



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

July 2023



To my brothers and sisters at St Mark's and St Margaret's Church.

Greetings.

I enjoy the sun, but not too much of it or like the flowers in the garden, I begin to wilt and in the words of the hymn 'Walk with me O my Lord....'my energy is spent'. So, it's good to have a break from the searing heat for a while.

Two weeks ago I had a week away and together with a friend travelled to the South of England. We stayed in the remote village of Nether Wallop, Hampshire where I was fortunate to be able to spend some time with my daughter and grandchildren who live in the village. We had time to visit famous places, Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals and Romsey Abbey. We experienced worship in other villages too where the worship was so very different from Cathedral worship but just as meaningful.

On a very hot day, we travelled down to Portsmouth and took the lift up the Spiniker Tower. The views were amazing from the top and the sea breezes made life much more comfortable. We spent a quiet day at a Lavender Farm in a tiny hamlet. The homemade scones, strawberry jam and fresh cream were delicious!.... but if I could choose one memory it would be the friendliness and helpfulness of the people we met. Strangers became friends. I always understood that Southerners were not a very welcoming people, yet we found, without

exception that those we met responded to our friendly greeting.

Throughout the world as people meet they greet one another with smiles and maybe handshakes and hugs. I recall reading some time ago of the custom in Asia particularly the Indian sub-continent. One familiar form of welcome is the Namaste (pronounced na..ma..stay). The people press their two hands together, palms facing, at the level of the breastbone and a slight bow is made to the other. A translation of Namaste is something like this... 'I salute the deity within you'... It recognises that God, however we name the God we serve, is an integral part of our being. Not someone only 'out there' but within us and about us in our little world, our community, and a part of all that we do.

In the gospel we come across the word 'welcome' as Jesus sends out the disciples on a mission to form a new community. Their particular role is to preach the good news of Jesus to the Jewish people; twelve of them for the twelve tribes of Israel. Their message is that the kingdom of heaven has come near in the person of Jesus. 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me'... Jesus says, and 'whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me'. The Jew would understand exactly what Jesus was saying. To the Jew to receive a person's envoy or messenger was the same as to receive the person himself. So to welcome the disciple into their home they were to honour the prophet; to give a cup of water; to honour Jesus himself.

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So what does this mean for all of us today as we welcome people into our church or meet with them elsewhere. After all we can't all be prophets or preachers who proclaim the word of God. We can't all be shining examples of goodness; we can't all stand out in the world's eye as righteous. It's not possible for everyone to do this, but we can by the way we live and the actions we take make Jesus present in the world today.

Each Sunday as we leave church we are bidden to 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. Our response is 'In the name of Christ. Amen'. Every day the Lord sends us out on our daily mission. It may be offering a welcome to the visitor to our church or maybe a drink as we meet together in fellowship after the service. Whatever God calls us to do, we all have a responsibility to those who the Lord sends into our lives. Whatever words we speak or actions we take we do in the name of the God we serve who is an integral part of our being. Not someone only 'out there' but within us and about us in our little world; our community.

Before we left Nether Wallop my 15 year old granddaughter Sofia asked me if I would go for a walk up the lane and help her feed Timmy the sheep and Dave the hairy pig who she was looking after for the farmer. I really would have liked to say 'no!' but realised the answer must be 'Yes of course'; that was until I saw the size of the animals who rushed to the gate to be fed. 'Do you mind if I stay this side of the gate to feed them' I said, 'I'm wearing sandals!'

May the peace of the Lord be with us all in the tasks we are given to undertake.

Revd. Pat.

Worship Services during July

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

2 nd	4 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
5 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
9 th	5 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
12 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
16 th	6 th after Trinity	9.30am	Family worship with Baptism (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
19 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
23 rd	7 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
26 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
30 th	8 th after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)

Diary Dates for July

1 st	Saturday	1-4pm Makers Market (B)
6 th	Thursday	6.45 for 7:30pm Archdeacon Visitation
10 th	Monday	10:00am Ministry team meeting (B)
22 nd	Saturday	6.30pm Family Race Night (B)
24 th	Monday	7.00pm PCC meeting (W) at the vicarage
25 th	Tuesday	7.00pm PCC meeting (B)

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 Dai for St Margaret's church will be sworn in for the year ahead.

Family Race night

Don't forget to get your tickets for our Race Night 22nd July at 6.30pm, which will prove to be a fun packed family evening. Tickets are £5 and there will be simple nibbles and eight horse races with £1 per bet. A horse can also be sponsored for £3 with a prize for the winning sponsor.