



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

November 2025



Greetings to all at St Mark's

I heard an announcement (It could have been in the supermarket) that there are only so many days to Christmas. Love it or hate it, it rushes at such great speed towards us that we wonder where the time went. My desk partner (Fellow viola player in the North Staffs Symphony Orchestra) said he'd made his Christmas cake that day. I'm afraid I'm not that organised with often a last-minute panic buying of presents and getting food in.

But it got me wondering that as we tend to have often commercialised events brought to our attention weeks and often months before the festival itself, we miss what is happening at the present moment and maybe ignore things that perhaps we could do well to reflect on. And you could say that by the time Christmas or Easter or bonfire night are upon us we've been celebrated out. So the actual feast is a bit of an anticlimax. There's something to be said for making the most of each day and what it has to offer. Maybe that's why mindfulness has become so popular in helping us to become more grounded.

Before Christmas comes Advent, the time of preparation for the birth of our Lord, and

before that All Saints and All Souls when we remember those, who have gone before us. Throughout the year we celebrate numerous saints, some more important than others, like the apostles. But at All Saints we are given the opportunity to celebrate the unnamed saints, some of whom we will have met in our own lifetime. The truth is that we are all called to be saints. St Paul starts his letter to the Ephesians with the greeting 'to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus' as he does to the Philippians 'to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi'. These were new churches that Paul was stating to establish with very new Christians. So how come they became saints so early on? The fact is it wasn't anything they had particularly done but what God was accomplishing in them. The definition of a saint is someone who loves God so you could say that St Mark's is full of saints. Yes, you and me.

But it doesn't end there. There's a theological term called sanctification, in other words being made holy, which is a lifetimes work. God takes the raw materials of our lives and through trust in God and his working, prayer, reading Scripture, meeting regularly for worship, he brings us to completion. I love the picture of the potter

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at work (very apt for where we live) used by Jeremiah (Chapter 18) and the chorus 'you are the potter; we are the clay'. All it needs is to allow God to work in and through us. So let us love God and each other on this present stage of our journey even if, at times, it seems hard.

Blessings Janet

Worship Services during November

2 nd	4 th before Advent	10.00am	Holy Communion
5 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
9 th	Remembrance	10.00am	Holy Communion
12 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 th	Friday	11:00am	Funeral
16 th	2 nd before Advent	10.00am	Family Worship + HC
19 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
23 rd	Christ the King	10.00am	Holy Communion
26 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
28 th	Friday	12:30pm	Wedding
30 th	1 st of Advent	10.00am	Holy Communion

House Group:

The House group continues on **Wednesdays at 7:15pm**. When we continue to look at Mark's gospel. For more information, please speak to Janet.



Repair Café:

'Social connective' is coming to St Mark's church hall and having an open evening for their Repair Café on **6th November at 5.30-7.30pm**. Come along and see what they do.

Diary Dates for November

5 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
6 th	Thursday	2:00pm	Ministry meeting
6 th	Thursday	5.30pm	Repair Cafe
11 th	Tuesday	7:00pm	PCC
12 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
19 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
22 nd	Saturday	TBC	Christmas Fayre
26 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group

Early December Dates

4 th	Thursday	TBC	Tree decoration
6 th	Saturday	4:00pm	Christmas meal
10 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
17 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group



Christmas Fayre:

Come and join us at St Mark's church for a natter over tea/coffee and cake while having a look at our Christmas stalls on **22nd November from 1:00pm**.

Our Annual Christmas meal:

Tickets will soon be on sale for our annual Christmas meal taking place in the church hall on **6th December 4.00pm for 4.30pm start**. Tickets are priced at **£15 per ticket**.