



Christian Life

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



#GOD with US



Luke 2:10 *And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

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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

Clergy

Rector	Revd Mike Turnbull	The Rectory, 104 Church Lane	665742
Associate Priest	Revd Ken Sambrook	6 Westfield Drive, Wistaston	662455
Assistant Clergy	Rev Preb Frank Powell	39 Wright Court, Nantwich	618679
	Revd Malcolm Shaw	85 Rochester Cres, Crewe	213317

Church Officers

Reader	David Illing	412 Crewe Road, Wistaston	661427
Pastoral Worker	Ann Stubbs	19 Mary's Gate, Wistaston	650583
Parish Evangelist	Lin Parker	512 Crewe Road, Wistaston	664147
Church Wardens	Di Carter	42 Colleys Lane, Willaston	661583
	Simon Bartholomew	18 Millrace Drive, Wistaston	665505
PCC Secretary	Joy Chaplow	30 Westfield Drive, Wistaston	747908
PCC Treasurer	Daphne Gregory	34 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	560476
Planned Giving	Andrea Bartholomew	18 Millrace Drive, Wistaston	665505
Electoral Roll Officers	Sue & Bob Squirrel	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Magazine Editor	Sue Squirrel	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Webmaster	Bob Squirrel	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Bible Reading Notes	Sue Squirrel Catherine Gallagher	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston 10 Arley Place, Wistaston	569803 662697
Tower Captain	Frank Morton	14 Park Road, Willaston	661816
Foodbank Co-ordinator	Peter Hopkins	82 Greenfields Ave, Shavington	669484

Young Peoples' Activities

Junior Church	Sarah Turnbull	The Rectory, 104 Church Lane	665742
Rainbows	Teresa Hoper	27 Broughton Lane, Wistaston	568843
Brownies	Julie Croft	19 Rectory Close, Wistaston	666053
Guides	Helen Pegg	9 Tabley Road, Wistaston	560096

Midweek Activities

Mothers' Union	Jenny Hall	1 Edinburgh Road, Wistaston	568300
Stepping Stones	Via Church Office	Church Lane, Wistaston	567119
Ladies Afternoon Group	Marian Carter	4 Church View Walk Wistaston	568629



Mike writes...

December 2017



Dear Friends,

The constant refrain of Christmas, in carols and readings, is that God is with us. In whatever situations you find yourself this Christmas, God is with you - you need only turn to him and ask to know his presence.
Archbishop Justin Welby.

At the centre of Christmas is the Christ Child, Jesus, a baby born into poverty whose influence is still felt in the world today some 2000 years later. What is it about the birth of this child that could have such a profound effect on the world, then and now Archbishop Justin reminds of perhaps the main reason, that he is **God With Us**.

These three words, words which we have no doubt heard before many times, have in them such profound significance. **God With Us**. For centuries God had tried to connect with his people, to bring them home, to restore a broken relationship, to remind them of his fatherly goodness and his love for them. It seems as though on each occasion his people didn't listen and the story of the people of Israel in the Old Testament tells us of this. The same story can also be seen as a metaphor for our own lives were God seeks to speak to us, but we fail to listen, fail to act as he would want us to. The significance of Jesus being born was this: God had come among his people, as a human, as God, as **God With Us**.

We celebrate this afresh each year at

Christmastime and I invite you to join with me this Christmas to celebrate **God With Us**, you will find all our special Christmas Services on the back page of this magazine and on our website.

This year the Church of England's Social Media campaign will use the hashtag **#GodWithUs** - if you're on Facebook or Twitter you can see what's happening by searching for this - you can go here for information on this: bit.ly/godwithus17

If you're looking for something spiritual to do during Advent we have Advent Groups running on Wednesdays 6, 13 & 20, 7:30pm to 9pm, at the Rectory (*we are also hoping to have a daytime one running, but at the time of printing this has not yet been finalised - please see the Notice Sheet for further details*).

I can also recommend the Bible Society's Advent Challenge which is done via email - more details of this are available here: bit.ly/bsac2017 .

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year and may you truly experience **God With Us** this Christmastime.

Mike



The work I did in Nepal by Charlotte Rhodes

As I sit writing this article, it is coming up to two months since I left Nepal. The time has flown by and when I flick through my diary, the emotions, thoughts and feelings are quickly blurring into one. Last time I shared with you a blog I had written for Raleigh, and this time I thought I would speak a little about the projects and work I completed in our village. You all generously contributed to my fundraising target, and I know if I were you, I would like to know it was put to good use.

Our project focused 'livelihoods', an area that aims to empower those with businesses through encouraging diversification and therefore increasing the money they can earn. Within my village this was mostly farming, usually vegetables and occasionally live-stock such as chicken farms. We worked hard, and managed to achieve a lot in three different areas - infrastructure, training and community integration & cultural exchange.

Infrastructure created the most obvious change in the community. We supported 15 families with large projects, these included; 6 polytunnels, 2 plastic ponds and 7 live-stock shed improvements. The plastic ponds combats an all too common occurrence - water shortages. Nepal is affected heavily by climate change, it is in the belt of countries effected by monsoons, which are becoming more erratic, meanwhile, the Himalayas are situated here and the ice caps are melting. The changes in when water arrives in the village means (despite the tremendous amount of water which arrived during my time in Nepal) there are shortages in the winter. These ponds allow homes with no access to springs to store water for irrigation and to grow vegetables which are a high-value crop. Polytunnels and shed improvements allow diversification of their livelihoods with offseason farming and animal rearing.

We completed a seed distribution programme, giving high-value cauliflower seeds to all households who expressed an interest - this initial outlay was too much for most households and our seed distribution and subsequent crops allow a year on year profit increase. Alongside these programmes, we completed training that focused on areas the villagers were concerned about. This included climate change (lots don't believe it exists as Nepal is one of the lowest emitters), sapling transplantation, how to plan for business concerns and shed improvements. Sustainability is imperative and so providing the skills, and the materials will be much more useful for long term development.

We had many community days, from promoting International Youth Day with a sports day for kids, to 'Porridge Day' where people could try a western delicacy! We finished our time in the community with our Krishi Mela (Agri-festival) which involved lots of Nepali food and dance!

As well as these, we also had a panel of agricultural experts for the community to pose questions to and a 'Dragons Den' competition. The winner plans to turn three plastic ponds into a fish farm!

I could go on and on - I loved my time in Ghanti Khola, I miss it dearly, and only now when I sit and reflect do I realise how much of a difference we really made.

I have written an article for the Roundabout, so keep an eye out for that!

/contd..... See photos.....



Digging a plastic pond



A partially constructed polytunnel



Krithum with his plastic pond



Serving porridge in leaf bowls!



Congratulations to Laurie Clough who recently celebrated his 90th birthday!!
Wow



Wells Green Methodist Church celebrated their 50 year golden jubilee anniversary in their church building this year. The church on Brookland Avenue in Wistaston opened in 1967. *Picture courtesy of Jonathan White*

A Wistaston family spent a day with Manchester scientists at the

forefront of research into diabetes.



Emma Horne, 15, was invited to St Mary's Hospital after she helped raise £5,000 for Diabetes UK in her role as Wistaston Rose Queen.

They met Dr Jenny Myers, who is

leading ground-breaking research supported by Diabetes UK, to help mothers-to-be with diabetes.

Dr Myers and the team at University of Manchester and Saint Mary's Hospital gave the Horne family a tour of the clinic and laboratory where their research is taking place.

Emma said: "I chose to support Diabetes UK because we not only have some close friends who have diabetes but my step-sister, Laura, developed Type 1 diabetes 10 years ago after the birth of her first child, and then last year my dad found he was at risk of Type 2.

"We wanted the money we raised to go towards Dr Myers' research because Laura gave birth to her second child in August and experienced difficulties which were connected to her diabetes.

"It was great to come and see Dr Myers' work and learn how it will help women with diabetes and their babies in the future."

(extract from a recent article in the Nantwich News)

Our Current Rose Queen Jess and her Assistant Elise have been busy

recently with various events, once of which was The Beetle Drive in the Church Hall, which raised £177.00 for their chosen charity, Water Aid.



Look out for future events in 2018, which

will be advertised in the Notice Sheet.



WaterAid works in partnership with local organisations in

37 countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Pacific region^[2] to

help poor communities estab-

lish sustainable water supplies and toilets,

close to home, and to promote safe hy-

giene practices. *(Wikipedia)*

In support of
WaterAid

Junior Church News

The Junior Church have been busy practicing for the **Nativity Play** which they will be doing at the **Crib Service, 6pm, on Christmas Eve**. All the latest information about the Junior Church is available on our website.



Stepping Stones

A morning of activities for pre-school children and their parents or carers, including Craft, Stories and Christian songs. All welcome! 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month during Term Time at St Mary's Church Hall 9.30am to 11:30am.

Here are the dates for the first part of 2018:

10 & 24 January, 14 & 28 February, 14 & 28 March.



Please contact the Church Office for further details.

Ladies Afternoon Group & Mothers' Union



Members enjoyed an excellent programme in October given by Brian Hallworth 'Down Memory Lane' with slides and music coming from 1939 - to late 1950's. Very nostalgic.

November 23rd we look forward to Mrs Jeahna Hoyle giving a talk on 'Travels Down Under'.

Our Christmas lunch will be at The Waverley on December 1st and on December 13th, our Carol Service in Church together with The Mothers' Union, followed by tea and mince pies in the Church Hall.

Best wishes to all our members for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and busy 2018, with a good programme to look forward to.

Marian

We all enjoyed a very interesting talk about St

Mary's Church and surrounding area, by Mike Carter at the recent branch meeting. The history is fascinating!

We are currently looking forward to our annual Carol Service, together with the LAG group and of course everyone is invited to join us on December 13th, with of course mince pies and refreshments in the Hall afterwards.

Our post Christmas lunch is on January 10th at The Hunters Lodge and most menu requests have now been collected.

Subs remain the same at £23.00
A Very Happy Christmas and New Year from all the Branch members. **Sue**



Willaston WI

We heard of the origins of St John Ambulance at our October meeting and how much in demand the service is now, often assisting the very busy NHS Ambulance service.

In November Wendy Northway showed fabulous slides and spoke of the "hidden" gems she has seen when diving off the coast of Britain. Brightly coloured coral, fish and plants usually associated with tropical oceans all live in our coastal waters. Amazing!!

5 of our members will sing in the choir at the Cheshire Federation Carol Service in Chester Cathedral in December.

Our Christmas party is at Crewe Vagrants on 13th December. **Pat Cotton**
01270 664030 for meeting details.

From the Parish Registers

Registers up to 19 November 2017:

BAPTISMS: Welcome to the church family

24 September Eric Arthur BERRY
22 October Mason Oscar LEWIS
Hallie Elsie VERLING
Jasmine May COOKE
29 October Robert John TAYLOR
Henry Carter TAYLOR
Barnaby Ted McDONALD
Bobby John CUNLIFFE



WEDDINGS: May God bless them in their married life together

Saturday 21 October Neil Anthony WILLIAMS
& Cheryl Ann YOUNG
Friday 27 October Jonathan Charles GOODIER & Sarah Lucy JACKSON



FUNERALS: May they rest in peace and joy

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

27 October Shirley STOCKTON 81
02 November Pamela WELCH 78
03 November Rowland Geoffrey WHITTAKER 78
03 November Florence Mercy FLOATE 99
16 November Philip Roy CAWLEY 89



"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world." *CS Lewis*



*"no I don't think you're the real Father Christmas!
I think you're up there poaching food off my roof!"*



76 Shoeboxes delivered - Wow!!



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.

- 01 December The Pudding Club at the Rectory 6pm-9pm
- 03 December Advent Sunday & Toy Service
Craft Group Stall over coffee at St Mary's
- 06 December 7.30pm Advent Bible Study begins at the Rectory
(also 13 & 20 Dec)
- 08 December 1pm Churches Together Christmas Drama for Church Lane Academy
6:30pm Wistaston Community Council Carol Concert – Church Hall
- 10 December 6pm Uniformed Organisations Christingle Service
- 13 December 2:15pm Lag/MU Carol Service at St Mary's
- 16 December 6pm Carols on the Green

See back page for full details of all our Christmas Services

The Church of England has a revamped website which is well worth a visit with many interesting features, such as a fantastic prayer section - you can find the new website at: churchofengland.org

For all the latest information...

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🏠 Visit us at: www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk

📘 Like us on: facebook.com/stmaryandstluke

🐦 Follow us on Twitter: @maryandluke



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 January 2018

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 & Thursday 9.15am 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 1st hymn.*

St Mary's & St Luke's Christmas Services 2017



16th December (Saturday)

6pm - Carols on the Green

Outside Carol Singing around the church and hall

17th December (Sunday – Advent 3)

9am - St Luke's Carol Service

6pm - Nine Lessons and Carols

A traditional service of Readings and Carols

24th December (Sunday - Christmas Eve)

6pm - Crib Service including the Nativity Play

Always a popular service! Please arrive early!!

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion

The first Holy Communion of Christmas

25th December (Monday - Christmas Day)

9am - Holy Communion (St Luke's)

10.40am Holy Communion for Christmas for all the family.

If you are a youngster please bring a toy to show

stmaryswislaston.org.uk :: [@maryandstluke](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryandstluke) :: [facebook.com/stmaryandstluke](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryandstluke)



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