

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE



"I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3: 14

£1 July 2025



England is a beautiful country. In June Gary and I travelled South for the wedding of our niece Abigail. The satnav has an option to avoid motorways, and so we did, on both legs of the journey. We were blessed with mostly clear weather and by choosing the quieter roads we saw many small villages and hamlets that neither of us had ever seen before and the journey was very pleasant.



I think that sometimes we need to remember this in our everyday lives, which frequently seem so full of rushing from one task to the next. It is important to enjoy the journey.

St Paul says "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

We do not do this alone. Christ is indeed the prize, but we should enjoy our journey heavenward. Enjoy our friendships, enjoy being part of a wonderful community and encourage each other on that journey.

There is so much beauty to see. On the way home some of the views were stunning. The promise of spring was fulfilled in the beauty of summer flowers and leafy trees.

Here in Wigan West we have been preparing children from our church schools for Confirmation. On 9th July, they will affirm the promises made for them at their Baptism, as they flower into mature Christians. Can you encourage or help all our children to grow as part of God's family, through becoming involved in one of our worship communities that work closely with our Church Schools, Lighthouse at St James School, Wellspring at St Paul's Hall or Shine at St Matthew's School?

We all know that sometimes the journey can be challenging. There may be hazards to avoid, and we may be carrying too many burdens. Can you help a fellow traveller who is struggling on their journey or do you yourself need help?

Wigan West Parish has many activities and groups which are described in this magazine. Please come along and find out more, you would be very welcome to any of them and by so doing, you could be a part of the beauty that others can see.

Take time for others, switch off the motorway option, set Christ as your destination and may He greatly bless you as you continue on your journey, in the company of fellow travellers here in Wigan West.

With love and prayers,

CAP

Hello, I'm Christiane Cook and I am Church Wigan's Christians Against Poverty (CAP)'s Debt Centre Manager. Through Wigan Deanery Trust we have been partnering with Christians Against Poverty (www.capuk.org) for nearly 2 years and have seen £167,000 of debt taken off Wigan CAP clients so far. We have seen hope restored in their lives, isolation reduced and new friendships made - realising CAP's vision to see transformed lives, thriving churches, and an end to UK poverty. CAP works through local churches to offer in-depth support and holistic care, which is free for clients and paid for by extensive fundraising and the generosity of people in Wigan.




Low income and struggles with mental health are the two biggest reasons our clients are finding themselves in unmanageable debt, but the ongoing rise in the cost of living continues to pile on pressure in situations that are already difficult enough. People often don't know where to turn for help and before we, their local church stepped in, 49% of clients who responded to our survey had considered suicide as a way out of debt. This heartbreakingly high figure continues to be a stark reminder that poverty takes more than people's possessions or money: it steals their very lives.

It is an absolute privilege to visit clients with a befriender (CAP trained volunteers) and see hope restored that here may be a way out of debt. The first step is often the hardest, which is to contact CAP to book an appointment on caphelp.org or by calling our **helpline team on 0800 328 0006**.

If this is close to your heart and you would like to donate money, time or prayers to our CAP debt centre, please contact me on christianecook@capuk.org or 07479 707309. *continued over the page*

CAP's debt help service

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------------------------|---|----------|---|
|  | 1 | Call to our helpline team |  | 4 | Debt solution agreed |
|  | 2 | Home visits from a CAP Debt Coach |  | 5 | CAP Plan and payments set-up with creditors |
|  | 3 | Debt advice on the best route forward |  | 6 | Client supported until they are debt free! |

Put simply, people face an increasing array of challenges today, and CAP is. We know that this help is urgently needed.

Where, then, can we find hope in the face of so much struggle? My faith always rises when I hear the individual stories of people who have worked with us to turn their lives around. One of our clients, Jolene, shared her journey from the darkest time in her life and fearing homelessness for her children, to discovering a caring community and a hope-filled future, reminds me why our church-based movement must continue to work tirelessly towards an end to UK poverty.

There's no doubt that in 2025 our clients face enormous challenges, from changes to welfare support to rising costs, but it is not too late to take action. We can all choose to do something that will have an impact. If you are not already part of our church-based movement, I invite you to join us in pursuing freedom from debt, restoration of lives, and hope in every situation.

ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP

DAVE WHITTER YOU ARE INTERESTING !

We all enjoyed listening to our visitor from St Matthew's , who told us something of himself and some history of Winstanley. I'm sure there's much more to hear, and a return visit next year would be appreciated?

Paul Nolan is our June speaker making a welcome return. I'm sure he will be telling us about his latest publications. I'll report back next time.

JULY (17th) is our annual summer buffet, that we like to call Mrs Hankey's Party" in memory of not only Mrs Hankey, one of the founders of the St James Mothers' Union branch, but also all our past members no longer with us. We have had a buffet brought in for the past few years, but this year, with inflation costs and smaller appetites, everyone decided they would like to go back to our "bring and share" format. Joyce will make a list at the June meeting with suggestions of what to bring, to try and avoid too many duplications.

As there is usually plenty food, please feel free to come along and share with us a "brew and a butty". It's a purely social meeting, so there will probably be lots of chat too.

All our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month in the lounge at St Clements Court, Worsley Mesnes Drive, start at 7pm and last about an hour and a half.

Earlier this year I visited Buckfast Abbey, a beautiful place, where there was a chapel dedicated to Saint Thomas More. This was on a

card I picked up;

Grant us, O Lord,

The royalty of inward happiness and the serenity which comes of
living close to You.

Do you daily renew in us the sense of Joy, so that by The Spirit we
may bear about with us the infection of a good courage.

Prayer of Saint Thomas More (1477-1535)

Same place, different time

Halfway through the year again ‘and not a pot washed’ as the saying goes! It is so easy to recognise the time of year of course. As I look through the lounge window at my rear garden, it is still light despite it being ten minutes to ten pm. Whenever I do that I remember why Margaret and I both said that we would never move from this house and despite her absence for approaching ten years now, I still expect to be carried out in a box. As the years roll by and I am a couple of years into my eighties now, that expectation becomes more entrenched.

My house is nothing special; a three-bed semi in Ribbesford Road, but it is where we brought our family up. Obviously, they have long flown the nest as indeed have their children, apart from one who’s almost 20-year-old who will probably stay attached to his mum’s apron strings for many years yet. However, what I feel makes my house special is the view through a window which is the width of the wall. A view of the bottom end of Winstanley Park.

When we moved here just over 55 years ago we could see the Hall from our bedroom window and Fouracre’s farm was pretty well open fields, with two old and derelict farm buildings, now long renovated and worth a fortune, not that I can see them anymore and Smithy Brook was winding its way towards Pony Dick past Summersales Colliery. Not nowadays however, the trees have grown exponentially. The colliery has disappeared with no trace of its previous existence. The footpath below my garden which was once a railway line between Pony Dick and Summersales Collieries is now a shaded and pleasant walk towards the upper part of the Park. The stream once a yellowy muddy flow of what we termed ‘ochery water’ from old mine workings over a marshy piece of land the other side of ‘the long wall’ is now perfectly clean and you wouldn’t be surprised to see fish swimming in it. My garden is full of planters filled with flowers of every description. I have little else to spend my time on nowadays and in any case, I thoroughly enjoy pottering in the sun.

You would never believe that my house was the same one we moved to so many years ago! Sometimes we just get lucky and it has lovely memories of course. **Dave Whitter**

St Matthew' s Guides

For our last meeting before the May half term, we did tie-dying, the girls brought a variety of things to dye, and the evening was a big success. The reports back on the results when we resumed our meetings after the break were good and some of the girls have worn their items and they have turned out really well.

For Father' s Day we had an evening decorating coasters and making cards, the following week was a karaoke night which the girls enjoyed and took part in with enthusiasm. Thanks to our Young Leader Lydia Winstanley for looking after the word and music.



The Guiders

St. Matthew' s Rainbows

At our Rainbow meetings we have spent some time looking at the meaning of charity and what charities do for people and communities. Because of this we decided to let the Rainbows decide which charity we should raise money for; the decision was Daffodil Dreams. The Wigan based charity that aims to help and support children from low-income homes. To raise money, we did a sponsored Dance-a-thon which involved dancing (following a routine on a video) for 40 minutes during one of our Rainbows meetings. At the time of writing this we have currently raised over £240 for the charity, with some sponsor money still to be collected.



We have also celebrated with a princess themed pot of gold party as Sienna, one of our hard-working girls, has moved on up to Brownies. We are looking forward to some more exciting things in the next few weeks too.

Rainbow Leaders

St. Matthew's Brownies

This month we have taken advantage of the nice weather and spent some time on the field, although our attempts at a rounders game wasn't great but fortunately the ice creams afterwards were. We have used the GG activity cards to learn about money and the coins that make it up as well as spending an evening making Father's Day frames.



We are looking forward to hopefully supporting the Wigan lady's rugby team against their fixture with Leigh, at the arena. We have, as our county of Lancashire South, been invited to take part in the pre-match activities before we cheer them on.

We have some visitors planned for the next few weeks, who will hopefully teach the girls to cook and to play cricket, we will let you know how well they do.

The Brownie Guiders



Boys Brigade

Alan Peet and two members of the bowling team were kind enough to spend time teaching five of our boys the basics of crown green bowling. The fine weather was a bonus and the boys thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. However, I was left with a headache after one of the boys accidentally dropped a bowling jack on my head. Ouch!

At the June church parade, the Richard Whittle Memorial Trophy was this year awarded to William Halliwell in recognition of his commitment to the Boys Brigade during the year.



We are continuing to offer places for young boys, mainly 5 to 8-year olds for the Anchor Boys section.

Marian Brown, Officer-in-Charge



Highfield Cricket Club

All at Highfield are delighted to hear that Billy Boston has become Sir Billy! Billy was back on his old stomping ground at Highfield just last year celebrating our club's centenary. He was a fearsome fast bowler for Highfield during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Highfield made the short journey to Orrell in the latest round of league fixtures. Ryan Hargreaves won the toss for the visitors and chose to bowl first on a wicket that appeared to help the bowlers. The opening partnership of Mohit and Sam Rotherham quickly got about their work, and the India professional struck early on, cleaning up Heeley. Mahoney and Pallett looked to dig in against miserly bowling, taking the score to 35 before Mohit claimed his second wicket. Rotherham then snared Pallett and Bala bowled captain Baybutt round his legs, but Wareing and Hurst added 50 for the 5th wicket.

At 100 for 4, the home side would have been looking to set Highfield a competitive score with fewer overs in the game to chase them, but the returning Mohit and Bala saw things otherwise, claiming the last 6 wickets between them, Orrell dismissed for 121 in the 52nd over reflecting the quality of Highfields bowling and the conditions, albeit the visitors missed quite a few chances that would have helped reduce the target further. Bala 5 for 29 off 12 overs and Mohit 4 for 25 off 17. Orrell opened their bowling with the slow left arm spin of their Sri Lankan professional Jayalath and seam from Aggrey. With scoring having proven difficult for the home side, it was a good start from Highfield, adding 32 for the first wicket before Welsby was adjudged lbw.

Hargreaves had dominated the partnership but he was next out for an important 36 runs, misjudging a shorter ball from Jayalath and pulling it straight to mid-wicket. At 68 for 2, Michael Simpson and Jamie Darbyshire appeared to have broken the back of the run chase, but both Darbyshire and the in-form Bala were quickly back in the pavilion, 75 for 4.

Simpson remained steadfast and received good support from a watchful Mohit as they eaked out runs towards the target. Mohit then edged Heeley to slip, 90 for 5 and the required rate at 3 runs an over in a game where every run was celebrated. Harry Moxham relaxed the huge travelling support from Highfield with a couple of boundaries but he too perished, leaving Simpson and ex first team skipper James Taylor needing 20 to secure a win, with 3 other batsmen still in the tent. The finish was tense for the large gallery, and a couple of streaky fours helped the visitors cause, but there was nothing streaky about Taylors (14) pull over midwicket for four against the otherwise miserly Jayalath as Highfield homed in on the win with Simpson batting heroically for a near 100 ball 28 unbeaten runs, a great effort.

Highfield needed 46 overs to claim victory but that they did, winning by 4 wickets and claimed 20 points against the home sides 4 points.

Ryan Hargreaves reflections on the game:

"Great team performance to get over the line away at Orrell. Still plenty to work on, but to get the win was a great feeling. Fielding was very average in the first half but all the bowlers did the job for us, Mohit and Sam, Mohit back to his best and Sam seriously unlucky to come away with just one. Once again, the spinners came on to keep the momentum. Great

spell from Bala but all bowlers bowled to their strengths and did really well.

Second half, the message was simple, let' s bat as long as needed and get the win with no dramas but we have got to do it the Highfield way and make it harder than it should' ve been. Hats off to Mike Simpson, who stuck to his task with a match winning effort and Jimmy T with a crucial knock as well, guiding us over the winning line.

Highfield 2nd XI welcomed Southport Trinity to Billinge Road.

Only one change from last week' s team. Jordan Callinan is away exploring Europe and in came U15 William Heyes on his second team debut.

Losing the toss, Southport elected to bat on a hard deck which pleased Highfield who were happy to bowl with the overcast conditions on offer. Opening the bowling Matty Wallace and Charlie Farrell kept it tight for the first 10 overs without initially finding a breakthrough with Southport 27-0. The first breakthrough came in the 16th over with Lee Martinus bowling the opening batsman for 21. Matty Wallace backed this up in the very next over edging to Lee Martinus at first slip with the ball eventually sandwiched between his torso and hand, laid flat on his back as Lee (to everyone' s surprise) kept hold of it!! With bowling tight, but not many wickets falling, Southport found themselves 102-2 from 33 overs. A real batting collapse which included a landmark Matty Wallace hat trick and some aggressive field placements, saw Southport all out for 130 losing 8 wickets for just 28 runs.

Opening the batting, Tom Cunliffe and Javid Ahmad Niazi again got the squirrels off to a good start 40-0 from the first 10 overs. This didn' t change as the pair were running excellently between the wickets, turning regulation singles into twos more often than not and putting the bad ball away. Both batsmen reached well deserved half centuries in their century plus stand, both scoring 61. Highfield easily chased the total down within 29 overs only losing Niazi in the process.

A great win for the 2nd XI and a much-needed maximum 25 points and with other results going our way, pushes us 3 places up the table.

Alongside the ever popular Allstars programme, attracting around 50 youngsters this year, we are also running our first ever coaching programme for girls only. The girls are having a great time at their weekly Dynamos Cricket sessions. **Gary Speakman**

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

July 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 July

2 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
3 **Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
6 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
9 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
13 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Parade Service
16 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
17 **Thursday**
11.45 Thursday Prayers
20 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP
10.30 Holy Communion
12.30 Baptisms
23 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer
27 **Sunday**
9.00 BCP Communion
10.30 Service of the Word
30 **Wednesday**
18.00 Evening Prayer

St James with St Thomas July

6 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
13 **Sunday**
10.30 Baptisms
20 **Sunday**
10.30 All Age Holy Communion
27 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
18.30 Open Table

St Paul's July

2 **Wednesday**
10.00 Little Lane Holy Communion
6 **Sunday**
9.00 Holy Communion
10.30 Baptisms
9 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
13 **Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
16 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
20 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
23 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
27 **Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
30 **Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion

Lighthouse July

6 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
13 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Communion
20 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship
27 **Sunday**
14.00 Family Worship

ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL

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

WiganWestHub





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 9.30-12noon

Wednesday 9.30-12noon

Thursday 5-6pm

Friday 9.30-12noon

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”

PASTORAL CARE

If anyone requires Pastoral Care the contact number is 07881 792451 Barbara Poyntz. (If answer machine please leave message) If it is an emergency, please ring any phone number in the Parish Magazine, Thank you.

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.

Lifelines Café

Lifelines Café will meet at St James' church on Friday 4 July at 1.30pm. This is our annual "O I Do like to be beside the seaside" so we are having ice cream, bingo, hook a duck etc. Everyone is welcome, whether living with dementia or not. We especially welcome carers.

Faith Café

Our wonderful Faith Café @ St James will be closed on Saturday 5 July so we can use our kitchen for our Summer Fair.

Service of the Word with Brunch

This is proving to be popular, and we will have brunch again on Sunday 6 July @ St James' following our Service of the Word. We will be serving bacon and or sausage barmes and ask for a small donation towards cost.

Lifelines Choir

We will meet in church on Monday 7 July @ St James' and again on 21 July at 1pm. This is an inclusive choir for anyone that wishes to sing.

Patronal Festival for St James' Day

St James has his day on July 25 and this year we will be keeping our Patronal Festival on Sunday 27 July straight after our service of Sung Eucharist. We will be serving afternoon tea straight after the service. Do try and let Revd Alison or Jo know if you plan to stay so we know how many to cater for. Any donations received will go to the work of the parish.

Open Table

Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 27 6pm. We meet at 6pm for a brew and chat and a 6.30pm start, and yes there are Christian Communities which genuinely welcome and affirm LGBTQIA+ people. You are welcome to come as you are.

Bereavement Support

The Bereavement Support Group meets at St James Church on Thursday 10 July and on Monday 28 July at 1pm. You are most welcome to attend our bereavement support group if you have been recently bereaved or it was some time ago. The group offers group support and if needed can offer one to one support. Refreshments are always served, and our leader Mr David Berry will make you most welcome. He can be contacted on 07404 605015.

Christian Aid

Thank you to the people who donated £221.93 to Christian Aid. Also, thanks to the people who were able to Gift Aid £170 which gives an extra 25p per £1 at no extra cost to them. Thank you for your continued support.

Barbara Jenks (St Matthew' s)

St John' s Church and Pemberton Christmas Market

The Pemberton Community Association are joining forces with St John's Church in Pemberton for our Christmas Market on Sunday 30th November. St John's are looking for Stall holders who would like to be part of the festive event and have a stall in church. Last year was busy and added to the stalls in Pemberton centre and Lamberhead Club. We are also looking for outdoor stall holders and attractions for Pemberton Centre. Please contact pembertonevents@post.com for info.

Dave Arrowsmith

Pemberton Community Association

The Pemberton Community Association has been established for over 22 years, and in that time has helped countless numbers of residents and Businesses in our community as well as arranging events for Children, Families, and our Senior Citizens. We are now looking to recruit new volunteers to help bring new ideas, work on arranging and running events. We have our Sleigh which tours our local Council estates as well as our Christmas Market. There is no pressure, and you can give as much or as little time as you're able to. We have adult and youth volunteers, if you would like more information, please email us at pembassoc@mail.com or find us on Facebook.

Dave Arrowsmith

Little Stars^{Toddler Group}

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!

SUMMER FAIR

at

St James with St Thomas Church

on

Saturday 5 July from 11am-2pm

Stalls include café serving sandwiches, pies, home-made scones and cakes, Raffle, Hook-a-Duck, Tombola, Book Stall and Bric-a-Brac

Join us for an afternoon of fun raising for Wigan West Parish

St Matthew's Church Choir

presents

Music for a Summer Afternoon

6 July at 4pm

St Matthew's Church, Highfield

St Paul's Church & Community Centre

St Paul's Avenue, Goose Green WN3 5LH

At our Wednesday Café
9 July 11am–2pm

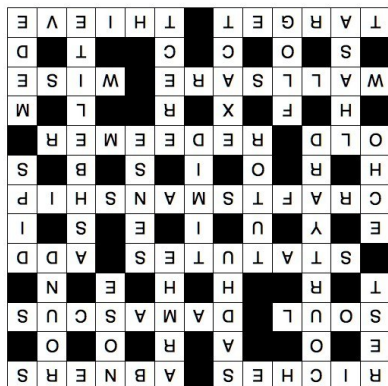
A free concert by ageUK Silver Choir—Summer Serenade Concert 1pm–2pm



Join us before for a tea, coffee,
light snack and a chat.



The Parish of Wigan West



WIGAN FLORAL ART CLUB BRASS BAND CONCERT

FEATURING THE PEMBERTON OLD WIGAN
(DW) CHAMPIONSHIP BAND

SATURDAY 5TH JULY AT 7.30PM

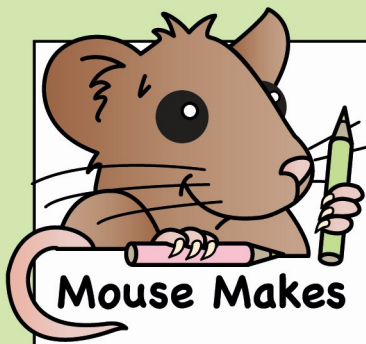
VENUE: PEMBERTON BAND
ROOMS, ENFIELD STREET,
PEMBERTON

TICKET PRICE:
£12

A floral themed first half
followed by a rousing, patriotic
Last Night At The Proms

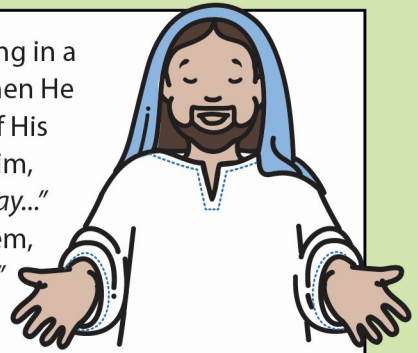
Enquiries or to Order Tickets
call Jennifer Halliwell

07808 811490



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say...'"



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:

LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE

Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | T | E | O | P | R | G | O | D |
| F | E | E | B | R | E | A | D | I |
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The versions of **The Lord's Prayer**
we say today come from the
Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
*Which version do you
use in your church?*



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4

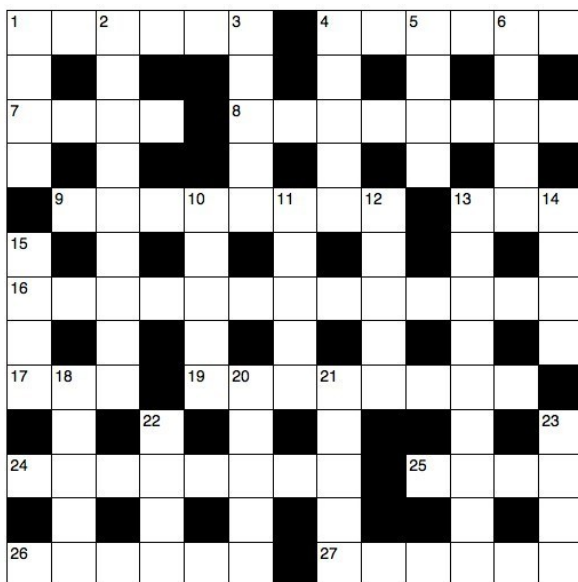


Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the



tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)

6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)

10 Trout (anag.) (5)

11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)

12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)

13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)

14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me'" (Mark 14:20) (4)

15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)

18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)

20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)

21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)

22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)

23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

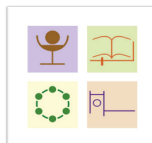
If you ever struggle with doubt, take heart: so did one of the apostles, whose Feast Day is this month. St Thomas just could NOT believe that the Jesus he had seen crucified and dead on the cross could ever come back to life. But Thomas was an honest sceptic, because he really wanted to know the truth. Jesus could help such a man. And so He appeared to him and the other disciples. Instead of scolding him, Jesus simply showed him the wounds. Thomas' s response was immediate: "My Lord and my God" (John 20.26ff). Ancient legends tell how Thomas went on to India as a missionary. There are rumours that Thomas even built a palace for a king' s daughter in India, and thus he is the patron saint of architects. It is believed that he was martyred by a spear on 3rd July, 72 AD in Mylapore, near Madras. 46 ancient churches in England are dedicated to him.

Word Search



| | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|--------|
| Thomas | Sceptic | Patron | Saint |
| Doubt | Wounds | Martyred | madras |
| Apostle | Lord | Spear | |
| Cross | God | Mylapore | |
| Dead | Appeared | Missionary | |
| Truth | India | Showed | |

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

Change to Double Issue Dates

It has been decided to make a change to the summer months for our double issue. Currently July & August are combined but we will be combining August & September for this year and beyond. This is mainly due to the fact that assembling and printing of the magazine usually happens the preceding month and as August is heavily affected by holiday dates it makes more sense for the editors and printers to be relieved of the stress during this month. Please take into consideration this move and providing articles for September to be ready for mid-July. Thank you for your understanding.

The Editors



**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**

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

Baptisms

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Phoebe Walsh | St Paul's |
| Esme Darby | St Paul's |
| Luca Edward O'Neill | St Paul's |
| Anaya-Rae Kelsie Sarah Gresty | St James' |
| Jaxon Gray Hilditch | St Matthew's |
| Isla Grace Wellings | St Matthew's |
| Casper Colin Higson-Bliss | St Matthew's |

Burials and Funerals

St James with St Thomas

11/5/25. Steven Wilcox. 51yrs
10/6/25. Margery Rhodes. 80yrs

St Matthew's

Susan McCann aged 76
Michael Andre Whitton Aged 74
Yvonne Hurst Aged 63

Weddings in June

Cody & Chris St James'
Toni & Jason St James'

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

Donations

Happy birthday memories 20th June of a dearly loved brother Simon Longhurst

From Susan, Steven, Diane & Jo anne

Precious birthday memories of our dear mother Mary Jane Hanley (23rd July) With love

From Marjorie, Jim and all the family

£100 from the sale of cards

From Eileen & Barbara

In lieu of altar flowers (15th June) and treasured birthday memories (2nd July) of Ethel Hall. A loving Mum, Grandma & Gt Grandma

from Maureen, Eric, Adam and family

Treasured memories of Margaret, my long-suffering wife of 51 years who was the love of my life and in lieu of altar flowers.

From Dave, Alex, Tiffany, Laura, Matthew, Johannah, Mike & Oliver

In loving memory of David

from Norma in lieu of altar flowers xxx

In loving memory of Susan McCann
from Dave

In loving memory of Susan McCann
from Lisa, Paul, Jeffrey & family

In loving memory of Susan McCann
from Beryl, Nicola & Rebecca

In loving memory of Susan McCann
from Maria & family

In loving memory of Susan McCann
from Alan & Kath Southworth

In loving memory of Susan McCann
from Margaret & Glynne Parry

In loving remembrance of Susan McCann
from Aunty Dot, John, Glenys & family

Altar Flowers – St. Matthew's

6th July – Mrs P Harrison

13th July – Mr J McCann

20th July – Mrs C Simpson

27th July - vacant

*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*

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

Treasurer *Jeff McCann* 07595 882 321

Minute Secretary

Kathleen Moran 01942 255741

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St James’ with St Thomas’

Distinctive Deacon

Alison Brown 01942 740777

Assistant Wardens

Carol Simm

Tracey Mathioudakis 07377467678
tracymathioudakis7@gmail.com

Jo Baines 07956 030669

Organist *David Goulden* 01942 245710

Flowers *Iris Wright* 01942 493850

Flowers *Jean Hogan* 01942 492888

Bereavement Support

David Berry 01942 386987

Sunday School

Jodie 07549810711

Primary School Executive Headteacher

Mrs A Jackson 01942 703952

Baptism Team

Margaret Baxendale 07906 615501

Joyce Matthews 07733 108040.

Lifelines St James’ Centre

Distinctive Deacon

Alison Brown 01942 740777

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 June 2025

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

Dave Whitter 07836330324

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 01942 234410

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 Head of School

Mr A Rigby 01942 243068

Need to book a hall?

St Matthew's Church Hall:

Matthew Jones 07930 867209

St James Centre:

Alison Brown 01942 740777

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

Summer is here usually a period when life slows down a little and we take a break from some of our regular activities. We've just had our annual meeting when we looked back on the previous year and looked forward to the next one.

This year we're going to be asked by Church Wigan to carry out an in depth review of all of the life of our parish; this follows on from last year's Right Buildings review.

Below is an extract from a report by the Team Rector (Neil Cook) to the Joint Council

“Right Buildings. 2024 was a crucial year of decision following a thorough review of every church building in Church Wigan, with six being recommended for release. While painful, this difficult process was conducted with empathy and faith at every level and will be followed up with regular reflection on sustainability each October, starting 2025.”

He went on to explain the aims of the review

“‘Joyful sustainability’ occurs when our resources (people, money, and buildings) are sufficient and aligned to fulfil our God-given mission in a way that blesses people rather than burning them out. It is the way of the easy yoke, not the crushing burden. Our long-term goal is that we engage in a level of God-led ministry which we can sustain without constant risk of burnout - it's about what we can do in Christ, not what we can't.”

The best way to avoid burn out is to have **more** people each doing **less**. It really is enjoyable and fulfilling to be a part of a team working together, so long as we're not stretching ourselves too far.

Over the summertime, please pray for the clergy and PCC as we discern what our unique mission is in God's plan, then we will be able to be more specific about where help is needed, and you will all be able to see where you might fit in.

Very best wishes for a great summer.

Ann Birch

