



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

January 2023



20 + C + M + B + 23

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts. All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service. (Psalm 72.10,11)

Beloved,

Merry Christmass to you all!

I hope you have a wonderful 40 days of merriment and rejoicing!

This season of Christmas and Epiphany is one where we see God made manifest.

As well as the Nativity of Christ, we have a splatter of feasts and important occasions throughout January – the child is named and circumcised; the Magi visit the king and bear him gifts (with great Easter links); we recall the Baptism of Jesus; and we see his ministry begin at Cana in Galilee where He miraculously turns water into wine.

It all comes to a close on the 40th day – at the feast of Candlemass, where Jesus is presented in the temple, the Blessed Virgin Mary is Purified and we meet Simeon and Anna – we will all gather together at St Mark's on Sunday 29th January at 9:30am to share in worship for Candlemass and we shall share in a fellowship lunch in the hall

after the service, I look forward to seeing you all there.

One tradition at the start of a New Year is to have your home blessed with an Epiphany blessing. The blessing has a particular link to the Wise Men, so called Casper, Melchior and Balthasar (by legend anyway!), and priests mark the doorways of homes with the symbols of the Magi and the Year – "20+C+M+B+23" – in Holy Chalk. I am starting the New Year in Africa, but when I'm back, if you want your home blessed, let me know and I will happily come and do so.

Another feast during Epiphany is that of the Conversion of St Paul. A sinner becomes a Saint. God used Paul. God used Simeon and Anna. God uses us too.

As Christians we may sometimes feel a sword piercing our souls, but we also see the light of the world, and we sing of His glory.

God was made manifest in Jesus Christ. God now makes His home in us and He pours into our hearts, the brilliance of His eternal splendour.

We have sung God's praise with shepherds and angels, we have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna, we have greeted Jesus, the light of the world; as Christ is born in our hearts, may we shine with the light of His love and carry His light, this season, this year, and always...

Blessings for 2023

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 Parish Administrator and Reader: Julie Atkins ☎ 01782 632213 ✉ jouls1506@gmail.com

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

Diary Dates for January

14 th	Saturday	10.00am	Christingle preparation (B)
23 rd	Monday	7.00pm	Wedding prep evening (B)
25 th	Wednesday	7.00pm	Baptism prep evening
29 th	Sunday	12.00pm	Joint fellowship lunch (B)
30 th	Monday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting (B)
31 st	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC Meeting (W) The Vicarage

Early February Dates

18 th	Saturday	6.00pm	Pancake party (B)
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*On behalf of myself, Rev'd Pat and the team,
thank you all for your many cards and
gifts. We wish you all a blessed New Year.
May the light which Christ brings into the
world be our guide as we enter 2023.*

Fr Tommy

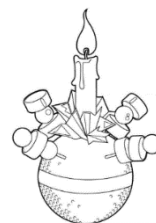
Open Door: On behalf of 'Open Door' we would like to say a huge thank you to Maybank infants, and to all those who attended the crib service at St Mark's and left a gift under the tree, your generous donations of toiletries and gifts will make a massive difference to so many people this Christmas time and New Year.

Worship Services during January

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

1 st	2 nd of Christmas	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
4 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
8 th	Epiphany	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
11 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
15 th	Christingle	9.30am	Family worship (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
18 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
22 nd	3 rd of Epiphany	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
25 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
29 th	Candlemas	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)

Christingle Prep: If you are free on Saturday January 14th, we will be preparing our Christingle oranges at St Mark's Church, in the vestry at 10.00am and would love some help.



Joint fellowship meal: As Fr Tommy has previously mentioned, following our joint service at St Mark's church on Sunday 29th January at 9.30am, we will be holding a fellowship luncheon at 12.00pm in St Mark's church hall. There will be no charge, but donations will be welcome. More details to follow closer to the time.

Children Society Boxes: If you have a Children Society Box in which you save loose change, it's now time to bring them into St Mark's church so that Diane can empty them, count the contents, and bank the cash with the Christingle donations at the end of January.