

*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

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

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

Saturday 16th December at 5pm `Carols on the Green`

Sunday 17th December 2023 – Third Sunday of Advent

9am at St Luke`s – Carol Service

10.40am at St Mary`s – Holy Communion

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 & John 1.6-8, 19-28

6pm at St Mary`s – Nine Lessons and Carols



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 only Tuesday this week due to school visits.

First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out.' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God!'

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

He tends his flock like a shepherd, he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.1-8

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

Glory to you O Lord.

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way’

‘a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: ‘After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

News & Information

This week is Carolling Week at our churches,
do come and join us and why not invite someone you know come along to.
People love to sing Carols!!

St Mary's Thursday at 2pm – Ladies Afternoon Group Carol Service

St Mary's Saturday at 5pm – Carols on the Green (we begin at the Triangle)

St Luke's Sunday at 9am – A service of Readings and Carols

St Mary's Sunday at 6pm – Nine Lessons and Carols

There are Christmas Cards, which include our Christmas Services, available at both churches to use to give neighbours, family and friends to invite them.

Advent Study Group at the Rectory, Tuesdays 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. You are welcome even if you couldn't attend last week. Everything needed will be supplied on the night, just bring a Bible.

St Mary's Christmas Fair Today 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.

The Ladies Afternoon Group Carol Service is this Thursday 14th December, 2pm, at St Mary's followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. All are Welcome whether you are a member of LAG or not.

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

The Salvation Army Toy Appeal – many thanks for all the toys and gifts given this year. They will be delivered this Monday and will go towards helping local parents in Crewe to give presents to their children this year.

On Christmas Day at St Mary's we'd love you to bring one of your Christmas Presents to Church with you so as we can join in your joy.

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 use Easyfundraising to raise money for St Mary's for free. Its quick, and free to sign up: click here for more info bit.ly/stmaryseasyfundraising It costs you nothing, but raises money for our churches.

Contact Information

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All readings are taken from New International Version – UK edition