

Wigan West



# PARISH MAGAZINE



**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13**

£1 May 2026



**Dear friends,**

The season of Easter is still very much with us as we move into May. Easter doesn't end on Easter Day – it is a whole season of hope. Hope that Jesus is alive. Hope that love is stronger than death. Hope that even when life feels uncertain, God has not finished with us yet.



Then, later this month, we reach **Pentecost**. We often describe Pentecost as the Church's birthday, when God's Holy Spirit was poured out and ordinary, everyday people were filled with courage, joy, and new life. The same Spirit is still at work today – in our homes, our streets, our schools, and right here in the parish of Wigan West.

The Bible puts it beautifully in this prayer:

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*  
(Romans 15:13)

Hope and the Holy Spirit are not just big ideas for church buildings. They are for family kitchens, playgrounds, dog walks, and bus stops. Pentecost reminds us that sharing Jesus doesn't have to be complicated or loud. Sometimes it is found in small, simple moments: lighting a candle and saying thank you to God together at the end of the day; saying a short prayer with your children at bedtime; asking “What was the best thing about today?” and remembering God's goodness; or being kind when it would be easier not to be.

As families, you are already living out faith in more ways than you might realise. When you forgive, when you listen, when you care for neighbours, when you choose love – the Spirit of God is quietly at work through you.

Across Wigan West, God is also stirring something hopeful in our worship communities. In different buildings and different settings, with different styles and different people, the same Spirit is gathering us together. There is laughter, prayer, music, questions, friendship, and welcome. You don't need to have everything worked out. You don't need to know the words. You only need a willingness to come and see.

This Pentecost, perhaps God's invitation to you is simply this: **Come and See**. Come and see what God is doing. Come and see where you might find hope, rest, or friendship. Come and see how the Spirit might be at work in your life and in our shared community.

My prayer for us this season is that Easter hope would take root afresh, and that the Holy Spirit would gently breathe new life into our homes, our parish, and our hearts.

With love and prayers,

Fran

Revd Fran Humphry, Team Vicar and Hubleader, Wigan West Parish

## Dave Whitter

At the time of writing and approaching the deadline for this issue of the magazine, news of Dave Whitter's passing has come to light. A former churchwarden for St. Matthew's, Dave was a stalwart of the parish known to many throughout various organisations who will have their own special memories of him. He was also a valued contributor of articles for this magazine and also when we published individual magazines for each church.

I am hoping to have a more detailed article for next month's publication from his family to share with you all.

I would personally like to say a big thank you to Dave for the vast amount of material he provided me in the past either solely for St. Matthew's and for our "Three in One" magazine. He is now reunited with his late wife Margaret and may he rest in peace and rise in glory. **Paul Nolan**

## St Matthews' Friendship Group

It was with great regret that we heard of the passing of Dave Whitter.

He was a founder member of the Friendship Group which was founded ten years ago and he will be much missed by all who gather on a Wednesday afternoon for a chat with coffee and a cake.

He was instrumental in arranging our outings and visits to restaurants and went out of his way to ensure people had transport to the venues. He also arranged coach transport for various days out to Llandudno, Skipton, Bury, Lytham St Annes and many other places.

He was a central member of the group and won't be forgotten and will be difficult to replace.

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## Highfield Cricket Club

Our winter nets at The Deanery High School have been very well attended by both juniors and seniors, providing an excellent foundation as we prepare for the new season. It has also been a great opportunity for members of all ages to come together, strengthening the sense of community that sits at the heart of our club.

We now turn to outdoor training, which will be underway across all sides from week commencing 20th April. Our girls' section continues to thrive under the stewardship of Gill Higgins, and it is encouraging to see such strong development in this area of the club, offering a welcoming and supportive environment for young people to grow in confidence and friendship.

The new league season began on Saturday 18th April, with our First XI playing at home against Cheshire Lines. The Executive Committee would like to wish all of our teams every success for the season ahead, played in the right spirit and reflecting the values of fellowship, respect, and encouragement that we share as part of our wider church community.

Off the field, the club recently held its Sportsman's Dinner, which was very well attended. Guests enjoyed a three-course meal, followed by an entertaining after-dinner talk from former Super League player and Sky Sports pundit Barrie McDermott, with a comedian rounding off the evening. It was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion, bringing people together in friendship and helping raise valuable funds to support the ongoing life of the club.

Mike Gregory

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## Thank you from Kathleen Smith at St James'

I would like to thank everyone who helped start my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations off by staying for the wonderful buffet prepared by Jo. A special mention must go to her and anyone who helped on the day, also Carole for the lovely cake.

I must also say a big thankyou to all the people who generously raised the grand sum of £265 for mission work at St James'.

I am so grateful to you all, lots of love

Kathleen.

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*Pentecost* 

# Church Wigan Newsletter

The next *Church Wigan Newsletter* (May–June edition) will be released in just under four weeks, so please feel free to get in touch with anything you'd like to be included.

In particular, I'm looking for:

**Upcoming events or courses** in May and June (outside of regular services)

**News from the past couple of months** – photos are very welcome!

**Encouraging or positive stories**, whether from your church groups or things God has been doing in your community

**Relevant announcements** for the wider Church Wigan family

It would be fantastic to reflect as wide and diverse a picture as possible of what's happening across Church Wigan, so please do send in your events, updates, and stories. I will send an email in the coming weeks to let the usual newsletter distributors know when the newsletters will be available to pick up.

Thank you so much—I look forward to hearing from you!

Nicola Harris, Church Wigan/Wigan Deanery Trust

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## Christian Aid week: 10–16 May

Across the world children in poverty go to bed hungry. Please support their hardworking parents to change this. (NO FOOD BANKS OR FAMILY ALLOWANCE THERE!) Donate this week and help fund tools and training so that families can learn how to farm food wherever they live. They must earn each day, or their family will go to bed hungry.

There is the Christian Aid bucket at the back of Church along with Donation envelopes (remember to Gift Aid if you are able to). Also there will be Daily devotional booklets for the week. Thank you in anticipation for your donation to help our poorer brothers and sisters around the world.

Barbara Jenks

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### MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Please have any content to the editors by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you would like a copy of the magazine in **LARGE PRINT** please email Barbara at

[hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org](mailto:hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org)

# St Matthews Guides

We continued our meetings after the Chinese New Year evening by making and decorating wooden wall hangings for Mother's Day. The following week was an energetic night of Irish dancing led by Siobhan Clarke, who came to show the girls a variety of different Irish dances. This was really enjoyed by everyone who took part.



For Easter the girls used their decorating skills by making lovely flower wreaths, pictures of some are included in this magazine.

On our last meeting before the Easter break, we had an Easter egg hunt in church followed, back in the hall, by making chocolate rice crispy nests with chocolate egg decoration.

The Guiders, Amy, Georgia, and Sheila

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## 16<sup>th</sup> Wigan Town St. Matthew's Rainbows

Over the past few weeks at Rainbows we have done lots to celebrate Easter, including crafts and games. We have decorated some small eggs and was great to see how the girls all decorated them completely differently, which reflected the different personalities within the group. We also decorated Easter bonnets and lots of effort went into making them. It was lovely to hear that some of the girls decided to use them for their Easter bonnet parades at their school.



We then celebrated our last week before the Easter break with a party. Whilst Easter was the obvious reason we had a party with Easter egg hunts and Easter themed games, it was also a pot of gold party as we said "Goodbye" to one of our older Rainbows Alice, as she moves up to Brownies. And we can't forget, we also celebrated Jennifer's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday! We decorated the hall with banners and balloons and celebrated with a cake too.



The Rainbow Leaders - Georgia, Gill, Lesley, Jennifer & Sharon

## St. Matthew's 14<sup>th</sup> Wigan Town Brownies

The last month in Brownies has seen the girls getting crafty, they used dried flowers to decorate jars to make a tealight holder for their Mother's Day gift, which the recipients were delighted with.

We then gave them egg boxes to decorate for Easter and of course we supplied the chocolate treats to add to their nests. We asked Kris from the CIC to judge them, and Katie was the proud winner.

Interspersed with the crafting we learned some new games, many which involved the girls working as a team and ensuring that nobody was left out. Our two young helpers, Grace and Lois proved a great asset to the tasks.

We are looking forward to the lighter evenings and being able to take some activities outside.

**The Brownie Guiders**



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## St. Matthew's Boys Brigade

It is with great sadness that I write this, my last post for the church magazine. We can't stop progress, and as a result, the 14<sup>th</sup> Wigan Boys' Brigade Company has now closed due to lack of boys. We ended up with two boys and three Officers, a situation we couldn't maintain.

We've been at St. Matthew's Church for over 80 years! A very big thankyou to Marian for all her help over the years and also to Aaron for his help in helping to run the company. On the brighter side, Marian and Harvey are going to St. Mark's BB Company. Aaron is going to St. Peter's in Hindley and Louis is going to 1st Bryn BB. I, myself have decided to retire, but I will help out if requested. I have been an Officer for 35 years, but I'm a beginner compared to Marian, who has devoted 54 years to the Boys Brigade! I would also like to give a big thankyou to Colin Hesketh for his help over the years and to the Committee for the use of the hall and to Officers and leaders with the Guides.

At the May Parade Service, (10 May), there will be a special part in the service, in which the company colours will be laid up. A special invite has been sent to all 'old boys' to attend if possible. Paul has offered to bake us a special cake and our ladies will supply refreshments after the service.

God bless you all in the parish for your help over the years.  
**Jim Harrison, Company Captain**



# May Services



meets every other Tuesday during term time at St Matthew's School Hall from 3.30pm until 5pm

## LIGHTHOUSE

meets in St James' school every Tuesday during term time from 3.30pm, every Sunday at 2pm, and during the week in different homes.



## Wellspring

meets every Wednesday from 3.30pm until 5pm in St Paul's Hall and School

### St Matthew's May

3 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
7 **Thursday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
10 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
Family Parade Service  
13 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
17 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Holy Communion  
20 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
24 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Morning Praise with Baptisms  
27 **Wednesday**  
18.00 Evening Prayer  
31 **Sunday**  
10.30 St Paul's Hub Service

### St James with St Thomas May

3 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
10 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word with Baptisms  
17 **Sunday**  
10.30 All Age Holy Communion  
24 **Sunday**  
10.30 Traditional Holy Communion  
18.30 Open Table  
31 **Sunday**  
10.30 St Paul's Hub Service

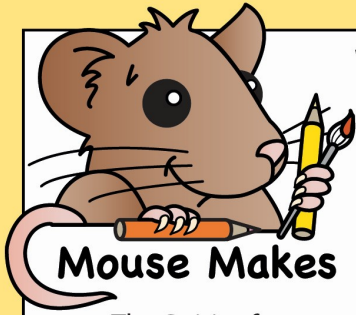
### St Paul's May

3 **Sunday**  
9.00 BCP Holy Communion  
10.30 Service of the word with Baptisms  
10 **Sunday**  
10.30 Holy Communion  
13 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
17 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word  
20 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
24 **Sunday**  
10.30 Service of the Word With Goose Green Methodists  
27 **Wednesday**  
10.00 Holy Communion  
31 **Sunday**  
10.30 Hub Service

### Lighthouse May

3 **Sunday**  
2pm Family Worship  
10 **Sunday**  
2pm Family Communion  
17 **Sunday**  
2pm Family Worship  
24 **Sunday**  
2pm Family Worship

**Sunday Services at  
23 Longfellow Close**



# Mouse Makes

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ *Genesis 1:2*

The

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Father.

*Acts 1:4*

The Spirit of

A \_\_\_\_\_ *Romans 8:15*

H \_\_\_\_\_ *John 14:26*

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ *John 16:13*

The Spirit of

\_\_\_\_\_ *Acts 16:7*

The Fruit of the Spirit *Galatians 5:22-23*

\_\_\_ O \_\_\_  
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What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read *Acts 2:1-41*

How many believers were baptised that day?

D G C O M F O R T E R L C  
 K E O N P P E A C E G O D  
 I N U F A K J D H J R R F  
 N T N A T L O V E O A D H  
 D L S I I O H O L Y C D L  
 N E E T E A I C P L E E G  
 E N L H N D E A E D E B L  
 S E L F C O N T R O L J O  
 S N O P E P T E A C H E R  
 J S R J O T R U T H F S Y  
 R S P I R I T I L U I U K  
 K P P R O M I S E R S R  
 I D W I N D D O V E W

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER  
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE  
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

## Lifelines Dementia Friendly Café @ St James' Centre

Lifelines Café will meet on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 1.30pm in St James Church. We will be having a game of bingo, drinks and cakes. Its all free and you're all welcome.

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## Faith Café @ St James' Centre

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May the Faith Café and Tom's Pantry will be closed as a few of our volunteers are on holiday. It will also be closed on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May as there is a wedding at St James. The remaining Saturdays the café and party will be open as normal, 11-2pm. The café operates on a pay as you feel basis and everyone is welcome.

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## Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre

Bereavement Support will meet on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May and again on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May as the last Monday of the month is a bank holiday. If you are struggling following the death of a loved one this support group may be for you. They aren't counsellors but can offer the hand of friendship and support. For more information contact David on 07404 605015.

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## Life Lines Dementia Friendly Choir @ St James

Lifelines Choir will meet at St James Church on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 1pm. Its all free and everyone is welcome.

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## Bible Study Group @ St James'

Following on from the success of our Lenten Bible Study, we will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 12 noon-2pm. We will have a light lunch and then look at our bible study. As we looked at the people around Jesus at the time of his final weeks on earth and his arrest, we will start by looking at the Resurrection and the weeks after that. They are intended to be stand alone so you may want to just attend a few or all of them.

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## Pemberton Community Association

The Pemberton Community Association has been part of our community for 23 years, being founded by Dave Arrowsmith and Mike Dewhurst in April 2003.

Like all Community groups, we rely on volunteers to help us provide our events and support our community.

We need help with fundraising, helping to arrange events, children's parties, and family events. We meet 4 times a year, and welcome volunteers from 14 years old upwards.

Interested? Please give us a call or message on 07305 978989 or email

pembassoc@mail.com. **Dave Arrowsmith**



Church  
**WIGAN**



**Tom's Pantry**

West Hub's Food pantry is located in St James' church and is open to everyone in the local community—you do not need to be referred to shop with us. We are open the following times:

Tuesday 9.30-11.45

Wednesday 9.30-11.45

Saturday 11-2pm alongside our Faith Café

The annual membership fee is £5 and then a suggested donation of £3 for up to 15 items (subject to availability).

As well as helping you budget we are looking after the environment by intercepting perfectly edible food which would otherwise have ended up in landfill.

“The earth is the Lord's and all that dwells therein”

Please see previous page for May Closures

# UKRAINE STILL NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

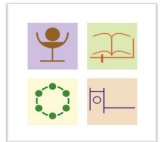
Please pray for Ukraine.

Can you help with our Ukraine appeal?

Please donate cash or goods.

Call Vitalii on 07476 778083 to arrange delivery or collection.

*Give to the work of your local worship community  
in the Parish of Wigan West*



This Parish is registered with the Parish Giving Scheme which allows you to give to this Parish securely and safely online. Please click 'Regular Giving' to set up a monthly, quarterly, or annual Direct Debit or One-Off Gift or make a single gift using your Debit or Credit Card.

**Parish name:** Parish of Wigan West **Parish code:** 220220288 **Diocese:** Liverpool Diocese

**Address:** Parish of Wigan West, Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, WIGAN, Lancashire WN3 5BA

[www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-of-wigan-west-wigan/](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-of-wigan-west-wigan/)

Tel: 0333 002 1260

## THE SHED NEEDS YOU!



**All Men of Wigan  
are welcome at The Shed meetings.  
We meet the 1st Saturday  
of every month  
from 9:30am - 11am at  
St Matthew's Cricket Club**

# Little Stars <sup>Toddler Group</sup> Stars

Term time

ONLY

Free Play, Snacks, Story Time & Singing!

## Little Stars Toddler Group

St Paul's Hall behind Bumblebee's Nursery, Clapgate Lane Off Warrington Road, WN3 6SB

### MONDAYS 9:30am - 11am

Cost is only £1.50 for  
ONE adult & child

(Additional child is 50p)

From Birth to  
School Age Children!



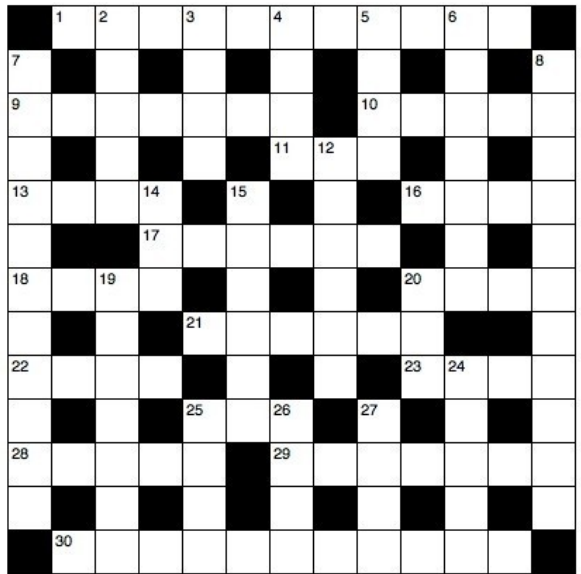
## All Welcome!

**Across**

- 1 Overpowered (Deuteronomy 11:4) (11)
- 9 'The — are mantled with corn' (Psalm 65:13) (7)
- 10 'Each man—a sword to his side' (Exodus 32:27) (5)
- 11 On the death of Jesus the curtain in the temple was torn from— to bottom (Matthew 27:51) (3)
- 13 Stagger (Isaiah 28:7) (4)
- 16 'Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought— and doesn't do it, sins' (James 4:17) (2,2)
- 17 Stir up or provoke (Acts13:50) (6)
- 18 Burden (Luke11:46) (4)
- 20 'As far as the east is from the—, so far has he removed our transgressions from us' (Psalm 103:12) (4)
- 21 Sign (Luke23:38) (6)
- 22 'After that, Jesus poured water into a basin and began to—his disciples' feet' (John 13:5) (4)
- 23 The nature of the seven ears of corn which swallowed up the good ears in Pharaoh's dream (Genesis 41:23) (4)
- 25 Has (anag.) (3)
- 28 'This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, —sons' (Genesis 10:1) (5)
- 29 'I will...make them drunk, so that they...sleep for—and— awake' (Jeremiah 51:39) (4,3)
- 30 Paul said of him, 'he often refreshes me and is not ashamed of my chains' (2 Timothy 1:16) (11)

**Down**

- 2 Worth (Matthew 13:46) (5)
- 3 'A bruised — He will not break' (Matthew 12:20) (4)
- 4 'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly — appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (4)
- 5 Slip (anag.) (4)
- 6 'Take an awl and push it through his — — into the door, and he will become your



- servant for life' (Deuteronomy 15:17) (3,4)
- 7 Bountiful (2 Corinthians 8:2) (11)
- 8 'Therefore, as we have —, let us do good to all people' (Galatians 6:10) (11)
- 12 Acquire (2 Timothy 2:10) (6)
- 14 Container cover (Numbers 19:15) (3)
- 15 'He...became obedient to death, even death on— —!' (Philippians 2:8) (1,5)
- 19 Refrain (1 Peter2:11) (7)
- 20 'She began to—his feet with her tears' (Luke 7:38) (3)
- 24 One who worships Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva (5)
- 25 'Give to everyone who— you' (Luke6:30) (4)
- 26 'I lift up my eyes to the hills; where does my—come from?' (Psalm 121:1) (4)
- 27 One of those whom the Lord said would be taken from Jerusalem and Judah as judgment on them (Isaiah 3:2) (4)

Lord, we pray for the conflict in the Middle East, and how it is damaging the lives of so many millions of people. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. Through Your Holy Spirit, move upon the leaders of the nations to de-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but You Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in You. Let Your name be exalted among the nations; may You be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. *Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.*

# Word Search

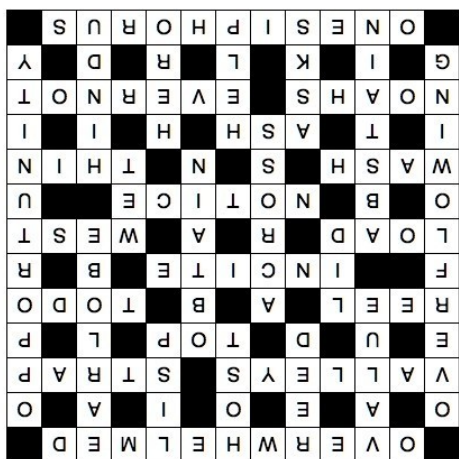


Middle  
East  
Conflict  
Pray  
Damage  
War  
Cease  
Earth  
Break

Bows  
Shatter  
Spears  
Burn  
Shields  
Fire  
crisis  
many

Lives  
millions  
Lord  
Our  
Rock  
Fortress  
Deliverer  
Hope

Kyrie  
in  
You  
mercy



### PASTORAL CARE

If anyone requires Pastoral Care the contact number is 07845947573 Barbara Poyntz.(If answer machine please leave message) If it is an emergency, please ring any phone number in the Parish Magazine, Thank you.

*N.B. If you have occasion to make out a cheque to the parish, please make it payable to **Wigan West PCC**. Cheques made out to the old parishes will soon no longer be valid.*

**We collect used stamps** all the year around - We have a collection box in each church building.

Leave a border of 1cm ( half an inch) when trimming around the stamps and if possible be kind enough to sort them into British & Foreign stamps. Stamps will then be forwarded to a charity. Thank you.

Please pass all stamps on to  
 Marjorie Latham  
 41 Howden Drive  
 Wigan  
 WN3 5JT 01942 234880

## Donations

Birthday memories of a dearly loved Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad & brother, Derek Longhurst

**From all the Family**

In lieu of altar flowers

**From Janet Foster**

**Received from Monday Cuppa Club  
- £100**

## Baptisms

Oliver Marc Cooper	St Paul's
Elysia Thompson	St Paul's
Nellie-Mae Beard	St James'
Francesca Eryn Mather	St James'
Charlie James Wilson	St James'
Isobel Maya Gore	St Matthew's

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## Burials and Funerals

### St James with St Thomas

Eileen Armstrong  
Ann Summers  
Sheila Eden, 76

### St Matthew's

Elaine Marie Richardson, 70  
Mary Green, 95  
Joyce Moorfield, 74

### St Paul's

10/03/26	Patricia Holloran, 79
13/03/26	William Quinn, 82
23/03/26	Joyce Wright, 80

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## **Altar Flowers St. Matthew's**

3<sup>rd</sup> May – vacant  
10<sup>th</sup> May – Mr J McCann  
17<sup>th</sup> May – Mr M Gregory  
24<sup>th</sup> May – Miss M McCourty  
31<sup>st</sup> May – vacant

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## **One off Gifts to Church**

We welcome gifts for different things we need or a one-off Gift and here are our BACS details let us know if we can Gift aid it too.

Wigan West PCC  
Lloyds Bank  
Sort: 30-90-89  
AC: 58811360

If it is for a special gift please put a reference of What and let Jeff McCann know our treasurer for the Parish.

[jeffmccann11@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffmccann11@hotmail.com)

**The Parish of Wigan West** is the Church of England in the West of Wigan—covering Worsley Mesnes, Poolstock, Goose Green, Hawkley Hall, Winstanley, and Highfield—the former parishes of St James with St Thomas, St Paul’s, and St Matthew’s.

We are made up of different worship communities with many different styles and settings used for worshipping God, including our own buildings of St James with St Thomas (where *Tom’s Pantry* is), St Paul’s and its hall, and St Matthew’s and its hall.

Have a look at our Facebook page for details of everything from online coffee and chat to traditional services, as well as the latest news.

**Church Wigan** Team Rector Revd Neil Cook [neil.cook@churchwigan.org](mailto:neil.cook@churchwigan.org)

### **The Parish of Wigan West**

Hub Leader

*Rev Fran Humphry* 01942 803320

Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036

Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340

Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321

Minute Secretary

*None*

Clergy Administrator:

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### **St James’ with St Thomas’**

Distinctive Deacon Revd. *Alison Brown*  
07806 798030

Assistant Wardens

*Carol Simm*

*Jo Baines* 07956 030669

Organist *David Goulden* 01942 245710

Flowers *Jean Hogan* 01942 492888

Bereavement Support

*David Berry* 01942 386987

Sunday School

*Jodie* 07549810711

Primary School Executive Headteacher

*Miss J Broom* 01942 703952

Baptism Team

*Margaret Baxendale* 07906 615501

*Joyce Matthews* 07733 108040.

**Lifelines** St James’ Centre  
Revd. *Alison Brown* 07806 798030

**Little Stars** St Paul’s Hall  
*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

**Wellspring** St Paul’s Hall  
Local Missional Leader  
*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

**Lighthouse**  
Local Missional Leaders:  
*Jes Rusling* 07827 326 290  
[jes@jesandsam.com](mailto:jes@jesandsam.com)  
*Sam Rusling* 077 22 99 4923  
[sam@jesandsam.com](mailto:sam@jesandsam.com)

**Shine** St Matthew’s School  
*Rev Sam Swan*  
[sam.swan@churchwigan.org](mailto:sam.swan@churchwigan.org)

*All information correct as of April 2026*

### **St Matthew's**

Assistant Wardens

*Andrea Wood* 07734 447699

*Sheila Albers*

*Elizabeth Gaskell*

Reader *Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Organist *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Deputy Organist

*Colin Hesketh* 07712 431105

Bereavement Support

*Iain Matthewson* 07595 898737

Bowling Club

*Keith Harris* 01942 211518

Choir *Sue Gordon* 01942 214955

Church Fellowship

*Matthew Jones* 07930 867209

Cuppa & Chat

*Barbara Jenks* 01942 213101

Friendship Group

Boys Brigade

*Jim Harrison* 01942 218465

Guides:

Rainbows

*Jennifer Halliwell* 01257 433894

Or 07808811490

*Gill Marsh* 01942 207723

Brownies

*Joanne Tabener/Elizabeth Gaskell*

*14thwigtownbrownies@gmail.com*

Guides

*Helen Albers* 07960 920587

Primary School Headteacher

*Mrs A Barron* 01942 747818

### **St Paul's**

Assistant Wardens

*Cliff Unsworth* 01942 933772

*Maureen Gower* 07753 168301

*Pam Wilkinson* 01942 716668

*Geoff Birch* 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *Arthur Hubbard*  
01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath* 01942 621173

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson* 01942 716668

Mother's Union

*Anne Hubbard* 01942 321977

Sunday School

*Lucy Haigh* 07900 252 361

Craft Workshop

*Gillian Greenwood* 01942 825670

Friends Together

*Lynn Conroy* 01942202249

*Linda Berry* 01942 492521

House Groups

*Anne & Arthur Hubbard* 01942 321977

*Mike & Gill Greenwood* 01942 825670

Primary School Headteacher

*Mrs K Mowbray* 01942 243068

### **Need to book a hall?**

St Matthew's Church Hall:

*Matthew Jones* 07930 867209

St James Centre:

Revd. *Alison Brown* 07806 798030

St Paul's Church Hall:

*Darren Speakman* 07456 840803

**BAPTISMS** If you wish to enquire about Baptism please attend a 10.30am service at any of our churches and ask to speak to someone from the Baptism Team afterwards.

**WEDDINGS** *Gordon Fath*: [wedding.west@churchwigan.org](mailto:wedding.west@churchwigan.org)

**FUNERALS** Church Wigan Funeral Coordinator: 01942 705641, 07754 569022, [funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org](mailto:funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org)

# Wardens Corner



In a continual stream of bad news on the media it is easy to fall into a state of feeling totally helpless and depressed. Recently a chorus that we often sang at Sunday School keeps coming into my head.

‘Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light  
Like a little candle burning in the night  
In this world of darkness so we must shine  
You in your small corner and I in mine.’

I used to imagine myself literally sat in the corner of a room on my own shining my light.

But now I understand it to mean my corner of the world, the country, the town, my church, my home and workplace. Also, there are other people in ‘my corner’ and if we shine for Jesus together, the light becomes much brighter.

Recently a number of people in all our worship communities completed a survey asking questions about where we think we are in various aspects of our Christian lives

The most striking result from this survey was that many people want to learn more about what it means to be a Christian and we can grow in our faith. There is a lot of evidence that the best way to grow is alongside other people who feel as you do, meeting together in a small group, with a leader who is a little further along the path than you feel that you are.

In the coming months The Hub Leadership Team (HLT) will be putting together a plan to encourage more of us to form small groups for those who said they wanted to their knowledge, to do so together.

If you are one of the people who ticked the box saying you wanted to learn, think seriously about joining in.

**Ann Birch**

Churchwarden