



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

December 2025



To my brothers and sisters at St Marks,

Today the sun light is streaming through the sitting room window yet it's almost the end of November.

'The signs and the seasons will change' we read in the bible. They are certainly doing just that this week. Yesterday after seeing the bad weather forecast for the North of England, I telephoned my cousin in North Yorkshire to discover that they were fast indoors with 10 inches of snow outside and more to come!

The church's year is now nearing its close. Probably by the time this letter reaches you the feast of Christ the King will have passed with Advent Sunday heralding in the church's new year.

The season of Advent is a time of reflection for the Christian. The word Advent means 'Coming' So who is coming? Some will reply Father Christmas, presents, lighted trees, Crackers, Turkey and tinsel.

Now I'm not a Bah humbug or Scrooge but surely for the Christian Advent has to have a deeper meaning. As a child I well recall the weekly visit of the Vicar to the school I attended where he taught R.E. I remember the class having to learn and recite the words of the hymn 'Advent tells us Christ is

near...this hymn tells of the seasons of the Church's year. The hymn was written in 1888 by Katherine Hankey for the children of St Peter's Sunday School, in Eaton Square, London. the first verse begins...

Advent tells us Christ is near,

Christmas tells us Christ is here.

In Epiphany we trace

All the glories of his Grace....

In this way we children learned about the shepherds seeking the Christ Child and the Wise men journeying from afar searching for the one who is to be born King. During Advent we, like the shepherds and Wise Men of old, continue our Advent journey not on a donkey on a dusty road or a camel travelling through the desert sands. So how do we prepare to meet the newborn King.

Each year the church gives us a bit of breathing space in the season of Advent just as it does in the season of Lent to prepare ourselves in reflection and prayer to greet Emmanuel, God with us.

Just like Christ rising from the dead at Easter, Christ being born at Christmas is not

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something tagged on to the Christian faith - it is the Christian faith. The whole idea is that we meet God each year in Christ and try to stay with him during the months that are to come. This is the point of Advent as we prepare to meet Christ with joy. His presence and the presents we give and receive from others all demonstrate his love and care, especially to those in need this Christmas.

*Love and prayers of blessing to you
and yours this Christmastide.*

Rev'd Pat

Worship Services during December

3 rd	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
7 th	2 nd of Advent	10.00am	Holy Communion
10 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
14 th	3 rd of Advent	10.00am	Holy Communion
17 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
21 st	4 th of Advent	4.00pm	Lessons and Carols
24 th	Christmas Eve	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
24 th	Christmas Eve	4.30pm	Crib Service
24 th	Christmas Eve	9.00pm	Holy Communion
25 th	Christmas Day	10.30am	Holy Communion
28 th	1 st Christmas	10.00am	Holy Communion
31 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

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 person.

Christmas Carol Services:

The Lesson & Carols service will take place on **Sunday 21st December at 4.00pm.**

Diary Dates for December

4 th	Thursday	TBC	Tree decoration
6 th	Saturday	4:00pm	Christmas meal
11 th	Thursday	7pm	Community Carol Singing

Early January Dates

17 th	Saturday	10.00am	Christingle Prep
18 th	Sunday	10.00am	Christingle Service

Crib Service Gifts:

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.



21st December: 4:00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve: 4.30pm Crib Service
9.00 pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Christmas Day: 10.30am Holy Communion

18th January: 10.00 am Christingle Service