

Christmas Services at St Mary's and St Luke's

15th December (Saturday)

6.30pm - Carols on the Green (at the Church Hall)

16th December (Sunday)

9am - St Luke's Carol Service

6.30pm - Scout & Guide Christingle Service (St Mary's)

23rd December (Sunday)

6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols (St Mary's)

24th December (Monday - Christmas Eve)

6.30pm - Crib Service including the Nativity Play (St Mary's)

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion (St Mary's)

25th December (Tuesday - Christmas Day)

9am - Holy Communion (St Luke's)

10.40am Holy Communion for Christmas for all the family (St Mary's)

30th December (Sunday)

10.40am St Luke's join with St Mary's for a joint service at St Mary's



Our Sunday Morning Services are:-

9.00 am at St. Luke's & 10.40 am at St. Mary's

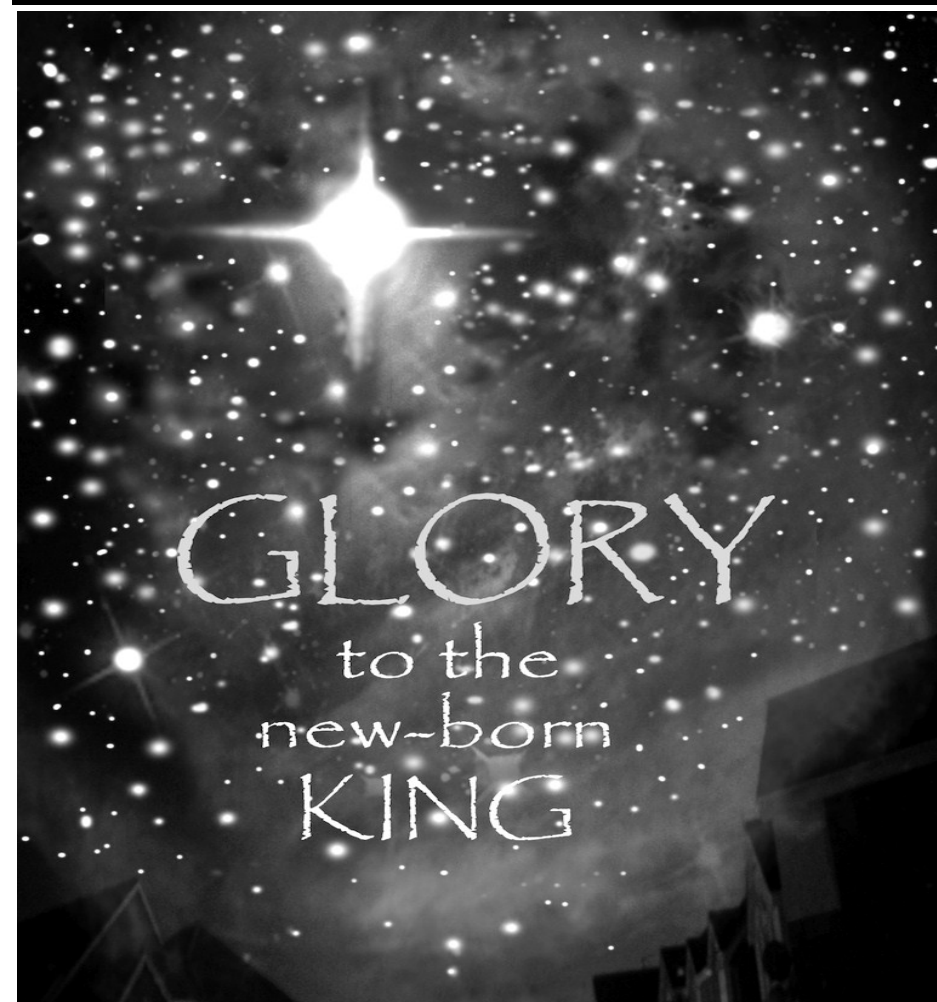
Christian Life

at St. Mary's & St. Luke's



Serving the communities of Wistaston, Rope and Willaston. Read by over 900 people.

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



December 2012
& January 2013



75 Pence

Church Office Secretary: Sue Squirrell (*each weekday from 9.30 until 12.30*)
 (For initial enquiries about baptisms and weddings, church records and general enquiries.
 Also for bookings of the Church Hall, St. Luke's and the Church Vestry)

567119

Clergy

Rector	Revd Mike Turnbull	The Pastor, 44 Church Lane
Associate Priest	Revd Ken Sambrook	6
Asst Clergy	Revd Preb. Frank Powell	3

Church Officers

Reader	David Illing	4
Church Wardens:	Mike Carter	4
	Kath Jones	9
Pastoral Worker	Ann Stubbs	1
Marriage Enrichment	Sheena Sambrook	6
Contact for D/deaf people	Alison Howells	2
Evangelist (Alpha)	Lin Parker	5
P.C.C Secretary	Joy Chaplow	3
P.C.C Treasurer	Howard Barker	2
Planned Giving Recorder	Andrea Bartholomew	1
Electoral Roll Officers	Sue & Bob Squirrell	3
Parish Magazine Editor	Revd Mike Turnbull	1
Magazine Distribution	Jennifer Jones	4
Webmaster	Bob Squirrell	3
Bible Reading Notes:	Jenny Forbes	7
	Linda Cooke	6
Church Hall Bookings	Sue Squirrell	C
Tower Captain	Frank Morton	1

Children's and Young People's Activities

Jnr Church Co-ordinator	Sarah Turnbull	1
Youth Work	Dane Chaplow	3
Rainbows	Teresa Hoper	2
Brownies	Julie Croft	1
Guides	Helen Pegg	9

Midweek Programme

Mothers' Union	Sue Squirrell	3
Stepping Stones	Via Church Office	C
Praise & Play	Via Church Office	C
Ladies Evening Group	Marian Carter	4

Website: visit us on www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk
Church Office: office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk



A Reflection from the Rector...

December 2012



Dear Friends,

Have you heard your first Carol sung yet? Probably in shop I would imagine!!

Carols are great hymns that tell the Christmas story in a quite unique way. Even those who have had a very limited Christian upbringing will normally be able to rattle off at least one verse of *Away in a manger* or *Silent Night*, or more so these days, *Little Donkey*. We should be glad that this is the fact. We live in a country (world?) that is far more secular than it has ever been since Christianity reached its shores, so any recognition of anything Christian should be celebrated. Certainly something like a Carol which tells of one of the most important events to happen to this world - it's not everything, but it's a start.

During the Christmas period there will be the opportunity to sing all your favourite Carols once again. Please see the back page of this magazine for all the Christmas Service details and decide which you will be attending.

The reason we celebrate at Christmastime is because God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, Jesus, to come into this world for all of us, to take away our sins and grant us the gift of eternal life - now that's got to be worth celebrating!! If you think so make sure you come to as many of the Christmas services as you can - bring a friend, relative or neighbour (or all if you wish!) - and celebrate together this wonderful and joyful occasion.

I do pray that your homes may be filled with joy and peace of Jesus this Christmastime and that you will find time to bow down and worship the baby, born in a stable, yet born to be King. Celebrate Jesus afresh this year.

Mike

Revd Mike Turnbull
 Twitter: @maryandluke
 Facebook.com/stmaryandstluke

The Magazine Price from February 2013

After managing to keep the cover price of the magazine at 75p for the past two years, it has now become necessary to increase the price.
 So from the February/March '13 edition it will have a cover price of £1
 Thank you for all your support. The Editor

Good News!

No not the Bible of that name; we have been blessed with generous donations that have exceeded the money required to pay for the roof repairs. A huge thank you to everyone. Several months ago the lead was stolen from the roof and as the builders quotes arrived to undertake the necessary repairs we were faced with a significant bill to pay. Clearly the roof repairs were needed promptly to ensure our church buildings remained weather proof and so arrangements were made with a builder to complete the work prior to winter, however, we did so with the faith that the cash would be received to pay for the repairs.

After praying and head scratching we came up with a plan to raise the funds "Raise the Roof" and the fundraising started. Four months later we, the church, and the wider community have raised in excess of the £20,000 (including the £5000 from the insurance). Any surplus funds can be used for other building related projects.

The words thank you do not seem enough but I'm not sure what else to say. We should all be proud of our church buildings (including the church hall) as it demonstrates our commitment to our faith in Jesus Christ.

Howard (Church Treasurer)



**Scouts & Guides Christingle Service at
St Mary's Sunday 16 December at 6:30pm**

Rose Queen Bingo Night

St Mary's Church Hall

Saturday 26th January

Further details will be notified in the Notice Sheet

In aid of the Rose Queen's charity:



Save the Children

The Legend of the Ghosts of St Mary's

One Sunday morning, the two churchwardens and two sidesmen had finished the preparations for the Morning service and were standing chatting in the aisle waiting for the congregation to arrive. One of the Churchwardens held up a hand and said 'What is that crackling noise?' They all stopped talking and listened. A few moments later they all heard the sound - a ghostly crackle. They checked to make sure that nobody had crept in unseen, but there was no one in the Vestry or the Transept. Where did the sound come from?



A few minutes later, bell ringers arrived and went on up to the bell tower after exchanging 'good mornings' with the sidesmen. The intermittent crackling kept sounding through the nave. Then, instead of the crackle, ghostly voices were heard - a man and a woman - but what they said was not clear and has not been recorded. One of the sidesmen went up to the bell tower to see if it was the bell ringers, but no, they had not been and were not talking – just concentrating on ringing the bells. No more words were heard, just the occasional ghostly crackle.

The congregation started to arrive and any noise from the 'ghosts' was blocked out by the conversations of the congregation. For the moment, the mystery of the ghost noises was forgotten as morning service was celebrated. After the service, however, the mystery resurfaced and deepened. The post service tidy up and preparations for the next service were well in hand when attention was drawn to a noise permeating the nave. It was not just a crackle, nor just a few words between male and female, but the full-scale hum of many voices- the sort of noise one hears at parties or other gatherings, and it was continuous.

The wardens and sidesmen were then totally baffled and the only explanation that could be offered was that there were ghosts in St Mary's and that the first sounds heard were related to the ghosts stirring and then preparing for a party. Later the ghosts' party was in full swing.

Unfortunately, this theory could not be borne out, or refuted, by further incidents of ghostly noises and voices. Indeed from that time until now, there never has been another episode. Clearly it must have been a farewell party - the ghosts were leaving to haunt another venue.

Has any one heard of this legend? If so, can they verify it or give a plausible explanation?

***Update from the Editor: as with most of these occurrences it had an earthly explanation—someone had left the Radio Microphone on in the Church Hall!*

Announcement of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury

09 November 2012

The Queen has approved the nomination of the Right Reverend Justin Welby for election as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury. He will succeed Dr Rowan Williams who is retiring at the end of December after ten years as Archbishop.



The Right Reverend Justin Welby, aged 56, is currently Bishop of Durham. He will be enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral on 21st March 2013. He said today: "I don't think anyone could be more surprised than me at the outcome of this process. It has been an experience, reading more about me than I knew myself. To be nominated to Canterbury is at the same time overwhelming and astonishing. It is overwhelming because of those I follow, and the responsibility it has. It is astonishing because it is something I never expected to happen."

a
christmas
prayer

Dear Lord,

What's it really all about, this "season of celebration"? People rushing everywhere, overspending, double-booking diaries in frantic attempts to meet the demands of a twenty-first

century Christmas. And what about those who find Christmas anything but joyful – those who have lost loved ones, those who are old and alone and tired and longing for it all to be over? What's it really all about?

Lord, in the middle of the busy-ness and bustle, help us to remember that this is nothing new. Jesus came into a world of rush and frenetic activity. He came to a town so busy that there was no room for his family. And help us to remember that you know what it's like to have a loved one – your dear Son - away from home at Christmas.

Lord, still our hearts, and open them to recognise and receive your great gift to us. May we make room for Jesus and know the peace and security of his presence this Christmas. Help us to know that this is what it's really all about.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Outward Giving 2012

Each year, following the Biblical principle of Tithing, we give away 10% of our giving income. This year we were able to give £7200.00 away split between the following charities and organisations. There are a number of thank-you letters received from these groups and if you would like to see any of them please see Sue in the Church Office.

- ◆ Church Mission Society
- ◆ Tearfund
- ◆ USPG Anglican in World Mission
- ◆ Crosslinks
- ◆ St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy
- ◆ Church of England Pensions Board
- ◆ Church Army HQ
- ◆ Y.M.C.A
- ◆ CPAS
- ◆ Christian Concern Crewe
- ◆ The Children's Society
- ◆ Chester Clergy Family Trust
- ◆ Bible Society
- ◆ Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- ◆ Crewe Foodbank
- ◆ Nantwich Foodbank

Operation Christmas Child 2012

Thank you to all those who prepared and gave a shoebox for the Operation Christmas Child appeal. We collected 44 shoeboxes which were delivered to the drop-off point by Jennifer & Sarah.

Junior Church Leaders' Training

On the 10th November three of our Junior Church Leaders (Sarah, Sarah & Catherine) attended a training day at St Wilfred's, Grappenhall called: Growing Children. The keynote speaker was Bob Hartman who is a storyteller and author. They found it very useful and attended workshops on Storytelling and Messy Church.

Ladies Evening Group



Far too soon we have come to the end of another year. A special year with The Queen's

Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. We have one more speaker at our November meeting 'The History of Balloons' and in December our Carol Service in Church together with The Mothers' Union at 2.15pm, followed by tea and mince pies in the Church Hall.

Our Christmas Lunch is at the Waverley Hotel on December 5th, which members are looking forward to. For 2013 we have an excellent programme, so do come along. Both visitors and new members most welcome.

Many thanks to committee and members for support throughout the year and a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to everyone.

Marian Carter

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

In October we visited our Prayer Partners in Waverton and although the Speaker was unable to come (burst tyre!), Eveline gave us a tour of St Peter's Church and a lady member gave an impromptu talk about her time as a teacher, which was very interesting and entertaining. Our Speaker in November will be Derek Buckthorpe, who will give a talk entitled 'A Man's Eye View of the Mothers' Union', followed in December by our joint Carol Service with the Ladies Evening Group (12th). As usual, this will be followed by tea/coffee and mince pies in the Church Hall – everyone is welcome.

January 16th, 12.30pm is the date for our New Year Lunch which will be at the Beefeater in Woolstanwood as this proved popular early this year. There will be a choice of menu circulating so if members are interested in going, please book your place via Joan Cadman (Secretary) or myself. More details will be available at the meeting in November and after the Carol Service in December. In December Jenny Hall (Treasurer) will be collecting the annual subs, but at this time the figure is not yet known. Happy Christmas everyone.

Sue Squirrell

Willaston WI At the October meeting members were intrigued when Peggy Grimley showed her collection of boxes of varying, shapes and colours, and like "Pandora" were naturally curious to lift the lid and look inside. Each box was opened to reveal surprising, amusing and practical contents, including reminders of Victorian life, poignant greetings cards and special family



poetry.

In November Ken Jackson recalled serious and humorous situations he encountered whilst investigating the events and causes of industrial accidents. His message was, safety precautions which are present or known about should be adhered to in all domestic and industrial areas.

Pat Cotton

From the Parish Registers

BAPTISMS: Welcome to our church family

23 September	Charlotte Marie BAKER
30 September	Archie Kenro LEWIS
30 September	Cian Harrison MOONEY
30 September	Gabriel James PALMER-JOHNSON
21 October	Evelyn Alexandra Anne BRADBURY
28 October	Harry Sharman TASKER
28 October	Arthur David James NANKIVEL



WEDDINGS: May God bless these couples who were recently married:

29 September	Rebecca WOOD & Philip STOCKTON
5 October	Rebecca Jane O'RORKE & Michael David CHERRINGTON
27 October	Deborah Louise CHESWORTH & Paul VICKERS



FUNERALS: (at church, or taken by minister of this parish at the crematorium)

May they rest in peace and joy

11 October	Gordon Gregory COOKE	84
12 October	Glenys HUNTINGTON	73
15 October	Steve JONES	
23 October	Nancy ASTON	84
01 November	Michael (Mick) FLYE	61
05 November	Kenneth (Ken) LATHAM	88
14 November	Frederick Henry RULE	89
16 November	Mary BURGESS	95
16 November	Peter VICKERS	
20 November	Dennis ALLCOCK	78



Dates For Your Diary



Please note that our diary is in two parts.
The regular services are detailed opposite. Other items and variations are shown below.

December

2		Advent Sunday
	10.40am	Toy Service at St Mary's
5	10am	Praise & Play at St Luke's
9	6.30pm	Christingle Service for the Uniformed Organisations at St Mary's
12	10am	Stepping Stones (Church Hall)
	2.15pm	MU & LEG Carol Service at St Mary's
15	6.30pm	Carols on the Green - Church Hall
16	9am	St Luke's Carol Service
18	6pm	Willaston Primary Christmas Service at St Mary's
23	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's
24	6.30pm	Crib Service & Nativity
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St Mary's

January

6		The Epiphany
9	10am	Stepping Stones (Church Hall)
16	2pm	Mothers' Union Meeting - Church Hall
21	7.30pm	PCC Meeting at St Luke's
23	10am	Stepping Stones (Church Hall)
	7.30pm	Ladies Evening Group



Contributions

Your contributions to *Christian Life* are always welcome.
Please pass your items for the next edition direct to the editor on
revd.mike@stmaryswistaston.org.uk or via the Church Office by:-
16 January 2013

Sundays at our Churches



1st Sunday of the month

9.00 a.m.
10.40 a.m.

Morning Prayer at St. Luke's
Holy Communion at St. Mary's
With Signing for the Deaf
Evening Prayer at St Mary's

6.00 p.m.

2nd Sunday of the month

9.00 a.m.
10.40 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Luke's
All Age Worship at St. Mary's

3rd Sunday of the month

9.00 a.m.
10.40 a.m.
6.30 p.m.

Morning Prayer at St. Luke's
Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Life Issues at St Luke's

4th Sunday of the month

9.00 a.m.
10.40 a.m.

Holy Communion at St. Luke's
All Age Worship with Baptisms at St. Mary's

5th Sunday of the month

10.40 a.m.
12.30 p.m.

All Age Communion at St. Mary's
Baptisms at St. Mary's

Notes:- The **9.00 a.m.** service at St. Luke's is a quieter service. Holy Communion will alternate fortnightly with St. Mary's.

The **10.40 a.m.** service at St. Mary's is a service for all ages.
On the 4th Sunday it may include baptism. Holy Communion will alternate fortnightly with St. Luke's.

The **Fifth Sunday Service** is a united service for the whole parish enabling everyone from both our churches to worship and meet together.

Morning Prayer (10 mins) - 9.00 a.m. Mon, Tue, Thurs and Fri at St. Mary's

The following events take place most weeks. If in doubt the leader's telephone number will be found inside the front cover of this magazine.

Sundays (1st & 3rd)	10.40 a.m.	Junior Church* (from Reception through to the end of High School)
Mondays	7.45 p.m.	Bell Ringing (Tower)
Tuesdays	6-7 p.m.	Rainbows (Church Hall/Howe Rm)
	5.45-7 p.m.	Brownies (Church Hall/Howe Rm)
	7-9 p.m.	Guides (Church Hall)
Wednesdays	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

*During term time only. Young people start in church and move down to the Church Hall during the second hymn.