



The Lion

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

www.stmarksbasford.co.uk

July 2026



One of the joys of this time of year is to be able to wander the streets admiring the different ways people tend (or don't tend) their gardens. The surprises and delights you discover as you walk around. I wonder if the different gardens reflect the personalities of those who have created them or let them be created. The sheer diversity of it all.

I've dug into the grass around my bungalow to create quite manic flower borders, much to my daughter's concern as she points out who is going to look after it When I can no longer manage it. Well, it will just go back to grass, if I can bear it, as strictly speaking it doesn't belong to me, the whole area being open. As Job said the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.

My style of gardening is very much if I like it it stays and is a matter of tending what I have 'acquired' which often amounts to moments of great surprise and discovery when I see what nature has grown for me. The bees certainly like it. The difficulty for me is being ruthless and clearing the ground of those 'rogue' plants which although beautiful can quickly take over. Maybe that reflects my

personality. Too much of one thing is not necessarily good and the importance of keeping life in balance.

The image of a garden for our spiritual life is used by the Spanish saint and mystic – Teresa of Avila – and it figures strongly in that beautiful love poem in the Old Testament – Song of Songs, tucked between Ecclesiastes and Isaiah. But it set me thinking how much do we share of these spaces we've created. There seems to be an inbuilt desire in us to own rather than share. Where I live one or two of the residents have put fences around their 'patch' although strictly speaking we are not supposed to do this as none of us own the land round our bungalows. As I've walked along the towpaths I've seen for myself boats moored with a patch of towpath marked out as 'theirs' and I have been told by somebody who has lived for a number of years on a narrowboat that within a few days of mooring people are owning the patch where they have moored.

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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.

We are presently in the process of working out an agreement with St Margaret's for the future of both parishes. The process started a few weeks ago when we met at The Minton Centre behind Holy Trinity, Hartshill facilitated by Archdeacon Meghan and Rev'd Preb Terry Bloor. There we looked at our strengths, weaknesses, how we saw the future of our parish. There was some interesting discussion between the two parishes. But I suspect that in both churches there are areas that we feel that we 'own' and could find difficult to share. A cross

fertilization of the different gifts given to us by God would be a good start and hopefully a way of working together. A verse that often comes to mind and is used at the offertory in the Old ASB service 'all things come from you O Lord and of your own do we give thee'

My prayer is for strength and courage to work well together as we prepare ourselves for the next stage in the ministry of the two churches.

Enjoy the beauty of the Summer months.

Janet

Diary Dates for July

1 st	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
8 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
15 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
22 nd	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
25 th	Saturday	7:00pm	Coombs Concert

Early August Dates

5 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
12 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
19 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group
26 th	Wednesday	7:15pm	House group

House Group:

The House group reconvenes on **Wednesday 3rd July and throughout June at 7:15pm**. Where we will be looking at the Acts of the Apostles. For more information, please speak to Janet.

Summer Evening of Music:

A date for your diaries. Come and join us for a lovely evening of music with the 'Coombs Trio of Strings' (Of which Janet Pazio is one) while enjoying cheeses and wine at St Marks church. It will take place on **25th July at 7.00pm** in the church. Tickets are £12.50 available soon from Janet.

Worship Services during July

1 st	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
5 th	5 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
8 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Service of the word
12 th	6 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
15 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
19 th	7 th after Trinity	10.00am	All Age Worship + Bap
22 nd	Wednesday	10.30am	Service of the word
26 th	8 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
29 th	Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)