



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

January 2024



Amazement, Glory, Praise, Treasure, Ponder...

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
(Luke 2:17-20)

Beloved,

Merry Christmass to you all!

I hope you CONTINUE to have a wonderful 40 days of merriment and rejoicing! Christmas is until Candlemass – Dry January is a sin! So I am not joining the gym until February 3rd!

So a New Year is before us! Do you remember the resolutions you made last year? Probably not!

I wonder what the year of Our Lord 2024 will hold for us?

The season of Epiphany is a reminder to us that God will be made manifest in Christ.

As we recall the story of the Nativity, The Great Incarnation – and those few words describing the moments as the shepherds left in wonderment and the feelings of Our Mother, we must take from it a few encouragements – far more useful than any resolutions.

They SAW – The simple ordinary shepherds, saw the greatest glory anyone ever could – we as the current folks of God's almighty creation can become extraordinary in what we see in Christ – Our Salvation.

They TOLD – we must speak of the news, because others need to see Our Hope and Our Joy – for in that they too can be AMAZED!

They returned – GLORIFYING and PRAISING – we must not forget the beauty of holiness in which we worship the gift of the baby in the manger, and we must constantly live it out.

She PONDERED – the young girl, traumatised and shocked yet willing and strong, gave herself as the vessel of goodness, truth, light and life. We too must take time, as regularly as we can, to be still, to return to the Lord, to be thankful, to think, to question and to bask and revel in God's gift of love – "*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all*" (Titus 2:11)

May we live the words of the angel: "*For nothing will be impossible with God.*" (Luke 1:37)

And May we echo Her words, singing, as we play our role in the story: "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*" (Luke 1:37)

My dear sisters and brothers, my sweet children, May the Lord Use us and Guide us this 2024, Rich Blessings be poured upon you all

Love, In Christ

Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy

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Worship Services during January

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

7 th	1 st of Epiphany	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
		12.30pm	Baptism (W)
10 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
14 th	2 nd of Epiphany	10.00am	Joint worship with HC (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
17 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
21 st	Christingle	9.30am	Family worship+baptism(B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
24 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Morning Prayer (B)
28 th	4 th of Epiphany	9.30am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.15am	Mass (W)
31 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)

Diary Dates for January

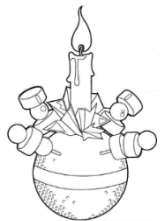
8 th	Monday	10.00am	Ministry Team meeting (B)
14 th	Sunday	10.00am	Joint worship (B)
15 th	Monday	7.00pm	Wedding prep evening (B)
17 th	Wednesday	7.00pm	Deanary Synod
20 th	Saturday	10.30am	Christingle prep (B)
21 st	Sunday	9.30am	Christingle + baptism (B)

Early February Dates

3 rd	Saturday	1.00pm	Soup and Bingo (B)
7 th	Wednesday	7.00pm	PCC (B)
10 th	Saturday	6.30pm	Pancake party (B)

Open Door: On behalf of 'Open Door' we would like to say a huge thank to all those who attended the crib service at St Mark's and left a gift under the tree, your generous donations of toiletries and gifts will make a massive difference to so many people this Christmas time and New Year. Thank you.

Christingle Prep: If you are free on Saturday January 20th, we will be preparing our Christingle oranges at St Mark's Church, in the vestry at 10.30am and would love some help.



Joint meal: Following our joint service at St Mark's church on Sunday 14th January at 10.00am, we will be holding a bring and share luncheon at 12.00pm in the church. Please do come and join us.

Soup and Bingo: Come and join us in the hall for an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship on 3rd February at 1.00pm. Tickets on sale shortly.



On behalf of myself, Rev'd Pat and the team, thank you all for your many cards and gifts. We wish you all a blessed New Year. May the light which Christ brings into the world be our guide as we enter 2024.

Fr Tommy