



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

December 2023



The Innkeeper

While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)

Beloved,

There is actually no reference in the bible to the 'Innkeeper', just the above reference that there was no room for the Holy Family.

And although not the most impressive costume, it's certainly a sort-after part to play in the school nativity, with often a comical role of shouting "NO ROOM!" which then develops into the compassionate offer of the stable.

The world didn't have room for the 'word-made-flesh', the light in the darkness almost didn't shine, and yet space was made, hardened hearts were opened, and the Christ child was able to pitch up his tent among us, so that we could see his glory.

So where do you fit in? We are about to start a new church year, where the main Gospel will be that according to our patron Mark (if you've never tried taking a couple of hours to sit and read the Gospel in one go, I challenge you to do so...). During Advent we will hear of some of the

warnings and prophecy, before receiving the fulfilment of promises.

These warnings are real – are we ready for an unexpected guest? – are we welcoming to the people who we don't know yet? have we only got room for our friends? Have we said "NO" to Jesus and not even realised it? because we were blinded to that one who asked us for a space at the table? Who have we shunned away or ignored when they very well may have been God himself?

Will you be making room this Christmas for Christ or for the stranger?

Will you prepare a space for Christ at your table? Will there be room for the Lord when he comes?

"What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"
(Mark 13:37)

Wishing you all an expectant Advent and a truly Merry Christmass to you all – including the strangers who may become your guests!

Love, In Christ

Your Shepherd,

Fr Tommy

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Worship Services during December

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

3rd	1st of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
<i>6th</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</i>
10th	2nd of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
<i>13th</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</i>
17th	3rd of Advent	9.30am	Carol Service (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
<i>19th</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>7.00pm</i>	<i>Carol Service (W)</i>
<i>20th</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</i>
24th	4th of Advent	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Crib Service (W)
24th	Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Crib Service (B)
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass (W)
25th	Christmas Day	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
<i>27th</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Holy Communion (BCP) (B)</i>
31st	1st of Christmas	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)

Christmas Carol Services:

Carol services will take place on Sunday 17th December at St Mark's at 9.30am and Tuesday 19th December at St Margaret's at 7pm.



Crib Service Gifts:

Your Gifts, toiletries, selection boxes, party nibbles, socks and boxer shorts, this year will be going to 'Open Door' for those who will be spending Christmas there. Parcels can be bought to St Marks church in the usual way labelled for boy/girl, Male/female. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

Diary Dates for December

2 nd	Saturday	4.00pm	Christmas meal (B)
4 th	Monday	6.30pm	Scouting Carol service (B)
14 th	Thursday	5.00pm	Seedlings Party (B)
17 th	Sunday	12.00pm	Church Queens Party
wkb 18 th	Various days	9.30am	Schools in church (B) & (W)

Early January Dates

14 th	Sunday	10.00am	Joint worship (B)
15 th	Monday	7.00pm	Wedding prep evening (B)
21 st	Sunday	9.30am	Christingle + baptism (B)



Christmas Eve: 11:15am Crib Service (W)
4.30pm Crib Service (B)
11.30pm Midnight Mass (W)

Christmas Day: 9.30am Holy Communion(B)

21st January: 9.30am Christingle Service(B)

Christingle Service:

A date for your diary. Our ever-popular Christingle Service for Families will take place on 21st January 2024 at 9.30am.