

# ‘The Life of Christ’ Wintershall



## School Visit Guide 2020

[www.wintershall-education.com](http://www.wintershall-education.com)

## Welcome to 'The Life of Christ' Production 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 the education team by emailing [schools@wintershall-education.com](mailto: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.**

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### 'The Life of Christ' 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. 'The Life of Christ', is performed by hundreds of actors, retelling this evocative story against the peaceful backdrop of the Wintershall grounds. The experience has a profound effect on visitors young and old, as they watch the story unfold across three captivating acts from 10am to 3.30pm.

*"The day taught the children more about the Christian faith than years of RE in the classroom"* Teacher

Schools use the performance as a resource for cross-curricular learning for RE and Values Enquiries, as well as History, Literacy and Art. 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.

**Please come and visit us in the Wintershall Education Tent to find out more about our Education Programme including Wintershall Assemblies, workshops, staff retreats and online materials.**

### Essential Information

**\*Arrival** Schools must arrive between **9** and **9.30am** in order to allow enough time to walk (15 minutes) to the first Act. There will be other school groups arriving at the same time so we would ask you to be as efficient as possible leading your group from the coach park. Please take into account the start of the performances cannot be delayed for late schools and you may have to miss Act I if late. Please contact the education mobile on **07754067073** if at all delayed.

**\*Performance timings** We ask you to be seated by **9.45am** for a 10am start. The performance is in three acts with a 30 minute interval for lunch, which includes a question and answer session for schools, and finishes at 3.30pm.

**\*School pre-visit online form** This must be completed prior to the visit by the person responsible for organising the trip. The form can be found online [HERE](#) and the link is sent out to the school in advance. This must be completed and returned to the Education Team at least a week before the event.

**\*Parking** There is a coach park and a car park for individuals and minibuses. Stewards will be on duty to guide coaches and mini buses to the correct car park. Please note the main production site is a 15 min walk from the Coach park. Please provide coach company details in your pre-visit form, so that we can contact coaches to inform them about the one-way traffic system in place on the day.

**\*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 and on the schools' pre-visit form.

**\*Q&A Session** At lunchtime, we will host a Q&A session with cast and production members. There will be an opportunity to submit questions during the morning. Q&A form available at the back of this pack.

**\*Child participation** There will be an opportunity for selected pupils to join the cast on stage in Act III. The Education Team will remind lead teachers that this is likely to happen and point out the correct entrance onto the stage. Please be aware that the children remain the school's responsibility at all times and we ask that a teacher accompanies students.

**Toilets** are located in the main car park as well as throughout the site. Please see map for more details

**Seating** **There is no seating provided.** Please bring ground sheets and picnic blankets for pupils to sit on. Schools have previously provided black bin liners for pupils. As this is a promenade performance, you do not have allocated seating. The Stage Manager and production team will give clear direction to move your group around the site, and we would ask you to adhere to these directions.

**Suitable clothing** Please encourage your pupils to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Please dress appropriately for a full day outside. The ground is uneven and can be slippery. Stout shoes, sun screen, hats and water are essential. Please bring a raincoat or umbrella in case of inclement weather. We are unable to accommodate people indoors in bad weather. It is recommended that school groups wear identifiable clothing or hats. Some teachers bring flags or sashes for school groups to follow.

**Belongings and Bag Storage** During the performance, Wintershall strongly advises teachers and students to keep all personal belongings with them. Wintershall takes no responsibility for lost items. Please

ensure that hats and other loose items are stored in bags. Any items found at the end of a performance are placed in Wintershall Lost Property, located in the Wintershall Estate office

**Food and Beverage Sales** Refreshments are available by the main entrance. Pupils need to be accompanied by a teacher. There are several water stations across the site to refill bottles from.

**Packed Lunches** are recommended for schools visiting. We request that lunches are nut free. Please could packed lunches be handed out to children at the start of your journey, prior to arrival on site, as this severely reduces transition time from the coach park to Act 1. If you need assistance in transporting lunches from the coach park, please let us know. We can deliver them to the Education Tent, ready for collection at lunchtime.

**Pocket Money Items** This year at the **Wintershall shop**, we are offering a few pocket money items from £1 - £2, including pens, mini notepads, keyring torches and prayer books.

**Education Guides** wearing blue high vis jackets, will meet you in the coach park and direct you to Act 1, 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 first Act.

**Prayer Space** you are very welcome to spend time in our outdoor prayer space throughout the day (by the main entrance) to enjoy quiet reflection. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Child Protection

At all times, supervision of pupils within school groups is the direct responsibility of their teachers, 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 during the day. 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 on the day.

## \*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
- 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
- walk on the site.
- refrain from throwing any items or food.
- leave no litter behind by placing it in the bins and black bags 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 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 has 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. You should find all the information required to complete your risk assessment within this guide. Any further questions about your visit, please email [schools@wintershall-education.com](mailto:schools@wintershall-education.com).

**Insurance Cover** Wintershall has the appropriate Public Liability Insurance and 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. They will be visible at every Act. 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. Behind the audience at every Act, there will be a 'missing child' point clearly marked by a steward. Please report any problems to Wintershall Staff who will be wearing bright high vis jackets. The stage manager will make audience announcements during the movement between acts if needed.

**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 Life of Christ' is an open-air production. Both the auditorium and stage are uncovered which 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

[www.wintershall-education.com](http://www.wintershall-education.com)

**Education Tent** Please come and visit the Education Tent during your visit. You can view all our fantastic resources and book a **free** assembly for your school next year.

## Wintershall Assemblies

An engaging extra to ‘The Life of Christ’, these are very popular with schools. Costumed actors visit and perform a 15-minute assembly, with beautiful follow up classroom reflections provided.

See the [website](#) to find out more.

Pupils say: *“It was inspirational; they told a story word for word from the Bible...we understood it*

## Themed Workshops

Are you planning for the next academic year? Why not think about booking an engaging and original workshop? Behind the scenes access to costumes, props and beautiful character reflections to help engage students in scripture throughout the church year. Offered here onsite at Wintershall and tailored to your requirements. Contact us for more information. *“A wonderful resource across the school. Inspiring!”*



## Staff Retreat Days

We offer insets for school staff that enhance their own mental health and well-being while giving them the opportunity to consider how to nurture the spiritual development of their pupils. Half day or full day options available

## **Pre-Visit and Follow Up Activity Suggestions**

Watch our [‘about’ film clip](#) on the website. There are many other [short clips](#) from a variety of scenes, which you might like to use in preparation for the day. You can access through a free log in system.

At Wintershall, the audience are very much part of the production and follow the action around the grounds as if they were part of the actual crowd watching the drama unfold. *Younger children (and adults) might like to come to the production in costume to add to this feeling of involvement!*

You can find samples for [KS3/4 visit booklets](#) on our website. These encourage deeper thinking about different characters pupils will meet throughout the day.

See a sample of Primary ideas below that might help children to **build a knowledge of some of the characters** in the story before they arrive or following a visit to The Life of Christ.

## Preparation suggestions for KS2

Choose a person from the Gospel to focus on. Have a look at the people section of the education website for inspiration. You may decide to focus exclusively on Peter or Mary or look at all the disciples.

### Values Detective

**Reactions to Jesus** – Be a detective and complete the table online using the bible references. What can you find out about Jesus?

See [online for filmed scenes from our productions.](#)

**Fact file**- create one for a chosen person from 'The Life of Christ'.

Record details like 'Encounter with Jesus' and 'best moment'.

View our [online script excerpts](#) and character profiles.



### Role play

**Circle Game** –In turn around the circle, each person introduces themselves “hello, I’m Peter and I’m a fisherman, who are you?” To the person on their right. They reply to the group, “hello, I’m Caiaphas and I’m a High Priest. This is Peter the fisherman. 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.



**Photo time** – Use some of the images from the [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'. View our [online examples](#) including actors interviews and audio clips.

**Letter writing** – Job applications by the disciples, letter of complaint from the man who had a hole in his roof by the four friends or a letter of apology from them, thank you letters from the nine lepers or the host at the wedding of Cana; the possibilities are endless!

**Newspaper article** – Headlines are particularly good. The miracles lend themselves to the newspaper idiom. Older children could write in the style of a type of paper or from the viewpoint of a group e.g. 'The Daily Pharisee' or anti Roman tabloid 'The Zealot'.



### Art

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

**Posters** –Pro or anti Jesus, from different points of view using slogans and images. 'He is risen!' 'Lunatic, Liar or Lord?' or even a 'Come to Wintershall' poster.

More pre and post visit resources are accessible via the [Wintershall Education Website.](#)

## Following your visit

1. **Evaluation** Following your school visit to 'The Life of Christ' we would be grateful if you could fill in the attached evaluation form at the back of the pack or [online](#). This feedback allows us to continually improve the educational experience and resources we offer. Thank you in advance.
2. **Book a Free Wintershall Assembly** This is a wonderful way to follow up a visit to 'The Life of Christ'.
3. **Easter and Nativity Workshops** Planning your school trips for the next school year? Why not come for an interactive workshop here at Wintershall? A unique way to explore the Easter and Nativity stories with reflections and activities using the creative arts and natural environment.
4. **The Nativity performance during the school day** performances at 1pm and 4.30pm. Dates to be announced - if you are interested in booking please contact the education team. Suitable for KS1 upwards. A truly memorable way to finish the Autumn term. Daytime school group tickets limited.
5. **Book 'The Life of Christ' 22 -26 June 2021** If you have enjoyed 'The Life of Christ' this year – why not book for 2020 now? Receive a discount of 20% if paid by 30 September, or 15% if paid for by October half term. School camping onsite with accompanying activities and catering available for residential trips. Please email [schools@wintershall-education.com](mailto:schools@wintershall-education.com)
6. **Spread the Word!** If you enjoyed your trip today, please do spread the word. We can only continue to perform if we have an audience, so please do tell other schools and community groups about 'The Life of Christ'. Details on Educational links can be found on our website.

**Who to Contact?** Have any questions about any of our resources? Please do get in touch. All we offer is flexible and adaptable and can be tailored to your needs. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Education Officer: Lucy Hall**

**Website:** [www.wintershall-education.com](http://www.wintershall-education.com)

**Email:** [schools@wintershall-education.com](mailto:schools@wintershall-education.com)

**Call:** 01483 892167



**N.B. Please photocopy the Evaluation form and bring it with you on the day, complete and hand to an Education Guide. *This form will also be emailed following the event.***

## School visit to 'The Life of Christ' 2020 Evaluation Form

We hope that you and your pupils have enjoyed your visit to 'The Life of Christ'. 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.

<b>School Name</b>			
<b>Postcode</b>			
<b>Email</b>			
<b>Key Stage</b>			
<b>Survey completed by</b>			
<b>Position</b>			
<b>Reason for booking</b>	RE	History	Spirituality Other
<b>What have you and your pupils enjoyed about the performance?</b>			
<b>What could we do to make your visit more worthwhile e.g. performance length, Q&amp;A</b>			
<b>What pre-visit and follow-up activities do you do with your group?</b>			
<b>Would you book a visit to The Life of Christ next year?</b>	Yes	No	

# 'The Life of Christ'

## Lunchtime Q and A for Schools

We invite schools to join us for a Q & A session with cast and production members. This will take place at lunchtime in the **area where Act III will begin**. Please print this form out and submit it with your pupils' questions, to an education guide during the morning

*Prompts for questions-* Think about the story so far....

- I wonder which part interested you most?
- I wonder what it is like to act as a certain character in the play?
- What do you think Jesus' teachings mean for us and the cast and crew today?

SCHOOL NAME:

Questions for the Cast and Crew: