



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

September 2025



'As you abound in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, and in all diligence – and in your love for us – see that you abound in this grace also (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Every year I study one book in the bible. This year it's the turn of the second letter to the Corinthians. The first letter I tackled a couple of years ago in 2023.

Corinth is a port city and, in many ways was the chief city of Greece. This was because of its commerce- many goods flowed through the port. It's culture, which although it wasn't a university town like Athens, the residents of Corinth were interested in Greek philosophy and placed a high premium on wisdom. Corinth was also known for its religion having at least 12 temples dedicated to various gods and it's immorality. A great deal of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is taken up with various issues such as division in the church, sexual immorality, instructions in marriage, food offered to idols, the proper way to worship. Because Paul had to face so many controversial issues it's not surprising, he wasn't exactly popular. A large part of the second letter to the Corinthians is about the false rumours spread about Paul and the defence of his position. When clergy, or even us lay folk, have difficulties in the church for one reason or another, this letter is a good one to read and see the strength and wisdom

that Paul has to offer. I think that is why it is so important to pray for our clergy.

So far this interregnum we have had two ministry team meetings and at both meetings the topic of money came up ie not enough money to continue in the way we are doing with our present income and trying to find ways to cut costs. It's surprising how much paper towels, combustible cups, votive candles can come to never mind communion wine and other bits and pieces. And then there's the heating!

Two chapters (8 and 9) in 2 Corinthians are devoted to the contentious subject of giving, which shows how important the subject is. Paul is appealing for help for the Jerusalem church which was struggling. St Paul cites the example of the Macedonian church who although poor have given generously as compared to the much wealthier Corinthians. Paul also uses Christ as an example that 'though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you through his poverty may become rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9)

I can remember 30 or so years ago seeing this cartoon (I suspect it was during one of those Stewardship Sundays) of a person with a five-pound note that looked absolutely enormous when put in the church collection but was the size of a postage stamp when going through the supermarket checkout. Five pounds nowadays hardly buys you a cup of coffee, but I think you can get the gist. It's so true that

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the amount or willingness to give depends on the importance we give it.

The verse I quoted above at the top of this newsletter stresses the truth that learning to be generous with material things is a matter of spiritual growth and maturity. Now this is a good prayer for us to trust and let go. To pray for the spirit of generosity given to the Macedonian church which is a gift from God. And God loves to give us his gifts.

There is a saying that the last part to be converted are our pockets. So, as we pray for a new priest for St Mark's let us also pray for ourselves that we will grow in generosity knowing that whatever we do for the Lord is not in vain.

Blessings Janet.

Worship Services during September

3 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
7 th	12 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
10 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 th	13 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
17 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
21 st	14 th after Trinity	10.00am	Family Worship +Bap
24 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
28 th	15 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion

House Group:

The House group will reconvene on **Wednesday 3rd September at 7:15pm**. When we will be looking at Mark's gospel. For more information, please speak to Janet.

Seedlings:

Seedlings, our junior church, will reconvene on **31st August** for our back-to-school Sunday.

Diary Dates for September

3 rd	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
4 th	Thursday	2.00pm	Brass cleaning
10 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
17 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
24 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
27 th	Saturday	1:00pm	Autumn Fayre

Early October Dates

1 st	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
4 th	Saturday	11:00am	Tabletop
8 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
15 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
19 th	Sunday	12:00pm	Harvest Lunch
22 nd	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
29 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group

Harvest Lunch:

Don't miss the food, fun and chatter at our Harvest Lunch to be held in the church hall on **Sunday 19th October at 12.00pm following our Harvest Service**. Tickets will be on sale from Diane on the run-up to this event.

Autumn Fayre:

Our Autumn Fayre is on **Saturday 27th September at 1:00pm**. To prepare for this, if you have any donations of toiletries, Giftware, Jewellery, cakes (on the day), please bring them into church as soon as possible.



Table-Top Sale:

There will be a table-top sale on **Saturday 4th October from 11am-2pm**. Tables are £10 each. To reserve a table please get in touch with Diane. Any items for the church table are also welcome.