baptism prep evening (B)
29 th	Sunday	9.30am	Joint worship at St Marks (B)
30 th	Monday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting (B)
31 st	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting (W)



"You can't get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."
- - C. S. Lewis

Tea, Treat, and Tale:

This weekly social time at St Mark's will be taking a break during December and January.

Christmas meal: The annual Christmas meal at St Mark's on the 3rd December at 4.30pm is now sold out.

Christmas Carol Services: Carol services will take place on Sunday 18th December at St Mark's at 9.30am and Tuesday 20th December at St Margaret's at 7pm.

Worship Services during December

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

4 th	2 nd of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
7 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
11 th	3 rd of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		10.00am	Mass (W)
14 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
18 th	4 th of Advent	9.30am	Carol Service(B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
21 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
24 th	Christmas Eve	11.15am	Crib Service (W)
24 th	Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Crib Service (B)
24 th	Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass (B)
25 th	Christmas Day	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
28 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)



Crib Service:

Gifts, toiletries, selection boxes and socks this year will be going to 'Open Door' for those who will be spending Christmas there. Parcels can be bought to St Marks church in the usual way labelled for boy/girl, Male/female. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.