



Worship & Prayer in church & online for Sunday and the coming week
Holy communion will be distributed at Communion Rail with 'Priest intinction'

In Church Worship

Sunday 11th December 2022 – Third Sunday of Advent

9am at St Luke`s – A Service of Holy Communion

10.40am at St Mary`s – A Service of All Age Worship

Isaiah 35.1-10 & Matthew 11.2-11

6pm at St Mary`s – Uniformed Organisations Christingle Service

Wednesday at 10am - Holy Communion at St Mary`s
followed by refreshments

Saturday 17th December 5pm - Carols on the Green

we meet outside St Mary`s and we 'travel' to the Church Hall for seasonal refreshments

Next Sunday 18th December 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am at St Luke`s – Carol Service

10.40am at St Mary`s – A Service of Holy Communion

7pm at St Mary`s – Nine Lessons and Carols

Isaiah 7.10-16 & Matthew 1.18-25

All readings are taken from New International Version – UK edition



Advent Study Group continues this Monday 12th & 19th. 7:30pm-9pm at the Rectory. All welcome, even if you were not able to be there previous weeks, each week stands alone.

Online Worship

The 10:40am service is streamed from St Mary`s each Sunday

[YouTube.com/StMarysWistaston1](https://www.youtube.com/StMarysWistaston1) & 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 is taking a break until January.

For Daily Prayer please go to the CofE Website for their excellent daily prayers: bit.ly/2sHqxHh

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,
he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution
he will come to save you.'

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,
and those the LORD has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2-11

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

Glory to you O Lord.

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ Come again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.

News & Information

stmaryswistaston.blog & stmaryswistaston.org.uk

Toy Service Collection: The Salvation Army have sent their thanks to everyone who donated, collected and helped with the Toy collection. All toys and gifts will be given to local families in need this Christmas. Thank you, and thanks to Gerald Newbrook for taking them to the Salvation Army this week.

Good news! The heating at St Mary's is up and running! Can you help towards the cost of £7800? Consider whether you've been blessed (& heated) by the previous boiler over the past 50 years, if so, consider donating to offset the cost, large or small, online or on the plate. Mark it 'Heating'. You can give online here: bit.ly/heatingfund

Help in decorating our Church – please if anyone can help on Saturday 17th December at 10am, please meet at St Mary's at 10am or contact Di Carter 01270 661583 – thank you!

🌟 🌟 **Readers needed for the Nine Lessons and Carols service next Sunday at 7pm – Revd Mike has the readings with him today.** 🌟 🌟

Both the Bible Study & Prayer Group meetings will now take a break and will resume Tues Jan 3rd at 10.15am for Bible Study & Thursday 5th at 7pm for the Prayer group, meeting at 56 Bowness Road, thanks Jenny Varty 01270 567618.

Rose queen's cake and craft stall 🍪 - I am very pleased to tell you that on Sunday we raised over £144.00 Thank you to everyone that supported our fundraising for the DEC. Emily.

Thanks to those supported the Horne's Produce Stall last Sunday, around £200.00 was raised (final count still to be done) towards church funds.

Advent Lunch: thanks to Chris & Mike and the team for cooking and arranging the Advent Lunch last Wednesday, a total of £115.00 for church funds.

St Mary's Cleaning: many thanks from all of us to those who currently clean the church each week (& St Luke's). We are looking to expand the rota and are looking for more volunteers – **please add your name to the rota in the porch.**

LAG Carol Service - Our Carol service is on Thursday 15th December at 2pm in St Mary's followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the church hall. All Welcome!

Cafe Wells Methodist - Every Friday from 10.30am to 1.30pm our Methodist friends have refreshments including soup and a roll (donations) available along with a warm welcome. Volunteers needed, please ask Sue S for details.

🌟 🌟 **There are Christmas fliers at both churches take what you can and pass them on** 🌟 🌟

****LAST CHANCE: Free books in the Choir Vestry! ****

Prayer for Ukraine Blog: bit.ly/weprayforukraine