

Channel 5 Sets UK Premiere Date For 'The Bible'

History's mini-series The Bible will receive its UK premiere on Channel 5 on Saturday November 30th at 9pm, it has been announced.

From reality producer Mark Burnett, The Bible is a five part/ten hour docudrama series which re-tells famous stories as they unfold and reveals new insights into these iconic characters in context of the Bible. The series will feature some of the most



Channel 5 to screen Bible TV series

famous stories ever written from Noah's Ark and the Exodus to Daniel in the Lion's Den to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The mini-series was produced by Lightworkers Media and Hearst Entertainment & Syndication. The Bible is narrated by Robert Powell.



Christmas Concert

Wistaston Community Council's Christmas Concert

is on Friday 13 December in St Mary's Church Hall commencing at 7pm.

Pay on the door available.

All the profits from this event will be donated to children's charities.

For more information: wistastoncommunity.co.uk

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
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	The Rectory, 44 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 Marys Gate, Wistaston	650583
Parish Evangelist	Lin Parker	512 Crewe Road, Wistaston	664147
Church Wardens	Mike Carter	42 Colleys Lane, Willaston	661583
	Simon Bartholomew	18 Millrace Drive, Wistaston	665505
Marriage Enrichment	Sheena Sambrook	6 Westfield Drive, Wistaston	662455
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Church Hall Bookings	Sue Squirrell	C/O the Church Office	567119
Tower Captain	Frank Morton	14 Park Road, Willaston	661816
Young Peoples' Activities			
Junior Church	Sarah Turnbull	The Rectory, 44 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	Sue Squirrell	31 Whirlow Road, Wistaston	569803
Stepping Stones	Via Church Office	Church Lane, Wistaston	567119
Ladies Evening Group	Marian Carter	4 Church View Walk Wistaston	568629



www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk



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Sundays at our Churches

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
 With Signing for the Deaf
 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
 6.30 p.m. Life Issues at St Luke'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 SL 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, Tues, 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 Creche through to the end of High School)

Mondays 7.45 p.m. Bell Ringing (Tower)

Thursdays 5.30 - 6.30 p.m. Rainbows (Church Hall)

5.45-7 p.m. Brownies (Church Hall/Howe Rm)

7-9 p.m. Guides (Church Hall)

Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

*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 opposite. Other items
and variations are shown below.

01 December	Advent Sunday
01 December	Toy Service (St Mary's)
11 December	2.15pm MU Carol Service at St Mary's
15 December	6.30pm Christingle Service (Uniformed Organisations)
21 December	6.30pm Carols on the Green
22 December	6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's
24 December	6.30pm Crib Service & Nativity
24 December	11.30pm Midnight Communion
25 December	9am Holy Communion (St Luke's)
25 December	10:40am Holy Communion for all the family (St Mary's)
29 December	10:40am Holy Communion Service at St Mary's



For all the latest information on what's happening at our
churches check out our Online Diary at
www.stmaryswistaston.org.uk/online-diary.html



Father Christmas

You know you are getting old
when Father Christmas starts looking younger.

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
revd.mike@stmaryswistaston.org.uk or via the
Church Office by:- 13 February 2013



St Mary's Wistaston



Mike writes... December 2013



St Luke's Willaston

Dear friends,
What does Christmas mean to
you? It's an important question
to ponder I guess as, at this
time of year, we hear many
differing interpretations of what
Christmas is about.

For example, the Christmas
adverts have begun on the TV
with all the big stores vying for
our attention and perhaps
suggesting what Christmas is
about and how it would be
better with products from their
stores. (I quite like the John
Lewis advert again this year!)

Or there are those who quite
like the idea of Christmas, but
would rather not have any of
the religious trappings, perhaps
suggesting it should be a
secular celebration, Winterfest
perhaps?

And then there is the family,
what to buy, who to invite,
when to visit aunty so and so,

brothers and sisters, mums,
dads - it's then you realise
there's not enough time...

So that's why I invite you to
think about what Christmas
means to you, what is
important about it to you - and
do it.

If part of that involves hearing
about the real meaning of
Christmas then at St Mary's &
St Luke's we can help you with
that. On page 5 you will find a
list of all our Christmas
services, all different types but
with the same message, a
message that has been
celebrated for over 2000 years,
something that was foretold
1000's of years before that by
the prophet Isaiah, "*For to us a
child is born, to us a son is
given*". (Isaiah 9:6)

May I wish you a peaceful
Christmas,

Mike

Typhoon Haiyan Response - we had a tremendous response to our
"Bucket" collections on Sunday 17 November (including Florence
Calder's Baptism) in aid of this appeal as we raised £367.80. Thank you



Cancer Charity Appeals for Key Volunteers in Crewe and Nantwich

Marie Curie Cancer Care is appealing for someone in the local Crewe and Nantwich community to volunteer to take on key roles within a fundraising committee that meets on a monthly basis. The roles that the charity is specifically looking for are a Community Ambassador, Event Coordinator and Event Helpers. The group meet on a monthly basis at the Ye Olde Manor on Nantwich Road, Crewe, all are welcome. Community ambassadors would need to give up a few evenings every other month to go into schools, associations such as rotary clubs and churches to speak about the work of Marie Curie Cancer Care and its team of dedicated nurses does and how people can access this care.

An Event Coordinator would be responsible for planning out the group's event activities, generating ideas from the group and delegating out actions such as booking venues and sourcing raffle prizes. Event helpers would be needed to help at the group's events every couple of months – with duties such

as welcoming guests, helping serve refreshments and preparing rooms for events.

Laura Tomlinson, Community Fundraiser for Marie Curie said, "We need people with a broad range of skills to help us with our local fundraising activities, from people with the gift of the gab right through to organisers who can come up with event ideas. We also need as many helpers as possible, so if you think you've got a couple of hours a month that you'd be able to give to a worthwhile cause please get in touch."

All money raised by the group is to provide high quality nursing care to terminally ill patients, totally free, in the local area.

If you think you have a few hours spare every few weeks and would like to get involved with the fundraising group, please contact Laura Tomlinson on 0161 255 2800 or email laura.tomlinson@mariecurie.org.uk

Unique Advent calendar opens window of opportunity for charities



The UK's only Fairtrade charity Advent calendar with a free copy of the Christmas story in the box is set to raise £25,000 for the Children's Society.

Tesco is the only supermarket stocking the calendar this year. The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said: "The Real Advent Calendar offers a unique way to share the Christmas story while supporting The Children's Society and Fairtrade. I believe it will be widely welcomed by all." He is urging people to buy a Real Advent calendar this year.

From the Parish Registers

Entries up to 20 November 2013

BAPTISMS: *Welcome to our church family*

22 September Jonathan William CLARK
29 September Harvey John SIMPSON
Ralph Jonathan STOCKTON
13 October Sienna Rose LEAN
27 October Esmat Roxanne CHEADLE
Eva Lucia MELLOR
02 November Emily Jane WILLIAMS
17 November Florence Elizabeth CALDER



WEDDINGS:

May God bless these couples who were recently married:

No weddings took place during this period



FUNERALS:

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

May they rest in peace and joy

24 September Sheila ARMITAGE 85
01 October Walter LEA 83
04 October Robert James ASTON 88
10 October John CORNOCK 71
14 October Marcia GREEN 73
15 October George William ARROWSMITH 67
15 October Pamela Beryl SMITH 82
28 October Mary-Belle PREECE 93
22 October Gordon ROBERTS 81
28 October Bernard MARTIN 78
30 October Christine RAILTON 60
05 November Janet FITTON 64
13 November Geoffrey John STEELE 54



Ladies Evening Group



Members enjoyed the talk about the donkeys given by Pam Moon of the Donkey Sanctuary. It was different and very amusing. At this time we are looking forward to a talk on the History of Crewe Hall. Can't believe that Christmas is nearly here again and members start the festivities with our Christmas lunch at the Waverley Hotel on Friday, December 6th and the week after we have our Carol Service in the church on Wednesday, December 11th at 2.15pm. The service is combined with MU and everyone is invited to both the service and tea and mine pies in the church hall afterwards. This is a lovely service and sets the mood for Christmas.

Don't forget our AGM on January 22nd followed by Bring & Share Supper and entertainment from the Wells Green Singers. I would like to wish our members and supporters a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The Flower Arranging Workshop in November was great fun and thanks go to Di Carter for hosting this and passing on useful tips. We now look forward to our Carol Service on 11 December at St Mary's, 2.15pm with the Ladies Evening Group and of course everyone is welcome to join us. John Axon will again be playing the organ, and we will meet up for mince pies and refreshments in the Hall afterwards. The Committee are in the process of completing next year's Programme and hope to have this available for members in the Hall, after the Carol Service.

We are also looking at venues and menus for our New Year lunch which will be on 16 January. A very busy and exciting time!

A Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year to everyone.



Willaston WI

In October we raised funds with a successful Coffee Morning and a fun Dominoes evening. Margaret Penaluna played Scrabble and won the County Championship and Jan Warnes attended a "Magic of Mosaics" course at Denman College and enjoyed producing a stunning Orchid pot and saucer. We have learned the history of cheese making in Malpas, discovered gift wrapping with a difference and were entertained and amused while hearing the make up and costume tips and tricks of a Pantomime Dame. On 11th December we will learn about "Humour in Court". Our first meeting of 2014 is 8th January.

Meeting details from Judy Jones tel. 01270 567015

Special Services for the Christmas Season

Christmas Services (that are different to our normal services)
these will be held at St Mary's unless otherwise stated

1st December (Sunday): 10.40am - Toy Service

Please bring a new toy to be given to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal

15th December (Sunday): 6.30pm - Scout & Guide Christingle Service

21st December (Saturday): 6.30pm - Carols on the Green

We begin in the church porch and make our way to the church hall - bring a lantern

22nd December (Sunday): 9am - St Luke's Carol Service

6.30pm - Nine Lessons and Carols

24th December (Tuesday - Christmas Eve):

6.30pm - Crib Service including the Nativity Play

Our Junior Church will be sharing with us the story of the Nativity - always a popular service and a lovely way into Christmas Day

11.30pm - Midnight Holy Communion



25th December (Wednesday - Christmas Day)

9am - Holy Communion (St Luke's)

10.40am Holy Communion for Christmas for all the family

Children - why not bring along a present you've received for Christmas to show?

29th December (Sunday)

10:40am HC service at St Mary's

St Luke's & St Mary's join together for a joint service together



Shoobox Appeal 2013

What a great response we had again this year for Operation Christmas Child's Shoobox Appeal with a record number of Shooboxes given (52 as I write and counting!). It is wonderful to know that children, who would otherwise receive nothing for Christmas, will receive a box of joy!! Thank You!!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place each year in January and in 2014 it is 18th to 25th January.

By way of celebrating this we have two events with the local Methodist Churches at Wells Green & Willaston.

On Sunday 19th January at 6pm we have a joint service, at St Mary's, to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

And on Monday 20th January we are invited to St John's Willaston for their weekly Tea Club and a Quiz which begins at 2pm.

More details to follow nearer the time.

Not Understood - by Thomas Bracken

Not understood, we move along asunder
Our paths grow wider as the Seasons creep along the years,
We marvel and we wonder and then we fall asleep.

Not Understood

Not understood! How trifles often change us,
The thoughtless sentence and the fancied slight
Destroy long years of friendship and estrange us,
And on our souls there falls a freezing blight.

Not Understood

Not understood! How many hearts are aching
For lack of sympathy! Ah! day by day,
How many cheerless, lonely hearts are breaking,
How many noble spirits pass away.

Not Understood

Oh God! That men would see a little clearer
Or judge less harshly where they cannot see!
Oh God, that men might draw a little nearer
To one another, they'd be nearer Thee

And Understood

Submitted by one of our readers...

Christian Aid Bake Off

Thank you to all who took part, attended and gave donations to the St Mary's Bake Off in aid of Christian Aid which took place in the Church Hall on Sunday 29 September. The Star Bakers were Edward Rhodes & Sam Barker, but all 20 of our young people who took part were stars.



Also a big thank you to our judges for the day: Becky (from Christian Aid), Dan (from Tesco) and our own Ann Stubbs.

The total raised on the day was £255.00

Sarah & Mike Turnbull



The planned Asylum event in November was postponed until March 7-9 2014, but a group of young people from St Mary's had their own day in Chester, run by the Diocesan Youth Officer, and had a great time. More details of the March Event are on the Diocesan website: chester.anglican.org

Rose Queen Quiz

Naomi will be holding a quiz for all the family
in the Church Hall on
Friday evening 24 January 2014.



More details nearer the time - please put the date in your diary.



The winner of the Harvest twitter competition was Jonathan White (@jono1971) who managed to make 43 words of 4 or more letter from the word Harvest. Well done Jonathan!!

This month, let's see how many new followers we can get for @maryandluke - we currently have 69 - let's see if we can get it to over a 100 for the next edition!!