



Christian Life

The parish magazine of St Mary's & St Luke's
Serving the communities of Rope, Willaston & Wistaston.



Lent is a time of renewal for the whole church, for each community,
and every believer. Above all it is a "time of grace." (*Pope Francis*)

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 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Chester

Church Office: office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk - Tel: 567119

Open 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. Parish Administrators: Teresa & Polly

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Rector	Revd Mike Turnbull	7
Associate Priest	Revd Ken Sambrook	6
Assistant Clergy	Rev Preb Frank Powell	3
	Revd Malcolm Shaw	8

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Parish Evangelist	Lin Parker	5
Church Wardens	Di Carter	4
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PCC Treasurer	Daphne Gregory	3
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Bible Reading Notes	Sue Squirrell Catherine Gallagher	3 1
Church Hall Bookings	Church Office	
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Foodbank Co-ordinator	Peter Hopkins	8

Young Peoples' Activities

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Rainbows	Teresa Hoper	2
Brownies	Julie Croft	1
Guides	Helen Pegg	9

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Malcolm writes...

February 2017



Friends in Christ

It seems that we have hardly recovered from Christmas and we are plunging headlong towards Lent.

Each year we have the same debate about whether it is better to give up something for Lent or to do something for Lent, both approaches have their merits.

There is, for instance, little doubt that self-denial is intrinsically good for us. We live in a culture that thrives on instant gratification: we all, in a sense, want it all and want it now. It is the basis of our consumer society. What more counter-cultural action could we take than to say no to something that we normally take for granted. So why not give up chocolate or alcohol or some such thing. But could this not be pushed a bit further in thinking about giving up wasting food, natural resources, driving when we could walk. What I am suggesting is that if our giving up doesn't actually seriously impact on our lives and on those around us then it is little more than a gesture designed to make us feel a bit better about ourselves.

So, what about doing something

for Lent? Again, on the face of it, it should be a worthwhile approach. Many see it is a time to reflect more deeply on their faith through reading, study and prayer. Perhaps some, on reflection, realise that in terms of their faith they have been just going through the motions: going to Sunday worship when it is convenient, but doing so with little expectation of encounter with God or being challenged. Perhaps you go to church but are not really there at all because your thoughts and attention are elsewhere! I have often heard in church conversation about what has been going on during the week i.e the football from Saturday, the sales in a particular shop.

If any or all of the above is true for you then perhaps what you could do this Lent is to make yourself present, in an active and attentive way to God and having your mind set on Him alone. By this I mean deciding to come to church during Lent with a sense of expectation of meeting God, or attending the Lent Study course with a true desire to go deeper into your faith.

/contd on Page 5.....

What is Candlemas??



Candlemas, also known as the **Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and **Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus**, is a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It falls on February 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas-Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians in some countries to remove their Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian

countries historically remove them on Candlemas. On Candlemas, many Christians (especially Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans and Roman Catholics) also bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year.

The Feast of the Presentation is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD in Jerusalem. There are sermons on the Feast by the bishops Methodius of Patara (died 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (died 360), Gregory the Theologian (died 389), Amphilochius of Iconium (died 394), Gregory of Nyssa (died 400), and John Chrysostom (died 407). It is also mentioned in the pilgrimage of Egeria (381 - 384), where she confirmed that the celebrations took place in honour of the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. *Source: Wikipedia*

Why not come along to our service at St Mary's on Thursday,
2 February, 7pm, to celebrate this event.

Picture below celebrating the last Wednesday Holy Communion coffee & cakes, before Christmas. Pat with some 'thank you' flowers for all her efforts throughout the year, in making everyone feel welcome.



Malcolm/contd from page 3.....

This would lead to a life changing and affirming process through developing a pattern of prayer, meditation and reading of Scripture in to your daily routine.

Whatever you do, or give up, this Lent do not proceed with the idea that you are engaging in some kind of religious/moral programme of self- improvement. **At best, all we are doing is trying to make some space in our lives in order that God can continue His work of transformation within us.**

We are given a lifetime to allow this transformation to take place in us. It is never completed through one Season of Lent. But perhaps this Lent you could commit yourself to allowing that process to begin and to proceed more deeply in your life.

Yours in Christ

Malcolm

Note from Editor - Don't forget!! If you have something you would like to go in the magazine, do please let me know. Articles of interest, holiday experiences, spiritual experiences you want to share with others, poetry, artwork etc - anyone can do this, and any age. I shall await your input with eager anticipation!! *Sue*



"To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language!"

Join us for our annual Lent Soup Lunches

12.30 pm in the Church Hall
on:
Wednesdays:

March 8th,
March 22nd and
April 5th



Ash Wednesday & Lent Groups

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, 1 March, with a services of Holy Communion at St Mary's at 10am & 7pm. Our Lent Groups will begin week commencing Monday 6 March and we are planning to four Groups, Friday morning at St Luke's, Sunday evening at Ken & Sheena's home & probably Wednesday evening at the Rectory. All these are to be confirmed - please see the Notice Sheet & Website in February for further details.



Are you wanting to do something 'new' this year? Would you like to help out and serve God in any of the following ministries? If you're thinking about it, and just want to know more, but not commit yet, do please talk to Mike, Ken, Malcolm, or one of the Wardens Simon or Diana to find out more.

Lots

Of

Voluntary

Effort

Areas we could do with more help include:

Sunday refreshments after the main service at St Mary's.

The Ministry of Flowers

Sidespersons

Thank you

Big Church Day Out

For the first time there is a Big Church Day Out 'north' taking place on **2-3 June 2017** at Capesthorpe Hall near Macclesfield. If you are interested please see Mike (Rector), or please pick up a leaflet in the Church porch or go to: bigchurchdayout.com. Early bird prices are extended until 31/03/17. Just make your own booking via the website and let Mike know.



Junior Church News

Christian Aid Sponsored Swim

The Christian Aid Sponsored Swim at the Lifestyle Centre, Crewe, on Saturday 4 March 2017 at 6pm followed by refreshments at the Rectory for swimmers and supporters. Please put this date in your diaries - more details to follow. This is open to all ages. Please see Sarah Turnbull if you'd like to take part.

The Nativity



On Christmas Eve the Junior Church presented a wonderful retelling of the Christmas Story. Over forty of our young people, from toddlers to teenagers, helped, acted, played instruments and prompted to entertain over 250 people who came to watch! Many thanks to Stuart White who wrote and directed the play.

Junior Church Dates

The remaining dates for the Spring/Summer Term: 5 February :: 5, 19 March :: 7, 21 May :: 18 June :: 2, 16 July

Ladies Afternoon Group & Mothers' Union



We start 2017 with our A.G.M on January 26th followed by tea & cakes.

On February 23rd we look forward to a talk about the YMCA given by Mr Richard Holmes, who is the Development Manager. On March 23rd it is our Lent Service in Church at 2pm followed by tea & biscuits in the Church Hall.

Dates for your diary: Lent lunches: March 8th, March 22nd and April 5th.

We have a very good & varied programme for the year and look forward to some new members joining.

Marian Carter

Members enjoyed a delicious Christmas

dinner at the Hunters Lodge recently. February 15th is our annual General Meeting, followed by our meeting on March 15th, entitled 'Action in Faith'. Also in March, 29th, will be our annual Deanery Lady Day Service - this year held at St Barnabas in Crewe, at 11.30am. This will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch. In April (19th) we look forward to Mike Turnbull giving a talk about Easter.

Looking ahead after this, we will be having our annual fund raising afternoon at St Mary's Church Hall on 17th, which will include various stalls and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Our meetings are usually on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, held in the Church Hall at 2.15pm.

Sue Squirrell



Willaston WI

Our first meeting of 2017 was attended by 59 members who braved the stormy night to hear Linda Martin speak of the Special Olympics (which are for athletes with learning difficulties) when her daughter Felicity successfully competes in the Rhythmic and Artistic Gymnastics category winning many Gold medals. Linda spoke of the coaches, parents and trainers who devote endless time and energy fund raising and supporting the athletes; the hard work, dedicated training and difficulties endured by the athletes, and the rewards of confidence and a sense of being part of the community taking part brings.

Pat Cotton

From the Parish Registers

Registers up to 20 January 2017:

BAPTISMS: Welcome to the church family

27 November 2016 Samuel William Lawrence
BRADBURY



WEDDINGS: May God bless them in their married life together

None this period



FUNERALS: May they rest in peace and joy

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

05 December 2016	Hubert HOWELL	83
08 December 2016	Eileen Brenda FOREMAN	84
12 December 2016	Brian EDGE	84
22 December 2016	Barry HOLE	72
28 December 2016	Madeline NICHOLS	100
29 December 2016	Betty Capper	87
30 December 2016	Vera TURNER	88
05 January 2017	Victoria Frances TAYLOR	23
06 January 2017	John David DODD	73
06 January 2017	Joseph Roy WHETNALL	87
11 January 2017	Barbara Edith CARTWRIGHT	85
13 January 2017	Edith FRANCIS	94
16 January 2017	Olwen LOVATT	95
20 January 2017	Stuart Albert TAYLOR	54



Heaven is both present and future. As you walk along your life-path holding My hand, you are already in touch with the essence of heaven: nearness to Me. You can also find many hints of heaven along your pathway because the earth is radiantly alive with My Presence. Shimmering sunshine awakens your heart, gently reminding you of My brilliant Light. Birds and flowers, trees and skies evoke praises to My holy Name. Keep your eyes and ears fully open as you journey with Me.

(Jesus Calling)



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.**

2 February	Candlemas Holy Communion, St Mary's, 7pm
16 February	Rose Queen Fashion Show in the Hall, 7pm
1 March	Ash Wednesday
4 March	Christian Aid Sponsored Swim, 6pm
23 March	Lent Service at St Mary's, 2pm (LAG hosting)
16 April	Easter Sunday
9 April	APCM in the Church Hall, approx 12.15pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Our APCM will be on **Sunday 9 April in the Church Hall** following the morning service (around 12:15pm), followed in turn by a Bring and Share Fellowship Lunch. We have vacancies for Sidespeople & PCC Members. Also, a Wardens tenure is for a year so it may be that you'd like to put yourself forward as a Warden (or Deputy Warden). All the information will be on the Notice Sheet during March. Please see the Rector for further details in the meantime.

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 sue.squirrell@thedrey.co.uk or via the Church Office by:- 15 March 2017

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

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: *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 Mon, Tues - Friday changing to 9.15am in the near future - please see weekly Notice Sheet

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 1st hymn.*

Diocesan Lay Conference



Are you ready for Mission Possible? Your chance to make a difference!

Friday, 19 May to Sunday, 21 May 2017

An opportunity to explore ways to enable lay people to be more effective in their own Christian Mission turning the seemingly 'Impossible' into 'Possible' through everyday activities, whilst enjoying the peaceful surroundings afforded by the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. For more information please go to bit.ly/dlc2017 - please see the Rector if you would like to go, the PCC would normally cover the cost of 2 people from our congregation to attend.

Christmas Day at St Luke's (thanks to Daphne for the photo)

