

Christmas Services

All services at St Mary's unless stated otherwise

20th December (Saturday)

6.30pm - Carols on the Green



21st December (Sunday - Advent 4)

9am - St Luke's Carol Service

6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols



24th December (Wednesday - Christmas Eve)

6.30pm - Crib Service including the Nativity Play

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion



25th December (Thursday - Christmas Day)

9am - Holy Communion (St Luke's)

10.40am Holy Communion for Christmas for all the family



A CHRISTMAS TRUCE - 1914



Christian Life

The parish magazine of St Mary's & St Luke's

Serving the communities of Rope, Willaston & Wistaston.



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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Church Office: office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk - Tel: 567119 Secretary: Sue Squirrell (each weekday from 9.30 until 12.30) For initial enquiries about baptisms, church records and general enquiries. Also for bookings of the Church Hall, St. Luke's and the Church Vestry.		
Clergy		
Rector	Revd Mike Turnbull	T
	Email: mfturnb	
Associate Priest	Revd Ken Sambrook	6
Assistant Clergy	Rev Preb Frank Powell	3
	Revd Malcolm Shaw	8
Church Officers		
Reader	David Illing	4
Pastoral Worker	Ann Stubbs	1
Parish Evangelist	Lin Parker	5
Church Wardens	Mike Carter	4
	Simon Bartholomew	1
Marriage Enrichment	Sheena Sambrook	6
PCC Secretary	Joy Chaplow	3
PCC Treasurer	Howard Barker	2
Planned Giving	Andrea Bartholomew	1
Electoral Roll Officers	Sue & Bob Squirrell	3
Magazine Editor	Revd Mike Turnbull	T
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
Foodbank Co-ordinator	Peter Hopkins	8
Young Peoples' Activities		
Junior Church	Sarah Turnbull	T
Rainbows	Teresa Hoper	2
Brownies	Julie Croft	1
Guides	Helen Pegg	9
Midweek Activities		
Mothers' Union	Sue Squirrell	3
Stepping Stones	Via Church Office	C
Ladies Evening Group	Marian Carter	4



www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk



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Services at a Glance		
1st Sunday of the month		
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer at St. Luke's	
10.40 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's	
6.00 p.m.	BCP Evening Prayer at St Mary's	
2nd Sunday of the month		
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Luke's	
10.40 a.m.	All Age Worship at St. Mary's	
3rd Sunday of the month		
9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer at St. Luke's	
10.40 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Mary's	
6.30 p.m.	Life Issues at St Luke's	
(usually runs from May to Sept - please see the Notice Sheet for up to date details)		
4th Sunday of the month		
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion at St. Luke's	
10.40 a.m.	All Age Worship with Baptisms at St. Mary's	
5th Sunday of the month		
10.40 a.m.	All Age Communion at St. Mary's	
12.30 p.m.	Baptisms at St. Mary's	
Notes: <i>The 9.00 a.m. service at St. Luke's is a quieter service.</i> <i>Holy Communion will alternate fortnightly with St. Mary's.</i> <i>The 10.40 a.m. service at St. Mary's is a service for all ages.</i> <i>On the 4th Sunday it may include baptism.</i> <i>Holy Communion will alternate fortnightly with St Luke's.</i> <i>The Fifth Sunday Service is a united service for the whole parish enabling everyone from both our churches to worship and meet together.</i>		
Morning Prayer (10 mins) - 9.00 a.m. Mon, Tues and Thurs 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.		
Sunday (1st & 3rd) 10.40 a.m. Junior Church* (from Creche through to the end of High School)		
Monday	7.45 p.m.	Bell Ringing (Tower)
Tuesday	5.45-7 p.m.	Brownies (Church Hall/Howe Rm)
	7-9 p.m.	Guides (Church Hall)
Wednesday	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday	5.30 - 6.30 p.m.	Rainbows (Church Hall)
*During term time only. Young people start in church and move down to the Church Hall during the 1 st hymn.		

Dates for your Diary

Please note that our diary is in two parts.

The regular services are detailed on page 11. Other items and variations are shown below.

06 Dec	2pm Wedding Blessing of Katie & Jez Gallagher including the Baptisms of Jake & Lewis
07 Dec	10:40am Toy Service at St Mary's
09 Dec	6pm Willaston Primary Carol Concert at St Mary's
10 Dec	2:15pm LEG/MU Carol Service at St Mary's
14 Dec	6:30pm Scouts & Guides Christingle at St Mary's
++Please see the back page for all our Christmas services++	
17 Dec	11:30am Church Lane Infants Christmas Service (St M's)
18 Dec	11am Church Lane Juniors Christmas Service (St M's)
22 Dec	1:30pm - 4:30pm Nativity Rehearsal & Junior Church Party (St M's & Church Hall)
18 - 25 Jan	The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (see P4)
13 Jan	7:30pm The Licensing of the Revd Jules Walker at St Matthew's Haslington
19 Jan	7:30pm Parochial Church Council Meeting at St Luke's
30 Jan	7pm - 9pm JC Extra (for our high school age youngsters) when our guest for the evening will be Edward Timpson MP
8 Feb	2:30pm Wistaston Parish Council Civic Service at St M's

Life Issues

We had the last Life Issues of 2014 in November and it will return in May 2015.

For all the latest information...

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Do you have something for this magazine?

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:- 15 January 2015



St Mary's

Mike writes... December 2014



St Luke's

By the time you read this we will have entered into the season of Advent. Advent Sunday is on 30 November this year and we have four Sundays in Advent leading us up to Christmas Day.

At church, we mark this by lighting an Advent Candle on each of the Sundays of Advent, at home you may mark Advent by having an Advent Calendar that counts down the days to Christmas, perhaps it may even have a chocolate treat each day!



The days of Advent are seen as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Unfortunately, life can sometimes get in the way, and this preparation often takes the form of frantic shopping, visiting family and friends and more shopping! Why not this Advent take some time to reflect upon the real meaning of Christmas? Of a baby born in a stable,

born to be King, born to be our Saviour...

We have services leading up to, and over Christmas, which I'm sure would help you think about the above whilst still leaving time for shopping, visiting and then more shopping! You will find

a list of all our special Christmas Services on the back page of this magazine and up to date

information about all our events can be found on our website or via the Parish Office.

Please feel free to join us for any or all of these services. Either way, may I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas.

Mike Turnbull (Rector)



Called to Serve?

Are you wondering how best to serve God?
Are you unclear what the options are?
Are you ready to take the first step to find out?

If so, then **CALLED TO SERVE** is an event that is designed to help you.



Date & Time: 24 January 2015 - 10 am - 2pm
Location: Foxhill Retreat and Conference Centre, Tarvin Road, Frodsham WA6 6XB

'Called To Serve' is an annual event the Diocese runs for those interested in exploring the various licensed ministries of **Pastoral Worker, Reader** and **ordained ministry**, with some input from the Church Army and a Franciscan brother (representing the religious life). There will be opportunities to ask questions and talk to people involved in these kinds of ministries. During the morning there will be input and a chance to talk to those already involved as well as time to ask questions. By lunch time you will be clearer about how these ministries differ and what training is involved.

This year we are offering a free lunch so if you would like to come please email: ddo@chester.anglican.org or phone Anne Cody on (01928) 718834 ext 237 and we will send you more information and directions.

Booking is essential. Closing date for bookings is Friday, 19 December 2014. if you have any dietary or other requirements, please let us know at the time of booking.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 - 25 January 2015

We will be celebrating this special week by having a "Pulpit Exchange" on Sunday 18

January with our friends from the local Methodist churches.

The Rev'd Steve Ingrouille will preach at both St Luke's & St Mary's that morning whilst Ken will be at St John's at 10:30am and Mike will be at Wells Green again at 10:30am.



From the Parish Registers

Entries up to 21 November 2014

BAPTISMS: Welcome to our church family

28 Sept Harry John KNIGHT



WEDDINGS:

May God bless these couples who were recently married:

27 Sept Heather CHAPLOW & Christopher EDGE

10 Oct Leanne TAYLOR & Stephen HULME

11 Oct Hayley TAYLOR & David STICKLEY

01 Nov Sarah BATE & Lee VICKERS



FUNERALS: May they rest in peace and joy

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

29 Sept Barbara MASKELL 84

29 Sept Audrey May MALAM 78

03 Oct Corrine Valerie STOCKTON 87

13 Oct Nancy May ELLSON 81

15 Oct Robert STILL 69

29 Oct Thomas WELLINGS 94

07 Nov Margaret Patricia RUSHBROOKE 86

10 Nov Edna FOSTER 85

19 Nov Audrey Bennett BALLARD 81

20 Nov John Walter HUGHES 82



Prayer for Christmas Presence

Generous Father,

At this busy time of year, help us to remember the important things. In all the rush of sending cards and giving presents may we make time to be still, to acknowledge your sending and giving of the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Thank you that he didn't stay in the stable in Bethlehem, but lived and died and became the Saviour of all who put their trust in him. May we receive afresh the gift of your presence with us in Jesus, now and for ever, with great thankfulness. In his name, we pray.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Ladies Evening Group



Here we are at the end of another year and looking forward to Christmas. For our November meeting 'My Favourite Things' members are bringing something that means a lot to them and telling us why. Our Christmas lunch is on Friday, December 12th at the Crewe Arms and our Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday, December 10th at 2.15pm, together with Mothers' Union. Anyone who would like to come would be most welcome. At this time I don't have the amount raised at our Soup Lunch but it was very well attended. Many thanks to all how helped. From January 2015 our meeting will be on the 4th Thursday at 2.00pm and we will be called the Ladies Afternoon Group, starting on January 22nd with our AGM. At this busy time I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2015.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our October meeting was an interesting talk on the work of the Mothers' Union by Jenny Hall, both local, national and international. Sadly, one of our active members, Mrs Audrey Ballard has recently died. Audrey was in the Mothers' Union for just over 20 years and has held the office of Treasurer. She also (until recently) contributed this Section in Christian Life. As her funeral is the same day as the November meeting, this will be cancelled. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with David and the family. Wednesday, December 10th at 2.15pm is the joint Carol Service with LEG and this will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall (tea/coffee and mince pies). You don't need to be a member to come along and enjoy this festive occasion. At the time of writing we are awaiting the subscription amount for 2015 and the menu choices will be doing the rounds for our meal in January at the Crewe Arms, cost £12.50. A very Happy Christmas to everyone.



Willaston WI

A popular visit to Cheerbrook Farm Shop Cafe where we enjoyed a scrumptious afternoon tea; a fascinating day of learning the art of Chinese Brush Painting with Elizabeth Sandford; a theatre visit to see "For Services Rendered" and raising £250 at our Coffee morning and playing dominoes, was our busy October. In November after the A.G.M. Susie Mitchell talked about the benefits of a healthy diet and fresh air and exercise. We are looking forward to Christmas Crafts with Marjorie Monks and "Musical Nostalgia with a Christmas Flavour" with John Baddeley. Pat Cotton

The Gift of Christmas Unwrapped

If you run out of wrapping paper this Christmas, you can take some birthday wrapping paper and simply add 'Jesus' after Happy Birthday! Up until the end of the nineteenth century, brown paper was generally used for wrapping Christmas presents. Then in 1917 Joyce Hall, who ran a stationery store in Kansas, ran out of brown paper at Christmas. In desperation, she sold French envelope lining paper instead, and the rest is history! The true gift of Christmas is Jesus, God's Son born in human form. But how did God gift wrap him? The wrapping he chose tells us a lot about the gift inside.

Wrapped in humanity:

Christmas reminds us that God came to dwell with us in human form as a baby. For Jesus, 'who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.' (Philippians 2:6-7).

Jesus was humanly gift wrapped, because God wanted to enter fully into our world, to reveal the immensity of his love for us and that we could know the eternal God personally. You have to be divinely human and earthy present to do that! This was no ordinary gift wrap because he was no ordinary baby.

Wrapped in poverty:

Jesus' birth graphically illustrates how he was born in poverty. The stable or cave with its animals, smells and straw was not easy! 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.' (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The envelope with French lining carries this great Christmas message. The plain exterior looks similar to any other (the humanity of God), yet the inside dazzles with colour and beauty, reflecting the glory of God himself!

The cover price of this Magazine, for the 3rd year in a row, is to be kept at £1 for 2015.

Those who pay for an annual subscription will be advised separately.

A Thank You and an Update from the Howells



Rob, Alison and Joel would like to say a very sincere thank you for all of those who attended and supported the Celebration of our daughter's life Ceri Palmer (nee Howells) on Saturday June 7th. It really meant so much to us that you could help out and be there with us on this precious occasion. Generous donations were given as a memorial to Ceri's life at both her funeral in Canterbury and the Celebration of her life in Cheshire. An amazing total of £2017 has been split between the 2 charities - £1,302.55 donated to Stop the Traffik and £714.45 donated to Porchlight (a homeless charity in Canterbury, where Ceri studied).

We also wish to say thank you for all of the beautiful cards, expressions of love and prayers, which have truly helped us and will continue to help us in the days ahead. We added new content to Ceri's website, recently, in honour of her birthday. Please take a look at this website and if you have any memories to add do let us know www.ceriabigail.org.uk. In future we are planning to support and carry out some fundraising for CRY Cardiac Risk in the Young www.c-r-y.org.uk and <http://www.sads.org.uk/>.

The Courage and Witness of Meriam Ibrahim

One of the best 'good news' Christian stories of this year has got to be the courage that Meriam Ibrahim showed when arrested in Sudan for allegedly renouncing Islam, for her resilience against death threats in prison, and for her ultimate release and move to the United States.



In an interview with Fox News in the USA, after she was freed, Meriam said that she had never once considered abandoning her faith to save her life. She explained that her faith in God had been her "only weapon" in the on-going confrontations between her and various imams and Muslim scholars. She went on: "I was given three days (to renounce my faith). I faced a tremendous amount of pressure. The situation was difficult, but I was sure that God would stand by my side. It's my right to follow the religion of my choice. I would like to help the people in Sudan, in Africa, especially women and children, to promote freedom of religion," she said. "If you don't have faith, you're not alive."

A Fantastic Rose Queen Event!

What a fantastic evening!!

Sponsored Mens Leg Wax and Bingo in aid of Lucy's Rose Queen charities Cancer Research UK and Wistaston Scout Hut.



Thanks to Carmur Beauty of Nantwich Road for giving up their Saturday evening to wax all the hairy legs. Thanks also to Tony Rowland, Daniel Rowland, Mike Turnbull, Alex Smith, Keith Sarson, Bunny, Mark Jones, Dave Johnson, Geraint Hughes, David Wybrow and David Harrison for their bravery and agreeing to have their legs waxed.

Thanks to all those who helped out on the night and to those who came along to support us. As a rough estimate, so far, we have raised around £2000 on the night!!! Well done everyone!!

A New Way of Being the Church!



Archbishop Justin says the Church can begin "moving forward together" after General Synod enacts women bishops legislation.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said today the Church of England can start to embrace "a new way of being the church" after the General Synod enacted legislation enabling women to be ordained as bishops.

The formal enactment of the legislation – Amending Canon 33 – followed the vote on final approval by the Synod at its meeting in July of this year. Since that time the legislation has been approved in Parliament and received Royal Assent. Following the vote Archbishop Justin said: "Today we can begin to embrace a new way of being the church and moving forward together. We will also continue to seek the flourishing of the church of those who disagree."