

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3: 16-17

£1 March 2025



As we begin March, the days are lengthening and soon the hours of daylight will be longer than the hours of darkness. We are also about to enter the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday, on 5 March.

The origins of the word 'Lent' come from the old English word *lencten*, which means 'springtime', 'spring', and the Germanic word *langitinaz*, which means 'lengthening', so it is a word that is richly symbolized by the signs of new life that we see emerging during the season of spring: spring flowers, new-born lambs, baby chicks, and Easter eggs, to name but a few. The church uses these symbols of new life to remind us of the hope that is ours through the new life won for us by the death and resurrection of Jesus.



Lent is the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Saturday. Its purpose is to help us to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, at Easter. This is the most important event in the Christian calendar. It is a time when we make time to draw closer to God. We may do this through fasting, or giving something up, and through making time for prayer, reflection and reading the Bible.

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is *Living Hope*:

In Lent we journey with Jesus on the difficult and thorny road that leads all the way to the cross on Good Friday - and beyond, to the transformation of Easter Day.

God invites us to bring to him our own journey through everyday life. In the disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new.

Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world.

How can you get involved?

You can read and listen to daily Lent reflections from 5 March through the *Everyday Faith* app, the new daily devotional app from the Church of England, which is available to download here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith>

If you would like a challenge, we would also like to encourage to read the New Testament of the Bible during Lent. If you can commit just 20 to 30 minutes a day, over 40 days, you can do this. We have included a Bible reading programme in the centre of this magazine to help you to do this.

With love and prayers, **Fran**

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

Accessing a Bible

Many years ago, whilst setting up the Church for a communion service being led by Rev Sam Pratt. I remember a comment Sam passed in general conversation

“A good Christian should always carry a Bible with them.”

And me thinking at that time that's not always practical in all situations or walks of life.

Well, a few years ago I came to realise that I was complying with Sam's opinion which gave me a very self-satisfying feeling, (not quite a halo above the head) but to me it was an achievement.

This became possible when mobile phones became smart phones (minicomputers) and I had downloaded two versions of the Bible onto my phone, consequently I am rarely without my phone and therefore in possession of a Bible.

The lack of pew Bibles was mentioned in a meeting a few weeks ago and I commented how easy it is to access the Bible on a mobile phone or tablet these days, so it was suggested this could make a useful article for the magazine.

My favourite version for easy accessibility is Collins Good News Bible app. Once opened you find a menu of 15 options:

1. The Bible
2. Timeline.
3. Who's who?
4. About the Bible
5. Introductory reading plan
6. Life issues
7. Quiz
8. Maps
9. Dictionary
10. Miracles of Jesus
11. Parables of Jesus

12. I need help (SOS)
13. Passages for occasions
14. Prayers from the Bible
15. Inspiration.

Each of these sections open other multiple choices allowing easy ways to pinpoint the information you require for example, *1. The Bible*, upon selecting this from the menu we find a scroll with a choice of index, Old Testament or New Testament or Deuterocanonical, or All, then via A-Z or Regular. After making the selection it then allows me to scroll through BOOK, CHAPTER and VERSE in which ever order I have chosen.

A page can be found quietly in seconds allowing readings to be followed or extended or researched etc etc.

Unfortunately, this version doesn't appear in my app store anymore but a very similar one is “Good News Bible GNB” along with several others very similar. Have a look, nothing lost.

There must be hundreds of other versions to download and access all of which are useful tools to promote The Gospels and all other pages using 21st century technology to give The Good News.

It also makes me realise that when I see people with their noses buried in their phones not to judge, they may be reading the BIBLE!

Cliff Unsworth

St. Matthew's Rainbows

Over the last few meetings, we have done lots of crafts and had lots of fun. We have made friendship bracelets to give to friends and family. We also celebrated Chinese New Year; we did this by making Chinese dragons out of egg boxes which was an activity that the girls thoroughly enjoyed. On this night we also enjoyed some Chinese foods and practised our chopsticks skills, some mastered this, and others decided it was better to eat their food in another way.



In our most recent meetings at the time of writing this we have started to Celebrate thinking day by playing a game based around the important story of Robert and Olave Baden-Powell and we celebrated 2 girls, Eva, and Emilia's time at Rainbows before they move on to Brownies with a 'Wicked' themed party, including party games and the Wicked soundtrack, with lots and dancing and singing. **Georgia Rigby**

St. Matthew's Brownies

We returned after the Christmas break to a game's night, then we welcomed some new girls and hope that they enjoy their time in Brownies.

We also celebrated the Chinese New Year of the snake. We made our own snake decorations, and played games holding chopsticks, the girls are getting quite accomplished at using them.



After half term we will be celebrating 'Thinking Day', the birthday of our founders when we think about our worldwide Guiding family members as well as those nearer to home. We are hosting our Wigan West Division units to an evening of celebration and learning about our four Guiding world centres. Hopefully we will be able to share what we learn next time.

The Brownie Guiders

Boys Brigade

The Boys Brigade presents badges to the boys as they reach different levels within the company.

The boys are now concentrating on achieving their badges as the Spring term of Boys Brigade is well underway. We welcomed Harvey Nolan to the Anchor Boy section in the new year. He has settled in well with the other boys and is enthusiastically undertaking the range of activities that will eventually lead to him achieving his first badge. We are continuing to offer places for young boys, mainly 5- to 8-year-olds for the Anchor Boys section. **Marian Brown**



St Matthew' s Guides

We continued our January meetings with a game' s night and the following week a celebration of the Chinese New Year with a taste of Chinese foods.



In February we started off with a spa night which went down well, particularly the foot spa, there was also face masks and nail painting. The girls all received a pamper pack to take home with them at the end of the evening. The following week we had a valentines night theme and made heart shaped shortbread biscuits to decorate and valentine cards.

There is a break for half term and on our return to our meetings we will be having a night focused on Thinking Day which is the birthday of our founder Olave Baden-Powell. **The Guiders**

ST JAMES LADIES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

At the time of my writing this, we are approaching Valentines Day, the time when it' s supposed that the birds start nesting, one of the first harbingers of Spring, along with the tiny white Snowdrops, and bright, colourful Crocus peeking through the soil. How we are all longing for the arrival of longer days and to see some sunshine!

At our first meeting of the year, in January, our new Distinctive Deacon, Alison visited us. She chatted away happily telling us about her new role in church which is mainly community based, including baptisms, along with her "old" roles of being involved in the pantry , Lifelines Cafe and Choir. My apologies if I have missed anything important!

Next meeting, February, one of our own ladies Beryl Bowker, has requested to speak to us, so we' re all interested in what she will be talking about. I' ll report back in the next issue .

The speaker at our March meeting (20th) is our Revd Fran' s husband, Gary Humphry, who we met at our Christmas party. I' m sure we' re interested in getting to meet him and listening to what he has to say.

As usual, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to visit any of our meetings. Warm and comfortable space, no charge, just a voluntary donation, tea, coffee and biscuits provided. 7pm to 8.30pm approx., in the lounge at St Clements Court, Worsley Mesnes Drive.

Margaret - 07906615501

Highfield Cricket Corner

This year's fun packed All Stars cricket programme for 5-8-year-old girls and boys will run for 8 Friday sessions at Highfield Cricket Club from 16th May. The total cost will be £50 for the 8 weeks but that also includes the kit that the kids will need (some of the kids will already have some of that kit from previous sessions but will still get some additional stuff!) The sessions are centred around the kids enjoying fun activities in a safe environment. To register your interest, please follow the link on our club Facebook page.

We are offering a great matchday experience this season, with the details on the poster. Please share amongst your friends and family members. A great way to support our club with some added value for you and your guests. Loads of fixtures to choose from too.

We are delighted that Mohit Jangra will be playing at Highfield again this season. All-rounder Mohit had a prolific 2024 season, taking 73 wickets and scoring 685 runs including two centuries. His explosive contributions with bat and ball, as well as some great catches, made him a great watch for our supporters. We hope he can repeat that form on the field, whilst also having an active coaching role in helping our juniors develop their skills.

Mike Farrell, first team captain:

“I'm so pleased that we have re-signed Mohit for the 2025 season. I can't wait to build on what we achieved last season with our 3rd place in the league and the Tyler Cup win. Mohit was a great fit for us both on and off the field and we are all really looking forward to seeing him in action again at Billinge Road.”

Gary Speakman



2025 SEASON MATCH SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE OFFER

- Any Saturday or Sunday home game
- Your name or business name on Matchday board and all our social media channels
- 10 x £10.00 drinks vouchers for use on all drinks at the bar
- As many guests as you wish
- Cost: £100.00

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE DETAILS: CONTACT TONY ON:

07868 768408

OR EMAIL: ADMIN@HIGHFIELDCRICKETCLUB.CO.UK

Happy Birthday

1825 is a long time ago! Almost 70 years before St. Matthew's Highfield Church was built in fact. Yet every week in church we have a direct connection with 200 years ago, by pure chance. In 2010 or thereabouts I was elected as Churchwarden of St. Matthew's Church, where I joined my friend and colleague Jeff McCann. We were Churchwardens during the ministry of Rev. Bob Pearson and found the positions somewhat challenging at times. People are probably unaware that Churchwardens are elected as the bishop's representative and are answerable to the bishop, not the incumbent. However, I digress!

Whilst searching the church safe one day looking for something, I came across several old offertory plates at the back. Amongst them were four worn old plates made from pewter. Now pewter is not commonly used nowadays, and was an alloy of tin, antimony, copper and occasionally silver. Old pewter however contained a lot of lead which was of course poisonous and so it became less and less popular. These plates were engraved and dated 1825. The names, presumably of two Churchwardens, probably at St. John's the Divine had been engraved on them. It would seem that they had donated them to the church and after 70 years they were probably considered surplus to requirements and donated to one of the daughter churches when it opened in 1894. That daughter church being St. Matthew's! However, there is a bit of a mystery here, since though the plates are engraved 1825; St John's church in Pemberton was only opened in 1832!

St. John's was a 'Waterloo' Church. After the Battle of Waterloo and victory over the French in June 1815, the British Government gave a sum of one million pounds to build churches in celebration. An absolute fortune in those days of course. However, if I told you that St John's cost £4500 in 1832 to build, it shows how many churches could have been built with one million! 70 years later St. Matthew's church cost Colonel Blundell £10,000 to build.

On behalf of the late Mrs. Hannah Rhodes, a cousin of my wife's, who offered to pay, I had the plates renovated and put back into use in church. There is still a bit of a mystery, however. Where were the plates used between 1825 and 1832? Put your answers on a postcard and address them to the incumbent at St. John's, Pemberton. Provider of the best answer can act as Sides person next week using the plates!

For your information if you were unaware, St. John's the Divine had four daughter churches built in the following order, St. Mark's, St. Matthew's, St. Paul's and finally St. James' in Poolstock.

Dave Whitter

March 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	St James with St Thomas	St Paul's	Lighthouse
March			March
2 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	March	2 Sunday 9.00 Holy Communion 10.30 Baptism Service	2 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
6 Thursday 10.30 Holy Communion	2 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	5 Ash Wednesday 9.30 School Service followed by Holy Communion	9 Sunday 2pm Family Communion
9 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Parade Service	5 Ash Wednesday 9.30 School Service	9 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion	16 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
16 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion 12.30 Baptisms	12.00 Holy Communion & Ash	12 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	23 Sunday 2pm Family Worship
23 Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Service of the Word	9 Sunday 10.30 Baptisms	16 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	30 Mothering Sunday 2pm Family Worship
30 Mothering Sunday 9.00 BCP Holy Communion 10.30 Holy Communion	16 Sunday 10.30 All Age Communion with Sunday School	19 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL
	23 Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion 18.30 Open Table	23 Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	
	30 Mothering Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	26 Wednesday 10.00 Holy Communion	
		30 Mothering Sunday 10.30 Service of the Word	

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.

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

WiganWestHub 

*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}

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!

Lent Fasting

After Jesus was baptised he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights he was hungry. And then the devil came to tempt him.

We remember Jesus' fast and join him in it for the 40 days of lent. Traditionally Christians give up meat, eggs, and dairy products and use up the last of these on Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes.

How will you fast this lent?

I encourage you to do something for lent, it is a spiritual discipline that helps us prepare for the celebration of Easter—where Jesus defeats death and invites us to live forever with him.

You could give up a luxury, or your favourite food, or something that makes life that bit nicer. Perhaps cheese or coffee? Lent isn't just about giving something up, it's about being prepared for Easter. Over the page is a reading plan to read the whole of the New Testament in 40 days, Revd Fran mentioned the *Everyday Faith* daily devotional app from the Church of England, and there are many other things you can take up during lent.

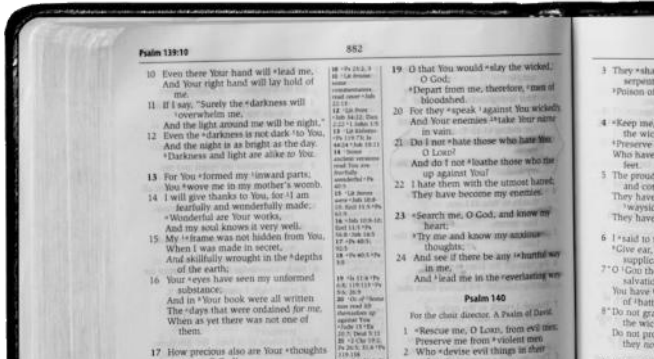
Whatever you choose make sure it's something that you'll notice, and do it for the right reason.

In Isaiah chapter 58 God's people say "Why have we fasted, and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?" God's reply is that their fast didn't change their behaviour, their fast was a ritual with no heart behind it. God says "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

We often think of fasting as giving something up, but it's also about taking something up. Our fasting should result in us becoming more like Jesus, and when we become more like Jesus we act more like God expects us to in Isaiah 58.

So, don't do something for lent because it's what you do every year, instead do something for lent because of your devotion to God and your desire to be closer to him.

Sam Rusling *Lighthouse leader*



Lent 2025 Reading Plan

Read the New Testament in 40 Days

You can spend around half an hour a day reading through the whole of the New Testament this Lent. This reading plan splits the New Testament into 40 chunks of roughly equal size.

We recommend you use a modern translation of the Bible. If you have not got a modern translation please ask anyone in leadership in West Wigan for one. You can also listen to the New Testament online, biblegateway.com offers an audio option.

Day 1, Wednesday 5 March: Matthew chapter 1 to chapter 7.

Day 2, Thursday 6 March: Matthew chapter 8 to chapter 12.

Day 3, Friday 7 March: Matthew chapter 13 to chapter 18.

Day 4, Saturday 8 March: Matthew chapter 19 to chapter 24.

Sunday is a day of rest.

Day 5, Monday 10 March: Mathew chapter 25 to the end of Matthew.

Day 6, Tuesday 11 March: Mark chapter 1 to chapter 7.

Day 7, Wednesday 12 March: Mark chapter 8 to chapter 11.

Day 8, Thursday 13 March: Mark chapter 12 to the end of Mark.

Day 9, Friday 14 March: Luke chapter 1 to chapter 4.

Day 10, Saturday 15 March: Luke chapter 5 to chapter 8.

Sunday is a day of rest.

Day 11, Monday 17 March: Luke chapter 9 to chapter 11.

Day 12, Tuesday 18 March: Luke chapter 12 to chapter 16.

Day 13, Wednesday 19 March: Luke chapter 17 to chapter 20.

Day 14, Thursday 20 March: Luke chapter 21 to the end of Luke.

Day 15, Friday 21 March: John chapter 1 to chapter 6.

Day 16, Saturday 22 March: John chapter 7 to chapter 11.

Sunday is a day of rest.

Day 17, Monday 24 March: John chapter 12 to chapter 16.

Day 18, Tuesday 25 March: John chapter 17 to the end of John.

Day 19, Wednesday 26 March: Acts chapter 1 to chapter 7.

Day 20, Thursday 27 March: Acts chapter 8 to chapter 11.

Day 21, Friday 28 March: Acts chapter 12 to chapter 16.

Day 22, Saturday 29 March: Acts chapter 17 to chapter 22.

Sunday is a day of rest

Day 23, Monday 31 March: Acts chapter 23 to the end of Acts.

Day 24, Tuesday 1 April: Romans chapter 1 to chapter 8.

Day 25, Wednesday 2 April: Romans chapter 9 to the end of Romans.

Day 26, Thursday 3 April: 1 Corinthians chapter 1 to chapter 9.

Day 27, Friday 4 April: 1 Corinthians chapter 10 to the end of 1 Corinthians.

Day 28, Saturday 5 April: 2 Corinthians chapter 1 to chapter 10.

Sunday is a day of rest.

Day 29, Monday 7 April: 2 Corinthians chapter 11 to the end of 2 Corinthians and the whole of Galatians.

Day 30, Tuesday 8 April: The whole of Ephesians and the first chapter of Philippians.

Day 31, Wednesday 9 April: The rest of Philippians and the whole of Colossians.

Day 32, Thursday 10 April: 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and 1 Timothy chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Day 33, Friday 11 April: The rest of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.

Day 34, Saturday 12 April: Philemon and Hebrews chapter 1 to chapter 8.

Sunday is a day of rest.

Day 35, Monday 14 April: Hebrews chapter 9 to the end of Hebrews.

Day 36, Tuesday 15 April: James and 1 Peter chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Day 37, Wednesday 16 April: The rest of 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and 1 John chapters 1, 2, and 3.

Day 38, Thursday 17 April: The rest of 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation chapter 1 to chapter 5.

Day 39, Good Friday 18 April: Revelation chapter 6 to chapter 14.

Day 40, Saturday 19 April: Revelation chapter 15 to the end of Revelation.

Lifelines Café

Lifelines Café will meet in St James Centre on Friday 7 March at 1.30pm. We will meet, weather permitting of course and we will gather for a hot meal and a game of bingo. Everyone is welcome to come to the café and we particularly welcome those living with dementia and their carers. For more information about Lifelines café and choir, contact Revd Alison Brown on 07806 798030.

Lifelines Choir

The choir will meet on Monday 10 March at 1pm and again Monday 24 March. This is an inclusive choir which welcomes new members. There is no audition, just an enthusiasm to sing. Refreshments will be served and there is no charge for this activity.

Open Table

Open Table Holy Communion will be at St James with St Thomas Church on Sunday 23 March 2025 at 6pm. We meet a 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

Our bereavement support group will meet in St James church on Thursday 13 March at 1pm and again on Monday 31 March at the same time. 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.

Deeper Discipleship

The Deeper Discipleship group will meet in church on Sunday 16 March at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. We will also serve some warm food. You are all welcome to attend if you have not been to one before. We will look at the bible, prayers and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It is not necessary to attend them all as it is not run like a course.

David Goulden & Alison Brown

Service of the Word with Brunch

From Sunday 2 March, the Service of the Word at St James Church will be followed by a brunch. We are hoping to serve toast, toasted teacakes, bacon, or sausage sandwiches or both if you like. We are hoping to offer this on a donation basis. Please do stay and join us for some brunch on the first Sunday of the month. **Love Revd Alison.**

Shrove Tuesday Hot Pot Supper at St James

Our Hot Pot Supper will be on Tuesday 4 March at 7pm. This will be on a pay as you feel basis, and everyone is welcome to join us for hot pot and then a pudding. No need to book just turn up on the night. All money raised will go to Church funds.

Warm Spaces

St James Centre is used as one of the borough's "Warm Spaces" and will meet every Tuesday in our tower room where coffee, tea & toast or toasties will be served. Do join us for a warm welcome as well.

We collect used Stamps

Thank you to all those who have supported this project over the years. There is a collection box in each church, so please continue to save them. The stamps are sent off to RNIB Charity. Last year, they have informed me, they raised over £30,000 from stamps - something that most people would just throw away! So keep up the good work. Thank you. **Marjorie Latham**

Change of 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

A Challenge idea for Lent

Forty Days - Forty Items. Each day of Lent remove one item from your wardrobe or cupboard that you no longer need and put it in a bag. At the end of the forty days, donate these items to a place that can share them with someone who can really use them. Ukraine? Charity shop? Etc. Or you can put a coin a day in a jar or purse and donate to Tear Fund. I will put a container at the back of St Matthews church for your donations. **Barbara Jenks**

Spring Fayre

After the great success of the Autumn Fayre held in November 2024 with short notice, we are holding a Spring Fayre to be held at St. Matthew's church on Saturday 29 March 2025 between 10am - 2pm. There will be a variety of stalls including cards, crafts, children's toys & books and plenty of refreshments and cakes!!! Spread the word and bring your friends. We are hoping to beat the total raised from the last fayre. **Anne Fanning**

Palm Sunday

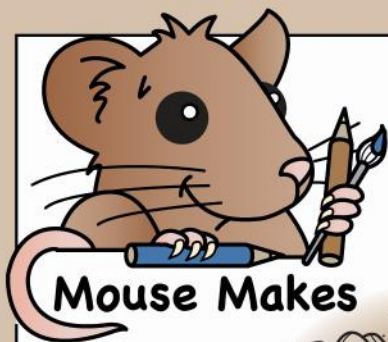
On Palm Sunday St. Matthew's church choir and friends will be giving a performance of "The Saviour" by William Lloyd Webber. The work is divided into three sections. Part one: Man's Need. Part two: God's Remedy - The Last Supper, The Garden of Gethsemane, and the Crucifixion. Part three: New Life in Christ. Like Olivet to Calvary and the Crucifixion there are hymns for the congregation to sing.

We are very lucky to have two professional singers, John Cunningham (Bass) and Stephen Newlove (Tenor) joining us and Michael Kelsall from St Luke's, Orrell as our guest organist. It is long time since we sang this work as it was postponed due to covid. Please come and join us as it is a wonderful start to Holy Week. **Sue Gordon**

THE GOSPEL OF FELLOWSHIP

It's sometimes good to get away from all the noise and din-to dwell upon a quiet thought and find your peace within. Is it good to seek too much the joys of solitude-in a place where other people's troubles can't intrude ?--- we were meant for fellowship for that's the Christian creed - scattering the seeds of friendship, meeting someone's need. Doing what you can for others. Sharing lovingly. Getting out into the world and helping somebody.

Patience Strong



Mouse Makes

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus? see Luke 4:14-15

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

Luke 4:8



READ

the story in
Luke 4:1-13

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

Luke 4:12



JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

R	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	H	A	N	D	S	D
L	I	F	T	W	P	A	H	D	J	U	M	P	A
E	L	O	R	D	K	I	O	E	D	O	S	E	Y
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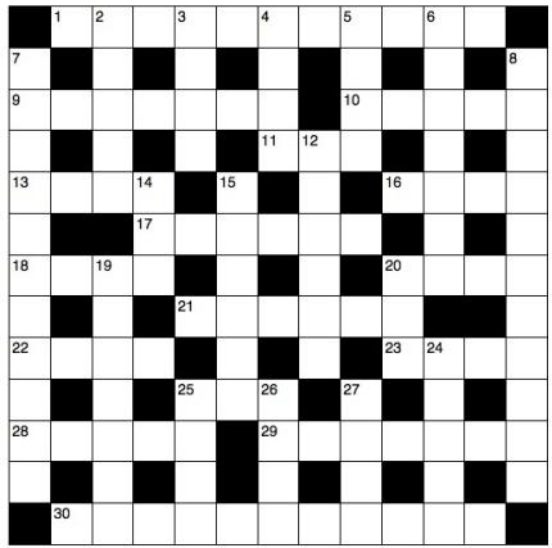
Find the words from the questions too!

Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
13 Mede (anag.) (4)
16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
23 Edit (anag.) (4)
25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith?



- Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Word Search

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and to grow closer to Him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?



- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Lent | repentance | teaching |
| spiritual | seeking | disciples |
| easter | finding | worldwide |
| prepara- | growing | flowers |
| tion | mothers | thankyou |
| fasting | love | nursing |
| prayer | care | family |
| desert | nurture | |
| selfdenial | learning | |

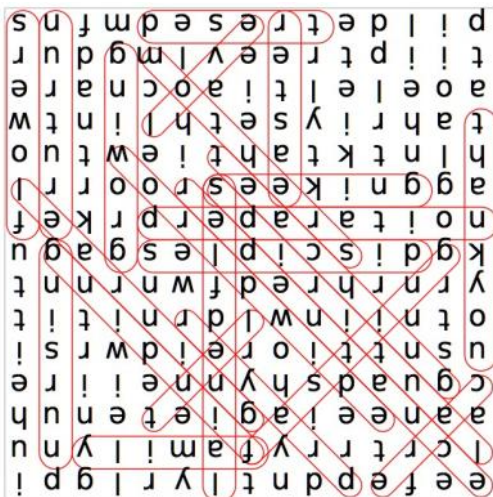


Funnies

I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Oh, wait, sorry, bad punctuation. I meant, I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.

Coffee: starter fluid for the morning impaired.

Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on, and still everybody rushes to get a piece.



Altar Flowers

St. Matthew's

2 March - Margaret McCourty

9 March - vacant

16 March - Mrs P Glover

23 March - Miss E Hollis

30 March - Julie Berry

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.

If you would like a copy of the

magazine in **LARGE PRINT** please

email Barbara at

hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

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

Ivie Jean Gill *St Paul' s*
Reuben Jonathan Junior Abel
St Paul' s
Elijah Bert Micheal Abel *St*
Paul' s
Arthur George Anthony Harvey
St James' s
Everly McMahon *St James' s*
Adrian Gabriel Suciu *St*
Matthew' s
Isaac James Chesney *St Matthew' s*
Jacob David Farr *St Matthew' s*

Donations



£100 donated by Margaret Crozier (nee Cropper) towards churchyard maintenance
In lieu of altar flowers in memory of wife Margaret (d. 2016)
from Dave
In treasured memories of my husband Capt. Barrie Webster
from loving wife Christine
In loving memory of husband John Menard
from Barbara and father to Carl, Jonathan & Jenny to assist the churchyard maintenance team.

Burials and Funerals

St Paul' s

St James with St Thomas

4/1/25 Jennie Kirk aged 93
24/1/25 Sheila Nation aged 82

St Matthew' s

Elaine Madden aged 75
Terence Marshall aged 86
John Houghton aged 63
Daniel Northey aged 84

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.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

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* 01942 242984

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

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

Alison Brown 01942 740777

Assistant Wardens

Carol Simm

Tracey Mathioudakis 07377467678

tracymathioudakis7@gmail.com

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

Lifelines *St James’ Centre & Eliot Gardens*

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 February 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

Miriam Unsworth 01942 933772

Pam Wilkinson 01942 716668

Geoff Birch 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *Arthur Hubbard*
01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath* 01942 621173

Organist

Kathleen Shepherd 01942 248683

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

It's wonderful to see all our church buildings being used to worship God and to serve our various different communities

St Matthews congregation will be aware that a few of the pews in the church have been removed to safe locations in the parish to make space for small groups to meet more comfortably.

At St Paul's the church is open from 9.00am till 10.00am every Sunday. The first Sunday of the month there is Holy Communion and the other three Sundays it's open for anyone who wishes to spend a quiet hour in a lovely peaceful space. The Community Cafe is open on Wednesdays from 11.00am until 2pm

St James Church is open many times in the week. You can see the activities there listed inside this magazine.

If you haven't been into any of our traditional buildings for a while why not call in.

Turning on the news these days we hear lots of troubling things, the GOOD NEWS is, in the words of the children's song 'Our God is a great big God, and he holds us in His hands' .

A poster for a Ukraine appeal. The background is dark with a blue triangle at the top left and a yellow triangle at the bottom right. In the center, several hands are clasped together in a gesture of support. The text is overlaid on the image.

PRAY
for
UKRAINE

Please can you help with our Ukraine appeal.

**The collection point has changed and is now at
the Old Fur Clemp Warehouse - Central Park
Montrose Avenue, WN5 9XN**

**Drop off times are Mon, Wed and Friday
10am to 2pm**

Also during church services at St Paul's Church