



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

February 2023



To my brothers and sisters in Christ at Basford and Wolstanton, Greetings.

This is not a sermon just a few thoughts jotted down on a snowy day!

As I sit and write this letter my study is flooded with sunlight; outside my garden is covered in glistening white snow; as is my car in the front drive. Unfortunately, this wonderfully bright, picturesque, snowy morning is preventing me from getting to church for the Wednesday service; but on a more positive note, it has given me the time to sit down and write a few words for this month's Newsletter.

Since the Christingle service at St Marks the words of the hymn *'The Candle Song'* written by Graham Kendrick have been constantly running through my head and I find myself singing them over and over again.

'Like a candle flame, flickering small in our darkness, Uncreated light shines through infant eyes. God is with us Alleluia, come to save us Alleluia.'

This infant child's life, was soon to be cut short; somewhere around the age of 32; Jesus Christ, the Son of God was arrested and on a rubbish dump crucified on a wooden cross. Why? Jesus' life was sacrificed for you and for me... in short because God loves us!

The words of the song remind us how quickly the church's year marches on from Christmas to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and on to his Resurrection.... *'Stars and angels sing yet the earth sleeps in shadows. Can this tiny spark set a*

world on fire' ...Jesus came to earth with a message of love for the world yet the world rejected him... read what Jack McArdle writes in his book *'Uncomplicating the Message'*.

'One of my own haunting mental images of Jesus is to see him praying to the Father on the mountainside at night. I see the tears streaming down his face as he repeats over and over again, 'Father they don't believe me. They don't believe me. I told them about the prodigal son, and the forgiving father, just as you told me, but they still are burdened with guilt, and are afraid to come home to you. I told them about the birds of the air, and the lilies of the field, but they still fret and worry over many things. Father, they just don't believe me'. *'The world's sin is unbelief in me,' (John 16:v9)* Jesus' words at the Last Supper.

There's a story someone wrote about believing in Jesus....

'A group of men once sat around discussing good and bad memories. As a result, a bet was placed about which of them could recite Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd by heart. The first man had a clear pleasant voice, and some training in the art of dramatics. He began... The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.' His recitation was flawless and was greeted with a loud applause. He even had to recite it a second time, to greater applause.

The second man was very old, rather stooped, with a crackling voice that required an effort to be heard. He began, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want,' and when he had finished, there was total silence all around the

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room. Then one by one, each man present lowered his head and began to pray quietly. The first man to recite the psalm stood up to explain the great difference in the response to both recitals of the same psalm. He put it very simply: 'I know the psalm' he said, 'but that old man – well he knows the Shepherd.'

'Yet his light shall shine, from our lives Spirit blazing, as we touch the flame of his holy fire.'
God is with us Alleluia, Come to save us Alleluia.

May the light that shone from the Christ child's eyes at his birth continue to shine on through us in our daily living.

Revd. Pat.

(The Candle Song from St Martin the Fields ('You Tube'))

Worship Services during February

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

1 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
5 th	3 rd before Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
7 th	Tuesday	10.00am	Funeral service(B)
8 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
12 th	2 nd before Lent	9.30am	Family worship (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
15 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
19 th	Next before Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
21 st	Tuesday	11.30am	Funeral service(B)
22 nd	Ash Wednesday	10.30am	HC + Ashing (BCP) (B)
		7.00pm	HC + Ashing (B)
		7.00pm	HC+ Ashing(W)
24 th	Friday	11.00am	Rosary(W)
26 th	1 st of Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
28 th	Tuesday	12.00pm	Stations of the cross (W)

Palm crosses:

In preparation for ash Wednesday, if you have any palm cross from last year, please can Fr Tommy have them to make ash.

Diary Dates for February

13 th	Monday	10.00am	Ministry team meeting (B)
18 th	Saturday	6.00pm	Pancake party (B)
23 rd	Thursday	7.00pm	Lent Course + compline (B)

Early March Dates

2 nd	Thursday	7.00pm	Lent course + compline (B)
9 th	Thursday	7.00pm	Lent course + compline (B)
16 th	Thursday	7.00pm	Lent course + compline (B)
20 th	Monday	7.00pm	Baptism prep evening (B)
21 st	Tuesday	7.00pm	PCC meeting (B)
22 nd	Wednesday	7.00pm	PCC meeting (W)
23 rd	Thursday	7.00pm	Lent course + compline (B)
25 th	Saturday	tbc	Christian aid walk

Pancake Party:

There will be a Pancake Party on Saturday 18th February at St Mark's church hall. Come and join us at 7.00pm for an evening of games and pancakes. £6 per ticket.

Ash Wednesday:

You have three opportunities to start Lent with Holy Communion and Ashing. Services will be offered at St Mark's church at 10.30am and 7.00pm and St Margaret's church at 7.00pm. Please do your best to make it to one.



Christian Aid walk:

A date for your diaries. The annual CA sponsored walk around Tittesworth Reservoir will be held on Saturday, 25th March this year. It would be good for us to engage enthusiastically with this once more as we've lost considerable momentum. As the concept of door-to-door collecting becomes increasingly less attractive, this sponsored walk is an ideal way of swelling CA's coffers. We know what good they do! More details and sponsorship forms will be available from the beginning of March.

Church Memorial Book update:

We are about to update the Memorial books in both churches, so if anyone wishes to have their loved one's names placed into them, please speak to Diane or myself (Julie) for St Marks and Fr Tommy for St Margaret's.