

Wigan West

PARISH MAGAZINE



£1 August /September 2026



**“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart, and lean not on
your own understanding; in
all your ways, acknowledge
him, and he will make your
path straight.”**

Proverbs 3:5–6

August–September 2026

As I write, the football World Cup is in its final stages, and there has been a sense of excitement in the air — not only in the matches themselves, but in the way these shared moments bring people together. At the same time, our schools have reached the end of term, and many families across our parish are now stepping into a summer that is full of change.

In July we welcomed our three church primary schools into St James', St Paul's and St Matthew's churches for their end-of-year services. These gatherings are always among the most joyful and moving moments of our year. Children and staff came together to celebrate all they have learned, all they have overcome, and all the blessings of the past twelve months. For our Year 6 pupils, this was a particularly significant milestone. They now look ahead to starting High School in September, carrying with them the friendships, confidence, and faith that have shaped their time in primary school. Please continue to hold them in your prayers over the summer as they prepare for this new beginning.

On 1 July we also had the joy of celebrating confirmations within our parish. It was a wonderful moment as our candidates stood before God and the church to make their own promises to follow Jesus. Confirmation is always a powerful reminder that faith is a journey — one that grows, deepens, and takes new shape as we move through life. Please pray for those who were confirmed as they begin this new chapter, trusting that God will continue to guide, strengthen, and inspire them in the months ahead.

Another new beginning for us as a parish is the welcome of Revd Lindsay Yates to Wigan West. It was a real joy to be present at her ordination as Deacon and to welcome her into the life and ministry of the parish. Please hold Lindsay in your prayers as she begins this new chapter of ordained ministry among us.

We also said goodbye to Adam Rigby, Deputy Headteacher of St Paul's Primary School. Adam has served the school community with dedication, kindness, and a deep commitment to helping children flourish. His contribution to the life of St Paul's — and to our wider parish family — has been a blessing. We pray that God will guide and encourage him as he moves into the next stage of his vocation. Our older young people, in Years 11 and 13, have completed their exams and enjoyed their proms. Over August they will receive their results, and for many this will shape the next steps of their journey — whether that is college, apprenticeships, work, or new forms of training. Waiting for results can be an anxious time, but it is also a moment filled with possibility. We pray that each of them will know God's peace and confidence as they discern their future.



Summer often invites us to slow down, to rest, and to enjoy the long evenings. Yet it is also a season of transition. Families adjust to new routines, young people prepare for new schools, and staff in our education settings begin planning for the year ahead. As a parish, we have the privilege of accompanying one another through these changes — through prayer, through worship, through practical support, and through the simple gift of being present.

As we look towards September, I want to offer a verse that speaks into this season of new beginnings:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5–6

For children starting new schools, for young people awaiting results, for families navigating change, and for all of us stepping into the unknown, these words remind us that God walks with us, guiding our steps and steadying our hearts. And as a way of helping families reflect together, here is a simple challenge for the start of the new school year:

The New Beginnings Jar

During the first week of September, place a jar or small box somewhere at home. Each family member writes down one hope, one prayer, or one thing they are looking forward to in the coming year. Put the notes in the jar and pray together, asking God to bless the months ahead. Revisit the jar at half-term or Christmas to see how those hopes have grown or changed.

My hope for these coming weeks is that our churches will continue to be places of welcome, renewal, and joy. Whether you are travelling, spending time with family, or enjoying the quiet of home, may you find moments of peace and blessing. And may we all remember that God walks with us in every season — in excitement, in uncertainty, and in hope.

With every blessing,

Fran Revd Fran Humphry Team Vicar and Hub leader Wigan West Parish



ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Welcome to the summer edition! Whether I can fill 2 months' worth of words remains to be seen. Of course, those of you who know me are aware that I could probably do 2 months of talking !

Leafing through the July edition of the magazine, I read that the United States were celebrating 250 years of American independence. Of course, this doesn't mean that the land has only existed that length of time, but it's a relatively young country compared to the United Kingdom. We must all have faded memories of school history lessons, everyone knowing the date of the battle of Hastings in 1066 and maybe the great fire of London in 1666

Another notable date mentioned was the building of our church at St James – 160 years ago, when the workers at Eckersley's factory were asked to contribute 1d a week from their wages I believe. That's only a generation in time difference. How everything has changed in a relatively short period of time.

Our Ladies friendship group (or maybe fellowship – this always trips me up) was originally a Mothers' Union branch, founded in 1954, which is only 72 years ago, and we know first-hand how much things have changed. Mrs Hankey, Marjorie's mum was a founder member, and we celebrate with a small party every year to remember her and all our past friends. We still use the basic format for our meetings, but being part of a worldwide organisation wasn't really working for us. The main thing was the rising price of membership that was paid to the "head office" in Liverpool. Being a smaller group is suiting us better for now, who knows what the future holds; we sadly said goodbye to 2 of our parish friends only this month, Ethel Moore and Barbara Kilroy, both faithful servants over the years.

Paul visited us in June and brought the full collection of his book titles, and kindly donated one of each for us to share and swap with each other. They are both interesting stories, illustrated and easy to read, being in large print. He has offered to come back next year too.



August 20th, we are probably having a free and easy do it yourself meeting. Roger Clark was hoping to come along with Mark to speak to us again, but unfortunately, he's on a trip to Llandudno and probably won't be back in time, but I'm sure we will fill the time with something!

And September 17th we are being visited by the lovely JO BAINES, who we all recognise from church. This lady is a whirlwind and has so many talents, so I'm sure she will be very interesting to listen to.



This photo is of one of our members Marjorie Latham, who with the Daisy Chain Stitchers presented the tapestry to the council some time ago.

So, with that I wish everyone a restful summer, and we all enjoy everything it brings with it, sunshine, holidays maybe, light evenings, sport? And strawberries! 😊

Margaret

07906615501

Please feel to nip into any of our [meetings](#) !

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Though meetings may be far apart and years roll in between.

Time can never change true friendship.

It is evergreen.

Affection that has stood the test of life's experience – the love of one who never doubts and never takes offence.

.... This is God's most precious gift, and as our way we wend- we find the greatest thing of all if we can find a friend.

Patience Strong.

**Also there's a trip to Llandudno , organised by Dennis Winstanley -
01942 234100 if anyone would like to see if there's room. Cost £15 with
5 hours in the resort.**

Crown Nominations Commission

The Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) is the Church of England body responsible for selecting and nominating bishops, through a structured, prayerful, and collaborative process.

I am one of six members of the Liverpool Diocese who have been elected to serve on this body for the appointment of the next Bishop of Liverpool. A further six members are elected by the General Church and headed by the Archbishop of York (chair) and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We ask everyone to pray for us over the next seven months as we meet, listen, and discern who the next Bishop of Liverpool should be. Please use the prayer below as we seek God's guidance together.

Loving God,
Guide the Diocese of Liverpool in this time of discernment.
Grant wisdom, grace and patience to all who are involved in this process.
Help them to listen well, speak honestly and seek your will for the future of this Diocese.
Prepare the heart of the one you are calling to serve as our next Bishop of Liverpool.

Amen

Angela Matthewson

St Matthews Guides

As we come to the end of another year and look forward to the summer break, we continued our meetings with an evening making a gift for Father's Day. The following week since the weather was so hot we started the evening with some quiet games inside and later Mrs Andrea Wood came to speak to the girls about recycling as part of the Clean Planet badge which we are doing. She will come again in September for a full evening of activities for the girls.

We had our usual sponsored walk from the Parish Hall to Orrell Water park which finished with some time on the swings and roundabouts. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the girls for this walk.

For our penultimate meeting Gill Higgins introduced the girls to cricket and they all took part in batting, fielding, and bowling and everyone got really involved shouting encouragement from the sideline. Maybe some of the girls will now think about joining the girls cricket practice on Monday evenings before Guides.

For our last meeting we will be going to the cinema to watch Toy Story 5.

Guide meetings will resume again on Monday 14 September at the normal time of 7.15 p.m. We hope everyone has a good summer and comes back refreshed.

The Guiders, Amy, Georgia, and Sheila



St. Matthew's 14th Wigan Town Brownies

Due to voting for a new MP and a family wedding we have had to miss a couple of meetings, but when we have met, we have been able to enjoy the sunny weather and make use of the field. We played water and sponge relay games then had fun making ice cream sundaes.



We also had fun making healthy faces out of salad items and of course eating them afterwards.

As we write we are looking forward to our activity day at Rock and River, the girls will be exploring low ropes, climbing walls as well as paddle boarding and kayaking. They cannot wait. We are saying goodbye this time to Katie and Hetty, they have been amazing Brownies, and we hope they have enjoyed their time with us.

The Brownie Guiders



The Gift That Keeps on Giving – Support Our 2026 Christmas Hamper Raffle

As plans begin for this year's **Highfield Christmas Markets**, we're delighted to announce the return of our popular **Christmas Hamper Raffle**. Every ticket purchased not only gives you the chance to win one of our wonderful festive hampers but also helps support the wider work of our church and community. One of the most heartwarming stories from last year's raffle reminds us that Christmas is about far more than receiving gifts—it's about sharing them.

After winning one of the **2025 Christmas Hamper Raffle** prizes, the recipient made the remarkable decision to gift the entire hamper back, asking simply that it be given **"for the benefit of someone with less."** Such kindness and generosity perfectly captured the true spirit of Christmas.

Following discussions with local community leaders, Councillors **Marie and Clive Morgan**, it was suggested that the hamper be presented to **Lawrence Powers**, a military veteran who is now elderly and in poor health and is cared for at **Westwood Lodge Nursing Home**.

The hamper was gratefully received by Lawrence and the nursing staff who care for him. They asked for their sincere thanks to be passed on to the anonymous donor and to everyone who supported the raffle. They shared that

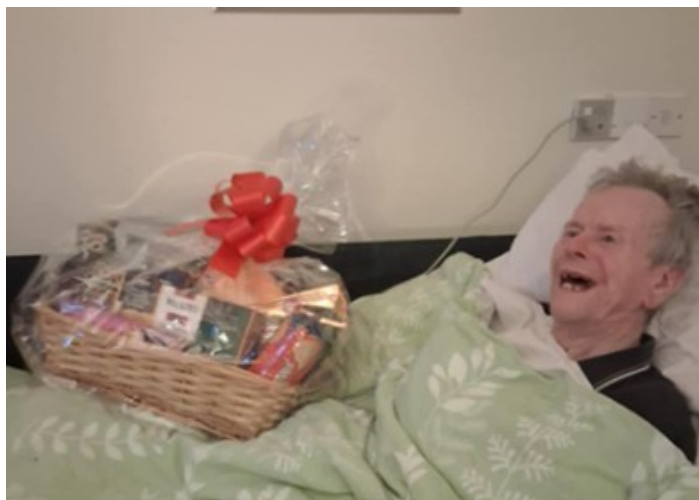
Lawrence, and the other residents would thoroughly enjoy the festive treats, bringing comfort and joy during the Christmas season.

This wonderful act of generosity demonstrates that the impact of purchasing a raffle ticket extends far beyond the draw itself. It helps create opportunities for kindness, strengthens community connections, and enables unexpected blessings to reach those who need them most.

As we prepare for this year's **Highfield Christmas Markets**, we invite everyone to support the **2026 Christmas Hamper Raffle**. Whether you're hoping to win a festive hamper, looking for a thoughtful way to support our community, or simply wanting to be part of something special, every ticket makes a difference.

Together, we can ensure that the spirit of Christmas continues to spread joy, compassion, and hope throughout our community.

Thank you to everyone who donates prizes, purchases raffle tickets, volunteers at the Christmas Markets, and supports this much-loved community event. Your generosity helps make stories like Lawrence's possible. If you would like to support this year's upcoming raffle then please contact Andy Bond on 07533757500.



Andy Bond

The **POWER** of Volunteering


St Matthew
HIGHFIELD
CHURCH YARD
MINISTRY



Help us care for
our churchyard –
TOGETHER!



Community engagement *at its best*

Make a real difference
in our local community.
Help create a peaceful,
welcoming space for
all to enjoy.



A unique social community

Meet new friends,
share stories and
skills, and enjoy
working together
in a supportive and
friendly environment.



The power of volunteering

No experience
needed – just a
willingness to help!
Every hour you give
makes a lasting
impact.



Join us!



Whether you can
spare an hour
or a day, you'll be
part of something
special.

- ✓ ALL AGES WELCOME
- ✓ FLEXIBLE TIMES
- ✓ TEA, CHAT & GOOD COMPANY!



*Many hands make
light work – come and
be one of them!*



For more information:



John Dawson - 07710 815538



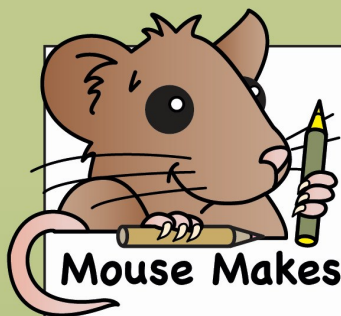
St Matthew Highfield Church Yard Ministry



St Matthew Highfield Church Yard Ministry

Many hands make light work – come and be one of them!





Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



7

JERUSALEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

8



JUDEA

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

Join us at **St James with St Thomas Church** on the weekend of 12th & 13th September for our 160th Anniversary Celebrations.

On Saturday 12th September our church will be open from 11-5pm for you to come and have a look around our beautiful church. We will be giving guided tours of the church building where we can tell you about the history of the church and how a church speaks to us theologically. Then if you want to you can have a tour of our bellringing chamber, we experienced ringers will demonstrate how to handle a bell. If you are interested in the bells, please be aware there are 55 steps to the ringing room. Each tour of the bell chamber takes about 35 minutes and can take a maximum of 25 people.

Our café will be open from 11am serving hot food until 2pm then light snacks until 5pm.

The first tour of church will start at approximately 11.30am.

Sunday 13th September will be the Hub Service with robed choir and Bishop Ruth presiding at our Holy Communion Service. We will celebrate with cake & drinks after the service and a peal will be attempted on our bells after the service.

Revd Alison

“how lovely are your dwellings” Psalm 84

August 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 August	St James with St Thomas August	St Paul's August	Lighthouse August
2 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion 5 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer 6 Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion 9 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Family Service 12 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer 16 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion 19 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer 23 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Morning Praise with Baptisms 26 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer 30 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion	 2 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word 9 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word with Baptisms 16 Sunday 10.30 All Age Holy Communion 23 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion 18.30 Open Table 30 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	 2 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Service of the word with Baptisms 9 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion 12 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion 16 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word 19 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion 23 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word 26 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion 30 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	 2 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship 9 Sunday 14.00 Holy Communion 16 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship 23 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship 30 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship ALL SERVICES @ THE RUSLING HOME

September 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 September	St James with St Thomas September	St Paul's September	Lighthouse September
2 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer		6 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion	6 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship
3 Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion		10.30 Service of the word with Baptisms	13 Sunday 14.00 Holy Communion
6 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	6 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	9 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	20 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship
9 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer	13 Sunday 10.30 Hub Service	13 Sunday 10.30 Hub Service @ St James'	27 Sunday 14.00 Family Worship
13 Sunday 10.30 Hub Service @ St James'	Dedication day 160 Years	16 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	ALL SERVICES @ THE RUSLING HOME
16 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer	20 Sunday 10.30 All Age Holy Communion	20 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	
20 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion	27 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	23 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	
10.30 Holy Communion	18.30 Open Table	27 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	
23 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer		30 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	
27 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion			
10.30 Morning Praise with Baptisms			
30 Wednesday 18.00 Evening Prayer			

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

WiganWestHub



Lifelines Dementia Friendly Café @ St James' Centre

Lifelines Café will meet on Friday 7th August at 1.30pm in St James Church, and again on Friday 4th September. Our Dementia Cafés are free to attend and we welcome those living with dementia, their carers and anyone else who would like to join us. Most of our activities and information supplied at the café are dementia friendly

Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre

Bereavement Support will meet on Thursday 13th August and again on Thursday 27th August as the Monday is Bank Holiday. During September, the group will meet Thursday 10th September and Monday 27th September. 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.

Bible Study Group @ St James

Bible Study group will pause for August and then is continue to meet on Tuesday lunch times in church from Tuesday 1st September. We start at 12 noon with a light lunch and at the moment we are looking at the Acts of the Apostles. If you haven't been before you can still join us as each week is a stand-alone study.

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who worked hard and supported our Summer Fair in July and we raised £700 for church funds.

Another Thank you from Ron Ellison at St James'

Thanks to everyone who made my 95th Birthday so special, both on the buffet and on the day. A special thankyou goes to Jo and all who helped her for the excellent buffet and to Carole for the cake.

Also thanks to all for the lovely presents and those who gave generously £150 for Church Funds.

Love to you all Ron

Faith Café and Toms Pantry @ St James' Centre

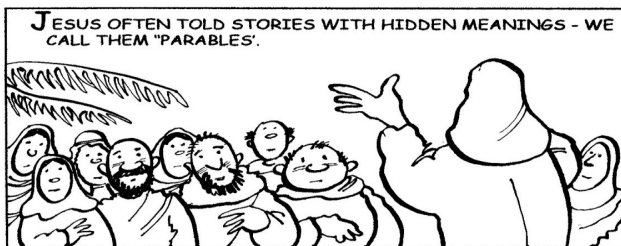
On Saturday 15th August the Faith Café and Tom's Pantry will be closed. Again, on Saturday 12th September both will be closed for our Heritage weekend/160th Anniversary celebrations at St James'

Do you like to Sing?

St Matthew's church choir are looking for new members. If you are eight years old or above (there's no upper age limit!) and enjoy singing, come and join us. We practise every Thursday between 7pm & 8pm. Choir practice restarts after the summer break on September 3rd. For further information come and talk to me. **Sue Gordon**



The TEN YOUNG WOMEN



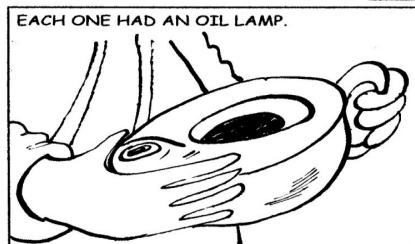
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM "PARABLES".



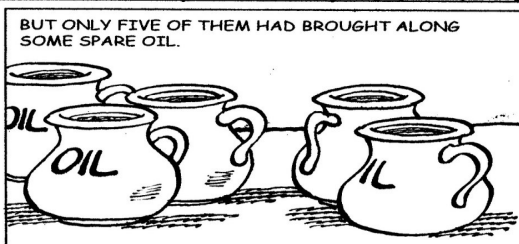
JESUS ONCE SPOKE ABOUT TEN YOUNG WOMEN



THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO A WEDDING - AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE BRIDEGROOM.



EACH ONE HAD AN OIL LAMP.



BUT ONLY FIVE OF THEM HAD BROUGHT ALONG SOME SPARE OIL.



LATE AT NIGHT THE BRIDEGROOM ARRIVED



FIVE YOUNG WOMEN COULD LIGHT HIS WAY.



THE OTHER FIVE FELT VERY FOOLISH - THEIR LAMPS HAD RUN OUT OF OIL!!

See Matthew 25.1-13

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

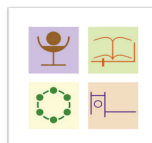
Please pray for Ukraine.

Can you help with our Ukraine appeal?

Please donate cash or goods.

Call Vitalii on 07476 778083 to arrange delivery or collection.

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

Across

8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)

9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)

10 Single(1Corinthians7:27)(9)

11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)

13 Treachery(2Kings11:14)(7)

16 Of India(anag.)(2,3,2)

19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession,like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)

22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)

24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)

25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)

Down

1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)

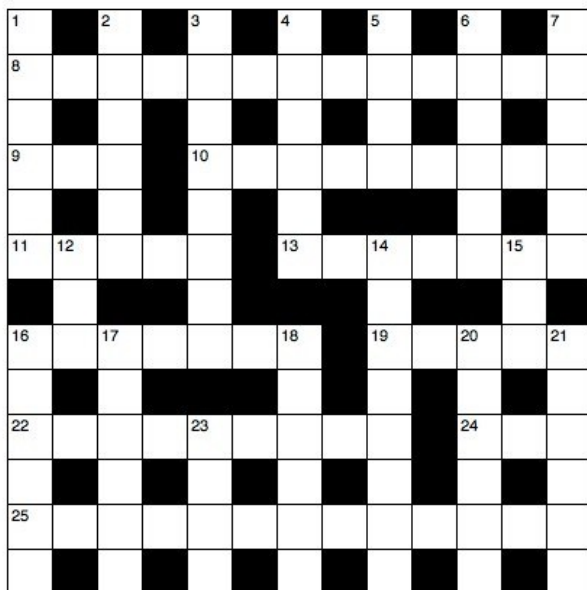
2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)

3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings12:11) (8)

4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)

5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)

6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)



7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)

12 Run(anag.)(3)

14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)

15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm12:4) (3)

16 Earnings(1Corinthians16:2)(6)

17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that—you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)

18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)

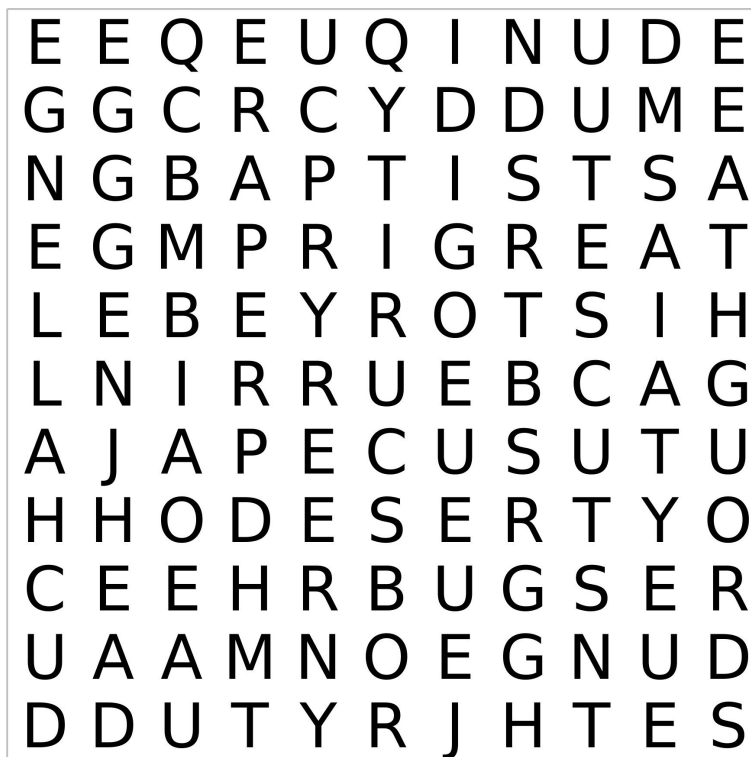
20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state(Daniel11:4)(6)

21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)

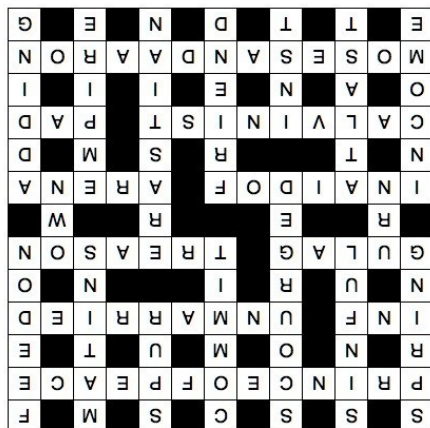
23 This month(abbrev.)(4)

This month, on the 29th, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

Word Search



John	Camel	Arrested	Unique
Baptist	Heat	Dungeon	prepare
Rough	Sun	Head	
Obscurity	Challenge	Cut	
Desert	Muddy	History	
Bugs	Jordan	Great	



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.

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

*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*

Donations

Donation for Kathleen
From the Starkie's with Love
In loving memory of a dear friend Kathy
From Linda Burns & Susan Burns

Baptisms

Joshua Michael Pomfrett	St Paul's
Sophia-Grace Karen Prestwich	St Paul's
Elsie Mae Croft	St James'
Noah Jenson Riley	St James'
Theodore Anthony Smout	St Matthew's
Alessi-Rae Jones	St Matthew's
Lux Jones	St Matthew's

Burials and Funerals

StJames with St Thomas

Louie Isaac Webster

St Matthew' s

Ethel Street (99)
Tracey Jones (60)
Leslie Ashton (82)

St Paul' s

15/06/2026	Anthony Johnston	aged 66
21/06/26	Christine Cusick	aged 79

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

Altar Flowers
St. Matthew's

2nd Aug – vacant
9th Aug – Mrs M Green
16th Aug – vacant
23rd Aug – Mrs B Smith
30th Aug – vacant
6th Sept – vacant
13th Sept – Mrs B Whittle
20th Sept – Mrs B Jenks
27th Sept - vacant

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

None

Clergy Administrator:

Barbara Poyntz 07845 947 573

Magazine Editors

June Gibson 01942 703096

jngibson@hotmail.co.uk

Paul Nolan 01942 804810

pnolan1972@yahoo.co.uk

Printing:

Sam Rusling sam@jesandsam.com

Distribution:

John Dawson &

Lyn Starkie 01942 494715

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

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 July 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

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 716668

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

The Gift of Volunteering

One of the great joys of parish life is seeing people come together to care for one another and for the places that matter to our community. Few examples demonstrate this better than the wonderful work being carried out by our St Matthew's Churchyard Volunteers.

Many of you will have seen the recent photograph of the group proudly standing alongside the new equipment purchased through the generosity of local donations. The volunteers have expressed their heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed, enabling them to continue their work more effectively and helping to ensure that St Matthew's churchyard remains a well-maintained and welcoming space for all.

As impressive as the new equipment is, it is the people behind it that make the real difference. Week after week, volunteers give up their Saturday mornings to mow, trim, tidy and care for a place that means so much to so many. For some, the churchyard is a place of remembrance where loved ones are laid to rest. For others, it is a peaceful green space in the heart of the community. Their efforts ensure that it remains a place of dignity, beauty and reflection.

The work of the volunteers also complements the ministry of our Graveyard Ministry Team. While one group cares for the physical space, the other offers a ministry of presence, welcome and support to those who visit. Together they help make our churchyard not simply a maintained piece of land, but a place where people can encounter kindness, comfort and community.

Volunteering brings benefits far beyond the task itself. The churchyard volunteers often speak about the friendships that have been formed, the enjoyment of working together and the satisfaction that comes from seeing a job well done. New people have joined since the fundraising appeal began, creating an even stronger sense of community. In a world where many people experience loneliness or isolation, volunteering provides an opportunity to belong, to contribute and to make a genuine difference.

The wider community benefits too. A well-kept churchyard is something we can all take pride in. It reflects our care for those who have gone before us, our respect for the present community and our hope for future generations.

As Christians, we are reminded that we are called to serve one another using the gifts God has given us. Volunteering is one way in which that calling is lived out in practical ways. Whether through maintaining the churchyard, supporting our ministry teams, helping at events or serving in countless other ways across the parish, every contribution matters. On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank everyone involved in the Churchyard Volunteers and the Graveyard Ministry Team, as well as all those who donated towards the new equipment. Your generosity, commitment and service are helping to make St Matthew's churchyard a place that continues to bless our community.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

