



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

June 2023



Be Thirsty! Be Filled! Be Drunk! Live Abundantly!

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:3-4)

Beloved,

By the time you read this we will have celebrated the great Feast of Pentecost – The Birthday of the Church and the coming of the Promised Holy Spirit – the Advocate, the Paraclete.

The Acts reading is one of my favourite readings from the Scriptures – in fact it was read by my mother at my Inaugural Mass, the anniversary of which I celebrate this month.

As well as the drama; that list of wonderful places; the prophecy of Joel; and the Holy Spirit empowering Peter, I always smile at the bit where they think the disciples are drunk on wine!

In one of the gospels for Pentecost, from John, Jesus tells the thirsty to come to him and drink, He speaks of living water and later He tells them that He came so that not only could we have life, but life in All Abundance!

Well we are about to enter what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time' (the long green season).

I must say I am quite ready for it, a time to relax within the life of the Lord and His Church, and a few weeks of calm from the hectic seasons – but I don't know if there will be anything 'ordinary' about it – not with me as your Vicar anyway!

I do pray that we can embrace the ordinary of our faith, and discover within it the extraordinary!

During the month of June I'm going to be taking my overdue post-Pasch holiday!

I shall be off to Africa to get married (well to marry some of my friends!) and then cruising on to Norway – a country I am very excited to visit for the first time.

I am looking forward to spending my ordinary time being filled by the Spirit.

I pray like the disciples of Pentecost that the crowds around me will assume I am drunk, not on wine but by the joy of Our God who is not ordinary, but gives us life in all abundance - powerfully and extremely sustaining.

I hope people you meet think the same of each of you - May you be on fire with the Holy Spirit!

Blessings, In Christ

Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy

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St Mark's Parish Administrator and Reader: Julie Atkins ☎ 01782 632213 ✉ joulis1506@gmail.com

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

Worship Services during June

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

2 nd	Friday	10.00am	Funeral (B)
4 th	Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
7 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
8 th	Thursday	10.00am	Funeral (B)
8 th	Thursday	1.00pm	Funeral (B)
11 th	St Barnabas	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
14 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
18 th	2 nd after Trinity	9.30am	Family worship with communion (B)
		11.15am	Morning prayer (W)
21 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
25 th	3 rd after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Morning prayer (W)
28 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)

Gardening Team

St Mark's church are so blessed with award winning gardens thanks to our amazing gardening team, and once again it's that time of the year when the gardening team need your help by requesting donations for the purchase of Summer Bedding plants, to enhance the Church gardens. Each year they rely on your kind donations, and it is really appreciated by all the team.

Open House

We will be holding an 'Open house' afternoon on **4th June** from **2-5pm**. At no1 May Avenue, with games/ tombola/ raffle/ cake stall. All proceeds going towards the St Mark's church queen funds.



Diary Dates for June

4 th	Sunday	2:00pm Open House
19 th	Monday	7:00pm Baptism prep evening
24 th	Saturday	10:30am Coffee Morning in church (B)

Early July Dates

1 st	Saturday	Makers Market time tbc
6 th	Thursday	6.45 for 7:30pm Archdeacon Visitation
10 th	Monday	10:00am Ministry team meeting (B)
24 th	Monday	7.00pm PCC meeting (W) at the vicarage
25 th	Tuesday	7.00pm PCC meeting (B)

Giving Direct

Both PCCs are always thankful for the financial support from parishioners, whether it be through standing order, the envelope scheme or cash offering and where possible through the gift aid scheme. We would however encourage you to consider a relatively new scheme introduced by the Diocese called 'Giving Direct'. Through this scheme, your financial giving is made by direct debit directly to Lichfield Diocese, anonymously if preferred, and then sent as a lump sum to the church within 14 days. The scheme removes the gift-aid administrative burden for our finance team, but more importantly St Mark's and St Margaret's receive the gift aid monies alongside each donation rather than having to wait over 12 months under the current scheme, massively helping our cash flow. Even if you are not a gift-aider, please do consider the scheme as it ensures a regular income stream to the Church so that we can better budget and meet our expenditure commitments.

If you would like to know any more about the scheme, and how to join, please do speak to Heather or Nick at St Mark's and Kathy at St Margaret's.

Archdeacons Visitation

The visitation this year will take place on **6th July at St Andrews church in the Westlands, 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start**. During which our wardens Diane and Nick for St Mark's church and Dia for St Margaret's church will be sworn in for the year ahead.