



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk



May 2026

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried
grain*

*Wheat that in the dark earth many days
hath lain;*

*Love lives again, that with the dead hath
been;*

*Love is come again, like wheat that
springeth green.*

As you read this newsletter, we will be right in the middle of the Eastertide season, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life given to us. The weather which we are presently enjoying (I'm writing this on St George's day) making it so much easier to accept the joys of our Christian faith.

Because of the weather conditions we endured during the Winter with the heavy rain and floods and then the sudden unseasonably warm spell we had last month, everything has suddenly seemed to come together to put on the most amazing pageant of colour. Enjoy it while we can! For, as we well know, seasons come and go, but our God changeth not as that wonderful hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness illustrates.

Perhaps we are fortunate in living in the Western hemisphere that the liturgical seasons tally with the weather we are having. Lent starts with longer nights than days, then gradually turning to slightly longer days than nights and then Eastertide comes with brighter early mornings and long light evenings. There's no doubt that when the sun shines, we are so much happier. I see it in the faces of those as I walk round Newcastle.

Being a gardener, I love it when the seeds I have sown start to push up their first leaves through the dark compost in their seed trays. It always seems like a miracle that the seemingly dry husk sowed a few weeks ago has emerged into the potential to be a beautiful flower. That first verse of the hymn I quoted at the beginning of the newsletter sums it up so well. What we thought was dead has now come alive to be transformed into something quite unlike the seed we've sown. So it is with our own lives and it is this season of Eastertide which brings it into focus.

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But even in the midst of joy there can be sorrow too as we know through observing the weather. One day sunny, the next cold and blustery with a fierce east wind. But the good news is that God is always with us and cares for us. The last verse of the hymn 'Now the green blade riseth' beautifully sums it up

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain

Thy touch can call us back to life again;

Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:

Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green

Blessings for this season of Eastertide

Janet

Worship Services during May			
3 rd	5 th of Easter	10.00am	Holy Communion
6 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
10 th	6 th of Easter	10.00am	Holy Communion
13 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
17 th	7 th of Easter	10.00am	All Age Worship + Bap
20 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
24 th	Pentecost	10.00am	Holy Communion
27 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
31 st	Trinity Sunday	10.00am	Holy Communion

Repair Café:

A date for your diary. 'Social connective' is returning to St Mark's church hall for their Repair Café on **Saturday 16th May**. Times to follow shortly.

Diary Dates for May

6 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
9 th	Saturday	2:00pm	Wedding
9 th	Saturday	7.30pm	Ceramic City Choir (At Westlands church)
13 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
16 th	Saturday	10:00am	Quiet Day
16 th	Saturday	10:00am	Repair Café
20 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group

Early June Dates

3 rd	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
10 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
17 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
24 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
28 th	Sunday	12.30pm	Wedding

House Group:

The House group continues on **Wednesday throughout April at 7:15pm**. Where we will be looking at the great prayers of the bible. For more information, please speak to Janet.

Ceramic City Choir:

On Saturday **9th May** at St Andrews Church Westlands **(ST5 3RE) at 7.30pm** the ceramic city choir will be performing 'Bard and Broadway'. For more information, please speak to Mike.

Quiet Day:

Our quiet day is now booked for **Saturday 16th May** at St John's Church, Barlaston from **10am-4pm**. We would love you to join us for a time of reflection and prayers. If you are interested, please book a place with Janet.