

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23



£1 October 2026

Dear friends,

After our hot summer autumn seems to have arrived intent on reminding us how wet and miserable it can be! It's very tempting to hunker down and try hibernating until spring arrives but be of good cheer! The colder months are busy with festivals, feasts, and other events in the church calendar. The first of which is harvest festival.

Our modern lives are often far removed from the realities of how our food is grown and produced, but it is good to stop and thank God for His continued provision for us.

In the Bible we see growing and fruit used a lot to help us understand what following Jesus means for us. For example, In Matthew 13 Jesus tells the parable of the sower about how we hear and respond to him. In John 15 Jesus describes himself as the true vine, saying that we need to be grafted into him in order to be fruitful. In Matthew 13 Jesus talks about separating the wheat and the weeds out at harvest time.

This harvest time remember that God expects you to grow and be fruitful. A healthy apple tree will produce apples, in the same way if our faith is healthy we can expect spiritual fruit. Galatians 5 describes this as "the fruit of the Spirit", meaning the Holy Spirit who abides within every Christian.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

As we grow in our faith those seven things naturally grow in us naturally. We don't have to strive for the fruit of the Spirit, instead we strive to follow Jesus more closely.

If you feel that you could be more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more patient, kinder, more good, more faithful, gentler, or like you could do with a bit more self-control then try and strengthen your faith first and trust God to strengthen the fruit of His Spirit in you.

There are many different ways we can strengthen our faith. I encourage you to add one more thing to your daily routine—however mature our faith is there is always room for growth. Perhaps you could set aside five minutes at the start of the day to pray, or perhaps commit to reading the Bible more (and there are plenty of helps available for that, such as a 'read the Bible in a year' app or plan or daily devotional notes such as UCB's *Word for Today*, or *Our Daily Bread*. Some people find prayer walking helpful—going for a walk around where you live and praying for the places you see.

Lecture 365 and *Pray As You Go* are both daily Bible reflection apps for your mobile phone which are available for free. *Pray As You Go* is 10 to 15 minutes of daily

prayer and reflection, directing you think and pray around a Bible verse. *Lectio 365* offers morning, midday, and evening prayer. There are also apps available from the Church of England for the daily offices.

The opportunities for taking up a habit to strengthen your faith are endless, and God loves it when you draw close to Him and will bless you in your efforts, whatever they look like.

As St Paul prayed for the church in Colosse I pray for you:

Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven't stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you'll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us. Colossians 1:9-12 (MSG)

Sam, Lighthouse

Prayer for Harvest

Dear Lord,

As we give thanks for the harvest and pray for the farmers who have struggled through the summer's drought and heatwaves, we also give thanks and pray for those who work to share the good news of Your kingdom, to bring in Your harvest of people who are searching for You.

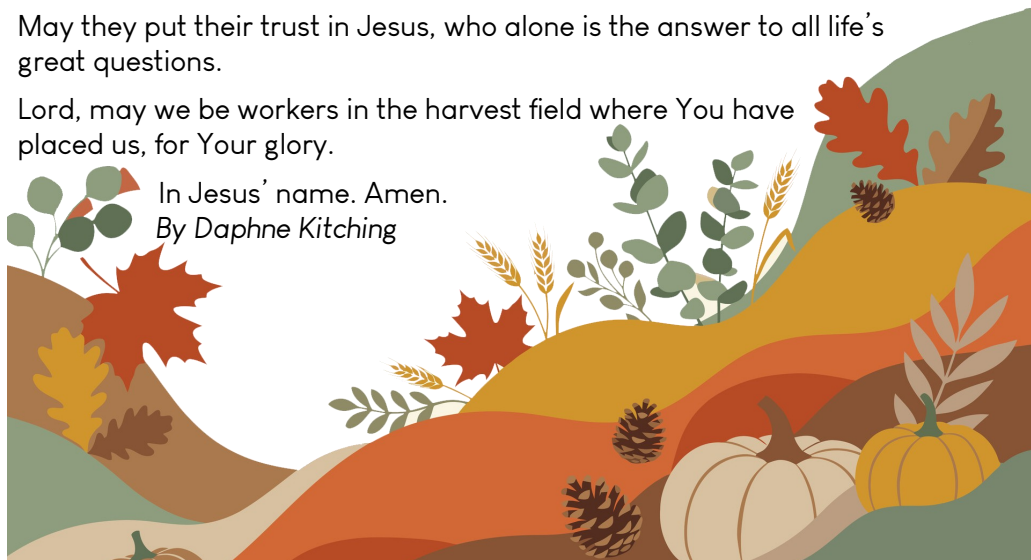
May we, who know You, join those workers and share the good news that Jesus brings. So many people are lost and without hope or direction. Help us to reach out to them, maybe with an invitation, or simply a smile, or an act of kindness. May they see Your love reflected in us and turn to You.

May they put their trust in Jesus, who alone is the answer to all life's great questions.

Lord, may we be workers in the harvest field where You have placed us, for Your glory.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The summer has come and gone so quickly. We had some truly scorching days; it was lovely to see full pews for a baptism and the doors opened wide. Now we are looking forward to the autumn with the shorter, cooler days and the rich colours of nature.

The ladies have continued to meet, albeit socially. July, we had a lovely buffet that was made by a friend of Beryl. We had a little raffle and enjoyed a couple of hours together, remembering friends past.

In August, no speaker again but another social evening. Joyce brought photos from the many files that Sheila had so carefully kept, so we all had another trip "down memory lane" which we all enjoyed as usual. It seems to be a feature of growing older. We also celebrated Dorothy Bond's birthday, which relied heavily on the number 8! She had brought a cake for us to share, which was delicious.

September, we are having a visit from our JO BAINES from church, who is going to tell us about what she did before she came to St James. Hope we have a good turnout.

October 17th, I was hoping for a visit from RON ELLISON – the master tale teller–however he doesn't feel that he's able to manage to come along. The ladies from St Matthew's are going to bring a selection of their lovely cards (usual mantra – BRING YOUR PURSE) and I have invited Ron and Sue along to the meeting if it's possible, so at least he can talk to a few people without any pressure. Could everyone also bring a tinned or packet item of food to this meeting too, for Tom's Pantry, as we will be celebrating Harvest.

With blessings, Margaret.



Highfield Cricket Club – A Year of Progress and Community

As another cricket season draws towards a close, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a very positive year for Highfield Cricket Club.

When I became Chairman, I said that everything we do should ultimately help us achieve one clear ambition – to reach the Premier Division of the Liverpool Cricket Competition and establish ourselves there. That ambition remains at the heart of our plans, and this season has shown that we are moving in the right direction.

Our 1st XI currently sit fourth in Division One with two matches remaining, but have enjoyed an outstanding cup season, winning both the **Ray Tyler Cup** and the **Wigan District T20 Cup**. Our young and developing 2nd XI also reached a cup final, eventually losing to a very experienced Liverpool side who currently sit top of their division. Reaching the final was nevertheless a tremendous achievement and demonstrates the strength developing within our senior structure.

Our Sunday 3rd XI have provided another reason to celebrate, winning their league and securing promotion. Congratulations to captain Andy Rigby and all the players involved.

Our junior section continues to flourish, with teams from Under 9 through to Under 18, alongside our rapidly developing girls' section. We have also seen young players represent Wigan & District, the Liverpool Competition Development sides and Lancashire Development squads.

However, Highfield's contribution goes well beyond what happens on the cricket field. We see ourselves as an important part of the fabric of our local community. Our integral relationships with St Matthew's C of E Church, Highfield St Matthew's C of E Primary School and Highfield Community Hall CIC are central to that role. By working together, we can create opportunities for local people of all ages to meet, participate, volunteer and feel part of something bigger.

Our annual Bonfire Night is perhaps the clearest example of this community role. Planning is already underway for this year's event, which attracts more than 4,000 people and has become one of the biggest community occasions in the area. It is something we are incredibly proud to organise, bringing families and the wider community together in a safe and welcoming environment.

For me, that is what Highfield is ultimately about – **successful cricket, developing young people and serving the community around us.**

I am incredibly proud of everyone who contributes to Highfield – our players, volunteers, parents, sponsors and supporters. Together, we are building a club that can be successful on the field while making a genuine difference off it.

St Matthews Rainbows



It has been great to welcome the Rainbows back after the summer break. Welcoming back some familiar faces and some new girls too. We have enjoyed our time back together, we have had great fun making edible structures from a range of different foods. We have also been enjoying some crafts and decorated some name badges for ourselves and enjoyed activities to familiarise ourselves with our promise after the lengthy summer break.

We are looking forward to what we will be getting up to over the next term.

The Rainbow Leaders

St Matthews Guides



We returned to Guide meetings after the summer break and welcomed back all the girls and also some new members of the unit. Our first night back was a getting to know you night with games so hopefully the girls (22 of them) will remember each other's names.

During the summer break some of the Guides together with some Brownies enjoyed a day at the Rock and River Outdoor Pursuits venue in Mawdesley. Thankfully the weather was good so getting wet was not a problem.

We have a full programme planned up to Christmas, but we are always looking for new ideas and people to help with them so if you feel able to help in any way, please contact one of the leader.

The Guiders, Amy, Georgia and Sheila



St. Matthew's 14th Wigan Town Brownies



At our last meeting in the hall we said goodbye to two amazing Brownies, Hetty and Katie. They chose the activity for the pack before we made smores and fruit kebabs, as you can see from the picture the girls split into two teams to dress Katie and Hetty in outfits made from recycled newspaper.

Before the summer break we spent the Saturday at Rock and River, Mawdesley. We had a great day with other members of our Division including some of our Guides. The morning was spent doing land activities, the girls tested themselves on the climbing wall and then the low ropes circuit. For some of them this began as a real challenge but every one of them overcame their fears and completed the course numerous times, gaining confidence with every run.

After lunch the staff took the girls out onto the water, they were given the opportunity to go in a larger canoe in teams, then smaller kayaks in twos or alone and finally a swim.

Again some of the girls had never been in a kayak and it was great to see them having such a good time, even when they had to work out how not to go around in circles or fall in!

The Brownie Guiders



Take time to think; it is the source of power.

Take time to read; it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to play; it is the secret of staying young.

Take time to be quiet; it is the opportunity to seek God.

Take time to be aware; it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved; it is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh; it is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly; it is the road to happiness

Take time to dream; it is what the future is made of.

Take time to pray; it is the greatest power on earth.

Bert & Barbara Stockley

In July, St Matthew's Choir paid a surprise visit to Bert and Barbara Stockley at Langtree Care Home, where they now live together, to celebrate Bert's 90th birthday.

The choir performed a selection of spirituals and favourite songs from the shows, including *Oliver!*, *Oklahoma!*, *Mamma Mia!* and even *Les Misérables*.

We felt we simply couldn't let Bert's milestone birthday pass without marking it, especially in recognition of his remarkable 70-plus years of dedicated service as a chorister and, later, as a Lay Reader.

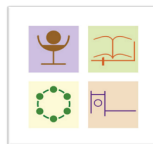
Bert and Barbara were delighted by the surprise, and everyone had a wonderful time. The care home staff also enjoyed the visit, welcoming the opportunity to bring something a little different into the residents' day and help make Bert's special celebration one to remember.



The choir have now been invited back to the care home in December to perform Christmas carols.

Paul Nolan

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/

Tel: 0333 002 1260



Little Stars

Toddler Group

STARTS:
07/09/2026

✨ A friendly group for little ones and their grown-ups! ✨



9:00am - 11:00am

MONDAYS

during term time

£2

**ONE ADULT
AND CHILD**

additional children
are 50p each

**ALL
WELCOME!**



**CHILDREN
AGED
BIRTH - 4**



FREE PLAY | SNACKS | STORY TIME | SINGING

October 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

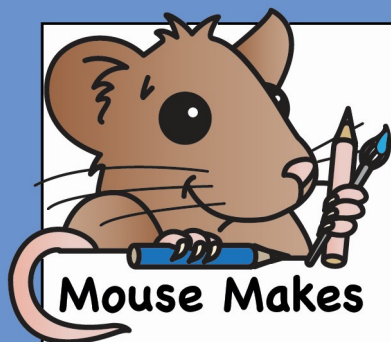
meets every Wednesday from 3.30pm until 5pm in St Paul's Hall and School

St Matthew's October	St James with St Thomas October	St Paul's October	Lighthouse October
1 Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion		4 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion	4 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
4 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion		10.30 Service of the word with Baptisms	
7 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer	4 Sunday 10.30 Harvest Service		11 Sunday 2pm Holy Communion
11 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion	11 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word with Baptisms	11 Sunday 10.30 Harvest Family Service	
10.30 Harvest Family Parade Service		14 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	18 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
14 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer	18 Sunday 10.30 All Age Holy Communion	18 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	25 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
18 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion	25 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	21 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	
10.30 Holy Communion	18.30 Open Table	25 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	
21 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer		28 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	
25 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion			
10.30 Morning Praise with Baptisms			
			ALL SERVICES @ 23 LONFELLOW CLOSE

Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date news and information

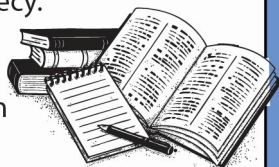
WiganWestHub





The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.

6. God's word is like?

A _____
and a _____
Psalm 119:105



8. The last book in the Bible.

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?



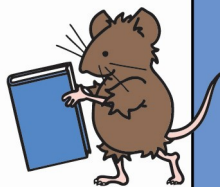
12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



of God.
Hebrews 4:12



Tom's Pantry & Faith Café @ St James'

We will not be opening Tom's Pantry on 21st October and 22nd October as some of our volunteers are away. We will also close Tom's Pantry and the Faith Café on Saturday 24th October for the same reason. We will be open as normal the following week.

Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre

This support group will meet in church on Thursday 8th October and on Monday 26th October at 1pm. Refreshments are served and everyone is welcome to come along whether recently bereaved or if it was some time ago. For further information please speak with David who leads the group on 07404 605015.

Harvest Supper @ St James

At St James Church we will be having our Harvest Supper on Friday 2nd October at 7pm. We will serving Hot Pot and Apple Crumble & custard on a pay as you feel basis. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Life Lines Cafe at St James'

Lifelines café will meet in St James Church on Friday 2nd October at 1.30pm. We will be looking at all things Harvest and will serve a warm meal of soup and a roll. There is no charge for the café and we welcome everyone especially those living with dementia and those who care for them.

Harvest Festival @ St James'

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday 4th October. It will be a service of the word but will include a renewal of Wedding Vows as David & Val Howard from St James will be celebrating 60 years of marriage.

Can I ask if you want to make any harvest donations they can be used in Tom's Pantry, while we are grateful for any gifts of food this year, we especially welcome tins of protein like corned beef, hot dog sausages & spam we also welcome rice and pasta. Thank you.

Harvest Festival @ St Matthew's

As we celebrate our Harvest Festival please think about our brothers and sisters around the world who, like us, have been affected by the changes in our climate giving smaller yields. None of which will be of their making. The Christian Aid bucket is always at the back of St. Matthew's church for any donations.

Wigan West Church Diaries

I have had some Wigan West Church Diaries published and will be on sale in all three churches buildings at a cost of £2. All proceeds will go to the Wigan West Church account. **Barbara Jenks**

Thank you

I would like to thank all the people who put up with my phone calls whilst I was making sure that I got the correct information for the diaries. Also to Arthur Cooper who took the high-resolution photos of the three church buildings and sent them on a pdf to the publisher! Also to Darron Sherratt who sent my Word document as an email! Neither of those things could I have done. Thank you one and all. **Barbara Jenks**

Autumn/ Christmas Fayer @ St Matthew's

There will be an Autumn/ Christmas Fayre in St. Matthew's Church on Saturday 31st. October. Entrance will go towards a donation for Church funds. There will be many stalls including face painting and removable tattoos, massage, order your Christmas Cake, handmade cards, bead ornaments, small gifts, artificial floral displays and grave pots, Bric-a-brac, wax flowers, chocolate stall, children's tombola, materials and magazines for Art, embroidery, sewing and knitting. Refreshments will be available. Drinks, biscuits and cakes in the Church Cafe and Hot food will be available from Sear and Sizzle. We look forward to seeing you then. **Barbara Jenks**

St Cecilia Concert—November 22nd @ St Matthew's

This year our annual St. Cecilia's celebrations will be slightly different. It will be a mixture of sacred and secular pieces of music. Some spirituals, some songs from the shows and some solo items. Also, Highfield School choir will be joining us. The celebrations begin at 4pm. Please come and join us for this feast of music. **Sue Gordon**

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

Please have any content to the editors by the 15th of the month.

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

hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

UKRAINE STILL NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

Please pray for Ukraine.

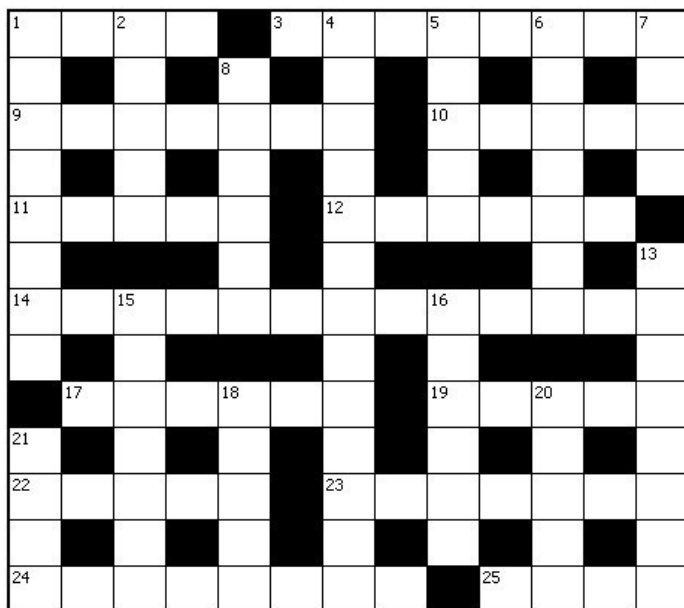
Can you help with our Ukraine appeal?

Please donate cash or goods.

Call Vitalii on 07476 778083 to arrange delivery or collection.

Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)



Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a —

- priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

To St Luke, whose feast-day is 18th October, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, 'only Luke is with me'. Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners', who are all shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Word Search



Luke	Physician	Son	Sinners
Feast	Travelling	Good	Jerusalem
Day	Faithful	Samaritan	Pagan
Written	Paul	Women	Rome
Gospel	Compassion	Poor	Early
Acts	Parables	Lepers	Christians
Greek	Prodigal		

Diamond Wedding Celebration

Everyone at St James would like to wish David & Val Howard a very special happy wedding anniversary. They have been married for 60 years and will celebrate with a renewal of their wedding vows at St James Church on Sunday 4th October 2026 and a buffet lunch afterwards. They were married in Liverpool at Blessed Sacrament Church in Walton Vale on Saturday 8th October 1966, and we will be writing to Buckingham Palace so they can receive a card from the King and Queen. Have a very special Wedding Anniversary from all at St James with much love and prayers. x



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**

Altar Flowers

St. Matthew's

4th Oct – Mrs B Jones

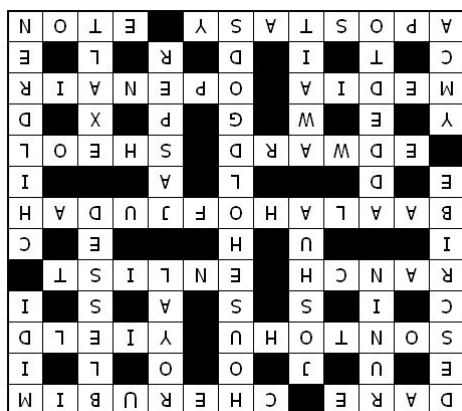
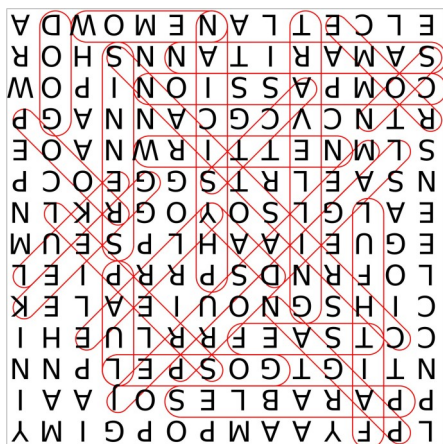
11th Oct – Harvest

18th Oct – Mrs E Gaskell

25th Oct – Mrs E Nicholson

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.



Donations

In memory of our wonderful Mum,
Grandma & Gt Grandma Barbara
Kilroy

For building work from Sunday
morning refreshments - £295

From Monday Cuppa Club - £100

Donation to church funds from Russell
& Nic - £20.

Baptisms

Ella Louise Conroy	<i>St Paul's</i>
Elliot Zach Conroy	<i>St Paul's</i>
Shannon Austin	<i>St Paul's</i>
Maddison Rose Fenton	<i>St Paul's</i>
Darla Jayne Michele King	<i>St James'</i>
Maddison Alis Palmer	<i>St James'</i>
Bonnie King	<i>St Matthew's</i>

Burials and Funerals

St James with St Thomas

Ethel Moore
Jimmy Parkinson
John Ian Cameron
Barbara Kilroy
Kieron McManus
Gayle Baldwin
Frank Scoltock
Ann Marie Ellis

St Matthew's

Mary Elizabeth Murphy (94)
Alexander Bolton (86)
Philip Alan Evans (69)
Diane Louise Lloyd (51)
George James Fairhurst (89)
Nicola Hoyle (44)

St Paul's

Kenneth Horby (82)
Lee Boylan (52)
Leonard Fawcett (97)
Gail Baldwin (65)

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

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.

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

The Parish of Wigan West

Hub Leader

Rev Fran Humphry 01942 803320

Warden *Ann Birch* 01942 227036

Warden *Martin Gaskell* 01942 741340

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Minute Secretary

None

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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

Sam Rusling 077 22 99 4923

sam@jesandsam.com

Shine St Matthew’s School

Rev Sam Swan

sam.swan@churchwigan.org

All information correct as of September 2026

St Matthew's

Assistant Wardens

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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

14thwiganbrownies@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 417653

Geoff Birch 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *Arthur Hubbard*
01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath 01942 621173*

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson 01942 417653*

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*

FUNERALS Church Wigan Funeral Coordinator: 01942 705641, 07754 569022, funeral.coordinator@churchwigan.org

Wardens Corner



'Soon afterward he (Jesus) went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, **who provided for them out of their means.**' Luke 8 v1-3

These women show us what it means to follow Jesus: giving freely and joining him in his mission. And though we don't walk with Jesus in the flesh, as they did, there are probably a lot of lessons we can learn from them.

So what has this got to do with us now and the ministry and work in Wigan West

We know that Jesus was homeless and jobless, so he and his disciples needed support if they were going to carry out his mission. There are more similarities than you would think.

In the Church of England the bulk of the money to pay the cost of the clergy is paid by contributions made by each local parish church. In church-speak, this is what is known as 'Parish Share'

Church buildings, the majority of which are listed as of great architectural merit, are not maintained by dioceses, this responsibility lies solely with the local church council.

Central government does not assist with the maintenance or repair costs either.

The cost of maintaining church buildings is *dependent upon voluntary donations at the local level.*

So it's not so different from how it was in Jesus' time. We are responsible for 'paying our way'.

The Good News is that recently there has been a review and recalculation of Parish Share and for Church Wigan it has been reduced and if we meet our new target we will be eligible to benefit from a new funding scheme which has been set up by the Church Commissioners to support parishes in their mission.

When I started working and was able to think about my responsibility to give financially to God's work, the type of giving I have described above was very low on my priority list. I wanted to give to the 'real work'. The idea of giving extra to a building fund or for 'the Quota' as it was called then did not please me at all. I've finally come to understand that if I feel called to Parish Ministry in whatever form that takes, it is important to be willing to support 'the Parish Share' as well as other specific projects that I may want to help.

We need our clergy and our church buildings, we have fought hard to keep them open, and we need to **keep** them open, not as museums but as living homes for our worship and fellowship.

Best wishes, Ann