

St Mary's & St Luke's Christmas Services 2016

17th December (Saturday), 6.30pm -
Carols on the Green



Outside Carol Singing around the Church and Hall

18th December (Sunday - Advent 4)

9am - St Luke's Carol Service

6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols:

A traditional service of Readings and Carols

24th December (Saturday - Christmas Eve)

6.30pm - 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 (Sunday - 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

Follow the journey of a tin of baked beans.....

Have you ever wondered what happens to that tin of baked beans you put in for the Foodbank? Or anything else you kindly donate.

I arranged to meet Peter Hopkins, who takes the contents of the boxes when full to either Crewe or Nantwich. We went to St Paul's Pantry in Crewe. Peter rang the bell at the back and someone came out and took all the food bags.

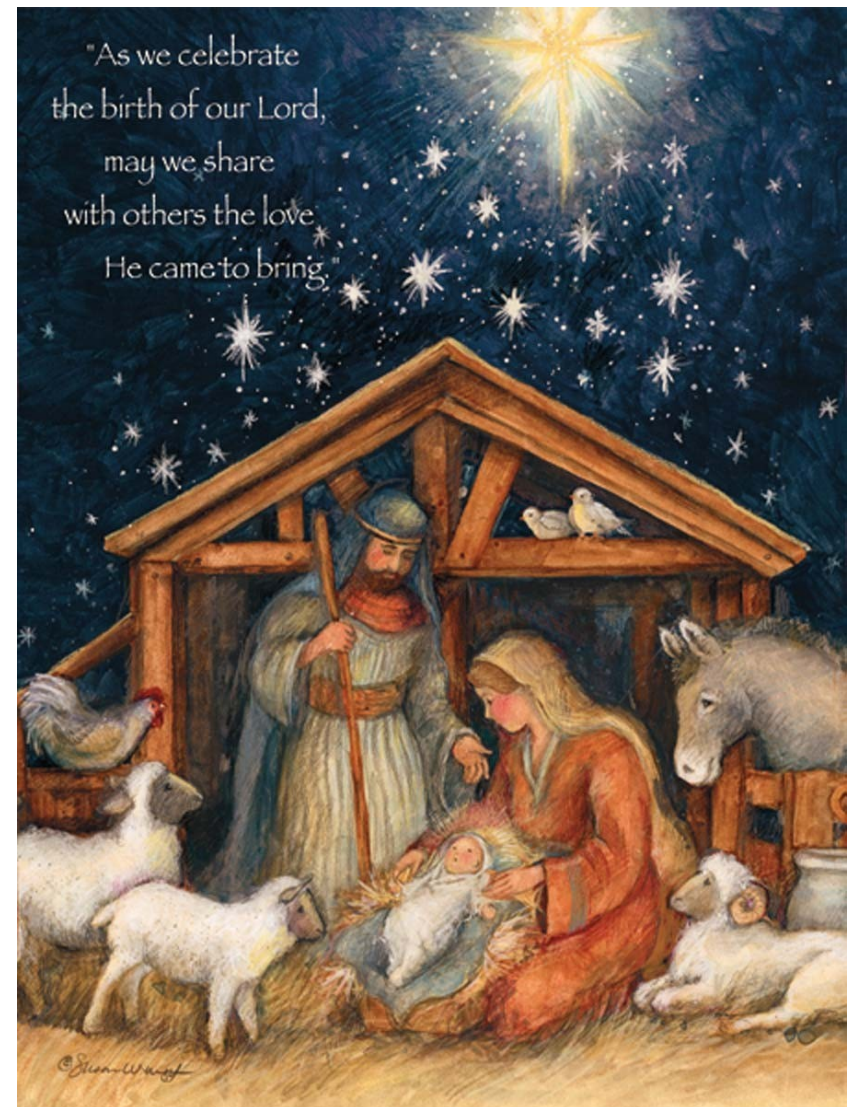
We then met with Audrey, one of the Co-ordinators who explained that the contents were firstly weighed and logged for that particular church/group. It is then sorted into shelves, in date/year order. Boxes are made up for 3

days, which include 3 meals each day, 1 snack & 2 treats & tea/coffee. These are also done for a single person, 2 persons & 3-4 persons. The made up boxes are then distributed to 6 churches on different days, ie: Mond: West St Baptist, Tues: St Marks on Bramhall Road, Weds: New Life on Fuller Drive, Thurs: All Saints and Frid: St Michaels and the Salvation Army. Audrey gets most referrals via e-mails, from egs: Social Services, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Centres, Debt groups, Children's Services. They are then told which day, pick-up point and where for them to collect from. Audrey said there are 8 volunteers who do the cupboard sorting. Overall 50+ who help, including drivers and volunteers like Peter. Thanks to Audrey for her time explaining what happens and to Peter for letting me come along to the delivery point. They are both pictured in the Pantry!! Sue



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

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 Squirrell	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Magazine Editor	Sue Squirrell	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Webmaster	Bob Squirrell	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Bible Reading Notes	Sue Squirrell Catherine Gallagher	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston 10 Arley Place, Wistaston	569803 662697
Church Hall Bookings	Church Office		567119
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

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.*



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.

→ See back page for list of all the Christmas Services

- 4 December Sheena's craft group selling gifts etc during coffee in the Church Hall. Funds raised for the Church
- 11 December Rose Queen Christmas Stall during coffee
- 27 January Rose Queen Family Quiz Night in the Hall, 7pm
- 16 February Rose Queen Fashion Show in the Hall, 7pm



Rose Queen Update

The Rose Queen family has so far raised a total of £1,490 towards Emma's chosen charity, Diabetes UK. There are still plenty of events to come (see dates above). Thanks to everyone involved in making these events a success, including friends and family of Emma

and her assistant Emily.



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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 January 2017



St Mary's

Ken writes...

December 2016



St Luke's

Dear friends,

This last week following the Sunday of Christ the King my lawn mower has been put away and the last garden bin collection of 2016 has taken place. If we just looked back a few weeks who would have predicted the election of Donald Trump to be the next President of the USA or that Sheena and I would have already been to a Pantomime and joined in carol singing; or even that Crewe Alex would be knocked out of the FA Cup in the first round: again! In this life there are some things we can be certain will happen, some things we can make an educated guess about, and some things of which we must just dream. Our climatic calendar tells us we are now well into winter, with darker mornings and evenings often cold, damp and dismal. By contrast our church calendar has moved through Trinity and the periods of deep remembrance of All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, Christ the King to that most contemplative and evocative season of Advent when we particularly prepare in study, prayer and meditation to recall the enormity of our Lord's coming veiled in human flesh. Our faith demands that we who believe that God entered our world to provide us with the example in the humanity of Jesus of how to live a life on earth and in His name, proclaim to all

people, to love God and love others as ourselves, that all may receive His gracious blessings and the opportunity to Life Eternal.

Furthermore that one day we shall see Him face to face. The hymn, In Christ Alone reminds us "when He returns or calls me home" (we cannot predict when that will be.) It therefore follows as the gospels urge us that we should always be ready and prepared for that time unknown.

The question is how will you prepare? For most of us in the UK preparation for Christmas will most probably include sending cards, buying presents, stocking up on food and drink. Yes, some things we can be certain of. It is very likely also to include Parties, Singing carols, Nativity plays and Pantomimes yes, some things we can take an educated guess at. How many shopping days to Christmas? This we do know for sure too, for the Christmas advertisements are in full swing.

The children will be calculating the number of 'sleeps' longing for the holidays and presents. Good fun if your life will permit you to have good fun but for many in our own land will be wondering if there will be any presents or lavish meals and will their families still be together at Christmas.
/contd on Page 5.....

Birds in the Parish

When I was first asked if I could do an article on birds for the Parish magazine, I hesitated because of the size of St Mary's Parish - it covers the civil parishes of Wistaston, Willaston and Rope. Then, as I was tidying assorted papers in the loft, I came across an article I had written nearly 30 years ago - "Birds in the Parish of Rope 1986", based on my observations when we lived in that parish. I have continued to keep records of a sort since we moved into the parish of Willaston. So, I thought, I did have some sort of basis for an article - limited at least to the Rope and Willaston parts of St Mary's area.



The main thing that has struck me is how things have changed over the last 30 odd years. The Parish of Rope article was written before the housing estates were built from Laidon Avenue down to the stream - this area was open fields ideal for many birds and for dog walking. Mallard and Moorhen used to nest in this area and, further afield on the fields near Shavington School, there were vast numbers of wintering snipe to be seen. Kingfisher was spotted by the brook and Owls and Woodpeckers were there to be found.

As far as Willaston is concerned, my main attention was focused on the land between Colleys Lane and Wistaston School. This continues to be agricultural, now supporting a dairy herd, but changes in the bird population have been noted - partly I suspect to natural evolution and partly due to changes in farming practice and the number of dog walkers using the public footpaths. Wintering flocks of Lapwing were plentiful, sometimes having a few Golden Plover in their midst. We used to have a few Grey Partridge scurrying around the hedges, but these have disappeared. Instead we regularly have sightings of Buzzard over the fields, but these are not the reason for the demise of the Grey Partridge. Winter brings in passage migrants such as Redwing and Fieldfare, whilst spring migrants have included in the past such nice birds as the Wheatear. However there are variations from year to year, some caused naturally, some from human interference. I think we all have a duty to be conscious of the effect our activities have on others - people, animals and birds. I can recommend the habit of making a note of



which birds you see, in your own garden or out and about - you might be surprised what you find.

Mike Carter

From the Parish Registers

Registers up to 21 November:

BAPTISMS: Welcome to the church family

09 October Alison Jane BOFFEY
 23 October Benjamin Elliot ADAMS
 23 October Thomas Ethan Erik ADAMS
 23 October Elijah George MOONEY
 30 October Zane Isaac POOLE
 06 November Wilson Edward LAURIE



WEDDINGS: May God bless them in their married life together

29 October Andrew BRADBURY & Katie Jane FELTON



FUNERALS: May they rest in peace and joy

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

29 September Jean WALSH 91
 29 September Elsie Naomi AVENELL 94
 30 September Joan Rose Maud OWENS 84
 11 October Madge LOWE 97
 12 October John Henry ROSE 93
 13 October John MARTIN 77
 20 October Alan Bob BENTLEY 78
 27 October Joan HASSALL 87
 28 October Doris Elizabeth DARLINGTON 86
 31 October Jean GRIFFITHS 85
 14 November Ann PRESTON 70



Farewell to Tony Ward



who is moving to live with his daughter and family in Marlborough. Tony has been a valued member of the church family, often volunteering to do the readings. We will miss him - good luck Tony and God's blessings. We hope to see you if you are passing this way again in the future.

Ladies Afternoon Group & Mothers' Union



2016 has been a very successful year with an increase in membership and some very good speakers.

On Friday December 2nd we look forward to our Christmas lunch at the Waverley Hotel followed on December 14th by our Carol Service in Church shared with the Mothers' Union, followed by tea and mince pies in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome.

We start 2017 with the A.G.M on January 26th followed by tea and cakes, with a good programme for 2017.

We wish a Happy Christmas to everyone and a peaceful New Year.

Marian Carter

Members and guests enjoyed a very interesting talk by James Kennerley, on his 'Chronicles of Life' at the November meeting. Like the Ladies Afternoon Group, we are also looking forward to the annual Carol Service in St Mary's, with refreshments and fellowship in the Hall afterwards (a good time to exchange those Christmas cards!).

Our subs for 2017 will be £23 annual membership. If you are also going to the New Year lunch in January, this will be an extra £16. Please make any cheques out to: The Mothers Union and let Jenny, Daphne or Sue have this.

Our programmes for 2017 are also now available and most have been distributed so we look forward to members attending these, when/if they are able to. Happy Christmas from The Mothers' Union.

Sue Squirrel



Willaston WI

Sue Beezley told us the of her amazing transformation of Bluebell Cottage Garden and Nursery from a run down business and overgrown garden to a thriving Cottage Garden Nursery and a picturesque garden. We gleaned lots of tips and ideas for our own use and hope to visit in the Spring.

We held our Craft and Produce Show in November with lots of creativity and hard work resulting in fabulous show items, later, Keith Birkett told the history of Roberts Bakery and how it is still owned and run by the Roberts family, and those samples were delicious!!

Pat Cotton

Ken/contd from page 3.....

Millions more over the world will be hungry and or homeless and yet others will be only able to dream of a time when they do not have to fear for their lives on their town's bombed battleground and that they and their families may be free from harm.

That is not a Christmas we would wish on anyone and it is not our Lord's intent for mankind. So let us use our Advent to further His mission for all our neighbours. The season of Advent is designed for this very reason, that we take time to renew and refresh that very purpose therefore although it is all too often a frantic hurry, scurry if we do indeed practice what we preach and do truly hold hands with Jesus we can take advantage of the intended quiet time of preparation and indeed find time to be a sister or brother to those in need. Even if we do not have the capacity to provide practical action to others we all surely could set aside extra 'Jesus time' for Prayer and meditation both in fellowship and in private prayer for the needs of all our sisters and brothers. God's Blessings, Ken

There are a couple of things I can recommend:

The weekly Advent Bible Study at the Rectory - see below

Tom Wright's book Advent for Everyone (SCPK Publishing) ISBN978-0-281-07621-5

Bible Society's Advent Challenge (Bible Society web site.)

In preparation for Christmas we will be holding an Advent Bible Study beginning on Wednesday 30 November and running for a further 3 Wednesdays (come to all or some).

It will be at the Rectory, 7:30pm - 9pm, and will be led by Jayne Manfredi. 'Who's Jayne?', you may ask. Jayne, along with her husband Leo and children Jana, Lyla, Rafael &

Lorenzo, moved into the parish in the summer and have been attending church since. Jayne is also having discussions with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands with a view to her being ordained and has completed the Foundations for Ministry course run by the Diocese. As part of her ongoing exploration and training she will be gaining experience by leading and taking part in many things over the coming months. Why not speak to her about Foundations for Ministry? Could it be for you? Could God be calling you to be a Reader, Pastoral Worker or an Ordained Minister?

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Mixe

A familiar face is moving on.....

Basically this is a goodbye, farewell, ta ra, toodle pip, from me I am moving area & am going over to Sandbach from the 10th Dec, (although there are some pre-planned Christmas operations in Crewe so I may not actually start in Sandbach till Jan 2017). I will be covering Odd Rode area. I have enjoyed my time spent in Wistaston, it's a great area with some amazing people & I have made some great friendships along the way, I'm hoping that while I won't be directly your PCSO that they will stay in touch via e mail etc as I can always pass messages on. I don't know yet if you will be getting a replacement as such, but Ollie is staying as the beat manager so he will be out & about but for a time it may be covered on an ad hoc basis. He can be contacted on ollie.cross@cheshire.pnn.police.uk



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas & a prosperous new year.

Regards
Nigel Hobbs
PCSO 21809

Update on St Luke's and St Mary's Fundraising Steering Committee

This group has met on a number of occasions to consolidate a strategy for raising church funds.....

Initiatives so far:

- ✓ Church Calendar, already approx 57 sold. Still available at £8 from the Church Office
- ✓ The successful Pudding Club recently held at the Rectory and raised £233.88. Watch out for the Recipe book
- Christmas Coffee morning Fayre at St Luke's - proceeds from this will be communicated soon in the Notice Sheet
- Various events will be held in the New Year, including a mid-summer ball at the end of June - watch this space

If you wish to know more, or have any ideas for events, or just wish to volunteer your time/talents, please talk to one of the committee members: Daphne Gregory, Dane Chaplow, Howard Barker or Ian Bellingham.

Junior Church News

We've had a busy period at Junior Church since starting back in September. Following the Community Fireworks at the Brittles on Bonfire Night the Junior Church and their parents headed back to the Rectory for drinks and cake. In November we started work on the Nativity Play which this year has been written by one of the Junior Church parents, Stuart White. It is still a traditional telling of the nativity with a interesting twist - as usual this will be in the **Crib Service at St Mary's 6:30pm on Christmas Eve.**



Shoe Boxes



We had a fantastic response to the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal this year and **65** boxes were collected by OCC on 22 November and began their trip to Belarus! Many thanks to those who did one. Mike.

Big Church Day Out

For the first time there is a Big Church Day Out 'north' taking place on **2-3 June 2017** at Capesthorne 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. There are early bird prices available until 31/12/16.



There's an old Christmas tale of the two brothers one aged 9 the other 6 they were having a sleep over at Gran and Grandads' before Christmas . They had been taught how to thank to God in prayer each bedtime but also they made Christmas list for Santa.

By their bed, eyes closed hands together the 6 year old whispers quietly his prayer but his brother shouts out loudly Dear Jesus I have written my list for Santa but I know I must say my prayers to you.

God bless Grandma and Grandad and on my list to Santa I have written that I would like a new bike, the latest iPad and England football top.

His brother interrupts: Why are you shouting Jesus is not deaf. No, replied the elder brother BUT Grandma and Grandad are!