

## Nativity figure restoration - continued from page 4

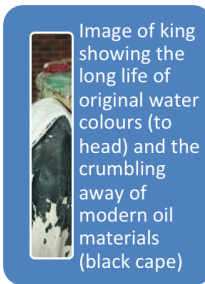


Image of king showing the long life of original water colours (to head) and the crumbling away of modern oil materials (black cape)

The only safe way to dry was outside, and wind assisted only, rather akin to drying hams. Of course, this approach meant a totally drying time of around 14 weeks, with each figure losing 30% of its weight, which confirmed the amount of moisture absorbed in the time the figures had been stored. Each figure then was dry brushed to very good effect, although unfortunately much of the paint was lost in the process.

Our next task was to develop a colour palette, beginning with test matches on plain card. As the figures had been subject to previous attempts at re-painting, some of the original colours had been lost. In keeping then with the colours that we had left, and the general majesty of the set, a semi-lustre finish was selected, and the colours being an amalgum between that which we could identify in the original and those found in the closest images available on the internet - We were also to draw some inspiration from the stained glass scenes from St Mary's direct. The paints used are water based heritage colours, mostly eggshell. We were lucky enough to find most in a sale at B and Q, including some of the metallic bases.

I used to believe that things simply happen, but now I know that they happen for a reason. Being a mathematician, no amount of statistical manipulation can account for the 'coincidences' in our lives, and I always remember the lines from that Hollywood blockbuster when Will Smith finally says that he is 'listening' to the signs sent to him.

Well this project came at just the right time in my life, and formed part of my pilgrimage towards my God. Thanks to the congregation for having faith in me! I hope you enjoy the figures. Art Calder

*Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

*Thank you Art for all your hard work! This is an abridged version of Art's journey with the Nativity characters - we hope to have copies of the full version available soon.*



The completed figures enhancing the lobby of the Church Hall for the Christmas period

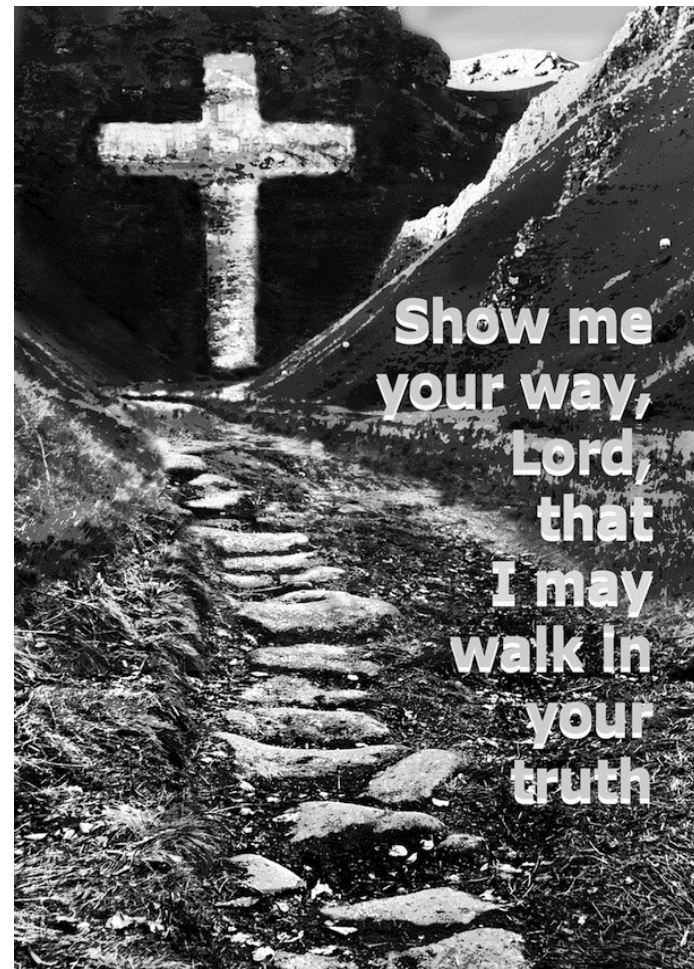
# Christian Life

## 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



Lent begins on 13th February with Ash Wednesday. What will you do during Lent this year? Mike, the Rector, has some ideas for you on page 2.

This magazine is available to download at [stmaryswistaston.org.uk/magazines.html](http://stmaryswistaston.org.uk/magazines.html)

February - March 2013

£1

Our Sunday Morning Services are:-  
9.00 am at St. Luke's & 10.40 am at St.Mary's

**Church Office:** [office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk](mailto: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      | Tl |
| Associate Priest | Revd Ken Sambrook       | 6  |
| Asst Clergy      | Revd Preb. Frank Powell | 39 |

### Church Officers

|                           |                     |    |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----|
| Reader                    | David Illing        | 41 |
| Church Wardens:           | Mike Carter         | 42 |
|                           | Kath Jones          | 9  |
| Pastoral Worker           | Ann Stubbs          | 19 |
| Marriage Enrichment       | Sheena Sambrook     | 6  |
| Contact for D/deaf people | Alison Howells      | 24 |
| Evangelist (Alpha)        | Lin Parker          | 51 |
| P.C.C Secretary           | Joy Chaplow         | 30 |
| P.C.C Treasurer           | Howard Barker       | 20 |
| Planned Giving Recorder   | Andrea Bartholomew  | 18 |
| Electoral Roll Officers   | Sue & Bob Squirrell | 31 |
| Parish Magazine Editor    | Revd Mike Turnbull  | Tl |
| Magazine Distribution     | Jennifer Jones      | 40 |
| Webmaster                 | Bob Squirrell       | 31 |
| Bible Reading Notes:      | Jenny Forbes        | 7  |
|                           | Linda Cooke         | 6  |
| Church Hall Bookings      | Sue Squirrell       | C/ |
| Tower Captain             | Frank Morton        | 14 |

### Children's and Young People's Activities

|                         |                |    |
|-------------------------|----------------|----|
| Jnr Church Co-ordinator | Sarah Turnbull | Tl |
| Youth Work              | Dane Chaplow   | 30 |
| Rainbows                | Teresa Hoper   | 27 |
| Brownies                | Julie Croft    | 19 |
| Guides                  | Helen Pegg     | 9  |

### Midweek Programme

|                      |                   |    |
|----------------------|-------------------|----|
| Mothers' Union       | Sue Squirrell     | 31 |
| Stepping Stones      | Via Church Office | Cl |
| Praise & Play        | Via Church Office | Cl |
| Ladies Evening Group | Marian Carter     | 4  |



[www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk)



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## A Reflection from Ken...

February 2013



Dear Friends,

As our thoughts turn to Lent, which commences on Ash Wednesday (13th Feb this year), I should like to share a few thoughts with you.

These are intended to promote personal, that is sheared with God, meditation on The Cross of Jesus.

Crosses have been in our News lately, as I write Nadia Eweida a Check In operator with British Airways has just heard the verdict of European Court Judges that her employer was wrong in dismissing her for wearing her cross at work.

I don't think we have heard the end of such stories though. I must say that I am always pleased to see someone willing to wear the cross, especially if it is to indicate that they have a Christian faith, but even if it is only an ornament it makes some statement, however wearing any such a cross it is not a requirement of our faith. But I do understand that many will find great comfort from their cross and it can help to act as a introduction as with any Club Badge.

For St Paul, the Christian faith is distinguished from all other religions by the proclamation of the Crucifixion of Christ.

Part of the task of the believer is to understand the full meaning of the cross.

It is the glorious triumph of God over the forces of over sin, evil and despair.

It breaks the party of Satan and brings NEW HOPE.

It is foundation of authentic forgiveness, the only means by which we can be restored to fellowship with God.

It represents the full disclosure of God's love and His restorative grace.

Understanding this CROSS requires transformation; it is about changing lives.

The Season of Lent is about changing lives, our own and others by our reflection of the Love of Christ.

Perhaps a model of self reflection may help: Look at a Cross, imagine the Lord hanging there and ask yourself and Him

What have I done for Christ?

What am I doing for Christ?

What ought I do for Christ?

Joining a Lent Group might help too!

Pray you each have a blessed Lent

*Ken*

*The road to success  
is always under construction*

*Please see the next page for a selection of  
Lent Resources.*

Mike the Rector recommends some  
Lent Resources for 2013



**Lent** begins this year on 13 February - Ash Wednesday - here are some activities and resources to help you get the most out of Lent. You can access this page online with clickable links at: [bit.ly/lent2013](http://bit.ly/lent2013)

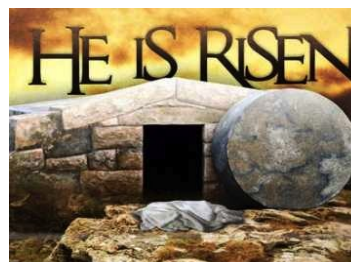
- **Listen** to the New Testament in 40 Days with the Bible Society "You've Got the Time" - [bit.ly/mp3ygtt](http://bit.ly/mp3ygtt) for more info and downloads - free plans are available in both churches or at [bit.ly/planygtt](http://bit.ly/planygtt)
- **Read:** choose a book of the Bible to read through Lent. You can download a plan here that will take you through the book of Romans during Lent: [bit.ly/RP2013\\_Romans](http://bit.ly/RP2013_Romans)
- **Lent Reflections:** Readings and reflections by Tom Wright (former Bishop of Durham) - this can only be done online or via a Smartphone App or by buying the book "Lent for Everyone (Year C)" ISBN: 9780281062201. To access the free online version go to: [bit.ly/lfe2013](http://bit.ly/lfe2013) and follow the instructions. YouVersion is a great free Bible resource and I can highly recommend it for your Smartphone with Apps available for all devices including, Windows, Apple, Android and Kindle.
- **Act:** as always the Christian Aid resource "Count Your Blessings" is a good aid to focus our minds on action during Lent. Download: Adult at [bit.ly/cyb2013\\_adult](http://bit.ly/cyb2013_adult) or younger people at [bit.ly/cyb2013\\_young](http://bit.ly/cyb2013_young). There will also be some available in both churches.
- **Discover:** Lent Groups begin week beginning 17 February: Sunday at Ken & Sheena's, Wednesday at the Housegroup at Jan Webb's, Thursday in the Howe Room (Mike T) and Friday at St Luke's (Frank P). Leaflets with details in both churches or sign up online: [bit.ly/lent2013](http://bit.ly/lent2013)

## Holy Week & Easter Services

Holy Week begins on Sunday 24th March on Palm Sunday



- ✘ **Palm Sunday** - see below for details of Bishop Robert's visit to us
- ✘ **Morning Prayer** during Holy Week - (Mon, Tue & Thur 9am - 9:15am) at St Mary's
- ✘ **Wednesday:** 10am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- ✘ **Maundy Thursday** Holy Communion 7:30pm at St Luke's
- ✘ **Good Friday** -  
**11am All Age Worship** at St Mary's with activities for young people  
**2pm An Hour at the Cross** at St Mary's - a quiet and reflective service with hymns and readings



### Easter Sunday

9am Holy Communion at St Luke's

&

10:40 am Holy Communion for all the family at St Mary's



**On Palm Sunday, 24 March 2013, we will be having a visit at St Mary's (10:40am) from the Bishop of Stockport the Right Revd. Robert Atwell.**

Following the service there will be a Bring and Share in the Church Hall with an opportunity to chat with the Bishop. Please put this in your diary as it should be a great occasion!!

## September 11th 2011, note in church newsletter – “Restoration of Nativity Figures”

### Art Calder’s journey with the Nativity Figures...

‘How hard can this be?’ With a large busy family at home, since my baptism in 2010 I had been looking to be able to give something back to a church that both meant a lot to me and had made a difference to my life.

This was my chance! I put myself forward immediately to Mike, the church warden. When he smiled at me and patted me on the back, I should have guessed at that point that I might have volunteered for something a little bigger than I was expecting. Armed with two empty plastic carrier bags, I followed Mike to the sheds. In the style of Chief Brody in ‘Jaws’, he turned and said ‘You’re gonna need a bigger bag!!’

What I hadn’t realised is that, instead of the Airfix style 1:32 scale figures, this nativity set had been subjected to an ecclesiastical growth hormone, and I was faced with a series of figurines that would not look out of place in a stage production of Snow White.



Nevertheless, I saw this as a ‘test’ and set to with gusto. Five car journeys and a slight mechanical back problem later, and all 11 figures (and various ‘other’ bits and pieces) were safely in the car port.

There was a notable absence of the Christ child, with the exception of one hand and forearm. All figures are plaster of Paris hollow hand cast, with wired limbs. Unfortunately, all have been subjected to moisture damage to one degree or another, resulting in various fractures, and loss of structure. All figures were found to be full of moisture, with the plaster crumbling and unstable.



Some original paint remained on each figure however, which allowed us to catalogue colours. What was almost miraculous though was the fact that in almost every case, the faces appeared to have escaped most of weather / storage damage that had affected the rest of the bodies. This is not to say that they were entirely unscathed only that the damage to heads was remarkably less than that of torsos.

The drying process was probably the most frustrating of the entire project. We tried to speed the process by drying indoors close to radiators, but the speed at which moisture left the figures resulted in the total decay of both angels. They are a job for 2013 !! (continued on back page)



## Youth Events and News

### JC Extra & Movie Issues

JC Extra (high school age get together on the last Friday of each month) continues to go from strength to strength with an average attendance of 15 young people. Also, on the first Sunday of each month, for the same age group, there is a Bible Study at the Rectory called Movie Issues, using movies to discover the bible, we have met twice up to now and we have had 12 at each one! For more info contact Mike at the Rectory: 665742 or mfturnbull@gmail.com

### Blesstival (formerly Quinta)

With all the regular fun, messiness, worship, madness and surprises, Blesstival 2013 will be the place to be next May.

**What:** A fun packed weekend with lots of things going on

**Who:** Anyone in school years 7-11 **When:** 10 - 12 May 2013

**Where:** Quinta Hall, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry

More info: [bit.ly/blesstival](http://bit.ly/blesstival)

### The Big Bible Event at Chester Cathedral [bit.ly/bbe2013](http://bit.ly/bbe2013)

**Saturday 20 April 2013 at Chester Cathedral**

The Big Bible Event is for children and their families or church groups. Eight interactive zones will let you explore the Gospel using: storytelling, drama, makes, costumed characters, games, puppets, music and much, much more. There is no age limit, but activities will be great for children aged 5-11 with lots for the rest of the family to join in too.

Activity zones open 9.45am to 2.30 pm - Worship and Celebration 12 noon

Tickets £2 per child (aged 5 and over) Adults need to book a FREE ticket

A booking fee of £0.75 per booking will also be payable. Places limited Bookings (open 1 February) through the Chester Cathedral (box office [bit.ly/chestercathedral-events](http://bit.ly/chestercathedral-events) or: 01244 50099)

### Junior Church dates for the term

20 Jan, 03 Feb, 03 Mar, 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 05 May, 19 May, 16 Jun, 07 Jul & 21 Jul All at 10:40am beginning in church

### Training Matters

In November three of our Junior Church leaders attended a training day called “Growing Children” at St Wilfred’s in Grappenhall with the main speaker being Bob Hartman plus workshops.

# Ladies Evening Group

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



We started the new Year with our AGM on January 23rd, followed by entertainment from The Wells Green Singers, which everyone enjoyed. This was followed by our excellent Bring & Share Supper.

On February 27th we have our Lent Service in church at 7.30pm, followed by tea, coffee & biscuits in the Church Hall. March 27th sees a talk by John Maplin from Blitz about fireworks: The Safety Issue.

This year we will have only THREE LENT LUNCHESES on February 20th, March 6th and March 20th. As these are too good to miss, do put these dates in your diary. The lunches and all our meetings are open to Visitors and new members, so please do come along. Meetings are at 7.30pm every 4th Wednesday in the Church Hall. Everyone welcome.

*Marian Carter*

By the time this magazine is printed, we should have had our lunch at the Beefeater: a welcome meal during the cold weather! February 20th will be our AGM which will be followed by a Beetle Drive & Refreshments. On Thursday, March 14th will be our annual 'Wave of Prayer' and our time slot is 9.30am (venue to be decided). On Monday, March 25th will be the Lady Day Service at St Chad's, Wybunbury at 11am, where Margaret Smallman will be commissioned as Deanery Leader. This will be followed by a Bring & Share lunch and members are invited to come along and support Margaret. Due to March being a busy month, there will be NO meeting in the Church Hall. Of course, this does not stop members from getting together if they wish! We look forward to Revd Rob Wykes from Crewe Christian Concern giving a talk at our meeting on 17th April. Visitors welcome.

*Sue Squirrel*



## Willaston WI

November saw Judy Jones planting an Oak Tree to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

At the December meeting members had fun playing a "reindeer drive" game, singing carols, and enjoying a tasty supper. A collection raised £64 and was donated to the Association of Country Women of the World, to help with their work educating and enabling women to improve all aspect of their lives. The Nantwich Town Crier spoke in January of the origins of his "costume", his bell, sayings attributed to him and the 1p annual retainer he receives from a Lord of the Manor.

Details of dates, and times from Judy Jones tel.01270 567015

*Pat Cotton*

# From the Parish Registers

## BAPTISMS: Welcome to our church family

25 November: Annabelle Louise BROWN  
Jessica Ann WOOLLEY



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

12 December: Karen Linda WILLIAMS & David KELLY



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

### May they rest in peace and joy

|                  |                            |    |
|------------------|----------------------------|----|
| 16 November 2012 | Mary BURGESS               | 95 |
| 16 November 2012 | Peter VICKERS              |    |
| 29 November 2012 | Lillian Eva NEWTON         | 89 |
| 07 December 2012 | John Edward JACKSON        | 87 |
| 30 November 2012 | Brian Llewellyn Evan EVANS | 75 |
| 13 December 2012 | Sheila CLARK               | 68 |
| 12 December 2012 | John GRIFFITHS             |    |
| 14 December 2012 | Ray PICKUP                 |    |
| 19 December 2012 | Norman EVANSON             | 85 |
| 21 December 2012 | Roy Francis METCALFE       | 81 |
| 20 December 2012 | Ray HOUGH                  | 84 |
| 28 December 2012 | Irene MILLER               |    |
| 28 December 2012 | Joan LUCAS                 |    |
| 02 January 2013  | Betty BIGGS                | 83 |
| 07 January 2013  | Sheila CURRUTHERS          | 79 |
| 02 January 2013  | Elizabeth WALKER           | 92 |
| 09 January 2013  | Nicola WILLIAMS            | 43 |
| 11 January 2013  | James "Jim" McLUCAS        | 74 |
| 11 January 2013  | David WILLIAMS             | 89 |
| 04 January 2013  | Ernest COPE                | 95 |
| 09 January 2013  | Joan GARDINER              | 89 |
| 16 January 2013  | Arthur Hastings BROWN      | 91 |
| 24 January 2013  | William SHIRT              | 68 |



## 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.

- 02 February: Marriage Preparation at St Luke's (morning)
- 02 February: Candlemas Service at St Mary's (evening)
- 10 February: 2:30pm Wistaston PC Civic Service at St Mary's
- 13 February: Ash Wednesday – HC at 7:30pm at St Mary's
- 18 February: 7:30pm Premises Management Committee at the Rectory
- 20 February: 2:15pm Mothers' Union AGM (Church Hall)
- 27 February: 7:30pm LEG Lent Service (St Mary's)
- 16 March: 1pm Wedding Blessing at St Mary's
- 16 March: 6pm Christian Aid Sponsored Swim (Crewe Baths)
- 16 March: 7pm Wistaston Singers' Concert at St Mary's in aid of church funds
- 24 March (Palm Sunday): Bishop Robert at St Mary's (10:40am) followed by a bring and share
- 31 March: Easter Sunday



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### 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](mailto:revd.mike@stmaryswistaston.org.uk) or via the Church Office by:-  
**16 March 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.

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

**6.30 p.m.**

### 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) |
|                     |             | Bell Ringing (Tower)                                              |
| Mondays             | 7.45 p.m.   | Rainbows (Church Hall/Howe Rm)                                    |
| Tuesdays            | 6-7 p.m.    | Brownies (Church Hall/Howe Rm)                                    |
|                     | 5.45-7 p.m. | Guides (Church Hall)                                              |
|                     | 7-9 p.m.    | Holy Communion                                                    |
| Wednesdays          | 10.00 a.m.  |                                                                   |

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