

**Weekly Information Sheet
Sunday 17th December 2023
Third Sunday of Advent**

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 your side for a blessing.

Gluten Free wafers are available at Communion.

In Church Worship

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 (also online)

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

Sunday 24th December 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

There is no service at St Luke`s this morning

10.40am at St Mary`s with St Luke`s – All Age Communion

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 & Luke 1.26-38

5pm at St Mary`s – Crib Service & Nativity (also online)

11.30pm at St Mary`s – Midnight Holy Communion (also online)

Isaiah 52.7-10 & John 1.1-14



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](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 bit.ly/930mp,

9:30am only Tuesday this week.

First Reading: Isaiah 61.14,8-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion –
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes, the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendour.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.**

Gospel Reading: John 1.6-8, 19-28

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

Glory to you O Lord.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah.'

They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord."

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?'

'I baptise with water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.' This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Post Communion

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

News & Information

This evening St Mary's 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.

On Christmas Day at St Mary's, we'd love you to bring a Christmas Present you've received to Church with you so as we can all share your joy.

Decorating the Church for Christmas- Saturday 23rd December at 10am – all welcome to help. If able to, please bring some Holly, Ivy and Conifer greenery. Thanks, Di Carter – 01270 661583.

Many thanks for your support for the Christmas Fair at St Mary's last Sunday, a fantastic £365.00 was raised on the day with the total for online orders still to be added to it. Our thanks go to Chris & Mike.

Rose Queen update: Sophie would like to thank everyone for all their support so far since becoming Rose Queen, so far she has managed to raise £401.91 for Motherwell Cheshire. If you missed out on the snowflake Christmas decorations there are still some available please see Sophie or Rachel. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Advent Study Group final one at the Rectory on Tuesday 19 December, 7:30pm-9pm. You are welcome even if you haven't attended before. Everything needed will be supplied on the night, just bring a Bible.

The Salvation Army Toy Appeal – many thanks for all the toys and gifts given this year. Gerald & Barbara delivered them last Monday, these will go towards helping local parents in Crewe to give presents to their children this year.

After Church Refreshments Rota 2024 - could you please fill in the rota for 2024 in the Church 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.

Office hours over Christmas. The Office will close Friday 22nd December and will reopen the first week of January. Please note if you leave any messages or correspondence during this time, we will aim to respond as soon as we return. Polly and Teresa would like to thank everyone for their support over this last year and wish you all a very joyful Christmas.

Contact Information

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All readings are taken from New International Version – UK edition