



Christian Life

The Parish Magazine of St Mary's & St Luke's

January 2022

Including the readings for Sunday 09 January

STAR OF 
wonder
STAR OF
night 

Worship & Prayer in Church & Online this month

**You will find the Readings for Sunday 09 January
on the centre pages 4 & 5.**

| Services this Month | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 02 January The Epiphany | No Service at St Luke's today |
| | 10:40am at St Mary's: Holy Communion |
| | <i>Readings: Ephesians 3.1-12 & Matthew 2.1-12</i> |
| 09 January Baptism of Christ | 9am at St Luke's: a service Holy Communion |
| | 10:40am at St Mary's: All Age Worship |
| | <i>Readings: Acts 8.14-17 & Luke 3.15-17,21,22</i> |
| 16 January Epiphany 2 | 9am at St Luke's: a service of Morning Prayer |
| | 10:40am at St Mary's: All Age Holy Communion |
| | <i>Readings: 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 & John 2.1-11</i> |
| 23 January Epiphany 3 | 9am at St Luke's: a service Holy Communion |
| | 10:40am at St Mary's: All Age Worship |
| | <i>Readings: 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a & Luke 4.14-21</i> |
| | 12:30pm at St Mary's: Baptism Service |
| 30 January The Presentation | No service at St Luke's as it's a 5 th Sunday |
| | 10:40am at St Mary's: Holy Communion |
| | <i>Readings: Hebrews 2.14-18 & Luke 2.22-40</i> |
| | 12:30pm at St Mary's: Baptism Service |
| Other Services this Month | |
| Every Wednesday at St Mary's | 10am Holy Communion at St Mary's |

Online

Every Sunday @ 10:40 am Live Streamed Worship from St Mary's



(stream begins at 10:30am)



YouTube: bit.ly/youtubestmarys1 & Facebook: bit.ly/facebookstmarys

You can also join in by phone: just before 10:40am Call: 0203 051 2874

Meeting ID: 838 7878 9259 Participant ID (if asked): # Passcode: 567119

Morning Prayer on Zoom, 9:30am (usually) Mon, Tues & Thurs

bit.ly/930mp or by phone: 0203 051 2874 Meeting ID: 850 2058 1307

Passcode: 914961

STAR OF
wonder
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On the 6 January we celebrated the Epiphany at which we remember the visit of the wisemen/magi/kings to the baby Jesus. Of course, the story of the Epiphany is told in the famous carol written by John Henry Hopkins Jr. in 1857, We Three Kings. The chorus tells us of a star of wonder that appeared at night to guide the kings to the Jesus.

The word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation, God makes known or “manifests” the birth of His Son to the whole world. The season of Epiphany draws our attention to the universality of Christ’s birth. The Christ-child was visited first by the shepherds and, as Matthew 2: 1 – 12 tells us, sometime later he was visited by the wise men. The shepherds came from the nearby places surrounding Bethlehem and so represent the people of Israel. The wise men or “magi” came from far away,

probably Persia, they are gentiles and so represent the whole of humanity.

Towards the end of the passage we are told that first thing the magi do upon entering the stable and seeing Mary and the Child is to kneel and worship him. In other words, they give themselves. Only after this act of worship, only after *giving* themselves to Christ, only then do they present their material gifts. The material gifts have both symbolic and sacrificial value. Each one tells us something about the Christ-child. Gold was precious and worthy of a king; frankincense was incense worthy of a divinity; and myrrh was a spice used in burials. So, the gifts were appropriate for one who was a king, a God, and a suffering redeemer.

As we move into a new year, let us do as the magi did. Let us give the gift that they gave – let us give ourselves fully to God, let us respond to God’s love in Christ in deed, worship & prayer, knowing that whatever the year brings, we are in God’s hands.

With best wishes,
Revd Mike

First Reading: Acts 8.14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Gospel Reading: Luke 3.15-17,21,22

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Text © New International Version – UK edition

The Collect for the Baptism of Christ

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by
water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling
as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and
revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your
beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of
our rebirth
through the waters
of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



We need more people on the Flower Rota at St Mary's please. If you'd like to know which dates are available, and be added to the rota, please call the Parish Office on 01270 567119, 9:30am-12:30pm weekdays and speak to Polly or Teresa.

Ladies Afternoon Group

Our Carol Service with the Mothers Union on the 8th. December was very uplifting. John played the organ and we sang together all the traditional carols for the first time in nearly two years! We had a social gathering in the Church Hall afterwards when all our family news was thoroughly discussed. As I write the covid situation has taken a turn for the worse but I am hoping that by the end of January things will have improved and we shall be able to meet on Thursday 27th. January for our A.G.M. and Bring and Share tea. We send our best wishes to you all. Audrey and Marian.



Di & Mike Carter would like to thank everyone for their kind condolences following the death of their Daughter Alex.



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Every Church of England parish is being asked to engage with Living in Love and Faith (LLF) and to send feedback to the Archbishops by the end of April this year.

The Purpose

The purpose of LLF is to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith with one another and offers a variety of ways to learn, reflect and pray together. The five-session course provides a structured and accessible way for groups to learn about and reflect on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

The Book

The book takes readers on a journey that begins with reflections on God's gifts of life, relationships, marriage and learning. A survey of what is happening in the world with regard to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage is followed by an exploration of how Christians are to understand and respond to these trends in the light of the good news of Jesus Christ. The book then examines the ways in which Christians seek to hear God and how it is that they draw different conclusions.

The book closes with an appeal from the Bishops to join them in discerning a way forward for the church that is open to new vistas on our disagreements and new perspectives on our differences. Commended by the Bishops of the Church of England, it is available to download as a free PDF (bit.ly/LLFfreepdf) and in hardcopy at bit.ly/LLFBuyBook (£19.99)

The Course (dates updated and differ from the printed Magazine)

Revd Mike & Paul are planning to run the 5 week course on Zoom, Monday evenings, 28 February, 7, 14 & 28 March & 4 April, at 8pm. You can register for the course here: bit.ly/LLFlentcourse
If you'd like to know more, please speak to Mike or Paul.

Cut out, keep and Pray

Prayer Calendar 2022

St Mary with St Luke, Wistaston & Willaston

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | The Clergy Mike, Malcolm & Paul | Our Pastoral worker Ann | The Church Office Teresa, Polly & all who help | The Junior Church & Leaders | The Uniformed Organisa tions | Those who do the sound and vision within our churches |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| The local community of Willaston | The Church Hall and those who use it | Our Church Wardens | Those who decorate our churches with flowers | For local government including Parish Councils | The Bell Ringers | The local community of Wistaston |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| The Mothers' Union | Churches Together in Crewe & Love Crewe | For local Community Councils & Groups | The PCC and it's Officers | Outreach in the Parish | Our finances | For those who look after the church gardens and churchyard |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Ladies Afternoon Group | Local Schools within the Parish | We give thanks for Music within our churches | The local community of Rope | Baptism, Wedding and Funeral contacts | Stepping Stones | Sidespeople and those who do the admin from a Sunday |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | Our vision is to be a welcoming, Christ-centred church, where everyone is valued and nurtured, actively sharing the joy of Christ in our communities. | | |
| Our Worship! May it please the Lord! | Archdeacon Ian | Bishops Mark, Julie & Sam | The Archbishops of York & Canterbury & The Church of England | | | |

From the Church Registers

Baptisms – *we pray for these children as they continue their Christian journey*

12 December: Marley William EARLES

Weddings

No weddings this month

Funerals – *may they rest in peace and rise in glory*

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----|
| 02 December 2021 | Peter Dixon NORBURY | 88 |
| 09 December 2021 | Michael David BRAY | 81 |
| 20 December 2021 | Alexandra Mary CARTER | 53 |
| 21 December 2021 | Private Funeral | |
| 22 December 2021 | Pamela Anne CORDALL | 82 |

Chester Diocesan News & the Magazine

The Chester Diocesan News has been discontinued with the last edition being December 2021.

We would like your articles for the February Magazine. You can submit an article on the [Blog](#) through the Magazine Menu and click on 'Submit an Item', email it to: magazine@stmaryswistaston.blog or drop it to the Church Office or the Rectory **by Monday 01 February.**

Keeping in touch

Church Office: 01270 567119 Email: office@stmaryswistaston.org.uk

Rector: Revd Mike Turnbull The Rectory 104 Church Lane Wistaston
01270 665742 Email: revd.mike@stmaryswistaston.org.uk

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