

*Holy Communion is available at the Communion Rail as follows: via Priest Intinction, hold out two hands, or you can receive a wafer only, or a wafer and the Chalice, by holding out one hand. Hands by you side for a blessing.
Gluten Free wafers are available at Communion.*

In Church Worship

3rd December 2023 – First Sunday of Advent & Toy Service

9am at St Luke`s – Morning Prayer

10.40am at St Mary`s – Holy Communion

Isaiah 64.1-9 & Mark 13.24-37

**Every Wednesday 10am - Holy Communion or Morning Prayer
at St Mary`s followed by refreshments**

10th December 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

9am at St Luke`s – Holy Communion

10.40am at St Mary`s –All Age Worship

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

Isaiah 40.1-11 & Mark 1.1-8



For info: There is a Loop System installed in both of our churches.
At St Mary`s we have an accessible toilet available in the Choir Vestry (the door opposite where you came in) with baby changing facilities.

At St Luke`s there is an accessible toilet available via the church porch.

To help us to cut down on paper use and printing why not download Service Orders using the QR code or at bit.ly/serviceorders

This Weekly Sheet can be viewed online at stmaryswistaston.blog



Online Worship

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

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 bit.ly/930mp,

9:30am Tuesday & Thursday this week.

First Reading: Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are
like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to^[b] our sins.
Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins for ever.
Oh, look upon us we pray, for we are all your people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light, now in the time
of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in
great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 13.24-37

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

Glory to you O Lord.

‘But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

‘At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

‘Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

‘Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: “Watch!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

News & Information

Sophie, our Rose Queen, has her cake sale in the church hall today. The sale is in aid of her charity Motherwell Cheshire.

Today is our annual Toy Service, in aid of the Salvation Army Toy Appeal, The SA are asking for stocking fillers, crayons and colouring books, children's books and teenage stocking fillers. Last year they supported over 2500 vulnerable children living in our community.

Advent Study Group at the Rectory on Tuesdays, 5, 12 & 19 December, 7:30pm-9pm. We will be using the Advent Hymn, Come Thou long expected Jesus, as the basis for a discussion through Advent. All material will be supplied on the night.

St Mary's Christmas Fair - Sunday 10th December in the Church Hall after the service. Chris & Mike will again be providing their wonderful home produce of Pickles, Chutneys, Jams, Christmas Puddings and also the Hyacinths Bowls at £6.

A Taste of Christmas: Sarah & Mike invite you to join with them at the Rectory on Friday 15 December 7pm- 9pm for seasonal refreshments.

There are Christmas Cards, which include our Christmas Services, available at both churches to use to give neighbours, family and friends. Who will you invite to Follow the Star this year?

LAG News: The LAG enjoyed a fabulous, creative and Industrious afternoon making Christmas table decorations under the watchful eye of Di Carter. It was a real `hive of activity` and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Some real artistic designs! (Please if anyone finds they have a bag with 3 pairs of secateurs by mistake, please could you let Frances or Pam know). **We also have our Lessons and Carol Service on Thursday 14th December at 2pm at St Mary's** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. Looking forward to seeing you all, Frances.

After Church Refreshments Rota 2024 - could you please start to fill in the rota for 2024 which is behind the current rota in the Hall. Thanks to everyone who volunteers to do this.

Please help St Mary's to win 1 of 3 donations of £3000 prize fund in #easyfundraising's new epic Refer to Win giveaway! We will get a free entry for each new supporter who signs up: bit.ly/stmaryseasyfundraising

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All readings are taken from New International Version – UK edition