



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

November 2022



I am here to be a stirrer!

Words of the Psalmist: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. (80:1-3)

Beloved,

This month, we complete the year of the church with the Kingdom season, ending with the feast of Christ the King, also known as Stir-up-Sunday, as the post communion prayer of the day refers.

When we think of 'stirring', apart from doing some cooking, (*the tradition is to make your Christmas Pudding on stir-up-Sunday!*) it possibly has a negative feel – someone is likely not behaving the best they can if they are stirring someone up.

However, as your priest, I believe I have the right to be a 'stirrer' and to 'stir you all up!'

At my ordination the bishop asked me: "*Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?*" And I responded, "By the help of God, I will."

I believe it is my role to encourage you, to re-think the Good News, to re-think your faith, to re-think your life as a member of the Body of Christ, to re-think the gift of God that is in YOU; so as one year completes and another begins, it might be a good time to reflect and plan.

THANKYOU to each of you for continuing to be Christ's hands, feet and eyes in Basford and Wolstanton - Thankyou for getting to the end of another year of 'being the Church'.

But every so often it is good for us to take time to see how much we may have shut God out, or got too cosy and relaxed in the faith that we are told, yes will be JOY, but will not be easy.

Being stirred up is not a negative or an annoyance, but a JOY in thinking through where YOU are with GOD and where that relationship can be even BETTER!

This is not a great sermon about Sin or anything heavy, but a STIR for us to question where the regular and monotonous may have taken over in our original Damascus (*our initial contact in the faith if you like!*), where might we be a little LOST, and unfulfilled, and tired, and in need of being refreshed in the name of LOVE, and need to discover again that in Christ, we have been FOUND?

We are about to start a New Year! We need to be ready! We need to focus! We need to make YOU and CHRIST the priority! Tidy up, get the messy jobs out of the way, clear the desk & diary, get rid of the busyness, actively block in some December time to be still, plan a prayer timetable, meet your spiritual director, find something spiritual to read, get ready to stop yourself being caught up in all the nonsense of Christmas, get ready to FALL IN LOVE with Christ all over again!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, YOU DON'T HAVE LONG, Advent begins on November 27th, and we must

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 ✉ jouls1506@gmail.com

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

only GET to the Mass-of-Christ, to Christmas, having LIVED Advent, so make it count

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Blessings, In the name of Christ our King
Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy*

Diary Dates for November

7 th Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale (B)
12 th Saturday	1-4pm	Makers Market, St Mark's
14 th Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale (B)
19 th Saturday	11-2.00pm	Christmas Fayre at St Mark's
21 st Monday	1-2.30pm	Tea, Treat and Tale (B)
21 st Monday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting, Basford
22 nd Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting, Wolstanton

Early December Dates

3 rd Saturday	4.30pm	Christmas Meal (B)
10 th Saturday	11-12pm	Decorate the church (B)
18 th Sunday	9.30am	Carol service (B)



"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:

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).

All Souls' Service of Remembering:

Services will take place at St Margaret's Church, Wolstanton on Sunday 6th November at 4.30pm and at St Mark's church, Basford on Sunday 13th November at 4.30pm.

Worship Services during November

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

2 nd Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
6 th 3 rd before Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
	11.15am	Mass (W)
	4.30pm	All Souls service (W)
9 th Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
13 th Remembrance	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
	10.00am	Mass (W)
	4.30pm	All Souls service (B)
16 th Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
20 th Christ the King	9.30am	Family Worship + Eucharist (B)
	11.15am	Mass (W)
22 nd Tuesday	10.00am	Mass (W) then open till 2pm
23 rd Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
27 th 1 st of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
	11.15am	Mass (W)
30 th Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)

Makers Market:

Local Makers will be selling their wares in the church hall on **Saturday 12th November from 1-4pm.**

Remembrance Sunday:

Please note on Sunday 13th November Mass at St Margaret's church will be at the earlier time of **10.00am.**

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.

Christ the King:

On Sunday 20th November – the 9:30am, Morning Service at St Mark's church will not be a Baptism but a Eucharist led by Fr Tommy and the Seedlings to celebrate Christ the King.