

Wigan West



PARISH MAGAZINE

**Your word is a lamp for
my feet, a light on my
path. Psalm 119:105**

£1 March 2026



Dear friends,

As we make our way through Lent and start looking toward the joy of Easter, I've been thinking about what this season really means for us—both personally and as a community here in Wigan West. Lent often gives us a gentle pause, a moment to breathe, reflect, and ask how we might grow in faith, kindness, and hope. It reminds us that fresh starts are always possible, no matter where we're beginning from.



I'd love to encourage our families to spend some time praying together and opening the Bible together. These moments don't need to be grand or complicated. A short prayer before bed, a verse shared around the dinner table, or a quiet moment during the day can build strong roots of faith in our homes. Reading Scripture as a family helps us understand God's love more deeply and often leads to thoughtful conversations that draw us closer to one another.

Before we turn to this month's verse, I want to share why it feels especially relevant. Lent is a season when many of us feel the need for a bit more clarity, reassurance, or direction. The psalmist's words offer exactly that—a reminder that God's guidance is steady and dependable, even when the path ahead feels uncertain or slow. They reassure us that we don't need to see the whole journey at once. God gives us enough light for the next step, and sometimes that's all we truly need.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”— Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Many of us think of Lent as a time for giving something up, but it can also be a wonderful chance to take something up—something that brings light or encouragement to someone else. Acts of kindness, a listening ear, or simply noticing someone who might need a friendly face can make a real difference. Lent isn't only about sacrifice; it's about becoming more of who God calls us to be.

If you're looking for ideas, children might enjoy keeping a kindness jar. Adults might reconnect with a neighbour or set aside a moment each day for quiet reflection. Families could share a meal with someone who might appreciate company or take a walk together and watch for the early signs of spring—small reminders that hope is always growing.

As we journey through this season, I'd also love to invite you to join us for our **Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day) services** on 15th March at 10:30 am at our churches—St James Poolstock, St Paul's Goose Green, and St Matthew's Highfield, or at 2:00 pm with our **Lighthouse worship community** at St James Primary School in Worsley Mesnes. It would be

wonderful to celebrate together and give thanks for all who nurture, support, and encourage us.

As Easter approaches, may we all find renewed strength and encouragement, carrying the light of hope into every corner of our parish and beyond.

With every blessing,

Fran

Revd Fran Humphry

Team Vicar, Wigan West Parish

ST JAMES LADIES' FRIENDSHIP GROUP

“March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb” was the saying. I wonder what the month will be like this year. The seasons don't seem to know what they are supposed to be doing anymore, but I am so looking forward to having more daylight, and we put the clocks forward at the end of the month!

At our meeting this month we are having an Easter craft theme. This is purposely vague as I haven't anything specific lined up, but our lovely Jean Hogan will be doing something with flowers and foliage.

Also, there will be a raffle, as our funds are a little depleted, so please bring your purse?

This has been a quiet time after Christmas, and I have little to report. Hopefully we are settled back into meeting at St Clements, and our friend Beryl is feeling much better after a spell in hospital. I invited Rev Alison last month to speak to us, and we are now in Lent, looking forward to the joyful season of Easter.

The next meeting is Thursday 19th March, 7pm in the lounge at St Clement's Court, Worsley Mesnes Drive, WN3 5UF

Looking forward to seeing members and anyone else who fancies coming along for a couple of hours of fellowship over a brew and a biscuit – don't be shy – we are friendly!

Margaret xx

07906615501

Dear Father,

Thank you for your continued renewal, refreshing, and restoration.

I pray that this season will be one of growth in my life.

Grow me just as You grow the flowers, vegetables and fruits of this season.

Amen

St Matthews Guides

We have had a busy few weeks since returning from the Christmas break. We have completed the Thrift badge which saw the girls repurpose some old clothes and also customise some of the clothes we had. They visited charity shops to see what can be re-used instead of throwing it away. It was amazing some of the clothes creations that they did.

Our Young Leader Lydia ran an evening on wartime Guides with help from Grace and Ava. The night was a big success. There were 3 activity stations, one for first aid, one for fire activities and also one as an air raid shelter which the girls constructed and all sheltered in when the air raid siren went!! For the evening the tuck was rationed as well.

Due to the refurbishment of the hall we had a board games night when we were able to use the lounge for the evening. The girls brought their own games, and everyone had a good time.

Our last meeting before the half term was a visit to the bowling alley always a good night.

Over the half term break some of the girls are going to Waddow Hall, Clitheroe for a weekend of outdoor Guiding activities.

The Guiders, Amy, Georgia, and Sheila



16th Wigan Town St. Matthew's Rainbows

We have had quite a disturbed half term at Rainbows due to the building and refurbishments in the hall, but that doesn't mean that we haven't had time for some fun activities.

We continued with activities based around communication and listening to develop some strong leaders. We have spent some time working in groups doing some organisation tasks, which included an activity based on working in a sorting office. The girls were given envelopes of different colours, shapes and sizes and were given several different instructions on how their envelopes needed to be sorted. We also played some games that involved the girls getting themselves tangled up and then listening carefully to instructions from someone who had the job of working out how to get them 'untangled'. Another

activity was linked to our 'agility' badge, when our Young Leader Sally, organised some fun and active games and activities do the girls to take part in.



At the time of writing this we have had a 2 week break from Rainbows due to the building work, which will be followed by the weeks break of half term. We look forward to returning to Rainbows at the end of February.

The Rainbow Leaders

St. Matthew's 14th Wigan Town Brownies

We returned after the Christmas break to catch up with the girls and have some fun. We played some games including a large pass the parcel with some interesting prizes. We have welcomed three new Brownies, Adele, Amber, and Margot and hope they enjoy their time with us. We did some Promise activities, and we enrolled Alice, Jorgie, and Molly into the Pack.



We have also taken part in the bird watching project, we made pinecone bird feeders to hang in our gardens and see what birds used them. Due to the hall being closed we met in Church for two weeks. We hunted owls and did a quiz on various things around the building. Then we finished the term reporting on the birds we had spotted and making a decorated bird to hang at home.



Over the half term break we are taking seven of the Brownies to Waddow Hall in Clitheroe for an activity weekend. We will be there with other Brownies and Guides from our Division as well as joining in with a world-wide Thinking Day celebration.

The Brownie Guiders

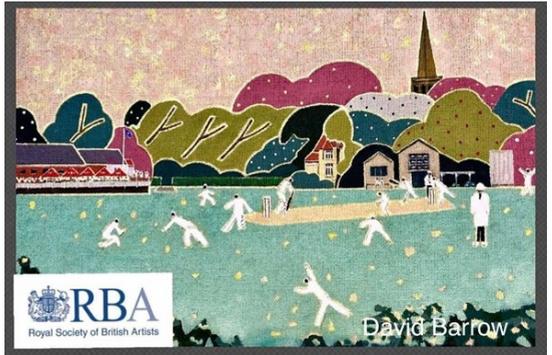
Highfield Cricket Club

It's been a busy and enjoyable month for the cricket club as we look ahead to the coming season. While the pitches may still be resting, the club certainly isn't!

Last month saw the start of our winter nets programme at Deanery High School, which has been running well for both our junior and senior players. It's been great to see familiar faces back in action, as well as some new ones picking up a bat and ball. As always, new players of any age or ability are very welcome to come along and join in – cricket really is for everyone.

We're also excited about our upcoming Sportsman's Dinner on Friday 20th March. We're delighted to welcome former Super League player and pundit Barrie McDermott as our guest speaker, alongside comedian Danny Posthill. It promises to be a fun evening filled with rugby stories and plenty of laughs. Tickets are £42, which include a delicious four-course meal, and can be booked by contacting Gary Speakman on 07721 639970.

In other wonderful news, we are immensely proud that a stunning artwork of our ground here in Highfield, created by local artist David Barrow, is being exhibited at the Royal Society of British Artists at the Mall Galleries in London this February and March. The painting beautifully captures the spirit of our ground during our Centenary year in 2024, including our new scoring facilities – a lovely moment in time preserved on canvas. To mark our 100th anniversary, David has also produced 100 high-quality prints, with a portion of the proceeds kindly being donated back to the club. One of these now takes pride of place in the HF Gaskell Lounge, and prints are available to purchase should anyone wish to support the club and own a piece of cricketing history.

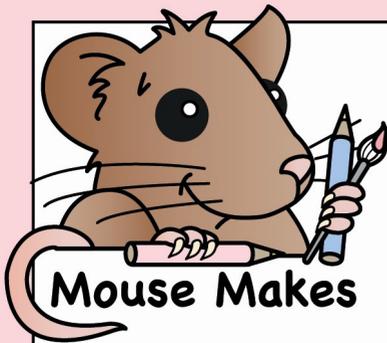


Finally, a huge thank you to our wonderful grounds team, who are already hard at work preparing the pitch and facilities for the season ahead. Their dedication behind the scenes is much appreciated by us all.

We look forward to a lively and successful season and to welcoming even more members of our community to the club.

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Mike Gregory



The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

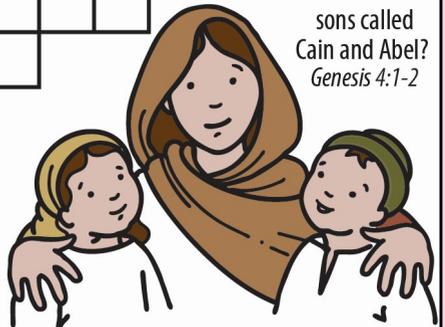
Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus' mother**
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26

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.



Wellspring

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

St Matthew's March

- 1 Sunday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 5 Thursday**
10.30 Holy Communion
- 8 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Family Parade Service
- 15 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Holy Communion
- 22 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Morning Praise with Baptisms
- 29 Palm Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Holy Communion

St James with St Thomas March

- 1 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 8 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word or Baptisms
- 15 Sunday**
10.30 All Age Holy Communion
- 22 Sunday**
10.30 Traditional Holy Communion
18.30 Open Table
- 29 Palm Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word

St Paul's March

- 1 Sunday**
9.00 BCP Holy Communion
10.30 Service of the Word & Baptisms
- 8 Sunday**
10.30 Family Communion
- 11 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
- 15 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 18 Ash Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
- 22 Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word
- 25 Wednesday**
10.00 Holy Communion
- 29 Palm Sunday**
10.30 Service of the Word

Lighthouse March

- 1 Sunday**
2pm Family Worship
- 8 Sunday**
2pm Holy Communion
- 15 Sunday**
2pm Family Worship
- 22 Sunday**
2pm Family Worship
- 29 Palm Sunday**
2pm Family Worship

ALL SERVICE IN ST JAMES' SCHOOL

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

WiganWestHub 

Little Stars ^{Toddler Group} Stars

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!

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**

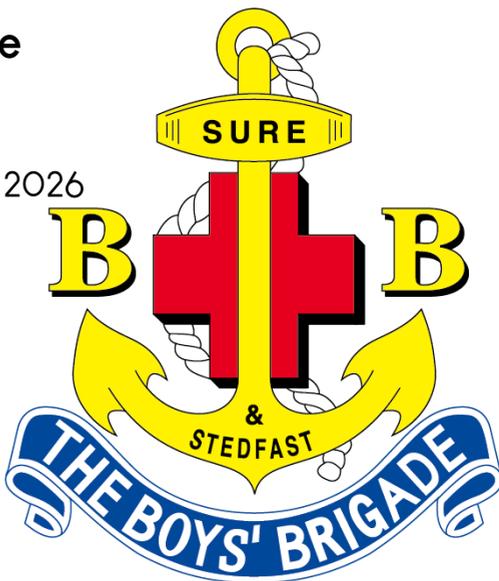
14th Wigan Boy's Brigade

St Matthew's Highfield

WE ARE RECRUITING BOYS FOR 2026
FROM FIVE YEARS AND OVER

Special recruitment offer:
From January to Easter weekly
subscriptions will be £1
instead of £2.50!

If you are interested please call
Jim Harrison on 07759 564 128





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

Tuesday 9.30-11.45

Wednesday 9.30-11.45

Saturday 11-2pm alongside our Faith Café

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

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

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

Lent Lunch and Bible Study @ St James' Centre

We will be having lent lunches every Tuesday throughout March. The lunches are at St James' and will start at 12noon. After each lunch there will be a bible study with Revd Alison and the studies will look at the people around Jesus in the weeks leading up to his death. Everyone is welcome and you can choose to come them all or to just choose a few weeks.

Lifelines Dementia Friendly Café @ St James' Centre

The café will meet on Friday 6 March at 1.30pm in church. We will be having a hot meal and one of our usual activities. We welcome everyone, especially those living with dementia.

Faith Café @ St James' Centre

Faith Café will be closed on Saturday 7 March 2026. It will be open for all other Saturdays in March.

Mothering Sunday @ St James' Centre

On Sunday 15 March immediately after the service we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday with a sit-down meal of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Please let Jo or Revd Alison know if you want to stay for lunch.

Life Lines Dementia Friendly Choir @ St James

The choir will meet in St James church at 1pm on Monday 16 March. Everyone is welcome to join us for a sing. It is a music group aimed at those living with dementia and their carers but we welcome everyone. Refreshments will be served.

Spring Fayre @ St Matthew's

There will be a Spring Fayre held at St. Matthew's Church, Highfield on Saturday 21 March from 11am to 2 pm. There will be a variety of stalls including Handmade cards (including Easter cards), Bric-a-brac, special cakes, bead ornaments, floral displays, sewing, Lucky Dip for children and others plus a raffle. Refreshments will be provided by Sear and Sizzle (burgers etc.) and drinks. All proceeds will go to Church Funds.
Anne, Barbara, and Chris. The ABC girls!

Open Table @ St James' Centre

Open Table Church Wigan will meet at St James Church at 6.30pm on Sunday 22 March. We especially welcome the LGBTQI+ community to this Holy Communion service. We meet at 6pm for refreshments and start the service at 6.30pm. We invite you to come as you are.

Bereavement Support @ St James' Centre

The bereavement group will meet in church at 1pm on Thursday 12 March and Monday 30 March. The group has been set up to help those who are bereaved either recently or some time ago. They also welcome those who are feeling lonely and isolated. For more information, please contact David on 07404 605015.

Change to Tom's Pantry & Warm Spaces @ St James' Centre

Tom's Pantry will be closed on Tuesday 31 March to allow school to visit for their Easter Service.

Palm Sunday March 29 6.30pm @ St Matthew's

This year St, Matthew's choir and friends will be performing Stainer's "Crucifixion". The work is a meditation on the Passion of Jesus. It was composed in 1887 and was premiered on 24 February at Marylebone Church where it is still performed annually.

Stainer intended the piece to be within the scope of most parish choirs. It includes 5 congregational hymns as well as tenor and bass/baritone soloists, mixed choir and organ. We are lucky to have two professional soloists, John Cunningham (bass), Stephen Newlove (tenor) and Michael Kelsey (from St. Luke's, Orrell) as our guest organist.

Please come and support us and bring your friends. There is no charge, (just a plate at the back of church) It's an opportunity to hear professional voices for free!
Sue Gordon

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)

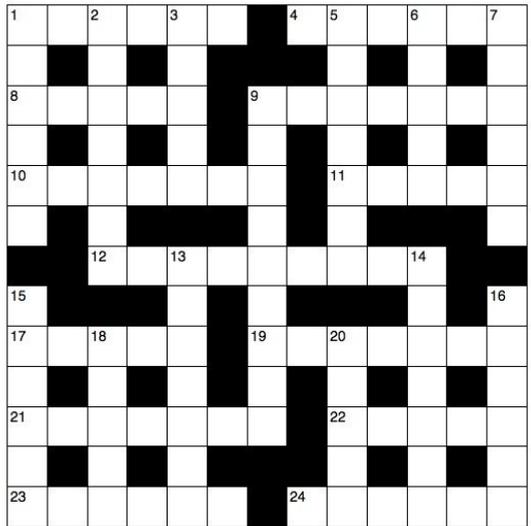
24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)

2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)

3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)



5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)

6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)

7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)

9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)

13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)

14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)

15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)

16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)

18 Donkeys (5)

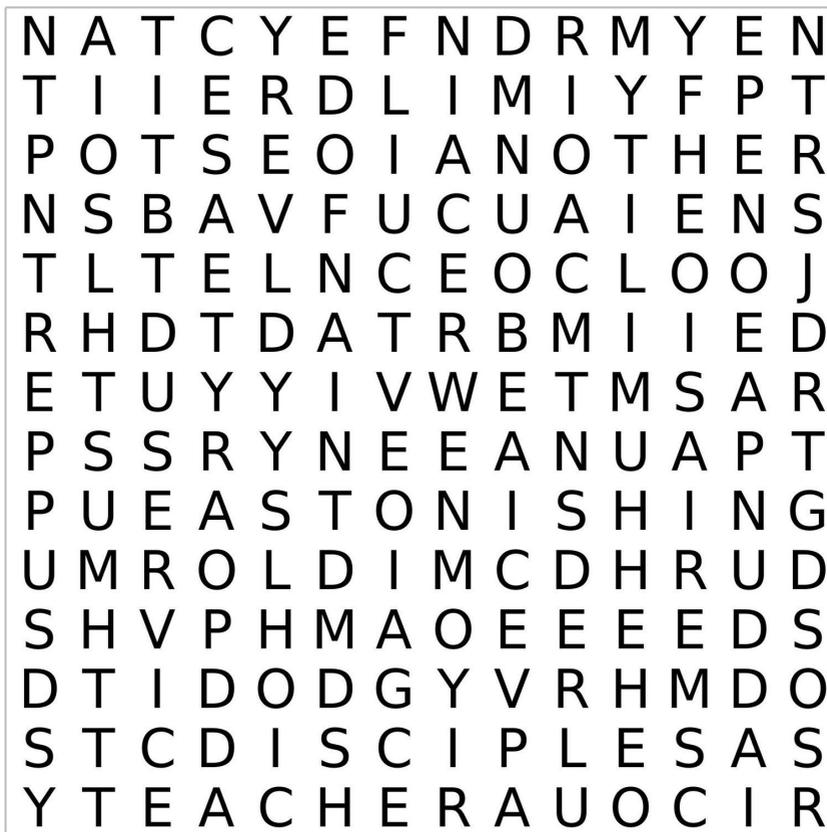
20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Love and serve one another

Word Search

On Maundy Thursday we recall the final command that Jesus gave to his disciples before his death. After the Last Supper, He rose and washed his disciples' feet. This was astonishing for a 'teacher' to do, but He had a firm purpose in mind: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The 'washing of the feet' ceremony was an important part of the medieval church's liturgy, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.



Maundy
Thursday
Final
Command
Jesus
Disciples
Death

Last
Supper
Washed
Feet
Astonishing
Purpose

Teacher
As
Loved
you
Must
One
Another

Service
Domination
Latin
Ceremony
Medieval
Humility
Obedience

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



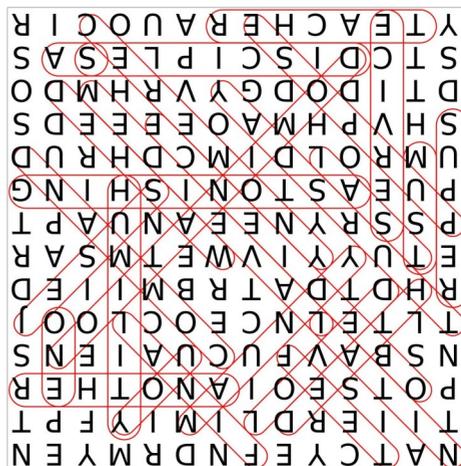
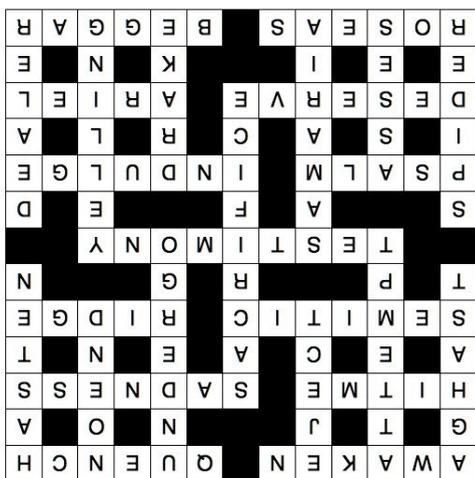
This Parish is registered with the Parish Giving Scheme which allows you to give to this Parish securely and safely online. Please click 'Regular Giving' to set up a monthly, quarterly, or annual Direct Debit or One-Off Gift or make a single gift using your Debit or Credit Card.

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www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-of-wigan-west-wigan/

Tel: 0333 002 1260



PASTORAL CARE

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

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

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

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

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

Donations

In memory of Iris Rose Wright The loveliest of ladies

From. June McCoy

Happy 90th birthday wishes to Kathleen Smith A lovely lady

From David Berry

With treasured memories of my Mum Maureen Grimshaw

From Jane & Mike Pimblett with all our love

Birthday memories of a dearly loved husband, dad & grandad, Philip Jones

From Susan, Michelle, Andrew & family

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

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

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

Baptisms

Peyton James Hewitt St Matthew's

Burials and Funerals

St James with St Thomas

4/1/26 Thomas Angelsey 84 years

27/1/26 Marion Alty 98 years

St Matthew's

Patricia Ann Oakes 81 years

St Paul's

26/01/26 Susan Gaskel 74 years

27/01/26 Emily Linkman 98 years

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

hubadmin.west@churchwigan.org

Altar Flowers **St. Matthew's**

1 March – Mrs M McCourty

8 March – Mrs B Jenks

15 March – Mrs P Glover

22 March – Miss E Hollis

29 March – 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

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Jo Baines 07956 030669

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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.

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Revd. 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 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

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

14thwigtownbrownies@gmail.com

Guides

Helen Albers 07960 920587

Primary School Headteacher

Mrs A Barron 01942 747818

St Paul's

Assistant Wardens

Cliff Unsworth 01942 933772

Maureen Gower 07753 168301

Pam Wilkinson 01942 716668

Geoff Birch 01942 227036

Reader Emeritus *Arthur Hubbard*
01942 321977

Reader *Gordon Fath 01942 621173*

Flowers *Pam Wilkinson 01942 716668*

Mother's Union

Anne Hubbard 01942 321977

Sunday School

Lucy Haigh 07900 252 361

Craft Workshop

Gillian Greenwood 01942 825670

Friends Together

Lynn Conroy 01942202249

Linda Berry 01942 492521

House Groups

Anne & Arthur Hubbard 01942 321977

Mike & Gill Greenwood 01942 825670

Primary School Executive Headteacher

Mrs S. Aspinwall

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 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

We all have to agree that the daily news about our world is pretty grim at the moment.

It can feel hopeless when we hear of conflicts, bad weather, violent crime etc, etc . However recently, I was at a Hub Leadership Team meeting and, as is usual, Fran said, “ shall we start with sharing our good news? “



Well, I thought, this is going to be a short session, I definitely could not think of any!! One by one the other leaders began to share, their news of encounters with people, signs they had seen of God at work in many different ways, and slowly, I began to be reminded of incidents that I too had

experienced and began sharing them. My mood completely changed. It's so easy to get bogged down and despondent and miss signs of God's light shining through. Through all our many activities across the whole parish there are good news stories to share. As a parish we need opportunities to get together, to listen to one another, to encourage one another. If you've never thought about belonging to a small group, now would be a great time to start.

By the time you are reading this Lent will have begun, and inside this magazine there will be information about different chances to spend some time together, to learn and to share our joys and sorrows, and to learn from each other. Please join, someone may need encouragement from you.

God Bless

Ann

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.