



The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's Church, Basford

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

October 2024



To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

'Freely you have received; freely give'

As I sit to write this month's newsletter, I realise the rain has stopped falling!!! What a wet week this has been. We have now officially entered Autumn; how quickly time passes.

This week our Church Warden has been in touch with the members of the Parochial Church Council rallying our thoughts on plans for the month of December in particular to the events of Christmas! Yet only last Sunday we were celebrating the Harvest Festival.

I recently read that the celebration of Harvest in Britain dates back to pre-Christian times when the success of the crop governed the lives of people.

Saxon Farmers offered the first cut sheaf of corn to one of their gods of fertility in order to safeguard a good harvest the following year. The last sheaf was thought to contain the Spirit of the Corn, and its cutting was accompanied by the ritual sacrifice of an animal – often a hare caught hiding in the corn. Later a model hare, made from straw was used to represent the continuity of the Spirit which led to the making of plaited 'corn dollies' symbolising the goddess of the

grain. These were hung from the rafters in farmhouses until the next year.

After Christianity arrived in Britain, some of the traditions continued in a different form. Ceremonies and rituals were held at the beginning and end of harvest and church bells were rung on every day. The horse bringing the last cart load was decorated with garlands of flowers and colourful ribbons. When the harvest was in a magnificent celebratory supper was held at the farmer's house to which the whole community was invited, and games were played to celebrate the end of the harvest.

In 2024 all over the countryside the farmers have been working gathering in the harvest of the soil; some of the crops have been devastated by the poor weather whilst others have thrived. However, it wouldn't do for the farmer to sit back contentedly or otherwise and do nothing more this year. The farmer needs to think about next year's crops. The plough will soon be breaking up new ground; new seeds will have to be planted and nurtured if there is to be a harvest next year.

Harvest is still a popular festival although the days when village communities worked together to bring in the harvest have long since disappeared and with most produce available in the shops throughout the year

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

St Mark's Parish Administrator and Reader: Julie Atkins ☎ 07791144581 ✉ jouls1506@gmail.com

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

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

we've lost the concept of a harvest season, but we should never take for granted what we receive and a sense of thanksgiving should be our response alongside a deep concern for those whose lives are threatened because they have so little; a time for thanksgiving for deep thinking and for recommitment. Remember in order to reap a rich harvest for the Lord we too have to prepare new ground, sow the seed of the Word and nurture it. God will work the miracle through us; the Lord will reap the harvest.

Many thanks to those people who turned out and helped to dress the church so beautifully for the Festival, it looked amazing. Thanks also to those who donated gifts of food and other useful household items. These will be passed on to Open Door to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

God bless you all.

Rev'd Pat

Worship Services during October at St Mark's

6th	19th after Trinity	10:15am	Holy Communion
9 th	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
13th	20th after Trinity	10:15am	Holy Communion
16 th	Wednesday	10:30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
20th	21st after Trinity	10:15am	Family Worship
23 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
27th	Bible Sunday	10:15am	Holy Communion
30 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Service Time Change:

Please note that our Sunday Morning Services start time here at St Mark's will be changing **to 10:15am from 6th October.**

Diary Dates for October

12 th	Saturday	1.30pm	Autumn Fayre
16 th	Wednesday	7.00pm	Deanery Synod
19 th	Saturday	9.30am	Quiet day
24 th	Thursday	7:00pm	Deanery Chapter (open)
28 th	Monday	7:00pm	Baptism Prep evening

Early November Dates

16 th	Saturday	10:30am	Coffee morning
30 th	Saturday	11:00am	Soup and Wreath Workshop

Autumn Fayre:

A date for your diaries. Our Autumn Fayre this year will take place on **12th October at 1.30pm.** In preparation if you have any items for an accessories stall such as clean bags, scarves, hats etc Also, any items for mystery bags, can you let Diane have them please.

Your church needs you:

We are in need for helpers for the Autumn fayre. If you are free on the Friday 11th or Saturday 12th to help set, man, clear away then please speak to Diane.

Deanery Chapter meeting:

The next Deanery Chapter meeting will be held on **24th October, St Michaels, Cross Heath at 7.00pm.** This is an open meeting to all who preach.



Sleep in Sunday:

Don't forget on **Sunday 27th October** to move your clocks back and enjoy an extra prayerful hour before the service.