



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

August 2023



Oh to Be Clothed with Christ!

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Peter arrived and was taken there.

All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

(From Acts 9:36-43)

Beloved,

I think if God had not called me to priesthood, I would have liked to have gone into fashion design to work with materials and fabrics, especially creating clothes.

Over the last couple of weeks I seemed to have enjoyed many occasions to 'dress-up' - which by now, you probably realise I love doing!

I write this after another school prom and the day before another wedding. Some of you may

have even seen the photos of my recent wedding of friends in South Africa – the joy of being the priest who both conducts the ceremony, and is a guest at the wedding party, means you get to have 2 outfits! My dear friend's vigil and requiem last week also meant 3 costume changes in one service. (I think the Lord must know something of my interest in fashion?!)

I have not long been back from a Cruise where the highlight was not the food, the sights, the spa or even the cocktails, but the dressing up for dinner every night – and it would have been rude to wear the same outfit more than once!

Despite my indulgences, I do still contemplate the scriptures and as I have just got my outfits ready for another wedding day, the story of dear Dorcas (Tabitha) comes to mind.

There is not much detail, but she was creative – a beautiful element of her story.

The vital part of her story however, is what she is really clothed in – God's Holy Spirit, God's life-giving power, God's Hope, God's Glory, God's Purposes and God's Joy – as you are clothed in it too.

Tonight, I'm off to see the new Barbie film and I cannot wait. I will certainly be decked in finest pink – However, I hope I will be clothed in Christ Jesus, wearing His armour!

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

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

St Mark's Churchwardens: Diane Downward ☎ 01782 621424; Nick Atkins ☎ 01782 632213.

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

St Margaret's Churchwardens: Dai Elias ☎ 07562 988435; **St Margaret's Safeguarding Coordinator:** Catherine Plumb 07944578077

My children, I speak in the name of dear Saint Paul: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (*1 Corinthians 10:31*), and so may you be clothed with Christ.

You are also all invited to the vicarage for a parish party -but you must come clothed in your finest hat – may the hat shopping (or making) begin!

Blessings, In Christ

Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy

Worship Services during August

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

2 nd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
6 th	Transfiguration	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
		1.00pm	Baptism (W)
9 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
13 th	10 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
16 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
20 th	11 th after Trinity	9.30am	Family worship with Baptism (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
23 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
27 th	12 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
		1.00pm	Wedding (W)
30 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)

Diary Dates for September

2 nd	Saturday	1-4pm Makers Market (B)
10 th	Sunday	9.30am Church Queen Crowning (B)
11 th	Monday	10:00am Ministry team meeting (B)
16 th	Sunday	10.00am- 4.00pm Heritage day (W)
23 rd	Saturday	1.30pm Autumn Fayre (B)
25 th	Monday	7.00pm PCC meeting (B)
26 th	Tuesday	7.00pm PCC meeting (W)
30 th	Saturday	10.00am Open Garden (B)

Hats Off! (Well hats on actually!)

You are invited to the ...
Parish PARTY @ The Vicarage
Saturday 26th August, 2pm-5pm
Food, Fizz and Frolics!

You must come wearing your most elaborate hat!



St Margaret's Heritage Day:

St Margaret's church will be holding their annual Heritage Day on **16th September, 10.00am - 4.00pm**, with an exhibition and refreshments.

Sunday 24th September:

There will be no 9:30am service at St Mark's on 24th September as we will be joining St Margarets, Wolstanton for a Joint Eucharist at 10:00am.

Sustainability:

Last week, St Mark's PCC discussed sustainability particularly around the use of single use non-recyclable cups that we currently use for tea and coffee after our services. With the lack of volunteers to help with tea and coffee (new volunteers always welcome!) washing of china mugs is not a practical solution that we can move to at the moment. Alternative single use cups are available that are sold as recyclable; however this is subject to the local councils recycling contract and unfortunately, Newcastle's current kerbside recycling does not accept these types of cups for recycling! We will continue to investigate other forms of cup, but in the meantime it is pointless moving to a more expensive cup that still can't be recycled locally. If it is your preference, parishioners are more than welcome to bring their own similar sized (7oz) cup which we will happily fill, alongside the current cups.