



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 2024



Who will you find and take to Jesus?

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who had heard John's words and had followed Jesus. The first thing he did was to find his brother Simon. He said to him, "We have found the Christ!" Andrew took Simon to Jesus. When Jesus saw Simon, He said, "You are Simon, the son of John. Your name will be Cephas." The name Cephas means Peter, or a rock. (John 1:40-42)

Beloved,
One of my favourite hymns is "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult" which particularly speaks of Saint Andrew:

*As of old Saint Andrew heard it, By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home, and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for his dear sake.*

I always feel a bit sorry for Saint Andrew, and that he is often a little forgotten. Even his feast day is the last day of November and gets missed within the changeover of Christ the King and the beginning of Advent.

I think we can ponder Andrew at this time because his life has something important to say to us at the beginning of this new season. We

may have a slight sense of resignation, maybe boredom or even panic, at the beginning of

December, knowing that as Christians, amid all the material mania, we are asked to mark this season well. Andrew was a man who understood physical discipline and faithfulness as well as hardship. He is meant to have travelled widely as a missionary and finally martyred on an X shaped cross because he didn't believe himself to be worthy to die on the same kind of cross as Jesus. Andrew is a decent and resolute man who understands where his allegiance lies because he is continually able to put his ordinariness, his individuality, his own agenda to one side to play his part in participating in God's kingdom.

In the synoptics, Andrew is an extra, an echo, almost an add-on to his brother Simon. However in John's version we see Andrew first and he brings the rock to Jesus. In both Andrew responds to a call of God immediately. It was brave and costly.

As we each walk our own path with God in our own unique way, following Christ gives us no easily understandable lifestyle or clear-sighted goal to strive after.

Our call is much less glamorous and identifiable.

Advent is about waiting, but also journeying. The stories of the Saints and the Advent readings have much about journeys. In this

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season we are provided with the meeting of our inner awareness of God, who asks us to step out of the boat and connect us with a more expansive and life-giving vision – and who knows where it will take us? Who will you take with you?

Blessings In Christ.

Your Shepherd, Fr Tommy

Worship Services during December

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

1 st	1 st of Advent	9.00am	Mass (W)
		10.15am	Holy Communion (B)
		4.00pm	Advent Carol Service (B)
4 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
8 th	2 nd of Advent	9.00am	Mass (W)
		10.15am	Holy Communion (B)
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
11 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
15 th	3 rd of Advent	9.00am	Mass (W)
		10.15am	No Service (B)
		4.00pm	Carol Service (B)
17 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	Carol Service (W)
18 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) (B)
22 nd	4 th of Advent	9.00am	Mass (W)
		10.15am	Holy Communion (B)
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass (B)
24 th	Christmas Eve	10.00am	Crib Service (W)
		4.30pm	Crib Service (B)
		10.00am	Holy Communion (B)
25 th	Christmas Day	9.00am	Mass (W)
		10.00am	Holy Communion (B)
		10.15am	Holy Communion (B)
29 th	1 st of Christmas	9.00am	Mass (W)
		10.15am	Holy Communion (B)

Christmas Carol Services:

Carol services will take place on Sunday 15th December at St Mark's at 4.00pm and Tuesday 17th December at St Margaret's at 7pm.

Crib Service Gifts for St Mark's:

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

7 th	Sunday	4.00pm	Christmas Lunch (B)
15 th	Sunday	10.15am	No Service (B)
		4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight (B)
17 th	Tuesday	7.00pm	Carol Service (W)
19 th	Thursday	6.00pm	Seedlings Party (B)

Early January Dates

19 th	Sunday	10.15am	Christingle Service (B)
26 th	Sunday	12.00pm	Parish Lunch (B)
TBC	Tuesday	TBC	Craft Group (B)



Christmas Eve: 10:00am Crib Service (W)
4.30pm Crib Service (B)
11.30pm Midnight Mass (B)

Christmas Day: 9.00am Mass (W)
10.00am Holy Communion (B)

19th January: 10.15 am Christingle Service(B)

Christingle Service:

A date for your diary. Our ever-popular Christingle Service for Families will take place on 19th January 2025 at 10.15 am.

