



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

March 2026



'May the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus' Philippians 2:5

I am writing this newsletter on Ash Wednesday with the whole of Lent stretching before me. The questions I ask myself at this time of year, as I'm sure it is for many of you reading this newsletter is 'What shall I give up for Lent this year? What shall I take on? What is the Lord asking of me during this penitential season? How does he want to transform me to be the person he made me to be? To take all those layers away that have accrued over the years leaving me dusty and careless.

I must admit that I'm writing these few scribbled thoughts on a bit of a high. There was almost standing room only in the lady chapel for our Wednesday morning of ashing presided over by Jay Rosie the vicar at Chesterton. It was so good to see so many taking Lent seriously. Hopefully it will be similar to the evening service presided over by Revd Pat.

Jay made an interesting point in his homily about the fact that so much of what we do in our Lenten discipline can point to us rather than to God. What we are doing for God which can lead to smugness (Matthew 6:1-18 is very good on this) or more usually to despair because we seem unable to keep up our good resolutions. Jay talked about the fear of God ie giving him due reverence.

Maybe if we focussed more on God than what we are doing we may be more successful, allowing his grace to work in our lives. Because, after all, it's all about grace, that free gift given to us by God who loves us and hates to see us suffering needlessly

A major part of our spiritual journey especially as we get older is letting go. I think it was Fenelon, a French 17th century archbishop and spiritual writer who said 'let go, let God' ie try with God's help to discard those things which aren't helpful (and that's surprisingly difficult) to give space for God to work in our lives. This is why meeting together is so important to encourage each other along the way.

I started this newsletter with a quote from St Paul's letter to the Philippians and would like to end it with the last verse of the hymn

'May the mind of Christ my Saviour'

May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe

Looking only unto Jesus, as I onward go

Maybe this is what Lent is all about as we travel towards Easter. Who knows what we may learn along the way?

Blessings to each one of us.

Janet

Parish Administrator and Reader: Julie Atkins ☎ 07791144581 ✉ jouls1506@gmail.com

Clergy: Rev'd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417. **Reader:** Janet Pazio ☎ 07594135691.

Churchwardens: Diane Downward ☎ 07907066780; Nick Atkins ☎ 07702635323.

Safeguarding Coordinator: Jill Potts-Ayres ☎ 07792 549356.

Worship Services during March

1 st	2 nd of Lent	10.00am	Service of the Word
4 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Matins
8 th	3 rd of Lent	10.00am	Holy Communion
11 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
15 th	Mothering Sun	10.00am	Family Worship
18 th	Ash Wednesday	10.30am	Matins
22 nd	5 th of Lent	10.00am	Holy Communion
25 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
29 th	Palm Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Diary Dates for March

3 rd	Tuesday	7:00pm	Lent course
6 th	Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
10 th	Tuesday	7:00pm	Lent course
17 th	Tuesday	7:00pm	Lent course
20 th	Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the cross
24 th	Tuesday	7:00pm	Lent course
28 th	Saturday	1:00pm	Soup and Bingo

Early April Dates

27 th	Monday	7:00pm	APCM
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Children's Society

Many thanks to everyone who donated at the Christingle service, filled a Children's Society box or put change in the Christingle candles. Between you all we managed to raise £491.10 to send to The Children's Society this year.

Lent Course:

The Lent course this year will run over five weeks and will begin on **Tuesday 24th February at 7pm** in the Lady Chapel. Looking at the prayers of Jesus.

Stations of the cross:

There will be two opportunities to follow the stations of the cross in church. **Friday 6th March at 7pm and Friday 20th March also at 7pm.**

BEETLE DRIVE



Soup and Beetle drive:

A date for your diary. On **28th March at 1pm** we will be having a time of food, fun and fellowship in the hall priced £5 pp.



Holy Week Programme

Wednesday of Holy Week – 10.30am HC (BCP)

Maundy Thursday – 7.30pm HC + Foot Washing + Vigil

Good Friday – 2.00pm Last hour Meditation

Easter Eve – 6.00pm Vigil / HC / Party

Easter Sunday – 10.00am Family Worship + HC