



The Nativity Wintershall



School Visit Guide 2017

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Welcome to The Nativity at Wintershall.

The following information will provide you with everything you need to know about your visit and how to prepare for it. If you require further information please contact Lucy Hall, Education Officer by emailing schools@wintershall-education.com **N.B. Please be aware that the starred topics **** must be read before visiting for health and safety reasons and to ensure that you have the best possible Wintershall experience.**

Introduction

"It started from very humble beginnings and it gradually grew." Peter Hutley

Peter Hutley (OBE) and Ann Hutley have transformed their stunning estate into the home of epic open-air performances about the life of Jesus. Their very first Nativity started in a barn in 1989. It is both dramatic and intimate, beginning in the open air with the shepherds. The audience then take their seats in the atmospheric barn, where the story unfolds of how Jesus changed the world. It is a beautiful production, with a large cast of players and animals. This is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the birth of Jesus at Christmas. During the month of June, Wintershall produce 'The Life of Christ', performed by hundreds of actors, and bringing the story of Jesus to life in an open-air epic production set in stunning Surrey countryside. Our third production, The Passion, takes place in both Trafalgar Square and on Guildford high street. We are delighted to welcome thousands of school children to our annual performances of 'The Life of Christ' and The Nativity. Schools use these performance as a resource for cross-curricular learning for RE and Values Enquiries, as well as History. The performance serves to deepen understanding of Christianity and provides a rich stimulus for exploring Christian spirituality, as well as for Biblical drama and theatre studies. We hope that you and your school enjoy this unforgettable experience.

Essential Information

***Performance timings** The 90 minute performance starts outside in the fields and then moves into Holly Barn. Please note that it is about a 15-minute walk from the coach/car park to the first Act.

***School pre-visit form** This must be completed prior to the visit by the person responsible for organising the trip. The form is included in an email which is sent out to the school in advance and must be completed and returned to the Education Officer at least a week before the event.

***Arrival** Schools must have arrived at least 45 minutes before the performance in order to allow enough time to walk (15 minutes) to the first Act. **Please take into account the start of the performances cannot be delayed for late groups.** Please contact the education mobile on **07754067073** if at all delayed.

***Parking** There is parking available for coaches, but these must be booked in. Mini buses will be parked in the main car park. Please note the main production site is a 15 min walk from the Coach/car park.

***Access to the site** Teachers should note that the terrain is varied, and on occasion (if rainy) can be slippery. Please ask pupils to keep their pace to a walk at all times. The site is wheelchair accessible, and viewpoints are indicated. Buggy transport is available to assist with ease of access. Please advise us of any special needs at the time of booking or on the schools' form.

Toilets are located in the main car park, and outside Holly Barn, at the top of the hill.

Seating Stage manager and the production team will give clear direction to the audience to move around the site, and we would ask you to adhere to these directions. Seating in the barn will be reserved for your school, once you have completed the school pre-visit form.

Suitable clothing Please encourage your students to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Please dress appropriately for an outside performance in winter. The ground is uneven and can be slippery. **Stout shoes or wellington boots are essential. Please bring a raincoat or umbrella in case of inclement weather.** We are unable to accommodate people indoors in bad weather for the first Act. It is recommended that large school groups wear identifiable clothing or hats.

Belongings and Bag Storage During the performance, Wintershall strongly advises teachers and students to keep all personal belongings with them. Wintershall CIO takes no responsibility for lost items. Wintershall does not have storage facilities and we recommend that school bags be left on the coach. Any items found at the end of a performance are placed in Wintershall Lost Property, located in the Wintershall Estate office.

Following the performance Volunteers will be giving chocolate coins to the audience as they leave. These are gluten free. Please let us know if you would prefer your students not to receive one.

Food and Beverage Sales A Snack bar is available up by Holly Barn, which will be serving burgers, cakes and hot drinks from 45 minutes before each performance. Pupils need to be accompanied by a teacher.

Pocket Money Items This year at the **Wintershall shop**, by Holly Barn, we are offering a few pocket money items from £1 - £2, if your children are bringing pocket money. This includes pens, mini notepads, keyring torches and prayer books.

Education Guides will meet you in the coach park and direct you to Act I, which is a 15 min walk away. Care is needed when making this walk and we suggest that you stay with your guide until arriving at the top of the Hill.

Special Effects and animals Please be aware that Smoke and Pyrotechnics are used in this production. Animals visit the stable during the performance. They will be accompanied by animal handlers at all times. Please ensure that your students do not touch the animals.

Child Protection

At all times, supervision of pupils within school groups is the direct responsibility of their teachers, while on excursion to Wintershall, and there must be the requisite adult to child ratios. Please ensure that teacher supervision is evenly spread throughout your group during the performance. Students should be aware that there will be both other schools and members of the public on the site. We ask that teachers outline the following 'Wintershall Education Code of Conduct' with pupils prior to departure and reinforce it during the performance by monitoring pupil behaviour.

*Wintershall Education Code of Conduct

Individuals should:

- behave in a courteous and responsible manner at all times
- listen to instructions from their group leader and Wintershall staff who will be wearing fluorescent jackets.
- not talk or disrupt the viewing of other audience members in any way
- switch off all mobile phones and media devices, as their use is prohibited during the performance and interferes with our sound system
- only walk on the site.
- refrain from throwing any items or food.
- leave no litter behind by placing it in the bins provided.

Patron disruption We expect teachers to ensure that the above-mentioned Wintershall Education Code of Conduct is adhered to whilst on site and throughout the performance. If other patrons disrupt your enjoyment of the performance, please notify the production staff immediately. Wintershall Estate reserves the right to request removal of individuals from a performance if their behaviour is deliberately and consistently disruptive. If these are school pupils, the teacher will be required to supervise them in the coach park until the performance had ended.

In addition to the above, the Child Protection Act legislation does not consider Wintershall Estate as a provider of specific services to children, and it is therefore not necessary for all production or estate staff to have DBS checks. Wintershall staff are responsible for the following: ushering and evacuation of the site.

Health and Safety

Wintershall CIO takes health and safety seriously, and takes all reasonable precautions to ensure that all areas enable safe public access, and that equipment complies with current standards. Wintershall has a child protection policy. All members of the public attending the performance are expected to take full responsibility for their own health and safety and for those in their charge, including undertaking their own risk assessment prior to arrival. For Wintershall risk assessment guidelines, please email schools@wintershall-estate.com.

Insurance Cover Wintershall Estate has the appropriate Public Liability Insurance in place to cover injury and damage. Wintershall Estate can supply a Certificate of Insurance upon request. Please call 01483 892167 for details.

Fire Exits & Evacuation The site complies with all Fire Control regulations and the Production staff have been formally trained in emergency evacuation procedures.

First Aid St John's Ambulance crew are in attendance throughout the event. Please contact St John's or a member of production staff if you require First Aid assistance

Missing Children The stage manager and production team informs and guides the audience throughout the performance and they also serve as the meeting point should an individual become separated from their group. Please report any problems to Wintershall Staff who will be wearing bright high vis jackets.

Technical problems On very rare occasions, performances may be cancelled due to technical problems. Please see terms and conditions sent out with your tickets for more information.

Weather The Nativity is an open-air production. This means that weather, temperature, climate and light conditions may impact on your visit and are an integral part of the Wintershall experience. Shows will only be cancelled in the event of adverse weather conditions deemed by the producers to pose a health and safety risk.

Wintershall Education – inspiring and resourcing schools

‘The Life of Christ’

This engaging biblical dramatisation of the main events in Jesus’s life, his teaching, healing and miracles, is a vital investment for developing KS2 and GCSE pupils’ theological literacy and understanding of Christianity all in one go! It is also a memorable example of how Christians use their creativity to communicate the Gospel and impact people today, which is a popular RE enquiry theme for KS2 and KS3. Program initiatives that compliment this production are:

Wintershall Assemblies

An engaging taster of ‘The Life of Christ’, and very popular with schools. 2018 dates are now available. To book <http://www.wintershall-education.com/school-visits/assembly-booking/>

Pupils say: *“It was inspirational; they told a story word for word from the Bible, and we understood it.”*
Teachers say: *“I heard children retelling the story at break and lunchtime.”*

Virtues Enquiry through the Arts

Offering inspiring ways to deepen exploration of Christian values and their impact, enriching your RE units and Character education. See the attached leaflet or go to the website to find out more about our ‘Virtues Enquiry Days’.

Become a Wintershall Education Member

Sign up for our new online membership, where you benefit from;

1. discounted tickets
2. use of our assembly booking system
3. access resources supporting values learning and collective worship.

Resources include:

- specially filmed scenes from the production and actor interviews as starting points to fully worked values learning and assembly material for KS2 and KS3 as well as a stimulus for reflection and as discussion starters
- stunning still images from scenes in The Life of Christ, coupled with a set of differentiated questions, which are designed to enable theological and values-based reflection and discussion
- a set of individual clips from different scenes of The Life of Christ production which will offer resource material for RE, Collective worship and reflection
- material to support aspects of spiritual development



Pre-Visit and Follow Up Suggestions

At Wintershall, the audience are very much part of the production and follow the action as if they were part of the actual crowd watching the drama unfold. See a sample of ideas below that will help pupils to build a knowledge of some of the well-known people in the story and so enhance their visit to The Nativity.

Values Detective

Fact file- create one for a chosen person from The Nativity. Record details like 'first knowledge of Jesus' and 'best moment' in the story.

Role play

Circle Game –In turn around the circle, each person introduces themselves “hello, I’m Simeon and I’m a priest, who are you?” To the person on their right. They reply to the group, “hello, I’m Herod and I’m a king. This is Simeon the priest. Who are you?”. This is carried on around the circle, getting progressively harder as each person has to remember those before! The idea is that the small group help each other and everyone learns the key characters. Following the performance, you might like to think about people in the story, who you hadn’t heard of before. What was their role?

Photo time – Use some of the images from the Act 1 gallery online and create tableaus or role play developing from each picture.

Literacy

Interviews – Write an imaginary interview with a character. You could even record these as a news item or 'chat show'.

Art

Character Logos – or badges or T-shirts. Think of a symbolic way of representing your chosen character.

Posters –on behalf of the Roman government, calling for a census, or even a 'Come to Wintershall' poster.

Following your visit

Evaluation Following your school visit to The Nativity, we would be grateful if you could fill in the attached evaluation form which can also be downloaded from the website. This feedback allows us to continually improve the educational experience and resources we offer. Thank you in advance.

Book a Wintershall Assembly This is a wonderful way to follow up a visit to Wintershall. Costumed actors come to your school and perform unseen 'extras' from the story of Jesus' life. See the attached leaflet for more information.

Consider a Virtues Enquiry Day through the Arts See the attached leaflet for more details.

Book 'The Life of Christ' 19th – 23rd June 2018 If you have enjoyed The Nativity this year – why not book the Life Of Christ 2018? Please call 01793 418 299. This engaging biblical dramatisation of the main events in Jesus's life, his teaching, healing and miracles, is a vital investment for developing KS2 and GCSE pupils' theological literacy and understanding of Christianity, all in one go! It is also a memorable example of how Christians use their creativity to communicate the Gospel and impact people today, which is a popular RE enquiry theme for KS2 and KS3.

N.B. Please photocopy the Evaluation form and bring it with you on the day, tear off, complete and hand to an Education Guide

School visit to The Wintershall Nativity Evaluation Form

We hope that you and your pupils have enjoyed your visit to The Wintershall Nativity. We would value your feedback and would be grateful if you could take a few moments to complete this evaluation form to help us ensure that we continue to offer a memorable and high quality educational experience for all schools.

Many thanks.

School Name			
Postcode			
Email			
Type of School, e.g. C of E, Catholic, Christian			
Key Stage			
Number of Children			
Survey completed by			
Position			
Reason for booking	RE	History	Spirituality
	Other		
What have you and your pupils enjoyed about the performance?			
What could we do to make your visit more worthwhile e.g. performance length			
What pre-visit and follow-up activities do you do with your group?			
Would you book a visit to The Nativity next year?	Yes	No	