



Christian Life

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




“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and
they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).

[Matthew 1.23 \(ESV\)](#)

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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
Curate	Revd Paul North	Mobile: 07488 354358	

Church Officers

revd.paul@stmaryswistaston.org.uk

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	Joy Chaplow Sue Squirrell	30 Westfield Drive Wistaston 6 Beaumont Close Wistaston	747908 569803
PCC Secretary	David Illing	412 Crewe Road, Wistaston	661427
PCC Treasurer	Daphne Gregory	34 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	560476
Planned Giving	Andrea Bartholomew	18 Millrace Drive, Wistaston	665505
Electoral Roll Officers	Sue & Bob Squirrell	6 Beaumont Close Wistaston	569803
Magazine Editor	Sue Squirrell	6 Beaumont Close Wistaston	569803
Webmaster	Bob Squirrell	6 Beaumont Close Wistaston	569803
Bible Reading Notes	Sue Squirrell Catherine Gallagher	6 Beaumont Close Wistaston 10 Arley Place, Wistaston	569803 662697
Tower Captain	Frank Morton	14 Park Road, Willaston	661816
Foodbank Co-ordinators	VOLUNTEERS	Via the Church Office	567119

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 2019



An invitation to you this Christmastime to "Follow the Star"!



Once again this year the Church of England theme for the Christmas advertising campaign is "Follow the Star" and the hashtag for social media will be #FollowtheStar.

It's a very simple concept which obviously draws upon the traditional story of the three kings journey to find the new born baby Jesus and it's one that is relevant to us today. It may not be that we actually follow a star these days, but hopefully there are other things that draw us to worship Jesus this year. Perhaps you are a regular at church and it will be part of your usual routine. Or maybe you always go to church at Christmastime, maybe attracted by the carols or the nativity. It could be that you haven't been in a church for many years, or never at all,

but feel that you would like to find out more about Christmas, Jesus and just what all the fuss was about on that first Christmas Day and what caused people to follow a star. Whatever your reason, wherever you are on your journey to "Follow the Star" this year, you will find a warm welcome at both of our churches, St Luke's Willaston and St Mary's Wistaston. You will find details of our Christmas services elsewhere in this magazine, a variety of services to sing carols, hear the Christmas story and to find out more about the Christian faith in a none threatening way.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mike



TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Do you have a garage/shed full of items to be sorted when you get 'a round tuit'? I do! Often the barrier to progress is where to send the items. Clothing, accessories, books, games - charity shops are always grateful for donations of clean, good quality stock. But what do you do with that old printer, the sewing/knitting machine you no longer use, the power tools whose owner has gone to be with the Lord, the gardening tools that are sadly redundant, even those bits and pieces which end up in a box - allen keys, tyre pressure gauges, screwdrivers, computer cables and the list goes on.

Tools With A Mission is a charity based in Ipswich which launched in 1984 and registered as a charity in 1999. We collect many sorts of tools and larger machinery, refurbish them and ship them in containers from Harwich to countries such as DR Congo, Uganda and Zambia.

Organisations/small groups of local people based in these countries apply to TWAM for the equipment they need to run self-supporting projects. For example, Neboth was to be named Naboth, after the biblical character, but his parents couldn't read or write and his name was spelled wrong. Neboth educated himself then decided to do the same for the children of his village. His school uses online learning to educate local orphans or vulnerable children, but when he started out, he faced poverty and a lack of resources to run the two roomed school in Zambia.

Tools With A Mission stepped in, and with the help of several dedicated local volunteers, the school is up and running. Hansuma is a Military Policeman and also a carpenter. He uses his skills and tools provided by TWAM to make all the school furniture, as well as other furniture to sell on behalf as the school to raise funds. Annin is a tailor who uses a TWAM supplied sewing machine to make all the school uniforms in the mornings. Afternoons are for teaching the children's parents so that they, too, can learn to tailor and sell clothes to raise a family income. In the evening she makes clothes she can sell to support the school. She even trains the teachers to make clothes for themselves and to sell to supplement their poor wages.

Neboth, Hansuma and Annin support the whole school and its six poorly- and rarely-paid teachers. But this story of success would not exist without the provision of TWAM carpentry kits, sewing machines and computer equipment. There are and could be many more stories of inspirational projects, but none of this can be done without support from TWAM. So, if you find yourself inspired by Neboth's tale, how can you help?

TWAM are looking for local tool collectors, speakers who will help us get the word out, and of course, donors of tools/equipment. I became involved when my Dad passed away and Mum was worrying about how to clear the garage of his motor mechanic tools. In the aftermath of bereavement, things like this can become huge worries. Relocation/downsizing can lead to smaller accommodation which lacks space; ill health can mean people are no longer physically able to do DIY or gardening. /contd.....(pg 5)

/contd.....

As the tools are refurbished, TWAM has several sites where this is done. A van collects from local collectors and takes tools to the nearest refurbishment centre. All this costs money, even though the vast majority of people who work for TWAM are volunteers (myself included). It costs around £20,000 to refurbish, send and distribute a container of tools/equipment to Africa. Would you like to make a donation towards our costs or consider leaving a legacy in your will?

Finally, as a Christian charity, we believe in the power of prayer. Please remember us in your prayers, pray for wisdom for the charity leaders and that the right people come forward to volunteer with us; pray for donations of good-quality tools which can be refurbished and donations, no matter how small, which will help us continue our work helping people in the UK and Africa.

If you'd like to know more, you can visit our website www.twam.uk or, if you'd like to talk about volunteering with us, email myself at susanst@twam.uk (Sue Steele)



Thanks to all who came and supported the Autumn Fair and to all those who organised and helped at it. It was a lovely morning which will have raised much needed

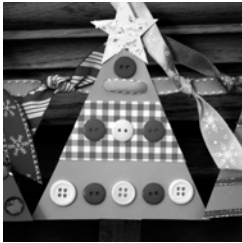
funds for ongoing improvements to St Luke's.

A total of £479.49 was raised!!





Advent Lunch in the Church Hall - **Wednesday 11th December at 12.15pm**. There will be a Beef Stew with Crusty Bread and a Vegetarian option - £4, proceeds will go to the Church Hall Kitchen refurbishment fund, thank you.



There will be a Christmas Craft Stall after Church service on **Sunday 15th December** - Cakes, pickles, hyacinth bulbs and other Christmas produce. Thank you!



Just a few of the happy faces from the Ladies Night Out recently held at Giovannis, Crewe. There were 33 of us on the night and we all enjoyed ourselves! *Looking forward to the next one.....*

Junior Church

The Junior Church continues to rehearse during December for the **Nativity Play** which will be on Christmas Eve at 6pm at St Mary's. They would love to see you there and help you to Follow the Star and hear about the real meaning of Christmas. Please do come along and support them, I'm told that everyone will be taking part!



Thanks to all those who filled a **Shoe Box** this year, we collected 41 boxes this year!

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

Rose Queen update: Thank you to everyone who supported my Beetle Drive fundraiser. I hope you all had as much fun as I did! Raising £160 bringing my total so far to £483 for Parkinson's UK. Charlotte



Advent Groups will be running at the Rectory once again this year on Mondays 2, 9, 16 December, 7:30pm-9pm - please feel free to come and join us as we gently explore Advent.

Ladies Afternoon Group & Mothers' Union



We finish a very successful year with a members afternoon with Carols, Christmas songs, poems and a quiz.

On December 6th we have our Christmas lunch at the Waverly Hotel and on December 11th a Carol Service in Church, together with the Mothers' Union, followed by tea and mince pies in the Church Hall. We look forward to 2020 with a full programme, starting with our A.G.M on January 23rd. New members will be most welcome.

On behalf of Audrey and myself we would like to wish all our members a Happy and a Blessed Christmas.

Marian

Members enjoyed a very interesting and moving talk

about WW1 quilt, and the stories behind the men whose names were embroidered on it.

We are now, like the Ladies group looking forward to the annual Carol Service at St Mary's on Dec 11th.

Subs for next year remain at £25 and the balance for the January lunch of £12 will also be due.

The lunch will be at the Rising Sun on January 15th, 12 for 12.30pm. The programme for 2020 should be out soon and we have lots of interesting talks and events coming up!

The theme for next year is:

'Building Hope and Confidence'

A very Happy Christmas to you all

Sue, Jenny, Daphne and the branch



Willaston WI

Brenda Long a member of Wrenbury WI entertained us with a lively talk. Entitled "Ann Summers to Bethlehem" we couldn't have guessed it would describe the amazing work which had been put into tableaux of bible stories made to decorate local churches. November is our AGM and Marion Proudlove was re-appointed as President and a new committee formed. 2019 has been a brilliant year for our WI including the celebration of 70 years since it was formed. Our December meeting will be a Christmas meal at St John's Church.

Brenda Taylor - 01270 623191

From the Parish Registers

Registers up to 22 November 2019:

BAPTISMS: Welcome to the church family

22 September Mason George HAMLETT
Heath Samuel PAYNE
Holly Amber PAYNE

29 September Charlotte Melissa SANDERS
Olivia Nella VERLING

27 October Alexander David HUMPHREYS
Brianna Mae FINDLAY
Hunter BARNARD
Cassidy Dawn BARNARD
Tiarna Mae BARNARD
Brooklyn Victoria BARNARD
Teila Lily BARNARD
Mae Anne CARTWRIGHT
Jake Alexander BIRD



WEDDINGS: May God bless them in their married life together

None for this period



FUNERALS: May they rest in peace and joy

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

30 September John Pryce BOWEN 93
15 October Ida CAWLEY 92
22 October Pamela Sylvia EVANS 80
25 October Betty JONES 92
8 November Philip Patrick (Paddy) OWENS 86
15 November Mary Teresa BITTEN 58
18 November Edeltraut LLOYD 86
21 November Sam THROWER 89
21 November Doris JEWELL 93





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.**

1st December	Advent Sunday	
Salvation Army Toy Service, St Mary's		
11th December	Advent Lunch in the Church Hall, 12.15pm	
	MU/LAG Carol Service, St Mary's, 2.15pm	
14th December	Carols on the Green, St Mary's, 6pm	
15th December	St Luke's Carol Service, 9am	
	Christmas Craft Stall, after 10.40am service	
21st December	Community Carol Service, St Luke's, 4pm	
22nd December	Nine Lessons & Carols, St Mary's, 6pm	
24th December	Nativity & Crib Service, St Mary's, 6pm	
	Midnight Holy Communion, St Mary's, 11.30pm	
25th December	Holy Communion, St Luke's, 9am, St Mary's, 10.40am	

January.....

10th January	Mens Group, Beer Dock, Crewe, 7.30pm
15th January	Mothers' Union meal at the Rising Sun
16th January	Home Group, The Barkers, 7.30pm

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: - **15-20 January 2020**

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 Church Wistaston

★ 14th December (Saturday)

6pm - Carols on the Green

★ 22nd December (Sunday)

6pm - Nine Lessons and Carols

★ 24th December (Tuesday - Christmas Eve)

6pm - Crib Service including the Nativity Play

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion

★ 25th December (Christmas Day)

10.40am All Age Holy Communion for Christmas

St Luke's Church Willaston

★ 15th December (Sunday)

9am - St Luke's Carol Service

★ 21st December (Saturday)

4pm - St Luke's Community Carol Service

★ 25th December (Christmas Day)

9am - Holy Communion for Christmas Day

Follow
The Star

